

Jim Garrison answers your questions

A Heritage of Stone
by Jim Garrison
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If you ever wanted to ask Jim Garrison, "How do you know the CIA and the Pentagon instigated and

the military and its intelligence arm, the CIA, to supreme power in the United States is a fairly recent development which had its beginnings, ironically, in World War II, the war which was to end fascism. Garrison states unequivocally that Dealey Plaza " . . . should be

files locked away in the archives where they cannot be examined by the public, are the following: A CIA file concerning Oswald's access to information about the U-2, a memo from the head of the CIA titled "Lee Harvey Oswald"; a CIA file concerning dissemination of information on Oswald(!); a reproduction of the CIA official dossier on Oswald; a CIA file titled, "Information given to the Secret Service but not yet given to the Warren Commission"; a CIA file on the activity of Oswald in Mexico City; and a CIA file titled, "Information on Jack Ruby and associates."

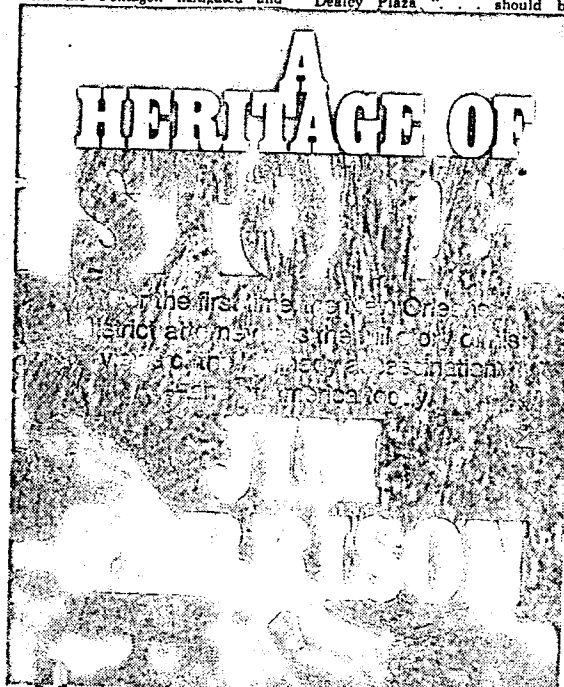
Oswald was no ordinary drifter. He was taught the Russian language by the United States government and later went to the Soviet Union, where he renounced his citizenship and said that he would give American radar secrets to the USSR, and that he was a Communist. On returning from his thirty months in Russia, he was never charged or punished, and, on the contrary, was given very special, preferential treatment. He was given a job at Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall Company, a photographic firm in Dallas. In New Orleans, after being busted in a street fight over his pro-Cuba leaflets and signs, he was — unlike the other participants in the fight — interviewed privately by a federal agent. The agent subsequently destroyed his notes from the interview with Oswald, contrary to normal law enforcement procedure.

There is in the book a formidable array of evidence inexorably identifying Oswald as a federal agent himself, but perhaps the most remarkable piece of information is the fact that this "Communist defector" when he applied for a passport to Europe in the summer of 1963, received it immediately, unlike those who applied with him on the same day. Under federal law, men who have been defectors are not eligible for passports at all.

As for the government's scenario, with Oswald gunning down the president from the window of the Texas Book Depository, three professional riflemen, each rated a master by the National Rifle Association, were selected to shoot from a platform thirty feet high — half as high as the sixth floor window — at a target considerably larger than the limited portions of the bodies of Kennedy and Connelly that were visible from the rear of the presidential limousine. The marksmen had the additional advantage of shooting at a stationary target, unlike the president's car, which was moving. They were allowed as much time as they needed for aiming, whereas the "lone assassin," as the Warren Commission later stated, would have had less than eight tenths of a second to aim his first shot. The master riflemen were unable to do it. With every conceivable advantage set up for them they were like blind men shooting at flies, demonstrating that the official government fairy tale was not only untrue but impossible.

If Oswald had not been quickly silenced by Jack Ruby's pistol, he would almost certainly have been

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carried out the murder of President Kennedy?" here is your chance to get the answers to that question — that is, if you're interested enough to read a very short, fast-moving, terrifying book.

