

Kennedys Feel It Was

By BILL BURRUS

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Oswald

William Manchester's book, "The Death of a President," leaves no doubt that the Kennedys are convinced that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone as President Kennedy's assassin.

Manchester argues that Oswald acted alone, and this contention has not been disputed by the Kennedy family despite their objections to many other portions of the book.

X-rays of Kennedy's body and photographs of the shooting disprove the "second assassin" theory, Manchester says in the second instalment of Look magazine's four-part serialization of his forthcoming book, "The Death of a President."

The Kennedys' tacit approval of this version of the killing is one of the few indications of their feelings about this aspect of the assassination.

Robert F. Kennedy on June 29, 1964—while he was Attorney General and before the Warren Commission labeled Oswald as the sole killer—told a student group in Krakow, Poland:

"There is no question that he did it on his own and by himself."

And after the criticisms of the findings of the Warren Commission and the numerous articles and books that suggested that Oswald may have had an accomplice, Kennedy still feels the way he did then.

Manchester in his account of the assassination says most of the hunters in the motorcade identified Oswald's shots immediately as rifle fire. But the Secret Service agents, he said, were not used to the sound of shots echoing between buildings and five of them thought they had heard a firecracker.

Yarborough's Reaction

In the car of Vice President Johnson, however, Texas Sen. Yarborough thought he smelled gunpowder. "My God!" he yelled, "they've shot the President!"

The President was wounded, but not fatally, by a 6.5mm bul-

let that entered the back of his neck, bruised his right lung, ripped his windpipe, and exited at his throat, nicking the knot of his tie, the author said.

Manchester said the bullet, continuing its flight, "had passed through Governor Connally's back, chest, right wrist and left thigh, although the Governor, suffering a delayed reaction, was not yet aware of it."

This is the sequence of wounds described by the Warren Commission in explaining how a single bullet hit Kennedy and Connally.

Some dissenters have disputed

the Warren Commission, claiming Kennedy was shot in the back, well below the neck, and that the bullet remained; and that separate bullets then hit Kennedy, in the throat, and Connally.

The lone-assassin theory has hinged on the trajectory described by the Commission since, as the dissenters argue, Oswald did not have time for three shots.

Manchester also seems to be attempting to explain Connally's insistence that he wasn't hit by the first bullet as due to a "delayed reaction" to his injury.

Manchester contends the X-

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rays and photographs resolve the issue of whether a second assassin aided Oswald. He said "they were taken from every conceivable angle during the autopsy on the President's body.

Robert Kennedy decided the material was so unsightly it wouldn't be shown to anyone, including qualified scholars, until 1971. The writer didn't see the photos and X-rays but did interview, he said, three persons with special qualifications who examined them before they were put under seal at the National Archives.

He said all three [-] who did not know the others were interviewed [-] gave identical accounts of what they had seen in the photographs and X-rays.

The X-rays show no entry wound below the shoulder, as argued by author Edward Jay Epstein in his book, "Inquest," Manchester said, adding that the X-rays clearly show the wound was in the neck.

Manchester said Secret Service Agent Roy Kellerman, after the first shot, "thought he had heard the President call in his inimitable accent, 'My God, I'm hit!' The impact of Connally's wound struck him, too, and he pitched forward, his lap covered

with blood. He toppled to the left, toward his wife.

"Suddenly the Governor felt doomed," Manchester wrote. "He panicked. 'No, no, no, no, no' he shrieked. 'They're going to kill us both!'

"Jacqueline Kennedy heard him. In a daze, she wondered, *why is he screaming?* Already she had started to turn anxiously to her husband."

During the five seconds that followed the first shot, Secret Service Agents Bill Green, the President's driver, and Roy Kellerman had not reacted to the crisis, Manchester said.

"And now it was too late," Manchester said. "Spectator Howard Brennan, open-mouthed, saw Oswald take deliberate aim for his final shot. Crooking his arm, Oswald drew a fresh bead with his Italian rifle. His target, startlingly clear in the cross-hairs of his telescopic sight, was 88 yards away. He squeezed the trigger again.

"The First Lady, in her last act as First Lady, leaned solicitously toward the President. His face was quizzical. She had seen that expression so often, when he was puzzling over a difficult press-conference question. Now, in a gesture of infinite grace, he raised his right hand, as though to

brush back his tousled chestnut hair. But the motion faltered. The hand fell back limply. He had been reaching for the top of his head. But it wasn't there any more . . ."

Jackie on That Day — More From Stern

By DAVID M. NICHOL

Bonn, Jan. 24 (CDN)—Stern magazine, free of the threat of a temporary injunction, appeared today 24 hours later than usual with its third instalment of the allegedly "uncensored and uncut" version of the William Manchester book, "The Death of a President."

There are only about 50 words, all in one brief passage, which do not appear in the Look magazine on sale today in the U.S.

They describe a pensive Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, studying her complexion as she prepares to leave the Hotel Texas in Fort Worth on the fateful morning of the President's assassination.

After the exhausting previous day of campaigning at her husband's side, she noticed a small line on her face that had not been there when they left the White House, it says. The line, it says, easily was concealed with cosmetics.

While Mrs. Kennedy was thus engaged, her secretary, Mary Gallagher, was checking the First Lady's handbag and there is a harmless inventory of its contents—lipstick, comb, hand-

kerchief, sunglasses, cigars.

As in earlier Stern instalments, this one includes only about half of today's Look version and carries the narrative to the moment when the President's nearly lifeless body was wheeled into Trauma Room 1 at the hospital.

Further Cuts

Also, as in earlier Stern instalments, and despite the claim of the magazine's editors, there are further cuts in the Stern text.

The longest, of some 350 words, concerns the hassle about getting Sen. Ralph Yarborough in Vice President Johnson's car—a somewhat esoteric passage for German readers.

So far Stern has published three of the deletions made in the Manchester manuscript at Mrs. Kennedy's insistence. In the first instalment it was a sentimental letter to her husband in direct quotations. In the Look version the letter was paraphrased.

A court in Hamburg meantime dismissed a request by Look's lawyers for a temporary injunction prohibiting further publication in Stern. The presiding judge said he would give his reasons in a written decision later.

The Kennedy Travel Plans

The principals in the bitter row over "The Death of a President"—Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, Sen. Robert Kennedy and author William Manchester—are dispersing to distant parts of the globe.

Sen. Kennedy leaves tomorrow for eight days in London and Paris. Jackie is planning a trip to Hong Kong, with stops in Thailand and Cambodia, in February or March.

And Manchester is reported in seclusion in the Bahamas.



Associated Press Cablephoto

Henri Nannen (l), chief editor of Stern, and his attorney, Martin Holste, after Hamburg court ruled against Look.