

September 25, 1996

Harold —

Some samplings from
most recent Fourth Decade.
No particular reason for
the ones I selected.
The school year is moving
along. Weather is getting
a bit cooler - my favorite
time of year. Hope you
both are doing well.
Looking forward to November. 24,
Dave

THE FOURTH DECADE

1963

1973

1983

1993

2003

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seriously doubt the wording of this question. An interrogator would more likely ask: Do you own a rifle? and if Oswald had disposed of his rifle, the answer of course would be no, but even if the question was asked as Mr. Seinzant claims so, so what?? If Oswald did deny owning a rifle, I think I'd be more surprised if Oswald (knowing that he was being made the "patsy") would have admitted owning a rifle. I see nothing sinister in his denial; he knew that his rifle was a long way from Dealey Plaza, and knew that he hadn't shot the president, so there was no need for him to admit to owning a rifle, because the next question would naturally be: where is your rifle? The answer to that question required that he be able to produce his rifle, and if he had thrown it in the river, his chances of recovering it were not good, so the simplest course for him, was to deny owning a rifle. Sure, it may have been a lie, but self preservation is a strong motivator, and (if?) he lied, his lie was insignificant, when compared to the lies being told by the DPD and the FBI.

—Walt Cakebread
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JOHN MEIER'S ALLEGED ASSASSINATION DISCOVERY

by
Peter Whitmey

On November 22, 1993 the VANCOUVER SUN published an article I wrote, commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of JFK's assassination. A few days later I received a phone call from a very articulate reader, who thought I might be interested in some information he had received back in 1978 while serving time at the former "Okalla" prison in Burnaby, B.C. on a drug - related charge.

The caller, whose first name is Bob, described having met a former assistant to Howard Hughes, John Meier (the subject of AGE OF SECRETS by Gerald Bellett of the VANCOUVER SUN), at Okalla, who was in the process

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of being extradited to the U.S. (Meier has lived in suburb of Vancouver since the early 1970s). Bob spent a great deal of time talking to Meier about American politics and in particular his involvement with Howard Hughes (who briefly lived at the Bayshore Inn Vancouver in 1972).

According to Bob, Meier indicated at some point in their conversations that, when he realized he was being replaced as Hughes' right-hand man by several "McMans from Utah," he quietly travelled to Hughes' "record centre" in both the Bahamas and Los Angeles (Romaine St.), intent on retrieving any documents that he felt might be used against him. While going through the records in the Bahamas, he allegedly "found evidence pay orders" related to the assassination of President Kennedy. (Hughes was closely associated with Robert Maheu, who played an important role in the CIA-Maheu plot to kill Castro; Maheu, in turn, was, and still is, a close friend of James Phelan, the former reporter and apparent FBI informant, who wrote an "expose" on the Garrison investigation in May, 1967.)

In my initial conversation with Bob, I learned that he had continued to remain in contact with Meier for some years to come, and that Bob had hoped to write a book on Meier's fascinating career after numerous interview sessions. He was even able to provide me with Meier's address in Tsawassen, which is located close to the U.S. border south of Vancouver, next to Pt. Roberts, Washington (where Meier was kidnapped by U.S. authorities back in the late 1970s, while returning from the beach with his family and friends, as described in AGE OF SECRETS). According to my notes of the telephone conversation, he also was aware of research being done by Gerry Bellett, who had previously written for a small newspaper in New Westminster (THE COLUMBIAN).

Earlier this year I spoke to Bob again by phone at his residence in Vancouver, mentioning Bellett's book about him, which had been favourably reviewed in the VANCOUVER SUN, and which he was anxious to read. I later contacted him again, after describing Meier's allegation to author Anthony Summers, who is in the midst of writing a biography on Richard Nixon (Bellett's book gives an intriguing explanation for the Watergate break-in.) Bob was quite agreeable to being interviewed about his experience with Meier, and consequently a research assistant for Summers phoned me (as well as Bob) from Portland, Oregon. After attempting to contact Meier himself without success (his phone number, c

tained from the publisher, automatically, switches to an answering machine), I spoke to Gerry Bellett, and briefly described the allegation to him. Although he was quite skeptical about Hughes being linked to the assassination of JFK, he agreed to mention my conversation with Bob to Meier, and in a later conversation, he indicated that no such comments had been made by Meier to Bob. However, a tantalizing reference to the assassination is made on pages 252–53 of AGE OF SECRETS (which I had not yet read when I phoned Bellett), and I will leave it to the reader to decide if there is any possible correlation:

".. Shocking as they were, the Gemstone Charts were insignificant compared to what the CIA imagined Meier possessed concerning the Kennedys.

"Although Meier didn't enlighten the agent, the CIA was mistaken in this thinking. He didn't have the file, but he knew full well what it contained as he had once read it.

