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**WORLD
EXCLUSIVE**

JFK's Real Assassin Describes

'How I Killed Pres. Kennedy'



...Confession Discloses Full Details Of Murder

Real Assassin Reveals:

'How I Killed

"I'm ready, willing and anxious to appear in front of any authorized body and testify under oath that this story is true," says Hugh C. McDonald, the man who met the real assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

His book, "Appointment in Dallas: the Final Solution to the Assassination of JFK," has just been published by Zebra Books.

His story is told here in **MIDNIGHT**.

With it, McDonald puts his reputation on the line — one of the finest reputations in American law enforcement.

McDonald is a former CIA and FBI contract agent and the retired Chief of Detectives for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. He is the inventor of the Ident-

Inside Story Of JFK's Death

Kennedy'

Kit, used by police forces around the globe and the author of standard police textbooks.

During the 1964 presidential campaign, he was hired by the Republican Party to guard Barry Goldwater.

For the CIA and U.S. Military Intelligence, McDonald's espionage activities on both sides of the Iron Curtain are legendary.

By MALCOLM ABRAMS
MIDNIGHT Staff Writer

President John F. Kennedy was murdered by a professional assassin, not Lee Harvey Oswald.

The bullets which struck the President were fired from the second floor of the County Records Building, not from the Texas School Book Depository across the street.

The assassin is alive today and could be brought to trial.

One man has met the killer. Talked to him. Received a full confession.

That man is Hugh C. McDonald, a retired CIA and FBI contract agent and the former Chief of Detectives for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Beginning with a tip from a special agent high up in the Central Intelligence Agency, he tracked Kennedy's assassin through 10 countries, across 50,000 miles, at a personal expense of \$30,000.

In September, 1972, he found his man in London.

McDonald could not take his story to the CIA. There were too many connections. The assassin, the man he code-named "Saul," had worked for the CIA at the Bay of Pigs. The contact who hired Saul to kill the President had also worked for the American Government.

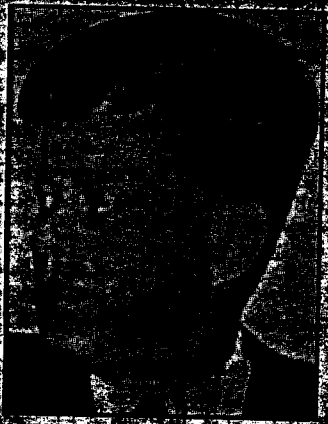
McDonald, himself, had met Saul briefly at the CIA's Washington headquarters just after the Bay of Pigs fiasco in 1961.

Yet despite these ties, Richard Helms, deputy director of the CIA, denied before the Warren Commission any knowledge of the man named "Saul."

The CIA and the Warren Commission had made a sham of the investigations into JFK's death. McDonald was convinced of this.

He believes he knows that the Central Intelligence Agency had been infiltrated by the Communists. He told MIDNIGHT that it is his view that Kennedy was eliminated by these people in retaliation for his stand at the Cuban missile showdown.

About how it was done, there is no question in McDonald's mind. Saul spoke freely about his role in the murder plot. He had pulled off the biggest "hit" of the cen-



KENNEDY'S KILLER finally revealed in this MIDNIGHT exclusive interview. He wanted to talk about it.

He felt safe with McDonald. Both had worked for the CIA. Both had been in the Bay of Pigs. Both had killed.

Saul felt that if the story was repeated, he could blackmail the CIA. He could also kill McDonald at any time. So could the men behind him.

But now, three years after their meeting in a room at London's Westbury Hotel, McDonald is telling all to MIDNIGHT. Exactly as it was told to him by the man who shot President Kennedy.

The retired cop was sitting

on the edge of the bed, the professional killer was settled in an armchair.

Saul came to the CIA in 1960. Saul began to get word from various sources asking if it was available.

It could only be available for one thing, so it was naturally assumed.

