

# midnight

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## Ex-CIA Official Tells How He Tracked Down JFK's Real Assassin



Hugh C. McDonald is one of the most respected policemen and intelligence officers in the United States.

He is a former CIA and FBI contract agent, former Chief of Detectives for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and the man charged with protecting Sen. Barry Goldwa-

ter during the 1964 Presidential campaign.

And he is the man who tracked down the real assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

Mr. McDonald has staked his professional reputation on this, the greatest detective work of his long and distinguished career.

His book, *Appointment in Dallas: The Final*

*Solution to the Assassination of JFK*, published by Zebra Books of New York, tells the real story at last.

MIDNIGHT writer Malcolm Abrams spent two days in San Francisco interviewing Hugh C. McDonald for this exclusive three-part report.

How do you begin looking for the real assassin of President John F. Kennedy?

That was the dilemma facing Hugh C. McDonald, CIA contract agent and chief of detectives for Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

McDonald was convinced Lee Harvey Oswald didn't do it. He was nearly convinced that people inside the CIA working for the Russians did. That they had "bumped off" the 35th President of the United States in retaliation for his stand at the Cuban Missile showdown.

A man high up in the Central Intelligence Agency, Herman Kimsey, had told McDonald in 1964 that a professional assassin, "one of the best there is," had murdered Kennedy.

Kimsey knew because the assassin worked for the CIA at the Bay of Pigs. McDonald himself had met the man briefly inside CIA headquarters in Washington.

The assassin had told the whole story to Kimsey.

— How Kennedy had been shot from the second floor of the County Records Building, not from the Texas School Book Depository across the street.

— How Oswald was used as a "patsy" and a decoy.

— How the killer was hired and paid off by a "contact" known as "Troit" — a man who had also worked for the CIA at the Bay of Pigs.

For six years, day and night, he lived alone with the awful truth of Kennedy's death. And for six years, the face of the man he had met fleetingly in the CIA headquarters — the man who killed the President — burned in his memory.

Finally, in 1970, Hugh McDonald determined that no matter what the cost, no matter what the danger, he would find Kennedy's assassin.

Kimsey, the man who shared the secret, had died. His notes regarding the assassination, which he had promised to leave to his colleague, had promptly been seized by the CIA.

All McDonald had to go on was a series of fuzzy photographs taken by a covert CIA camera at the Russian Embassy in Mexico. Those are the mysterious pictures, now widely circulated, of a tall, powerfully-built man whom CIA officials originally identified as Lee Harvey Oswald. Later the CIA men claimed they didn't know who he was.

The man in the pictures is the real killer of John F. Kennedy.

McDonald gave him the code name "Saul." Then he began to hunt him down.

Few men were better



"SAUL" — the professional assassin who 'hit' JFK.

equipped to find a hired killer than Hugh C. McDonald. As a CIA contract agent and as a military intelligence officer in World War II, he had worked in espionage on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

And years before, he had helped assemble a secret anti-Communist spy network, code-named "Blue Fox," which was still active in Euro-

- Former CIA agent, Hugh C. McDonald tells how he tracked down JFK's real killer.
- The killer's trail leads to the CIA and the Russians.
- Lee Harvey Oswald was an innocent 'patsy.'
- The real assassin is alive and could be brought to trial.



**MIDNIGHT** writer Malcolm Abrams (left) spent two days in San Francisco interviewing Hugh C. McDonald for this special three-part series.

pean Intelligence.

In September, 1970, shortly after his retirement from the L.A. County Sheriff's Department, McDonald was sent overseas on special assignment for the CIA.

He used this opportunity to begin looking for "Saul."

To every agent of "Blue Fox" that McDonald could contact, he gave out a picture of the assassin. Within months, the name "Saul," with the photograph, had been circulated throughout the world's intelligence community.

The message that McDonald circulated was simply that he wanted to hire "Saul" for a job. Yet some people knew otherwise.

One of the first agents he approached asked him straight out: "Does your interest in this man have anything to do with the murder of your President in 1963?"

McDonald was lost for words.

Over the next two years, the search took him to London, Augsburg, Garmisch, Oslo, Helsinki, Zurich and Copenhagen.

In Augsburg, he was told that the man in the picture was dead. But while still in West Germany, his hopes that

"Saul" was alive were revived in a most unusual way.

McDonald awoke in a hotel with a knife at his throat. A voice in the darkened room whispered: "You have come to the end of the road, mister."

A highly-trained man who has killed in self-defense, McDonald acted swiftly. He moved into his assailant, not away. He caught the man by surprise, kicking out with his pajama-clad knees.

Then he struck the intruder in the face. The man fell and staggered out of the room.

