

MISSY MARTIN
+ BIBLIOGRAPHY

General:

* What is to be made of the lack of any sound evidence that the Carcano-Mannlicher rifle allegedly found on the sixth floor of the Schoolbook Depository (hereafter, TSD) and allegedly belonging to Oswald had been fired by Oswald in practice?

* What is to be made of the fact that the only evidence physically linking Oswald to the rifle in question was a palm print found on a part of the rifle which would have been exposed only when the gun was disassembled?

* Several witness before the Warren Commission (hereafter, WC) testified that persons in the area of the grassy knoll and parking lot and directly behind the TSD flashed Secret Service credentials immediately following the assassination when approached by these witnesses. On the other hand, testimony by the Secret Service itself indicated that the first Federal agent on the scene was Forrest V. Sorrels, chief of the Dallas SS office, who did not arrive in Dealey Plaza until 12:55, 25 minutes after the first shot was fired. Who were these men pretending to be Secret Service?

* Why did one of the priests (Father Oscar Huber, of the Holy Trinity Church in Dallas) who gave last rites to Kennedy tell Shirley (Mrs. Mark) Martin (an early and persistent critic of the WC) that he had seen a bullet-hole over Kennedy's left eye, and then deny (in R. M. Lewis' The Scoundrels) having related any such impression?

* How is it possible that "Oswald's clipboard" was not "found" on the sixth floor of the TSD until ten days after the assassination, when the Dallas police, the FBI, and the Secret Service conducted thorough searches of that floor (and all others) immediately after the assassination?

* How was it that the "super bullet" (Exhibit #399) allegedly responsible for the wounding of Kennedy (through the shoulder and neck) and Connolly (through the chest, wrist, and thigh) was found in lab analysis to carry not a single trace of blood or tissue or thread (in spite of the fact that the missile that entered Connolly's wrist carried with it bits of thread and cloth from his coat which were observed in the wrist wound by at least one doctor working on Connolly at Portland)?

* How was it that the "super bullet" was found in analysis to have lost less of its substance (some 2.5 grains at most) than remained in fragments in Connolly's wrist and thigh, and possibly his chest?

* Why and by whom was Connolly's clothing cleaned and pressed prior to its examination by the WC?

* The WC--anticipating the objections of critics--concluded that the man shown in the TSBD doorway (extreme left) in the famous Altgens (AP) photograph (taken at the instant of Kennedy's initial reaction) and closely resembling Oswald was another Depository worker, Billy E. Lovelady. Lovelady was photographed at the request of the Commission in February 1964, after the issue was forced by rising public awareness of the Altgens picture. Lovelady, in this photo, wore the shirt he said he was wearing on the day of the assassination: a red-and-white vertically striped shirt with short sleeves. It has no missing buttons (although the FBI in setting up the photograph induced or permitted Lovelady to leave open his top two or three buttons). The man in the Altgens picture is--most obviously--wearing a long-sleeved shirt (easily seen in enlargement). His shirt is almost positively not a striped pattern, but rather a mixed, cross-hatch pattern which shows up in enlargement blotchy, and on the dark side. Whether this shirt is without its top few buttons, it is apparent in enlargement that it has consistently been worn with the top few buttons open: it lies wide open halfway down to the waist. Its collar design is decidedly different from that of the shirt worn by Lovelady. In every respect the shirt worn by the man photographed in the Depository doorway corresponds to the shirt worn by Lee Harvey Oswald when he was apprehended and in custody of--the Dallas police. Photographs of Oswald taken during his weekend custody and published in the WC Report clearly show the characteristics of his shirt. These characteristics simply do not correspond with those of the Lovelady shirt. There are other objections (raised by Harold Weisberg in his chapter, "The Lovelady Capor," in Whitewash II). Why didn't the WC print the enlarged photo of the man in the doorway and the FBI photo of Lovelady on facing pages of the Report? Why was the full-face shot of Lovelady cropped in such a manner as to preclude determination of his sleeve length? Why wasn't Lovelady placed in his WC-alleged position in the doorway--for comparison purposes--when the Altgens photograph was reconstructed and rephotographed? Why were enlargements of the Altgens photo not shown to other Depository workers and other persons near the doorway, in order to possibly clarify the matter of identification and location of Oswald and/or Lovelady? What is one to make of the testimony of Lovelady's boss, William Shelley, that the former was seated in or near the Depository door? (The man in the Altgens photograph is not only obviously standing; he is leaning to his left around the left portion of the doorway. His physical attitude is, it would seem, a somewhat wildly one for a casual noon-hour viewer of presidential motorcades: it is full of tension. Even in the unenlarged versions of the Altgens photo there is a distinct contrast between the attitude of this individual and the loose, smiling, much less intense attitudes of other persons in the background of the picture.) (In this whole question, of course, one may relate to the "second Oswald" theory--for which there is considerable evidence--developed most singularly by Richard Popkin in his The Second Oswald.)