The one thing, of course, was murder, and in the middle of May, 1963, Saul was told to be at the Hotel Bolele in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

The man who contacted him there, he knew only as "Trot." Saul had met him before in Guatemala in 1961 at a secret CIA training camp where anti-Cuban Cubans were being prepared for the Bay of Pigs.

Because of this, the assassin was not the new employee. It would be the American Government.

The assassination was strengthened when their first meeting was held in a formidable Haitian mansion. It had a grand hall, the sort of official atmosphere of a U.S. Government building.

Trot spoke for a while about the old days. Saul continued, and then right out of the blue he asked — get this straight — he asked me if I could be hired to kill the President of the United States.

This was all of the question, plain and with no drama. Saul simply fell over backwards in a chair and almost fell over



HUGH C. MCDONALD with Malcolm Abrams, MIDNIGHT staff writer

backwards. He went on "but I hoped I didn't show it, because if I looked scared, that might have put the price down."

"I told him assassination was my business. I told him if the money and planning were right I could contract to destroy anybody regardless of race, rank, religion, creed, nationality."

"He answered that he knew very well my reputation."

Like any assassin worth his salt, Saul wasn't interested in "who" he was working for, or the "what" or the "why."

Only "when" and "where" and "how much." As he explained to McDonald: a assassin who knows too much, is soon a dead assassin.

Over the next few months, Saul and Troit had three meet-

ings, all in Guatemala. The deal was made. Saul would get \$50,000, half before, half after. He also received \$4,000 to "tide" him over until the "hit."

The second meeting, in a Guatemala hotel room was the key one. Saul had a derringer in his pocket, so did Troit. The assassination plot was to be revealed. If Saul didn't like it, if he felt there was not ample cover to get away, he would have to kill Troit.

Troit, for his part, could not allow Saul to leave the room alive, knowing the plot to assassinate Kennedy.

As it turned out, Saul was impressed with the professionalism of the plan.

First, they had picked the fall guy, the patsy, the natural dupe to play the vitally important role of "cover" and "target." I will explain the two terms.

McDonald interrupted. "The assassin, the real assassin, must be assured that at the very instant of firing and immediately thereafter, some sort of protective covering device is available."

McDonald interrupted. "Like a pickpocket who has an accomplice bump into the victim at the moment of the snatch."

Exactly. In this case, Troit told me his friend would actually fire several shots from a rifle, aiming the gun close to the President.

He said this man had no

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SAUL: JFK's real killer and professional assassin (left)
OSWALD: the man set up to take the blame

Inside Story of JFK's Assassination

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Oswald Was Set Up As A Patsy

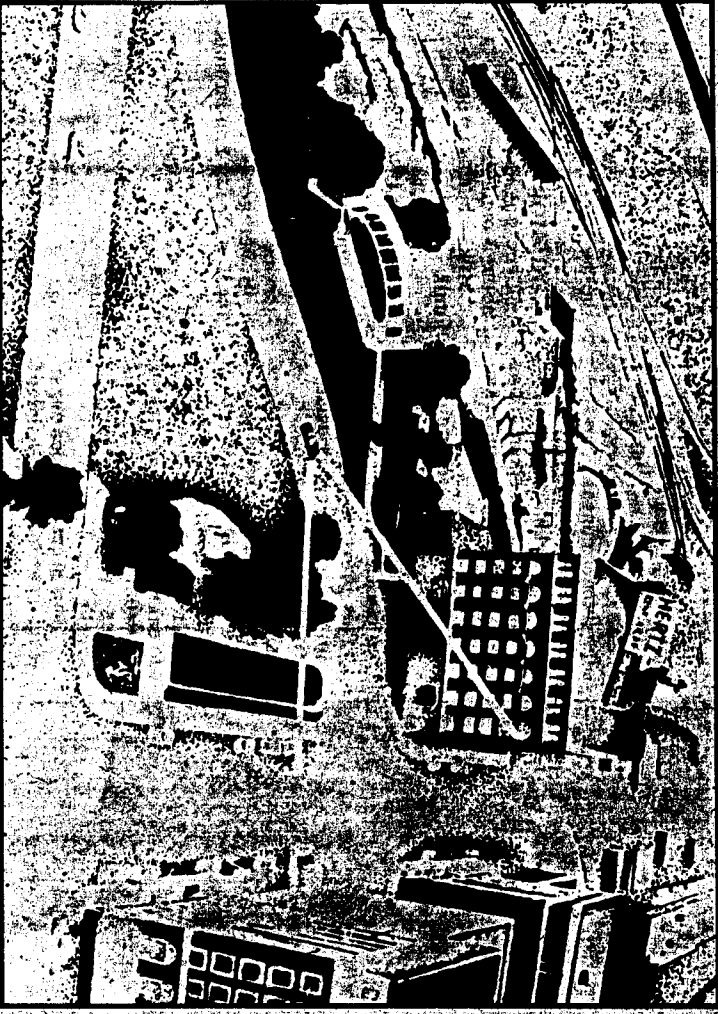
knowledge of the assassination plot but would believe that he was in the pay of the CIA.

