

THE SINGLE BULLET
That bullet had to go somewhere
David Bellin, Warren
Commission staff, interview.

To bolster their final conclusion on the American Assassins special, that the two deadly bullets came from the rear, CBS tried to show that this "magic bullet" theory was plausible. John Connolly and his wife were interviewed on the special, but only about the direction of the bullets fired. "Behind our right shoulder," said Mrs. Connolly. The question, ignored by CBS, is the timing of the shots. For years, the Commission testimony of Connolly was the best evidence that the same bullet didn't hit both men. He insisted that he had hit John a second shot. He said he heard the first shot, turned to see Kennedy, began to return to his original position in the seat, and was struck. You don't hear the bullet as it goes, you sound travels slower than the bullet. JFK has obviously been hit by a bullet in his chest, by Zapruder frame 225. Connolly said his wife watched the Zapruder film over and over, examined still frames, and both concluded that he was hit at frame 235. The frames of film were that over & over. Too slow to fire the "magic bullet," too long to be the same bullet. The film shows a definite reaction from Connolly at that point, shoulders slump, cheeks puff, hair ruffles. His fifth rib was shattered. The Commission said his reaction was delayed. He never agreed. Connolly is clearly holding his breath in the film as late as frame 236, through the Commission claim that his wife's time was staggered by that much. By frame 239, his wrist is limp.

Another point, raised by the critics and dismissed summarily by one word from the CBS-fired pathologist, Dr. Weston, is the fact that Exhibit 399 is virtually pristine after having done so much damage.

The Stemons rodent sign blocks Zapruder's view of the car at a crucial point in the film. Between frames 210 and 225, JFK isn't visible in the film. CBS claims that this gap may hide rapid movements of Connolly and JFK that could explain the trajectory of the bullets. This idea would require them to assume earlier positions after being hit, since they emerge from behind the sign in virtually the same position they were in at frame 209. What Dr. Weston pointed out to me about this response from CBS--"virtually their only argument against him--is that those 15 frames represent only 5/6 of a second, hardly time to say your name clearly."

Connolly's hat can be seen turning over rapidly in a film taken from the other side of the street. Teek Corporation used computer analysis to track the slight movement. I pointed out to Dr. Weston that while they claim he can't be sure what Connolly and JFK did between frames 210 and 225, the Teek analysis on the show places the hat movement at frames 223 to 226. If we can see Connolly's hat turn over, can't we see if he and JFK rapidly changed their position in the seats? CBS wants us to think that hat movement places the time the bullet hit Connolly. More likely, and in complete agreement with his testimony, it is the startled reaction of Connolly to hearing the first shot. As they emerge from the sign, Connolly already begins to turn to see JFK, just as he claimed he did.

The throat wound, according to CBS and Dr. Weston, was a through and through. The best evidence denies this (see my article "Hitting the Bullets"). And Weston admits he was unable to examine the neck wound. The theory that the neck wound in the front was an entrance wound, deflecting downward into the chest is verified recently in an autopsy doctor's letter about JFK, noting they found a missile in his chest. Neither the fatal head shot, the bullet that wounded by-standers

They, near the "magic bullet" found at Parkland Hospital could have been this bullet. Either we have an entrance shot to the neck, or we have a fourth, unaccounted bullet.

BULLETS FROM THE REAR

Your inquiry turned up new evidence that both shots hit John F. Kennedy and Governor Connally from the rear" (emphasis mine) Dan Rather, CBS, November 25, 1975

If you haven't read the Commission Report and evidence, watched the Zapruder film, and followed the case for at least years, the "evidence" on Rather's latest attempt at honesty might seem new. But critics have known ever since that Connolly's hat turned over, that some fragments of JFK's skull traveled forward, and that J. Edgar Hoover, the ufologist who reviewed the secret autopsy debris material, described the fragments of JFK with the coat and shirt strewn by JFK's high on Kennedy's neck to explain the bullet hole in his clothes that aligns with a point much lower on the bag, girth, etc. etc. haven't known, and what was new about the show, were two theories: that Jackie Kennedy pushed John backwards, and that we can't trust our naked, unaided eyes.

While Connolly and his wife may how claim on CBS that the bullets all came from the rear, or Secret Service agent Clint Hill may break down over the fact on Sixty Minutes, the bulk of the witnesses believed some bullets came from the front, atop a grassy knoll. Police and witnesses ran to that area immediately. Sixteen witnesses, never called to testify, saw smoke and activity in that area at the time of the shooting. Police deployed there found men in suits bearing Secret Service identification, which we now know must have been fake. But CBS, which is beginning to stand for Commission Bull Shit, tells us definitively that all the shots came from the rear.

"Our unaided eyes." Rather tells us, can't compete with scientific computer analysis of the film by Teek Corporation's photo analysts. "I don't know what I see, just what

I measure" abstracts one of their corporate heads on the CBS show. Maybe at first viewing they're right. After all, Rather's unaided eyes leads him to tell us that after the fatal shot, JFK's head went forward with considerable force" (CBS, November 24, 1963), even though he had seen the Zapruder film. He noticed the slight forward movement of the head at frame 313, and claimed it went faster than the backward jerk. It took one frame to go forward and three frames to get back to where it was, they asserted. Well, the head went forward in one frame, but it returned to the original position in less than a frame. In three frames, JFK's head and whole torso were lifted out of the seat and slumped backwards. Joseph Thompson measured the acceleration at 100 feet per second per second. Why too fast for Jackie's push, neuro-muscular reaction, the speed of the car, or the other explanations offered so far.