"In the aftermath of John F. Kennedy's assassination, Robert Kennedy had amassed a file from many sources, but mainly from the FBI, which indicated his brother the President had been killed as a result of a plot enacted by a number of leading industrialists in the United States including Howard Hughes. A member of the Hughes entourage was suspected of being involved in arranging the assassination in Dallas. Robert Kennedy had kept the file close to his chest in preparation for the day if, and when, he gained the political power to find out who had ordered his brother's death.

"While Paul Schrade was recovering from the bullet wounds he received when Robert Kennedy was assassinated, he and Meier had discussed what might have happened to that file. Schrade told Meier he would ask Ted Kennedy when the opportunity arose. When he did, the surviving Kennedy brother turned white and told him never to mention the file again."

It is possible that Meier has been reluctant to come forward with this information related to Hughes, but nevertheless needed to tell someone what he knew, knowing full well that he could simply deny having made such a statement if it was ever brought to his attention in the distant future. If that was his plan, it has come to pass.

A LUG OVERLOOKS A LUG

by
Walt Cakebread

When Gary Savage interviewed retired Dallas police detective Lt. Day for his book, JFK First Day Evidence, he asked Lt. Day about the palm print that Day claimed he had found on the barrel of the rifle that had been in the TSBD on the afternoon of the coup d'etat. Day said that he was photographing the rifle in the crime lab at about 8:30 or 9:00 o'clock in the evening of the murder when he "noticed a print sticking out from the barrel. He said it was obvious that part of it was under the wooden stock, so he took the stock off and finished dusting the barrel." This is an exact quote lifted directly from page 108 of Savage's book.

When the Dallas police could not find any identifiable finger prints on the rifle, they panicked and claimed that they had found Oswald's palm print on the barrel. The palm print on the rifle was used as evidence that Oswald had handled CE-2766 (the rifle found in the TSBD) which lent credence to the allegation that C-2766 was Oswald's rifle. The palm print on the rifle was never confirmed by the FBI, and when one examines this aspect of the case it's no wonder that the FBI would not confirm Lt. Day's allegation. They knew that Lt. Day's allegation was patently false and a giant blunder, because it could be easily demonstrated as false. They wanted no part of this faked evidence.

When Lt. Day testified before the Warren Commission some thirty years before Savage wrote his book, Day told essentially the same story. The questions asked by the Warren Commission attorney David Belin, and Day's answers to those questions, are not quite as straight forward as the passage in JFK First Day Evidence, but nevertheless, the transcript leaves little doubt about the "discovery" of the palm print. Belin broached the subject of the palm print by asking: "What other processing did you do with this particular rifle?"

Mr. Day answered: "I took it to the office and tried to bring out the two prints I had seen on the side of the gun at the bookstore. They were still rather unclear. Due to the roughness of the metal, I photographed them rather

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than try to lift them. I could see a trace of a print on the side of the barrel that extended under the woodstock. I started to take the woodstock off and, noted traces of a palm print near the firing end of the barrel, about 3 inches under the woodstock, when I took the woodstock loose.

Mr. Belin: You mean 3 inches from the small end of the stock?

Mr. Day: Right— yes, sir.

Mr. Mc Cloy: From the firing end of the barrel, you mean the muzzle?

Mr. Day: The muzzle; yes sir.

Mr. Belin: Let me clarify the record. By that you mean you found it on the metal or you mean you found it on the wood?

Mr. Day: On the metal, after removing the wood.

Mr. Belin: The wood. You removed the wood, and then underneath the wood is where you found the print?

Mr. Day: On the bottom side of the barrel which was covered by wood, I found traces of a palm print. I dusted these and tried lifting them, the prints with scotch tape in the usual manner. A print palm came off. I could still see traces of the print under the barrel and was going to try to use photography to bring off or bring out a better print. About this time I received instructions from the chief's office to go no further with the processing, it was to be released to the FBI for them to complete. I did not process the under side of the barrel under the scopic sight, did not get this area of the gun.

Mr. Belin: Do you know what Commission Exhibit No.637 is?

Mr. Day: This is the trace of palm print I lifted off the barrel of the gun after I had removed the wood.

Mr. Belin: Does it have your name on it or your handwriting?

Mr. Day: It has the name "J.C.Day", and also "11/22/63" written on it in my writing;" off the underside gun barrel near the end of the foregrip, C- 2766.

Lt. Day could not have been telling the truth, when he said he noticed a palm print on the bottom of the barrel, that extended back under the wooden stock of the rifle. It is physically impossible for anyone to grasp the barrel of a 91/38 Mannlicher-Carcano at the point

where the barrel passes into the wooden stock and leave a continuous print as Lt. Day described. When the wooden stock is removed, there is a bayonet lug that remains around the barrel at the point where the barrel and stock meet. This bayonet lug is a rectangular piece of metal about 2 1/2 inches long by 3/8 of an inch wide and it extends below the smooth tube of the barrel about 3/8 of an inch. This lug is pressed onto the barrel and it is not easily removed. It is not a part that needs to be removed for normal maintenance and cleaning. Probably the only time the lug would be removed from the barrel would be if the barrel were being replaced, due to wear or damage, and repairs of this type are usually in an armory where the necessary special equipment is available.