"He was firing the shots only to demonstrate to the President how vulnerable he was when he was not using his protective equipment, or paying no attention to the instructions of the Secret Service."

"The friend would actually be firing cover for me. That is to say, I would wait for his shots, fire immediately under them, and provided I fired quickly enough, no one would really hear my shots."

"But it was the next part of the plan that really proved its cleverness," Troit stated that the man who would fire the shots had recently returned from the Soviet Union with a Russian wife. He had been a defector. He was something of a psychopath. His entire background made him the natural person to become a target.

The friend was Lee Harvey Oswald. Troit had already tested Oswald by having him fire warning shots at General



SAUL'S FIRING POSITION as related to Oswald's 6th-story position. Saul fired from a second-floor window of the building on the far right of the picture, the County Records Building.

Walker
 They had told him a similar story — that he was working for the CIA and in the best interests of the country. They even paid him \$100. Oswald had apparently enjoyed the job and the money.
 But now in a Guatemala hotel room his fate was being sealed.
 The target would be killed, Saul told McDonald.
 "By me."
 "The man firing shots near the President would believe

because he was told — that the Secret Service personnel were in on the arrangement and would not try to kill him.
 Therefore, after the warning shots, he would be in no particular hurry to disappear. It would be natural to wait briefly to see what happened.
 The Secret Service, of course, had no idea of the plot. They would return the fire. Under cover of their fire, I was to swing my rifle onto Oswald and kill him.
 They would be in confu-

sion and could miss. I, on the other hand, would know exactly where he was, and draw my bead on him in cold blood.
 "When the patsy falls dead," Troit told me, "the Secret Service will get credit for killing him, and the case would be cleared. The man's background would support the story that he was a Soviet agent.
 Saul would be using "disintegrating bullets" to do the job. As soon as these missiles strike human bone, they fragment. There are no bullets to match with a gun after the fact.
 Troit also told Saul that the plan included planting a bullet from Oswald's rifle "somewhere on the scene of the assassination" to tie his gun to the murder.
 As McDonald realized, this would account for the undamaged, pristine bullet

found on the stretcher that carried Governor Connally to the hospital.
 The only condition that Saul demanded be added to the plan was that he get a chance to observe his "subject" beforehand.
 "This is standard professional assassin procedure," he explained. He had to be certain who he was killing. He had to know if the target had any idiosyncrasies which might upset the plan.
 Saul had already seen Kennedy in Europe. Now he wanted to see Oswald, and not in the United States. He didn't want to enter the country until just before the "hit."
 So it was arranged by Troit that Oswald would visit Mexico in September, and under some pretext be sent to both the Cuban and Russian embassies.
 Saul called Oswald in