It was a sloppy murder attempt, McDonald reasoned. Not really worthy of "Saul" — a man who had killed a President.

It might even have had to do with other CIA matters, not the Kennedy assassination at all. But it made McDonald determined to continue the search.

The disappointments were many. On three occasions "Blue Fox" agents summoned him to Europe for a "look" at known assassins who might be "Saul."

Three times McDonald struck out.

There was one more attempt on his life. As he stepped out of London's Heath-



**JFK's killer tracked down after 13 years.**

row Airport, a man grabbed his suitcase and hustled him into a waiting black car.

But this attempt was also clumsy and unsuccessful. The kidnaping was foiled when a real cab driver intervened, protesting furiously that the "illegitimate" taxi was stealing his passenger.

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# Inside Story Of JFK's Assassination ...Confrontation With A

McDonald jumped out and the man in the black limousine sped away.

In June of 1972, McDonald was called to Europe again by "Blue Fox." He was told to be in the lobby of the Westbury Hotel in London between two and four in the afternoon.

McDonald was disillusioned, sick of wild goose chases, his funds running low. Nevertheless, at 2 o'clock, he was there.

An hour later, "Saul" walked in the front door of the Westbury Hotel.

He looked like an American tourist — casually but expensively dressed, with no necktie, a blue tweed jacket, white shirt, doeskin slacks, and Gucci loafers. His hair was thick and short, slightly gray at the temples.

With "Saul" was a "Blue Fox" agent. The three men shook hands in the hotel lobby. Then the agent excused himself, and McDonald and "Saul" got down to business.

The business was the truth about John F. Kennedy's murder.

McDonald sat on the edge of the bed, with the professional killer facing him in an armchair.

In a spotlessly clean, tastefully decorated hotel room, 4,000 miles from the spot where Kennedy was shot, McDonald waited to hear the details.

To get to this room, he had



**HUGH C. McDONALD**, author of "Appointment in Dallas: the Final Solution to the Assassination of JFK.

traveled 50,000 miles across 10 countries at a personal cost of \$30,000. Yet the one overwhelming thought in his mind was to get out of there.

As McDonald told MIDNIGHT: "I wanted to get it over with. I wanted to get the story and go. 'Saul' frightened me. He frightened me the first time I saw him in 1961 and he frightened me in 1972.

"I couldn't get rid of that man fast enough. I was afraid of him, pure and simple."

McDonald handed "Saul" a typed manuscript. It contained the story that Herman Kimsey had told him, the story of JFK's assassination.

"Saul" was surprised. He had no idea that such a document existed. He read it slowly, making only one alteration. Kimsey had used the word "Mauser" to describe the gun that killed the President. The man who had pulled the trigger now changed it to "European rifle."

As McDonald explained to MIDNIGHT, "Saul" was

willing to repeat the tale, and in more detail, because he viewed the ex-cop as a professional colleague. After all, both had worked as contract agents for the CIA. Both had been in "battle." Both had killed.

What's more, as far as "Saul" was concerned, McDonald was still with the CIA. And "Saul" figured he had enough "dope" on that agency to blackmail it for a thousand years.

But there was one more reason for "Saul" to tell his tale. He had pulled off the biggest "hit" of the century — on the President of the United States. He couldn't keep it to himself.

Still, "Saul" cautioned McDonald: "Tell this story to anyone else and you won't survive on this earth another week."

McDonald took this as a "friendly" warning, not a threat. There were powerful men behind "Saul" who had plotted the murder. They almost certainly were connected with the CIA. Quite likely they were tied to the Soviet Union.

There's no telling what those people would do if the true story of JFK's assassination were revealed. But murder, both men agreed, was a definite possibility.

Hugh C. McDonald has decided to take that chance. His book "Appointment in Dallas: The Final Solution to the Assassination of JFK" has just been published. He told the whole story to MIDNIGHT.

"I feel there's less of a

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# Professional Assassin



**LEE HARVEY OSWALD:**  
did not murder Kennedy  
threat now, McDonald said.  
The precarious time was  
when I was preparing the  
story for publication and be-  
fore it was going to publica-

tion. It seems to me that  
Saul would see this.  
"If anything happens to me  
now, it would simply prove the  
story. And that holds not only  
for 'Saul' but for those people  
in back of him.

But I think that after this  
story comes out, and gains  
credence, these invisible peo-  
ple will have to make a move.

"I think that if I have done  
anything by telling this story —  
I may have signed 'Saul's'  
death warrant. I think they'll  
kill 'Saul'.

Next week in **MIDNIGHT**—

— "Saul" tells how he mur-  
dered JFK.

— Why the Warren Commis-  
sion hid the truth.

— Is it too late to get the real  
killers?