

missed shot-misplaced

I think this duplicates

Posner's interests clearly are of the present, not historical. But historically his book makes a pathetic figure of him, more for all his boasting about himself, the definitiveness he claims for his book, his knowledge of the subject matter and the enterprize and substance of all those 200 interviews. Yet with one of the most basic of facts in any accounting of the assassination and in Posner's book, he makes a fool of himself, displaying his ignorance of the basic fact after all of his bragged about work and in writing his book. At the same time he underscores the real ~~Purposes~~ purposes of all those 200 interviews - to give him a basis for saying other than what the established fact says and means.

Just as the Commission got hung up on that missed shot, just as the FBI and the Secret Service had to and did ignore it in their "solutions," so also it was a real problem for Posner.

The Commission had to invent the magic bullet to pretend to work its way around the actualities of the crime, ~~this one factor~~ ^{the truth about} that alone mean without question there were two shooters and on that basis alone there was the conspiracy that it did not want to admit there had been. *But knew had been.*

Faced with the same problem, in addition to his stealing from the faulty work of ~~150~~ 15 year old David ^Lui, Posner adds the invented magic of a magic tree. Or a magic branch of that treet. Or a magic twig of that magic branch of that magic tree. Whatever the imagined source of that imagined magic, it also separated the core of the bullet from the bullet's jacket. And then it had to impart whatever additional energy that newly-freed core retained so it could continue with its magic life long enough, and accurately enough, to impart ^{on} ~~on~~ that curbstone and send a spray of its concrete into Bystander Jim Tague's face, causing him to bleed slightly.

There was a more than merely ample record on this, ~~in~~ a multi-part official record of the interviews before his testimony and of his testimony. There was also what the Commission said of this in its Report. Tague ^{was} interviewed by reporters and those interviews are in the Commission's records as well as in my own files, ⁱⁿ including the very files in which Posner did work and from which he made copies, my "subject" files.

Then, too, as Posner also knew, I filed a lawsuit to get the results of the FBI's testing on evidence. In that lawsuit Tague was a witness for me. He wrote and filed a lengthy and detailed affidavit that is in the court record and, of course, is in my files. ~~There~~ Thereare, too, as again Posner knows from my books he has and refers to, pictures of that curbstone, contemporaneous pictures two of which I published, and those taken by the FBI, in the Commission's records and in my book, Post Mortem.

However, all this existing evidence, the best evidence, by Posner's own definition, closer to the event and thus much more dependable, failed to conform with his new magic of the combined magic of his magical bullet and his magical tree or part or parts thereof. So, not to burdnen his already overburdened conjecture, what he says he alone does not engage in, of his detailed account of his magical version of that so very troubling missed shot, Posner's solution is to ~~ignore~~ ^{ignore} all the established fact that ^{was} available to him free of cost or effort - he had more than enough in those 26 volumes he said he studied so carefully and then indexed - and he came up with a magical curbstone. ^{For} ~~To do~~ ^{creation} this, he interviewed Tague and instead of all the established fact of the best quality and greatest dependability, his own standard, he cites that ~~an~~ interview as his source.

His source for what?

^{For one thing,}
~~For~~ moving that curbstone from the street along which it had been imbedded to where he preferred that it have been.

This livitation, of course, was in words only, the faulty words in this faulty book.

In that interview as quoted by Posner (pages 324-5) Tague says that the late Dallas County Deputy Sheriff Buddy Walthers asked him, "Where were you standing?" As Posner continues quoting from that interview, Tague continues,

"And I showed him, and we crossed the street and on the edge of the curb, along ^{Book} main Street, we found the bullet mark. And it lined right up with the Texas School Depository." Posner's source in his end note is, "Interview with James Tague, January 19, 1992." (page 553)

The Warren ^{Report} says the same thing (page 116) but ~~perhaps~~ ^{added} the reason is that the ~~report~~ ^{report} also said what Posner did not want to say.

that the curbstone struck by the bullet or its core was on Main Street. But perhaps the added reason Posner had ⁱⁿ not saving all that time and cost ^{of travel and interviews} and just quoting the Report is that Tague testified it ^{was} the second bullet and Posner's retreading of the old ~~myth~~ mythology requires that it have been the first shot.

~~Well,~~ ^{Posner} that he quotes selectively and dishonestly is not new. He does that throughout the book, ~~yes~~ using in particular those 200 interviews for it.

As in this instance.

But the truth is that it was not the Main Street curbstone, less uncongenial as that was to the Commission's conjecture as well as to Posner's.

