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CONCLUSIVE PROOF THAT ANOTHER WEAPON WAS USED

OSWALD'S RIFLE DID NOT KILL JFK

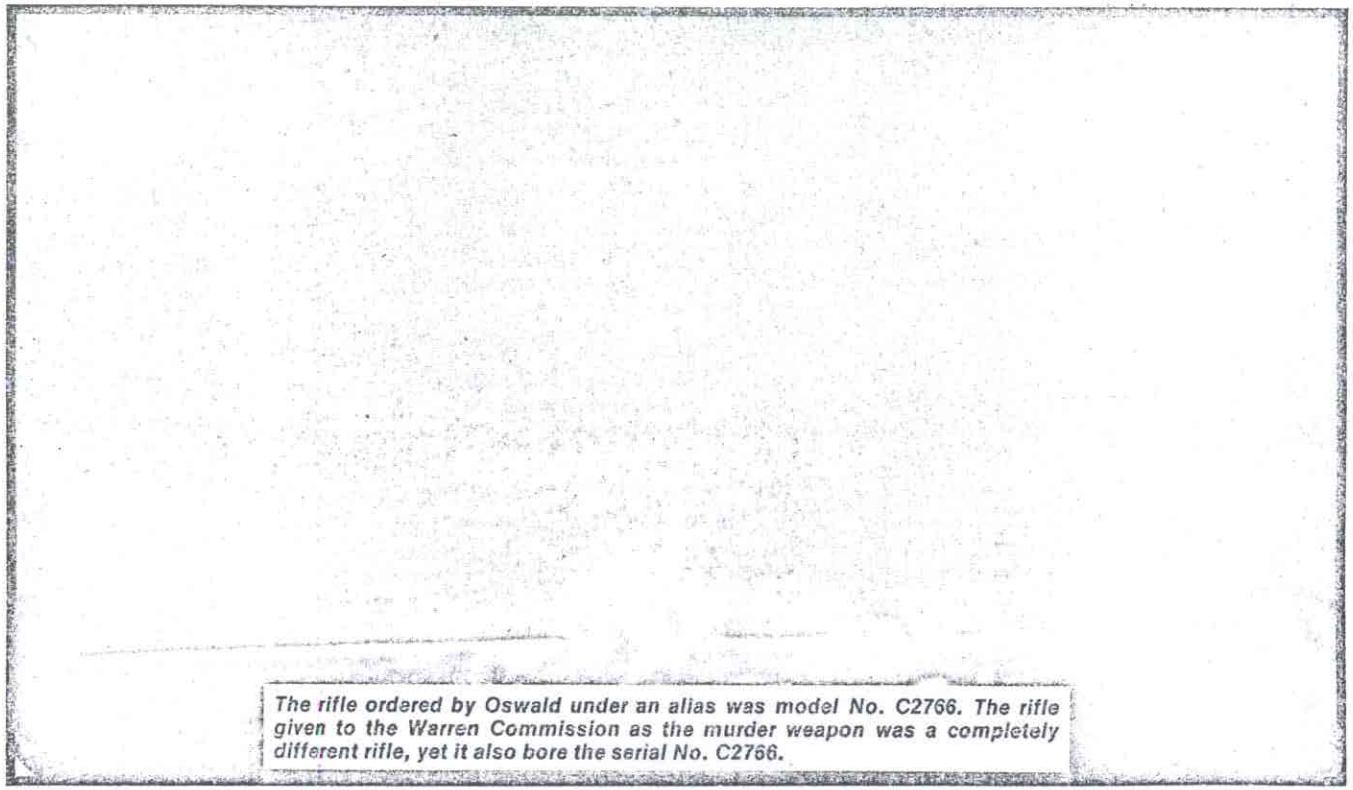
Lee Harvey Oswald was positively identified as JFK's assassin primarily by a rifle which didn't possess any of his finger or palm prints—and which wasn't even the rifle he had mail-ordered from Chicago.

By James L. Moore

The major piece of evidence that has been used to identify Lee Harvey Oswald as the assassin of John F. Kennedy is his ownership of an Italian Mannlicher-Carcano rifle found on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository.

There were no fingerprints of Oswald's found on the rifle, there were no palm prints found, there was no evidence whatsoever that directly showed Oswald had anything to do with that rifle . . . except the fact that he ordered it through a mail-order advertisement from Klein's Sporting Goods store in Chicago.

Shortly after this rifle was found, FBI agents learned from local gun dealers in Dallas that a well-known distributor of the Mannlicher-Carcano was Crescent Firearms, Inc., of New York. That evening of Nov. 22, 1963, a review of the records of Crescent Firearms showed an Italian carbine, serial number C2766, had been sold to Klein's Sporting Good Co. of Chicago. After an all-night search, Klein company officials discovered a rifle bearing that serial number had been shipped to a customer named A. Hidell, P.O. Box 2915, Dallas, Tex.



The rifle ordered by Oswald under an alias was model No. C2766. The rifle given to the Warren Commission as the murder weapon was a completely different rifle, yet it also bore the serial No. C2766.

According to microfilm records, the company received an order for the gun on March 13, 1963, on a coupon clipped from the February, 1963, issue of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, published by the National Rifle Association. This advertisement was coded with "Dept. 358", a code number used only that one time.

That advertisement reads:

The weapon in this advertisement was a Mannlicher-Carcano 6.5-mm carbine with an overall length of 36.2 inches and a weight of 6.6 pounds (instead of the advertised 5.5 pounds). The length of the barrel is 17.7 inches and the weapon has a standard muzzle velocity of 2,297 feet per second. This size and weight of weapon came in a number of models—Models 1891, 1891 TS and 1891-24. Model 1891 TS uses a knife-type bayonet that is removable, while the bayonet on Model 1891 is permanently fixed; Model 1891-24 is essentially the same as the 1891 TS except that the lower band is different. These rifles were developed at the Italian government arsenal in Turin, Italy, by M. Carcano.