Garrison lays out his case in the most carefully organized manner — as a good attorney does — making the evidence so clear and so inescapable that even the dumbest juror cannot fail to get the picture.

He has written a good book, a great book, using the blunt language of a man of action, and the keen perceptiveness of a scholar, which indeed he is. It is one of the most important books ever to be published in the Twentieth Century. I have no doubt that it will be used as a required text in American History courses at colleges and universities all over the world, because it lays bare a decisive force in contemporary American political history which has hardly been examined at all, except superficially — the rise to supreme power of the military-intelligence complex in the United States. The growing power and importance of the CIA is seldom examined because it is invisible.

And it is for precisely that reason that the average American polyp reacts with stunned disbelief when he is told that the CIA carries out the murder of leaders who get in the way of the Cold War Military Machine, The Warfare Superstate, not only because these activities are largely invisible, but because the ascendance of

recognized as a highly effective assault on civilian control over the military." He makes a devastatingly telling case to support the premise — a case that closes in on you like a fishermen's net — and there is no way you. You cannot read this book with an open mind and not be thoroughly convinced that President Kennedy's assassination was planned and carried out by men in the highest levels of the military and its intelligence arm, the CIA.

Garrison has laid out his case so well that one hesitates to tamper with it — although, no matter how you rearrange it, you still come up with the same answers. But I would like to pull out a few interesting facts to whet your appetite, in the hope that you will read this staggeringly important book.

It will become clear to you that Oswald was set up, months in advance, as a patsy, and never fired a gun on November 22, 1963. The paraffin tests performed on him that day prove that; nevertheless, the announcement was made that the tests showed that Oswald had indeed fired a rifle. This news quickly circled the world.

Similarly, it was announced that Oswald was also the killer of Officer Tippitt, although eyewitnesses emphatically stated he was not, and that the two men seen killing Tippitt did not resemble Oswald at all.

But Oswald was no ordinary "maladjusted transient." Among the

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exonerated. And he would have talked — the government could not permit that to happen.

Jack Ruby, too, was no ordinary nightclub owner. His activities in connection with Cuban projects goes back into the 1950's. Early in the 1950's,

Ruby consulted a war surplus dealer and discussed the purchase of one hundred jeeps. Several years prior to the assassination, Nancy Perrin and her husband, Robert, an adventurer who had participated in gun-running operations, attended a meeting of Cuban exiles in Dallas, who were planning a raid on Cuba. Money was needed to finance the enterprise. . . . Jack Ruby arrived. He was greeted by the others as if they knew him well and had been waiting for him. Ruby had a noticeable bulge in his coat pocket and went immediately to the bathroom with a man wearing the uniform of a colonel in the United States armed forces (Mrs. Perrin could not recall whether it was an army or an air force uniform).

When they returned, the bulge was gone from his suit, and there was no more talk of the need for money. It was apparent that Ruby was the money man for the operation.

These facts, of unusual relevance to the assassination, surfaced right in front of the Warren Commission, during the testimony of Nancy Perrin; however, when she began to describe the ammunition which she and the others saw in the rear of the apartment, the commission attorneys stopped her testimony, saying that it was irrelevant.

The guilty knowledge of the federal government is apparent, almost from the moment of the assassination. Richard Randolph Carr, who heard the shots from the grassy knoll — because the riflemen were right behind him! — observed that the shots were too close together to have been fired by one man. He also observed the two riflemen departing in a station wagon, and reported that he saw one of the shots miss the president and cut a furrow in the grass. The response of federal agents to this information, as he testified under oath later, was to tell him to keep his mouth shut.

Julia Ann Mercer was stalled in traffic just before the president's motorcade arrived at Dealey Plaza. She saw a man dismount from a truck with a rifle in his hand. She and the driver sat and looked at each other for some time as the traffic remained stalled. She later told federal agents that the man who was driving the truck was Jack Ruby. The investigators did not appear to be at all interested. Her statement was later revised in practically every detail, she later testified, and her signature was forged under it.