~~The FBI, which dug it up, flew it to the FBI Lab in Washington and went through the charade of testing it, says it was on Commerce Street.~~

But ^{by three} in fact it was the curbstone on the south side of Commerce Street. Those streets, ~~that~~ converge at the Triple Underpass to be able to go under it without three ~~bridges~~ Triple Underpasses or a much wifer one than was built, are Elm on the North, Main in the middle and Commerce on the South. Elm is one-way west, ^{Commerce one-way east.} ~~not under it, Posner's version.~~

The impact was 20 feet east of that Triple Underpass. The picture of it taken by Dallas Morning News ¹ photographer Tom Dillard, which ¹ published in Post Mortem (on page 608) clearly shows the gravel behind it and there was no gravel on any of the roadways. The shadow of the hand holding Dillard's pen to point to the bullet impact clearly establishes the direction and it is clearly the southernmost curbstone, ^{of} Commerce Street's.

The street on which as Tague testified and attested in his affidavit that ¹ filed in that lawsuit, he as driving when the trafficed jam stopped him, ^{and on which he was standing}

Naturally, Posner did not want to refer to Post Mortem for reasons that were important to his book and its assassination fakery he says is his new "solution." One reason is that on the same page I published a picture of that curbstone as it exists in the official evidence at the Archives.

The FBI went through the charade of digging up the curbstone it knew had been patched! ^{It and the Commission both knew} And, ~~knowing the same thing,~~ that when Oswald could not have done it, someone had applied concrete ~~not~~ paste, clearly visible on that curbstone in the Archives and in the picture of it I published. ^{The} Commission also pretended, as Posner does, that

it is pure, pristine, untouched evidence that alchemized that ~~the~~ hole or scar, as the paper described it in publishing Dillard's ~~picture~~ picture, the next day, into what the FBI described as a "smear."

Isn't it fantastic magic that a bullet or core of a bullet can spray concrete from its impact and not remove any concrete from the curbstone in doing that and instead imparts merely a ^{smooth surface, a} smooth "smear," the FBI's word?

The synopsis of the large, multi-volume consolidate collection of reports the FBI forwarded to headquarters ~~the~~ including the report on this curbstone adventure says there had been ~~ax~~ not any "smear" but a "mark" of a "nick" there but "No evidence of mark or nick on curb now visible." (FBIHQ 105-82555-4584.)

There is no end to the magic those who begin with the firm, inflexible pre-conception that Oswald ^{was} the lone assassin cannot find to make their pretending that the impossible was possible appear to be reasonable and true.

The curbstone, too, had an additional magic: it was self-healing in the official and the officially unofficial Posner "solution". After all, if it did not heal itself, that patch was applied by a human - a ~~con~~ coconspirator, whether or not Oswald was the assassin. He ^{was} in jail or dead ^{there} but that scar was there when he was arrested and it was photographed before he was killed and after he was in jail.

That what the FBI tested was a patch does not depend on my interpretation of the pictures or the readers or on that synopsis page of that FBI report.

When I was helping Henry Hurt, Readers Digest roving reporter, with his book, Reasonable Doubt (New York, Holt Reinhart and Winston, 1985), Henry having resources I did not have, that he have a scientific examination made of that curbstone and he agreed.

In deposing FBI Lab Agent John Kilty in my FOIA lawsuit for the results of that testing (C.A.75-226) we asked him ^{my} about the tests that could still be made and he did tell us. That is what Henry had done, what the FBI recommended. And here is the result of that scientific testing.

Missed shot
misplaced

On pages 324-5 Posner says that Tague said he was standing near the curb on Main street when that spray of concrete from the impact cut his face. While in Dallas it is not uncommon to refer to ^cthe point ^{near and} under the triple underpass where the three streets converge to go under it, in fact they are three different streets even at that point and Tague was not near what at that point does nor exist, any Main Street curbstone.

As Posner knew from being there if he did not remember it from the air aerial photograph of it I published in 1966 in Whitewash II, page 247, which he has and cites in his bibliography.

Because that is an official exhibit and Posner claims to have read and indexed those 26 volumes he should have known this from that bragged-of work of his.

That one of the very many such views in the official evidence and readily available elsewhere, including from the Archives, is taken from slightly to the west if overhead. It shows that there are three streets that draw together but do ^y go under that large and wide bridge as independent streets. Also clearly visible are the separate road stripes each of the streets has painted on it.

