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# Doctor Fought Single-Bullet Murder Theory for Years

By ROBERT BURNS
Post Staff Writer

RIVIERA BEACH — After 14 years of tests and testimony, Dr. Joseph R. Dolce says he's been proven right. The "pristine bullet" theory in John F. Kennedy's assassination is wrong.

Dolce, a general surgeon and the chief consultant on wound ballistics for the Army, has argued one bullet could not pierce the neck of President Kennedy, go through the back and chest of former Texas Gov. John Conally, hit Conally's wrist and come out almost unharmed.

"If you want to eat that up, you accept the one-bullet theory," Dolce said.

Instead, Dolce said, a separate bullet fired by a second assassin hit Conally in the wrist. This was the fourth bullet described by Dr. James Barger in testimony before the House Assassinations Committee recently.

"I think it's cleared the whole picture," Dolce said.

Barger, chief scientist for a Massachusetts acoustics firm, told the committee four shots were fired when the Kennedy motorcade was in the area of the Texas School Book Depository. His tests on recorded police transmissions show four incidents of what could have been gunshots.

While Barger called the four bullet theory a "possible conclusion," Dolce said it fit the facts he's described sinnce he began work with the Warren Commission in 1964.

No bullet could go through the president's neck, the governor's chest, badly fracture the governor's wrist and exit with only one side slightly flattened, he said. In his own tests firing at skeletons with Lee Harvey Oswald's 6.5mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, Dolce's results showed badly flattened bullets.

The Warren Commission, despite published findings in the Army's final report (declassified in 1971), stuck with the "pristine bullet."

"I quickly said this can't be it and they (the commission) didn't like that," Dolce said. "They didn't even put it in the Warren Report. It isn't in the book because they didn't want my test."

The commission said the "pristine bullet" could break the governor's wrist and come out clean because it tumbled in flight. The investigation was closed, but Dolce remained vocal.

He spoke to clubs and civic groups. He spoke out in newspaper stories. Finally, Dolce was contacted by Gaeton Fonzi, an investigator for the present committee.

"When Fonzi heard what I had to say he jumped up and said, 'My God, this is important,'" Dolce said.

Three days later Fonzi met in Manalapan with Oswald's confidant, Russian-born George de Mohrenschildt. That afternoon, de Mohrenschildt killed himself.

Dolce hadn't heard if the committee had listened to his testimony, taped by Fonzi. But he believes the committee would do well to believe Barger's acoustic tests.

"I think this second investigation is the most important thing that has come out," Dolce said.

"I think those who are disagreeing are doing so because they don't have much experience in high-velocity missiles."

## Charles D. Givens

Charles D. Givens, 56, of 3811 Copeland Ave. died Tuesday at Parkland Memorial Hospital.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in Mt. Rose Missionary Baptist Church, with burial at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery.

Survivors include two sisters, Mrs. Frankie Murkledove and Pauline Taylor, and a brother, Clay Givens, all of Dallas.

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# BEST EVIDENCE

by David S. Lifton

## Epilogue

There has been no official reaction to BEST EVIDENCE. Perhaps that was to be expected. The House Assassinations Committee concluded there was a conspiracy, but the Justice Department has yet to reopen the case. It has merely asked the National Academy of Sciences to rewrite the acoustics-evidence that appears to indicate a shot from the front. The NAS panel has yet to issue its report.

But there have been a number of developments that bear directly on the thesis advanced in BEST EVIDENCE. For example: additional witnesses have come forward. Within a week of the publication of BEST EVIDENCE and a *Time* Magazine story about it, Donald Rebentisch of Coopersville, Michigan, a petty officer stationed at Bethesda on November 22, 1963, told his local paper, the *Grand Rapids Press*, that the two-ambulance story published in *Time* was not news to him—he had been telling his family the same story for years. He stated that President Kennedy's body was not in the gray navy ambulance which carried Mrs. Kennedy and the ceremonial casket and which arrived at the front of the hospital. Instead, the body had arrived at the back of the hospital in a black unmarked hearse. *Grand Rapids Press* reporter Jerry Morlock told me about Rebentisch before his story ran on the wire services, and I was able to interview Rebentisch before he read BEST EVIDENCE. He provided corroboration for Dennis David's account by recalling that he had helped unload the first casket, an ordinary shipping casket, and that it had arrived at the back before the gray navy ambulance arrived at the front. Rebentisch said that *after* unloading the first casket, he went upstairs to the lobby area of Bethesda where he saw Mrs. Kennedy, who had just arrived in the navy ambulance, waiting for the elevator.