Despite the ease of identification, FBI Agent Robert A. Frazier mistakenly identified it in his testimony before the Warren Commission. Frazier claims to be an expert at firearms identification and says he has "made in the neighborhood of 50,000 to 60,000" firearm identifications.

Before the Commission, he identified Commission Exhibit 139, the rifle with the serial number C2766, as "a caliber 6.5 Italian military rifle, commonly referred to in the United States as a 6.5-mm clip-fed military rifle. It is a bolt-action clip-fed military rifle. . . . That is the same as .25 caliber."

Frazier was questioned by Commission counsel Melvon A. Eisenberg.

EISENBERG: Can you explain how you made the identification of this rifle?

FRAZIER: I identified it pictorially by comparing it with pictures in reference books. And the actual identification was of the manufacturer's name appearing on the barrel and serial number, which indicated it was an Italian military rifle.

EISENBERG: Is there any reason that you can think of why this Exhibit 139 might be thought to be a 7.35- or 7.65-caliber rifle?

FRAZIER: From outward appearances, it could be a 7.35-mm rifle, because, basically, that is what it is. But its mechanism has been rebarreled with a 6.5-mm barrel. Photographs of the weapons are similar, unless you make a very particular study of the photographs of the original model 38 Italian military rifle, which is 7.35 mm.

Early in World War II, however, the Italian government barreled many of these rifles with a 6.5-mm barrel, since they had a quantity of that ammunition on hand. I presume that would be the most logical way of confusing this weapon with one of a larger caliber.

EISENBERG: And is the 6.5-mm weapon distinguished from the 7.35-mm caliber weapon by name?

FRAZIER: Yes. it is; it is by the model number. The model 91-38 designates the 6.5-mm rifle, whereas the model 38 designates the 7.35.

Obviously, for an "expert" witness, Frazier left much to be learned.

First, he has his history wrong. The Italians did not "have a quantity" of 6.5-mm ammunition on hand that prompted them to convert to that caliber. In fact, the government was in the process of converting to that caliber, but reconverted back to 7.35-mm because of the outbreak of World War II and a ***shortage*** of the new 6.5-mm ammunition.

Second, there is no such thing as a model 91-38 Mannlicher-Carcano. Firearms reference books refer to the 6.5-mm. version of the Model 38 as Model 1938 TS . . . not "model 91-38."

Third, Oswald . . . or, more properly, A. Hidell, ordered neither of these weapons. Hidell ordered a carbine that was 36.2 inches long and weighed 6.6 pounds (according to firearms manuals) or (according to the Klein's advertisement) 36 inches long and 5.5 pounds. This weapon is either the Model 1891 TS or 1891-24 but it is definitely ***not*** the Model 1938 (or, if you insist, Mr. Frazier, "model 91-38"). That weapon is 40.2 inches long and wights 7.5 pounds and has a muzzle velocity in the neighborhood of 2,482 feet per second.

Quite simply, the rifle that allegedly killed John F. Kennedy and is currently in the National Archives is NOT the rifle that was ordered from the February, 1963, issue of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN by A. Hidell.

All available evidence indicates that the rifle used to kill the President was not even available from Klein's until September, 1963, when it was advertised in FIELD AND STREAM.

Recall: The Warren Commission Exhibit 139 is 40.2 inches long and weighs an even 8.0 pounds (with a scope which weighs approximately 14-16 ounces).

The rifle available in September (and also advertised in the October and November issues) was also 40.2 inches long and it weighed (according to firearms reference works) 7.5 pounds or (according to the Klein's advertisement) 7 pounds.

In all other respects in the advertisements, it is the same as the 36.2 inch weapon—except for the price and order numbers.

The weapon A. Hidell ordered was C20-T750. The weapon which is in the National Archives as the assassination weapon is C 20-T750. The price of the Hidell weapon, without scope, was $12.88; the price of the weapon in the Archives, without scope, was $12.78. (With scope, both guns were priced at $19.95.)

This can only prove the following:

1. FBI Agent Frazier is something less than an expert at firearms identification, or else he was ***deliberately*** falsifying his testimony to cover up evidence of a conspiracy.

2. The only piece of evidence available which links the alleged murder weapon to Lee Harvey Oswald is demonstrably fabricated and is worthless.

3. President Kennedy was ***not*** killed by a rifle ordered by A. Hidell, but by ***another*** rifle.

What happened to the 36-inch rifle Oswald supposedly ordered under the alias "A. Hidell"?

Klein's company records show a rifle with a serial number C2766 was sent to A. Hidell in Dallas. The Warren Commission was given a different rifle, with the same serial number. Where did it come from? Who ordered it? Why are the serial numbers the same?

The fact that two different weapons bearing the same serial numbers figure in the assassination of President Kennedy speaks for itself; there must have been ***a conspiracy of gigantic proportions.***

Frazier's ignorance, whether real or contrived, gave the Commission what it needed to brand Oswald the assassin. Fingerprint tests had failed to brand him a killer; fiber tests had failed; paraffin tests had failed. The only link was a small piece of paper on which the name "A. Hidell" was not even handwritten, but printed.

FBI "experts" testified the printing was Oswald's, but then FBI "experts" had also testified that Oswald, using an alias, had purchased a rifle in February that wasn't available until September.

The evidence exists to assume that Commission Exhibit 139 killed the President. The evidence also shows this was not Oswald's weapon. The question is: How did the FBI come up with it so soon and who does it belong to?

The answer lies buried in still classified files that will not be made public until most of us are dead and buried by the year 2038 A.D., when Earl Warren felt it might be "safe" to release the explosive assassination documents.