The overwhelming majority of witnesses heard the gunfire coming from the grassy knoll in front of the president's car. Seven of them saw

smoke rising from the grassy knoll.

But the area in which the government blew it most clumsily was in their panicked reaction to Garrison's independent investigation, and their frantic efforts to discredit and stop him.

When the assassination of a national leader is not supported by elements of the government, it is predictable that the government investigation will be effective and relentless. In such a case, if the assassins are not shot at the scene, they will be hunted down and cornered, whether in the Amazon jungles or at the North Pole, and swiftly brought to justice. All information contributing to the discovery of the whole truth will be welcome. . . . assassinations which do not meet with government approval are subjected to painstaking scrutiny.

However, it is another matter when an assassination is supported by powerful forces within the government. The vaunted protective guard of the President will suddenly have become curiously impotent, for its operation will be known intimately by the assassins. The assassination apparatus will be extraordinarily effective. Federal investigative agents, who within hours can hunt down a man crossing a state line with a stolen loaf of bread, will move like sleepwalkers. High officials reviewing the affair will diligently examine many irrelevant items, such as Lee Harvey Oswald's shot record, showing that he had received his smallpox vaccination in 1951, but will casually overlook the most pertinent evidence relating to the assassination. Perhaps from the news media there will be an occasional editorial on violence in the streets.

When an assassination is not authorized by the government but has been committed extragovernmentally, an investigative agency which is independent of the government will be regarded as the most natural of allies, very possibly a source of more information to help bring the criminals to justice.

However, when an assassination has been supported by elements of the government, an independent investigation is as welcome as a snake dropped inside one's shirt. The independent

investigators, rather than the assassins, are the criminals. Every possible government agency will be used in the counterattack against the menace presented by an outside inquiry. Major news agencies will be persuaded to join the assault against the outrageous new development. An investigation which seeks the truth presents a survival problem to the government. Whatever tasks are required to destroy the public's confidence in the investigation itself will be undertaken.

Of course, the most devastating piece of evidence which points the finger of guilt inexorably at the military, along with the now well documented fact of President Kennedy's plans for de-escalation and termination of the Cold War, is the speed with which his policy was reversed immediately after his death. The troops were on their way to Viet Nam forty-eight hours after his death!

There has been no president in our lifetime — perhaps no president at any time — who was so fiercely at odds with the military, or so hated by the military chiefs. It was an obscene irony that his death was celebrated by a military funeral.

There is so much vitally important information in the book — and so little superfluous verbiage — that, in reviewing it, one is tempted to quote from every page. Rather than do that, I would simply urge that if you read but one book in the next three years, make it this one! Garrison explains why:

Dealey Plaza should be recognized as a highly effective assault on civilian control of the military.

Correspondingly, the Warren Commission can be seen as a delegation of the civilian leaders of our country accepting the terms laid down by the military to them. The military conceded which clearly was in the initial planning: they dropped their requirement for an invasion of Cuba. Beyond that concession, the assassination and the inquiry are best recognized for what they were: a military takeover of the United States. It was nothing less.

If we are to understand and bring under control the forces which are shaping today's America, and are endeavoring to shape our future, we cannot rest with the official version of the killing of John Kennedy. The model of explanation offered here explains the available data. We must em-

ploy this tool of analysis until or unless another one is offered which better explains the evidence.

If we cannot have the truth once and for all about the government's murder of John Kennedy, if the warfare interests in our government are so powerful that they cannot be questioned about such things, then let us have an end to the pretense that this is a government of the people.

If the American people choose to do nothing about what was done to John Kennedy and about the subtle conversion of their country from a democracy into a thinly disguised version of the warfare state, then the republic is lost, and we shall never see it again in our time.

In any event, we need no longer pretend that there is any mystery left about the assassination of John Kennedy. The cold war is the biggest business in America, worth eighty billion dollars a year as well as tremendous power to men in Washington. The president was murdered because he was genuinely seeking peace in a corrupt world. As tired as we are of the horror of the subject, all of us must address ourselves honestly to the meaning and implications of the assassination of John Kennedy, or all of us will pay the price of living in tyranny.