Reporter Morlock found other witnesses who knew that two caskets had been used at Bethesda that night. "It was common knowledge," said one. Like the witnesses I had interviewed, these new witnesses told Morlock the two-casket scheme was used as a security measure.

Rebentisch's account ran on both wire services the weekend of January 23, 1981. Subsequently, in March 1981, the Canadian Broadcasting Company made arrangements for me to participate in a TV interview of Rebentisch at his home in Michigan for a program that was broadcast in Canada in mid-April. I thought him honest and straightforward, and he seemed concerned that events he had personally witnessed were not in the official story.

In the course of the CBC project, additional evidence was uncovered. This evidence related to the thesis that when Air Force One landed at Andrews Air Force Base, a helicopter on the starboard side—the side hidden from public view because the TV cameras were on the port side—played a crucial role in the transportation of the body from Andrews to some unknown location. The pivotal question is whether a helicopter was really there, on the starboard side. In Chapter 31, I set forth a pattern of evidence indicating it was: an audio tape which recorded the sound of a chopper taking off within 90 seconds of the arrival of Air Force One; an entry in an NBC-TV log indicating that a helicopter could be seen hovering alongside Air Force One when it landed; and radio transmissions from officials aboard the plane en route to Washington arranging for a ramp to be put against the forward starboard side, at the galley door, and for helicopter transportation of the body from Andrews Air Force Base. It was my thesis that the President's remains, probably in a body bag, were secretly removed from the forward starboard area of the plane and put aboard the helicopter.

In the course of working on the Rebentisch story, CBC producer Brian McKenna located unedited film footage of the arrival of Air Force One at Andrews. The film was taken from the port side of the plane, and it contains a soundtrack. In viewing it, one can, as the noise from Air Force One's engines dies down, hear the whirring rotor of a chopper. Just under the belly of the plane, on the starboard side, the chopper's blinking lights can be clearly seen where the forward galley door is located (and where the ramp had been called for). As the film winds on, the chopper's lights move away from the side of Air Force One, and the helicopter prepares to take off.

David Lifton
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Los Angeles, California

Review

Penthouse, March 1982

# FEEDBACK

**Lee Harvey Oswald**

In the eighteen years since I interviewed Lee Harvey Oswald in New Orleans—the only taped Oswald interview ever made public—I've not made one public comment about how other writers have referred to that episode. I've always felt that the public record on my contacts with Oswald—the fact that I sought him out in New Orleans on August 17, 1963, to appear on my WDSU (then an NBC affiliate) radio program, "Latin Listening Post," in spite of criticism that I would be allowing a "Communist" to "propagandize" the right-wing New Orleans public—was extensive enough to prevent distortion by other writers, historians, or special-interest groups.

That's why I almost burst my appendix laughing at your piece by Warren Hinckle and William W. Turner, "The Mystery of 544 Camp St." (October 1981), as excerpted from their book *The Fish Is Red*, published by Harper & Row. On your page 180, Hinckle and Turner write, "... Manuel Gil set up the famous debate between Oswald and [Carlos] Bringuier, in which Oswald declared ... 'I am a Marxist.'" Sorry, friends, but Oswald was *my* media discovery, and *I* arranged the WDSU debate after the station manager refused to run the full length of the thirty-seven-minute August 17 tape (which I had had to boil down to fit my five-minute slot) and instead suggested I set up a debate with "anti-Castro people" on the panel. It was in answer to *my* question on that debate "Are you a Marxist?" that Oswald made his admission.

I hesitate to drag out the whole barrel of details leading up to my Oswald contacts, including the self-serving ones, but I will if this kind of trash history keeps popping up. For the record the only "name" reporters ever to interview Oswald before the assassination were Patricia Johnson (then Patricia McMillan), who talked to him for a North American Newspaper Alliance story when he attempted to give up his American citizenship in Moscow in 1959, and, humbly, myself, a Latin political-affairs columnist in the early 1960s for the *New Orleans States-Item*, the only reporter ever to win two awards for public-affairs reporting from the American Political Science Association.

I have *no* theory on who killed JFK, since Mr. Oswald did not inform me of his future plans at the time of the interview and debate —*William K. Stuckey, Dallas, Tex.*