Posner's false representation, that the impact of that missed shot was on Main street when it was well known that Main Street has no curbstone there and that it was the Commerce Street curbstone, has the effect of making the nonexistent deflection of the bullet or as Posner images and presents as fact, its core, seem less unlikely

On Oswald not in that window:

As Gary Mack noted, the Bronson film shows that there was nobody in that sixth-floor window at the time the assassin had to be ²there to be able to fire away when the motorcade was due. It was late but the alleged assassin could not know it would be.

And when ~~it~~ took ⁶six minutes for the experienced FBI agent to reassemble that rifle it obviously would have taken more time for the duffer Oswald to do that. And no tools were found at the scene of the crime, in his b rooming-house room or on him when he was arrested.

which shot did it
1965 "line up?" "My God, They Are Going to Kill Us All" - 325

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Book Depository, in a
the tree, James Tague
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l blood on his face.³¹ "I
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wald's view after the limou-
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showed him, and we crossed the street and on the edge of the
curb, along Main Street, we found the bullet mark. And it lined
right up with the Texas School Book Depository."³² A fragment
had struck the curb, sending a chip of concrete into Tague's
cheek. When asked which shot hit the curb, Tague says, "I actu-
ally can't tell you which one. I could try to pick one, but through
the years I have maintained accuracy. I don't know which one hit
me."³³

Although Dallas newspapers prominently reported Tague's in-
jury, the FBI and Warren Commission initially ignored him. The
Commission did not talk to him until July 1964, and the FBI did
not even get a sample of the curbstone until that late date.³⁴ The
Warren Commission concluded, "The mark on the south curb of
Main Street cannot be identified conclusively with any of the
three shots fired. Under the circumstances it might have come
from the bullet which hit the President's head, or it might have
been a product of fragmentation of the missed shot upon hitting
some other object in the area."³⁵

The Commission's guess that a fragment from the head wound
might have caused the curb damage is not realistic. Two large
fragments were found in the front of the President's car, one
weighing 44.6 grams, and the other 21.0 grams (about a quarter
and an eighth of the whole bullet).³⁶ Smaller lead fragments were
found under the carpet and near the front seat. However, those
fragments were so spent from the tremendous force expended on
Kennedy's head wound that all they did inside the car was crack
the windshield and dent a chrome strip. They did not penetrate
any of the leather seats or the dashboard or cause any other dam-
age to the car or its occupants. It is highly unlikely that any frag-
ment from the head shot would have enough energy left to travel
another 260 feet and knock a chip off a concrete curb.

There is a much simpler explanation of how Tague was
wounded, and it resolves the issue of what happened to the
missed first shot. Only a bullet fragment hit the concrete near
Tague, since when the FBI later performed a spectrographic
analysis on the curb, it showed "traces of lead with a trace of anti-
mony."³⁷ The 6.5mm bullets used in Oswald's gun had full copper
jackets (a metal covering on a bullet, designed to increase its pen-

all a bullet core has?

source

source?

whole section

no other possibility

source?



PHOTOGRAPH FROM RE-ENACTMENT

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| TO STATION C | 181.9 FT. |
| TO RIFLE IN WINDOW | 218.0 FT. |
| TO RIFLE IN WINDOW | 10°03' |
| TO OVERPASS | 307.1 FT. |
| TO OVERPASS | 6°44' |

FRAME 255

901

Handwritten: The Rifle

then felt the delayed reaction of the impact on his back, later heard the shot which shattered the President's head, and then lost consciousness without hearing a third shot which might have occurred later.

The Second Shot

The possibility that the second shot missed is consistent with the elapsed time between the two shots that hit their mark. From the timing evidenced by the Zapruder films, there was an interval of from 4.8 to 5.6 seconds between the shot which struck President Kennedy's neck (between frames 210 to 225) and the shot which struck his head at frame 313.³⁴⁶ Since a minimum of 2.3 seconds must elapse between shots, a bullet could have been fired from the rifle and missed during this interval.³⁴⁷ This possibility was buttressed by the testimony of witnesses who claimed that the shots were evenly spaced, since a second shot occurring within an interval of approximately 5 seconds would have to be almost exactly midway in this period. If Altgens' recollection is correct that he snapped his picture at the same moment as he heard a shot, then it is possible that he heard a second shot which missed, since a shot fired 2.3 seconds before he took his picture at frame 255 could have hit the President at about frame 213.

On the other hand, a substantial majority of the witnesses stated that the shots were not evenly spaced. Most witnesses recalled that the second and third shots were bunched together, although some believed that it was the first and second which were bunched.³⁴⁸ To the extent that reliance can be placed on recollection of witnesses as to the spacing of the shots, the testimony that the shots were not evenly spaced would militate against a second shot missing. Another factor arguing against the second shot missing is that the gunman would have been shooting at very near the minimum allowable time to have fired the three shots within 4.8 to 5.6 seconds, although it was entirely possible for him to have done so. (See ch. IV, pp. 188-194.)