Oswald:

* Why was Oswald permitted the receipt of Communist literature at

his Marine Corps billet in Japan (a U-2 base) while simultaneously in possession of a TOP SECRET clearance relative to his work in the radar field?

* Why did the Dallas FBI tell a Russian-American friend of the Oswalds (Mrs. Anna Meller) that Oswald was "all right" when Mrs. Meller called to express her concern at the presence of Marxist literature in Oswald's home?

* The Mannlicher-Carcano rifle allegedly used by Oswald at the sixth-floor Depository window was (and is), on the basis of factual evidence and expert testimony before the WC, one of the cheapest and least reliable weapons available on the international market. (Furthermore, its telescopic sight was loose and unaligned.) Why would a potential assassin employ this gun for such an exacting and critical task? (See Accessories After the Fact, page 101, where Mrs. Meagher alludes to the opinion of a letter-writer to Analog Magazine in June, 1964 to the effect that during world war II the Mannlicher-Carcano was known among Italian soldiers as "the humanitarian rifle"--so poor a weapon that, in Mrs. Meagher's words, "it could not hurt anyone on purpose." (Emphasis hers.))

* Why did Oswald carry in his notebook the name and telephone number of Gen. Edwin A. Walker? (Why, for that matter, was Gen. Walker not informed (in his deposition before WC assistant counsel Wesley Liebler) that Oswald had this information in his notebook? Why was the retired general not asked to comment on the possible reasons why Oswald might have been carrying such data?)

* Why did the FBI in its reports on Oswald's political activities in New Orleans (and they were well publicized) fail to point out that the address used by Oswald in developing a pro-Castro cover (via his lone "membership" in the New Orleans branch of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee)--544 Camp Street--while leading to a non-existent physical organization led also to the same building which housed at least one known anti-Castro, right-wing organization, which operated under the cover of a private investigation agency (address: 531 Lafayette Place, which intersected Camp Street)?

Dallas Police:

* Why was Oswald denied legal counsel during his interrogation by the Dallas police and FBI?

* Why were no transcripts or tapes maintained during the 72-hour interrogation of Oswald by the Dallas police and FBI?

* How was it that the Dallas police, while denying any knowledge of the existence of Oswald prior to the assassination (although the Dallas FBI office had him on file and followed his movements, for whatever reasons), nevertheless produced a memorandum (from police

Lieutenant Jack Reville to his superiors) which included in the heading an address at which Oswald had, toward the end of 1962 and in early 1963, resided?

* Why were Dallas policemen searching for the assassin on a bus headed toward the TSBD within ten minutes after the assassination when no description of any suspect had as yet been developed either in the Depository or elsewhere in Dealey Plaza?

* Why was a Dallas police car honking its horn in front of Oswald's rooming house on Beckley Street during Oswald's hectic stop there at approximately 1:00 p.m. on Nov. 22?

* Why did Capt. Fritz of the Dallas police express surprise at the identity of Lee Harvey Oswald as Officer Tippit's alleged killer (upon confronting Oswald for the first time in the Homicide and Robbery Bureau office of the police department at approximately 2:00 p.m. on Nov. 22) when--on the basis of the testimony of two of his colleagues who gave depositions for the WC--Fritz had been informed only minutes earlier by phone by one of these colleagues that "Lee Harvey Oswald" was the name of the man just apprehended in the slaying of Tippit?

* Why was no reliable chain of possession of the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle (alleged to have been found on the TSBD's sixth floor and to have belonged to Oswald) maintained by the Dallas police? Why did the WC fail to include in its Report the only two written descriptions of the rifle in question on the day of the assassination?

* Why did the police wait until 1:30 a.m. on Nov. 23 to arraign Oswald for the murder of President Kennedy?

