

EDITORIALS

Number and Order of the Shots

We never have listed the order and direction of the shots as we think they were fired during the killing of President John Kennedy. Now that a national magazine article is to publish the order of shots as interpreted from our books, we feel it is time for us to give our own opinions as to the shots. This represents our feeling as of this time. It is possible that new or additional information might cause some changes in our thinking in the years to come.

The first shot hit President John Kennedy in the back shortly after his automobile completed the turn from Houston on to Elm street. This is the shot which caused the President to remark: "My God, I'm hit." according to Secret Serviceman Roy Kellerman.

On TV two days after the assassination, Dallas TV announcer Dan Rather put the car at 35 yards from the base of the School Book Depository Building. Later the FBI moved this to 157 feet from the base of the building because of the liveoak tree through which a rifleman would have to fire.

This first shot, we think, was fired from some spot high in the Dal Tex Building, now housing the Kennedy Museum.

The second shot was fired from behind the picket fence on top of the grassy knoll and took out the President's voice box, he could no longer make a sound. He received the shot while behind the Stemmons highway sign. (see Zapruder film) When he again came into Zapruder's view, he was clutching his throat with both hands.

Third shot, in our opinion, came from the roof of the Book Depository and hit Governor Connally's right wrist and embedded itself in the Governor's left thigh. In Mexico City, Thayer Waldo, (see Vol. I of Forgive My Grief) told the writer that he, Waldo, asked Capt. Glenn King of the Dallas Police Dept. on the afternoon of Nov. 22, about the Mauser rifle reportedly found on the roof of the TSBD. King told Waldo that reports of the Mauser was a bit of momentary confusion and that the rifle was dropped by a security officer. Later the Secret Service was to admit there were no security officers in the TSBD.

The wrist shot was not a disabling shot.

Shot number 4 came from the street gutter to the President's right front and was a shot of about sixty feet. The gun fired a .45 caliber slug which blew the President's head apart. An eye witness saw smoke come from the gutter which opened into a 4 foot deep man hole. Other evidence of the shot has been published by The Mirror in previously unpublished

photos taken at the time of the shooting.

Shot five came from the roof of the County Jail, and through Connally, emerging just under the right nipple—a disabling shot. A shot from the jail would implicate Sheriff Decker, and is the reason the coat was cleaned and pressed (destruction of material evidence) before being presented to the Warren Commission. Testimony of Garland Slack in the volumes is additional evidence of a jail shot. Also see FMG Vol. III, pages 35,36 re this shot. This shot came after the President's head shot.

James Tague, forty yards from the President, was hit when a bullet struck the curb at his feet. Tague got a scratch cut on his face. This shot, we think, came from the Carcano or Oswald gun and was

fired for evidence purposes only. See James Warren testimony in Vol. I of FMG. We do not believe Oswald fired the gun. We are unsure of the proper order of this shot, nevertheless it is the least significant of all the shots.

Seventh shot came from the south side of Commerce street, and was the longest and most difficult shot of the day, and the only shot that missed. We think the shot was intended for Clint Hill, who was the only Secret Serviceman trying to bring aid to the President. Hill was on a dead run, and traversing the rifleman's field of fire. There is a bullet mark in the sidewalk to confirm this theory. The bullet mark was pointed out to the police that Friday afternoon, and the bullet may have bounced into the Stemmons highway sign—which would have made it necessary for the sign to be removed. The sign disappeared within an hour after the shooting, and no one knows what happened to it or why.

At least as many guns were in reserve between the killing site and the luncheon site, but were not needed.