The Third Shot

The last possibility, of course, is that it was the third shot which missed. This conclusion conforms most easily with the probability that the assassin would most likely have missed the farthest shot, particularly since there was an acceleration of the automobile after the shot which struck the President's head. The limousine also changed direction by following the curve to the right, whereas previously it had been proceeding in almost a straight line with a rifle protruding from the sixth-floor window of the Depository Building.

One must consider, however, the testimony of the witnesses who described the head shot as the concluding event in the assassination sequence. Illustrative is the testimony of Associated Press photographer Altgens, who had an excellent vantage point near the President's car. He recalled that the shot which hit the President's head "was the last shot—that much I will say with a great degree

of certainty."³⁴⁹ On the other hand, Emmett J. Hudson, the grounds-keeper of Dealey Plaza, testified that from his position on Elm Street, midway between Houston Street and the Triple Underpass, he heard a third shot after the shot which hit the President in the head.³⁵⁰ In addition, Mrs. Kennedy's testimony indicated that neither the first nor the second shot missed. Immediately after the first noise she turned, because of the Governor's yell, and saw her husband raise his hand to his forehead. Then the second shot struck the President's head.³⁵¹

Some evidence suggested that a third shot may have entirely missed and hit the turf or street by the Triple Underpass. Royce G. Skelton, who watched the motorcade from the railroad bridge, testified that after two shots "the car came on down close to the Triple Underpass" and an additional shot "hit in the left front of the President's car on the cement."³⁵² Skelton thought that there had been a total of four shots, either the third or fourth of which hit in the vicinity of the underpass.³⁵³ Dallas Patrolman J. W. Foster, who was also on the Triple Underpass, testified that a shot hit the turf near a manhole cover in the vicinity of the underpass.³⁵⁴ Examination of this area, however, disclosed no indication that a bullet struck at the locations indicated by Skelton or Foster.³⁵⁵

At a different location in Dealey Plaza, the evidence indicated that a bullet fragment did hit the street. James T. Tague, who got out of his car to watch the motorcade from a position between Commerce and Main Streets near the Triple Underpass, was hit on the cheek by an object during the shooting.³⁵⁶ Within a few minutes Tague reported this to Deputy Sheriff Eddy R. Walthers, who was examining the area to see if any bullets had struck the turf.³⁵⁷ Walthers immediately started to search where Tague had been standing and located a place on the south curb of Main Street where it appeared a bullet had hit the cement.³⁵⁸ According to Tague, "There was a mark quite obviously that was a bullet, and it was very fresh."³⁵⁹ In Tague's opinion, it was the second shot which caused the mark, since he thinks he heard the third shot after he was hit in the face.³⁶⁰ This incident appears to have been recorded in the contemporaneous report of Dallas Patrolman L. L. Hill, who radioed in around 12:40 p.m.: "I have one guy that was possibly hit by a ricochet from the bullet off the concrete."³⁶¹ Scientific examination of the mark on the south curb of Main Street by FBI experts disclosed metal smears which, "were spectrographically determined to be essentially lead with a trace of antimony."³⁶² The mark on the curb could have originated from the lead core of a bullet but the absence of copper precluded "the possibility that the mark on the curbing section was made by an un mutilated military full metal-jacketed bullet such as the bullet from Governor Connally's stretcher."³⁶³

It is true that the noise of a subsequent shot might have been drowned out by the siren on the Secret Service followup car immediately after the head shot, or the dramatic effect of the head shot might have caused so much confusion that the memory of subsequent events was blurred.

Nevertheless, the preponderant head shot was the final shot to whether it was the third by a bullet fragment, then be identified conclusively circumstances it might have dent's head, or it might be the missed shot upon which did not observe any of testimony that the second scratch on his cheek, does

The wide range of pre testimony, when coupled tion, precludes a conclusion shot missed.

TIM

Witnesses at the assassination within a few seconds, with That approximation was reports that the first shot and wounded the Governor head, with the time span dent being approximate time span between the second shot missed, then shots. If either the first seconds (necessary to open of the shots which hit, given the three shots. If more missed and one that hit, increased.

Based on the evidence concluded that the shots Governor Connally were southeast corner of the bullets probably caused and Governor Connally indicated that three shots one shot probably missed and that the three shots approximately 4.8 to in

my wife
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