* Why did Oswald, in his evening "press conference" in the police basement on Nov. 22, tell reporters that he had not yet been charged with anything other than the murder of Officer Tippit (contradicting the later testimony before the WC of Capt. Fritz, who conducted the long interrogation of Oswald but made no record of it)?

* Why did the police in their parading of Oswald in identification line-ups on Nov. 22 and 23 consistently place him with men of conspicuously heavier builds?

* With more than 100 policemen in the basement for the transfer of Oswald on Nov. 24, why did plans fail to provide for the placement of any officers directly in front of Oswald?

* Why were certain signs along Elm Street in Dealey Plaza (e.g., the Stemmons Freeway sign) removed by Dallas authorities before the WC completed its investigation? (Why did the WC show no recorded interest in the removal of the Stemmons Freeway sign, which, because of its relationship to the Zapruder film and the position of the

presidential limousine at the time of the first shot, was of considerable value in a valid reconstruction of the events of Nov. 22?)

Ruby:

* Why did the WC discount the testimony of a respected newsman (Seth Kantor, of the White House Press Corps) in concluding that Jack Ruby was not at Parkland Memorial Hospital immediately after the assassination, relying instead on the word of Ruby himself? (This in spite of the fact that Kantor's notes recorded a conversation with Ruby at the hospital--a conversation, according to Kantor, initiated by Ruby himself, on the subject of whether Ruby's club should close down for the weekend out of respect for the dead President.)

* A former Dallas County deputy sheriff, Roger Craig (a man Sylvia Magher calls "one of the most efficient" on the scene in Dealey Plaza following the assassination), in an interview with the Los Angeles Free Press (May 1-7, 1968) indicated that the Dallas police shortly after the murder of Oswald confiscated from property belonging to Ruby a munitions cache that included 15,000 rounds of ammunition, several M-16 rifles, and a case of hand grenades. What, if anything, might this indicate?

* Why did Ruby say that he killed Oswald in order to spare Mrs. Kennedy from having to return to Dallas for Oswald's trial, and then later admit (in a note to a succeeding attorney) that this gambit had been suggested by his first lawyer, Tom Howard of Dallas?

* Why wasn't Ruby (who in so many words warned Earl Warren that he could not tell the whole truth in Dallas--that his life was in danger there) brought to Washington for questioning and safekeeping?

The Federal Role:

* How can one account for the fact that Lee Harvey Oswald, having defected to the Soviet Union in late 1959, having attempted (ostensibly) to renounce his American citizenship at the American embassy in Moscow in October of that year, having threatened at that time to divulge to the Russians classified information to which he had had access as a Marine, having returned to the U. S. in the summer of 1962 with a Russian wife (whose uncle was an officer in Soviet intelligence and who had lied in denying her own membership in a Communist youth organization), and having conjured up a pro-Castro image for himself in New Orleans, applied for a passport from the State Department in June, 1963, and received it within 24 hours?

* Why is it that the State Department (which, confronted with the failure, claimed "clerical error") failed to execute the required "lookout cards" for Oswald when he a) dropped out of sight of American embassy surveillance in Moscow in early 1960, and b) in June, 1962 received a travel advance of \$435 to return to the U. S.? ("Lookout

cards" are administrative aids employed by the Passport Office of the State Department to keep tabs on the movements of persons who, for reasons of security or indebtedness to the government (as in the travel advance), are of special interest.)

* According to Ramparts Magazine (January, 1968), Richard Case Nagell, a decorated infantry captain in the Korean conflict who later, by his own testimony, became an agent of the CIA, had himself arrested in September, 1963 by walking into a bank in El Paso, Texas, and firing a shot into the ceiling. He said he did this in order to establish a watertight alibi for his whereabouts because he knew that the assassination was then about to take place. He said he had infiltrated the anti-Castro elements of which Oswald was a participant and had been assigned to kill Oswald--set up as a "patsy"--following the assassination, which he claimed was first set for September 26 (postponed shortly before that date). (Nagell in early 1964 was sentenced to ten years in federal custody for the episode in El Paso.) How did this man come into his pre-assassination knowledge?

* If the Dallas FBI office had a file on Oswald and was aware of his movements (as stated by the chief of that office, James P. Hosty, Jr., before the WC), why did that office fail to bring Oswald to the attention of the Dallas police, who require such information in helping to protect visiting dignitaries and in associated security tasks?

* Why did the FBI attempt to influence Nelson Delgado, Oswald's Marine Corps buddy, on the question of Oswald's alleged proficiency in marksmanship? (It is a matter of record that Oswald's weapons proficiency rating in the service was below the average.)

