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THE INVESTIGATOR

* THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY *
In Search Of The Truth

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Since so much additional controversial and unexplained evidence of tampering has been revealed since publication of the HSCA report in 1979 (including alleged tampering with the Zapruder film itself), clearly the case should again be reopened with the establishment of either a grand jury or the appointment of a special prosecutor. If this comes to pass, serious study of the firing sequence should be made, with reenactments making use of more than just two possible sources for the six apparent supersonic sound waves initially detected on the Dallas Police tape.¹⁰

Notes:

1. *The Final Assassinations Report*, (Bantam Books: N.Y.), 1979, p. 86-87.
2. Audio tape of "The Assassins", CBS Special, November 24-25, 1975.
3. Anson, Robert Sam, *"They've Killed The President!"*, (Bantam Books: N.Y.), 1975, p. 360.
4. Anson, Robert Sam, *"They've Killed The President!"*, (Bantam Books: N.Y.), 1975, p. 147-148.
5. Groden, Robert, "A New Look at the Zapruder Film", *Rolling Stone*, April 24, 1975, p. 35-36.
6. Thompson, Josiah, *Six Seconds in Dallas*, (Berkley Publishing: N.Y.), 1967, 1976, p. 115.
7. *Ibid*; Thompson states that the forward movement was at 69.6 feet per second (102 mph) over two frames, 312-313, slower than the backward movement, contrary to the calculations made by Itek.
8. *The Final Assassinations Report*, (Bantam Books: N.Y.), 1979, p. 86.
9. Kurtz, Michael, *Crime of the Century*, (University of Tennessee Press: Knoxville), 1982, p. 230.
10. *The Final Assassinations Report*, (Bantam Books: N.Y.), 1979, p. 78. Note: Two of the apparent six supersonic wave motions were rejected, impulses one and six, because they "did not pass the most rigorous acoustical test and were deemed not to have been caused by gunfire from the Texas School Book Depository or grassy knoll." As pointed out to us during a tour of Dealey Plaza by Robert Groden (a photographic consultant to the HSCA), the committee should have used more than two possible firing sources as he begged them to do. Consequently impulses one and six can't be completely ruled out as gun shots originating elsewhere in Dealey Plaza.

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ZAPATA: WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By David M. Keck

The name "Zapata" is seen frequently in articles and books about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Most often it is mentioned as part of "Operation Zapata," the code name for the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961.

Mark Lane, in *Plausible Denial* mentions Zapata, Barbara, and Houston in the same sentence,¹ then on the next page speaks of the "Operation Zapata" code name, and the names of ships used in the invasion changed to "Barbara" and "Houston."² There have been other references to Zapata in relation to Zapata Petroleum Company, and its connection to ex-President George Herbert Walker Bush. This company was formed in 1953.³

The implication by many of the critics of the Warren Commission appears to be that it is more than coincidental that the Bay of Pigs invasion was code named "Operation Zapata" at a

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time when George H. W. Bush was an officer of the company. Further, it has been written that a memo exists from FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover that a "Mr. George Bush of the Central Intelligence Agency" had been briefed about issues related to the Kennedy assassination by representatives of the intelligence community.⁴

In March of 1992 I had a conversation with Harold Weisberg in his home to gain some perspective on the assassination. At that time I postulated to him that the name "Zapata" was common in Latin American usage, as Emiliano Zapata, who died in 1919, was a Mexican revolutionary leader and agrarian reformer, and was martyred in the ongoing turmoil in Mexico of the time. Weisberg agreed that connecting the name Zapata from Bush's company to the Bay of Pigs invasion was a stretch, and likely coincidental.⁵

Looking into the issue further, I consulted my standard text on the Bay of Pigs, written in 1979 by Peter Wyden, entitled *Bay of Pigs: the Untold Story*. Sure enough, on the inside cover, there it was: at the Bay of Pigs invasion site there was a Zapata Peninsula and a Zapata Swamp.⁶ Further, L. Fletcher Prouty refers to Zapata as "the beach" at the Bay of Pigs.⁷ Clearly the Bay of Pigs invasion was named for the beach it was to be held on, and the nearby peninsula and swamp, as opposed to the oil company George Bush was associated with.

This revelation does not prove, of course, that ex-President Bush does not know more about the Kennedy assassination than he has heretofore led us to believe. But it does illustrate that researchers can get sloppy with the innuendo that may by accident or design lead uninformed readers to certain conclusions.

Since Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby and a host of other people involved in the Kennedy assassination are long since dead, we are stuck with piecing together small bits of primary sources on the subject to arrive at the truth, and, at times, eliminating one by one, what items were not associated with the cause of JFK's death. Clearly, the name Zapata came from geography and not Bush's company in relation to the Bay of Pigs. "Houston" and "Barbara" are yet to be explained.

Notes:

1. Mark Lane, *Plausible Denial* (New York, Thunder's Mouth Press, 1991), p. 332.
2. Lane, *Plausible Denial*, p. 333.
3. Lane, *Plausible Denial*, p. 330.
4. Lane, *Plausible Denial*, p. 330-331.
5. Conversation with Harold Weisberg, March 1992.
6. Peter Wyden, *Bay of Pigs: the Untold Story* (New York, Simon and Schuster, 1979), inside cover.
7. L. Fletcher Prouty, *JFK: The CIA, Vietnam and the Plot to Assassinate John F. Kennedy* (New York, Birch Lane Press, 1992), p. 129.

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