Warren Commission Exhibit # CE 1304 is a photo of a disassembled model 91/38 Mannlicher-Carcano. The photo shows the bayonet lug attached around the barrel about 3 inches from the muzzle end of the rifle.(The exact location Lt. Day specified in his testimony). The bayonet lug would have prevented anyone from depositing a palm print on the barrel at this location.

There may be those (Posner, Platzman and associates) that would argue that since Oswald was an ex-Marine and familiar with weapons, he could have removed the bayonet lug and then left his palm print on the barrel, at the time. While that would be a plausible though highly unlikely theory, there are a couple more facts that refute Lt. Day's allegation. Fact number one is: a 6.5mm Mannlicher-Carcano barrel at the muzzle end is only about 5/8 of an inch in diameter. A tube of this size doesn't present enough surface area to the palm of the hand to allow an identifiable print to be deposited. And fact number two is: The Warren Commission Exhibits CE 637 & CE 639 (XVII H pp. 290, 291) which purport to show the print (it is not visible) on the underside of the gun barrel are actually photos of the wooden stock near the muzzle end of the rifle, as is borne out by the groove cut into the wood at the extreme right of the photo. This groove is present on the wooden stock of all Model 91/38 Mannlicher-Carcanos. The Mannlicher-Carcano has no grooves in the smooth metal barrel, the barrel is a smooth tube.

The wooden stock could present enough area to the palm of the hand to deposit a print, but Lt. Day testified that the wood was too rough to hold a print. (an assessmant with which I totally agree) so it appears that

they took a picture of the wooden stock area with an unidentifiable smudge on it and passed it off as "Oswald's palmprint from C2766".

There is another curious entry in volume XVII concerning the palm print and the rifle. CE 720 & CE 721 are photos of the magazine area of the rifle, and the index lists CE 720 & 721 as Photographs of the latent palmprint on the magazine housing of the C2766 rifle." It seems that they couldn't make up their minds where to "find" the latent palmprint.

In a previous article, (A Nugget Amongst the Tailings) I stated that the sling swivels on Oswald's rifle were mounted on the bottom as opposed to the side mounted swivels on the C2766 rifle. The rifle "found" in the TSBD was not Oswald's rifle. When the police couldn't find any indentifiable finger prints on the rifle, they attempted to link him to that rifle by "finding" a palm print on an area of the rifle where it is physically impossible to deposit an indentifiable palm print.

My first reaction to this evidence was amazement that they were so bold, and arrogant, as to think that we would be stupid enough to be fooled by such a blatant travesty, but after further reflection my amazement has turned to anger because obviously they were right, we were stupid enough to fall for their litany of fabrications, which is known as The Warren Report.

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DER FUHRER BLOWS IN THE STORMTROOPERS

by
Jerry D. Rose

Of all the documents I have received from the National Archives as new releases under P.L. 102-526, one of the strangest and most thought-provoking is the document reproduced on these pages. (1) The Commander of the American Nazi Party (ANP), George Lincoln Rockwell, offers to J. Edgar Hoover the names of no fewer than 27 of his own associates who are "potentially capable of irrational and violent acts." Rockwell seeks thus to warn Hoover against the "irresponsible and lunatic elements" associated with his own political movement.

Different readers may be able to recognize various of the names on Rockwell's list. Five of them—Bruce, Chappell, Foss, Hofft and Rotella—are individuals about whom I have a little information. Bruce, from Decatur, Georgia, the apparent home base of the violent Nacirema, (2) was on a "short list" of Georgia suspects whose whereabouts were determined by the FBI immediately after the assassination. (3) Chappell was one of a small group of Rockwell's followers who were arrested in the ANP's "hate bus" caper in New Orleans in 1961. (4) Foss, an ANP member, attained some public notoriety in 1960 when he allegedly received payment from a Soviet citizen to help him obtain a job in the U.S. government. (5) Hofft was associated with the National States Party (NSRP), at one time as chairman of its New Jersey division. (6) Rotella, as I mentioned in another article (7), was present in Roy Frankhouser's home in Reading PA in 1965 when Daniel Burros, a former ANP member and an entry in Oswald's notebook, committed suicide there. Interestingly, Rotella's address in Queens (Jamaica) is in the same vicinity as the headquarters of the breakaway American National Party, perhaps reason enough for him to make Rockwell's list. Given that Burros himself had "defected" from Rockwell in 1961, it is a little surprising that he (nor perhaps also Frankhouser [8] and Burros' fellow defector Larry Patler) did not make the list of 27. I—and I hope

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