* Why was the presidential limousine in which Kennedy was riding completely demolished as material evidence? (By presidential directive it was sent to Detroit, where the old body was removed and a new one, featuring more exotic security devices, was installed.)

The Commission:

* Why did Dr. Humes, the chief autopsy surgeon at the Kennedy autopsy, burn--in the "privacy of my own home"--certain "preliminary draft notes" relative to the autopsy?

* Why was the official government report of Kennedy's autopsy undated?

* How could the WC justify its failure--in an investigation into the most dangerous and most momentous event in contemporary American history--to view the X-rays and photographs taken during the autopsy at Bethesda? (John J. McCloy, a WC member, said during a TV interview some time ago that the Commission in this matter had, he supposed, been inhibited by the "sensitivities" of the Kennedy family.)

* Why didn't the WC view the original Zapruder film rather than a copy which was, as visual evidence, much inferior? (Sylvia Neagher has written that studies of the Zapruder film slides indicate conclusively that Kennedy was shot from in front as well as from the rear (see pp. 27-35 of Accessories).)

* Why did the WC in its findings state that no employee of the TSBD was known to have seen Oswald between 11:55 a.m. and the assassination (12:30), when in its Hearings and Exhibits it lists the testimony of at least two persons (Lddie Piper and William Shelley) who stated that they saw Oswald on the first and/or second floor after noon?

* How does one resolve the difference between the 17 degree trajectory of the shots allegedly fired from the sixth floor, as established by the WC, and the testimony of FBI agents present at the autopsy who reported that Dr. Humes, upon probing the back wound, determined that the angle of entry was from 45-60 degrees? (See report of special agents Francis X. O'Neill, Jr., and James W. Si- bert, report file nr. 89-30; this report was not included in the Hearings and Exhibits; these two men were not called to testify before the Commission.)

* Why did the WC fail to take official notice of the rash of violent deaths between the assassination and September, 1964 among persons witnessing critical events in Dallas and among associates of Ruby, etc.? (See Sylvia Neagher's Accessories, Chapter 16, "Death and Misadventure.")

* Why does the WC fail to mention the Miami police department's tape-recorded conversation between a police informer and an active member of a right-wing organization two weeks prior to the assassination, in which the informer indicated that a plot to kill Kennedy was "in the works," and additionally predicted the manner in which it would be executed ("They will pick up somebody within hours afterward . . . just to throw the public off")? (See Penn Jones, Jr.'s Forgive thy Grief II, p. 38.)

* Why did the Secret Service (to whose Miami office the tape noted above was delivered by the Miami police) fail to take extra precautions for the President's safety in Dallas (as it had done several weeks previous for Kennedy's Miami visit, largely on the basis of data provided by the Miami police)?

* Why did the WC fail to include in its Report mention of the FBI's interview of the right-winger five days after the assassination relative to the "Miami tape"?

* Why did U. S. Customs officials who said within several days after the assassination that Oswald's movements to and from Mexico were being watched at the request of "a federal agency in Washington"

(William Kline, chief of U. S. Customs at Laredo, and Customs official Oran Pugh, quoted in stories in the New York Post and the New York Herald Tribune, resp.) later, in affidavits for the WC, deny having provided such information for the Post story, failing even to mention the Herald Tribune piece?

* Why did the WC fail to follow up in any way--or even to mention--the news stories noted above? (The Commission simply printed in its Hearings and Exhibits the affidavits of the two officials.)

* Why is it that the WC failed to call as witnesses three newspapermen and magazine writers (Joe Goulden of the Philadelphia Inquirer, Lonnie Hudkins of the Houston Post, and Harold Feldman of The Nation) who first wrote stories to the effect that Oswald was an undercover agent for the FBI? Why did the Commission fail to conduct an independent review of the FBI files on Oswald, relying instead on the testimony of J. Edgar Hoover and several lesser officials of the FBI?

* How could it have been possible for the Warren Commission to accomplish a thorough and penetrating investigation when, for example, of 94 witnesses who appeared before the Commission (of almost 500 in toto), Sen. Richard Russell was present for the interrogation of only six of these? (Two other Commission members--Mr. McCloy and Rep. Hale Boggs--were also absent during the appearances of more than half the 94 witnesses who were questioned in the flesh.)

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*indicates critical works most highly recommended.