"The fragments of the skull went forward said Teek, in support of a shot from the rear. Two large fragments went forward in the film. Another large fragment shot back and to the left, onto the trunk of the car. Lesser fragments of skull, blood and tissue all went back and to the left. Well behind the motorcade, on the south side of Elm Street, a witness saw skull fragment land at his feet. Police reports on the left rear of the car were splattered with blood and fragment. One was hit so hard, he testified, he thought he had been shot. Critics I've seen explain the forward movement of two fragments and the skull in three ways. The skull is a vacuum that explodes outward in many directions. The bullet may have been a special exploding shell. Kennedy was hit almost simultaneously with the bullets from both directions. While we cannot fully duplicate the effect of such a shot, any forensic expert of intelligence will admit he finds the field backward movement "disturbing" to a theory of rear shot only.

The sixth floor window of the DePoliory was barely open at the time of the shooting. Teek analysts claim they can detect a small movement in

the window at the time of the shooting. Although such evidence is inconclusive, I am told by others in the field, CBS takes it for hard evidence that someone is firing from the balcony. Perhaps someone was, but was it Oswald? Jim Aronson's photo of the motorcade shows Oswald in the first floor doorway of the Book Depository watching.

Barrelling of the shell fragments, both better West and Weston agree, is conclusive for that shot. But the key piece of evidence that could be examined, the brain itself, is missing. It was never cut into serial sections to trace the path of the bullet through it, a standard rule of autopsy procedure. The neutron activation of the metal fragments in it is still secret. And the slides of tissue damage that could prove entry and exit directions are missing as well. All of this falls to the "multiteam" shots theory, which recent calls "possible" and Bob Oehler demonstrates, in Crossings, is likely.

UNREGISTERED GUNS

Rather said the CBS travesty with a film clip of Robert Ray McKean. A self-admitted convict, McKean was found guilty of running guns to Fidel Castro in 1959. This may suggest that McKean did work with the intelligence community, since CIA men were in the hills of Cuba with Castro and aiding him. In the overthrow of Batista, McKean was a friend of Jack Ruby's, and the Commission itself found evidence that McKean had been offered a government position in Castro's new regime as well as \$25,000 for an introductory letter to Castro by a man who didn't have that much money, Jack Ruby.

McKean claimed on the show that he had talked to all the FBI and the Commission staff that Oswald had visited him waiting to buy rifles, claimed this little guy--a short Brown-headed fellow (Oswald was 5'11" and brown-haired) came by the house offering \$1000 each for four automatic rifles, unregistered. In Texas in 1963, it was probably difficult

be seen as downright sinister. Although rather claims that he has defunded the Warren Commission conclusion from the start, his Dallas TV report two days after the assassination placed the first shot at a point when the motorcade was 35 yards (105 feet) from the base of the Book Depository Building. The FBI and the Commission versions move this to 157 feet from the base because at the location Rather gives it a live oak tree would have blocked the vision of an assailant in the sixth floor window "lair". This may just fit in with his General Inaccuracy though, for how can we rely on him to count the feet from the building if he can't even tell which way the head moved? He finally told Associated Press representatives that his mis-statement was "an honest error". Penn Jones, former editor of Midlothian Mirror, has been challenging Rather on this point for eleven years, and feels that he has had ample time on prime network coverage to correct the "error". Instead we get itek and Rather's pseudo-scientific membo-jumbo insinuating that we can't see any better than Rather can.

While doing White House coverage during the Watergate era, Rather was dumped by Richard Nixon from the position. It established him as the archetypal "good guy". Maybe it's better that he lost the job. If we are to believe his account of where he was in Dealey Plaza, he may fare better replacing Johnny Bench as the catcher "for the Red". Den tells us he was "just past the overpass". This places him near the spot where eyewitness Julie Ann Werger saw an individual shortly before the assassination taking a gun from a pickup truck and ascending the hill nearby. She later identified the man to FBI, and then to her family, as Jack Ruby. Her affidavit changed and forged, and her testimony never taken by the Warren Commission, her story implies Rather's stated location was virtually on the base of the infamous grassy knoll. An importantly situated witness, Rather has never been asked to testify about what he saw and heard, or what the contents of the film he shot. Penn Jones, Forgive My Grief (Vols. 1-4), self-published, Box 1140, Midlothian, Texas 76065

HINTS

But it needn't be that way forever. There are some simple steps people can take right now. A rush of new publications are already hitting the stands (20 expected this year). Here are just a few:

- Forgive My Grief, Vol. III (new edition), Penn Jones (see note #1)
- Presumed Guilty, Howard Hoffman, Frazier Dickinson University Press
- Post-Mortem, Harold Weisberg (see #1)
- Accessories After the Fact, Sylvia Meagher (a paperback edition)
- Assassinations: Dallas and Beyond, Peter Dale Scott.

Write CBS demanding 2 hours equal time on national TV for the critics. We've seen enough of Rather's version. Write and demand to know why House Resolution 204 was defeated, a bill to re-open the investigation. We need open hearings, access to documents, all evidence out of the Archives. TV coverage, and a reprint of the Warren Commission evidence, not out of print. Maybe Rather will read it...

NOTES:

- 1-Harold Weisberg, Post-Mortem, self-published, 1976, Box 1140, Midlothian, Texas 76065.
- 2-Mark Lane, Rush to Judgment, Dell, 1975 (Fawcett, 1967)
- 3-I met one such agent, well up in the Air Force hierarchy, who told me Che Guevara was a brilliant revolution. Any strategist with the morals of an alleycat. He verified the little known version of Castro's political history that claims he didn't turn to Russia until the US refused him financial help. If the real history of the Bay of Pigs comes out, the CIA/Mafia links will be only one factor.