Mexico. This explains why Oswald appeared south of the border. It also accounts for the pictures of Saul taken by a covert CIA camera in the Russian Embassy.
 These are the same pictures which became Exhibit No. 237 of the Warren Commission Report. The same pictures, the CIA originally claimed, were of Oswald.
 But the man in the pictures is Saul, McDonald says, and Richard Helms, deputy director of the CIA, lied when he said he couldn't identify him.
 At the third meeting between Saul and Troit, the "where" and "when" of the assassination were set. "Dallas, Texas," November, sometime between Monday the eighteenth and Friday the twenty-second. He would be notified of the exact date and time later.
 A detailed map would be waiting for Saul in Dallas. It would show where the President would pass, where Oswald would be stationed, and the spot from which he could kill them both.
 On November 20, Saul arrived in Dallas. On the morning of November 21, he picked up the map. He spent the afternoon in Dealey Plaza, casing the place from every angle. Then he went back to his hotel, had a good dinner



KENNEDY (shown by the black arrow) was killed by the bullet Saul fired, a split second after Oswald's bullet hit the sidewalk.

and retired early. Tomorrow he would kill the 35th President of the United States. Saul slept like a baby anyway.

"On my walk to Dealey Plaza on the morning of the 22nd, the weapon was strapped to my upper body under the right armpit; the barrel extending down into the right pants leg," he explained to McDonald.

"Walking from my hotel, the rifle caused me to limp. I had limped on arrival. It was a deliberate and calculated arrangement and makes a sim-

Went Wrong

JFK's Assassination: What

ple and perfect disguise.

"I am not going to describe the exact location I took up and from which I fired the shots that killed Kennedy...

"At around 11:40 I was near my firing position. Approximately eight minutes later, I saw Oswald for the first time. I remember how my heart started to beat.

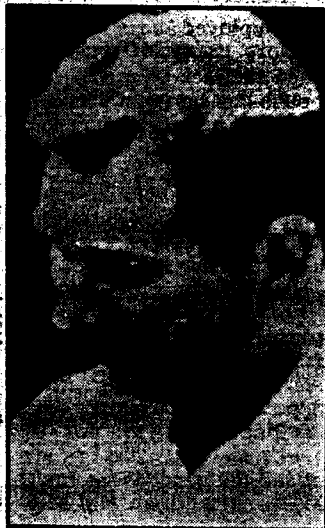
"The sight of Oswald up there made me realize, like a blow in the eyes, it was all for real, and the President of the United States had only minutes to live.

"I could hear the sirens of the motorcade in the distance. I was standing back from my window, in shadow and well below Oswald. I was sure he couldn't see me. Then I saw that he had a rifle in his hands.

"The sirens were coming closer, and I knew the caravan was near. I removed my weapon... and looked down just as the President's car was turning the corner.

"Standing away from the window, so that the muzzle of my weapon would not protrude, I picked up President Kennedy's head in my scope.

"It happened as I tell you now. When I first brought the President's head into my



SAUL, self-confessed assassin of JFK, is still at large.

telescopic sight he was leaning forward at an appreciable angle. My crosshairs were exactly on the back of his skull. I was waiting for Oswald to fire his first shot...

"He seemed to take forever, but in fact he fired on the split second. I heard the shot and almost instantaneously I squeezed the trigger. Just as my gun fired, the Presi-

dent straightened up from his forward position.

"As he straightened up there came in view on my crosshairs a spot on the right shoulder and to the right of the middle of his back, and I knew that this is where the bullet would hit.

"It did so, drove straight through, exiting at the President's throat. It apparently did not strike a bone and drove on to hit Governor John Connally.

"It is very interesting for me to note that in several statements Governor Connally insisted that he was hit by the second, not the first shot. He is absolutely right. Lee Harvey Oswald fired the first shot which struck the street. I fired the second shot which hit both the President and the Governor.

"Now comes the third shot, a split second later. Almost instinctively I took the bead again on the back of the President's head and fired.

"This bullet blew out the right side of his head.

"Almost instantly following my second shot, Oswald fired again. This shot struck the right hand curb of the street. I saw it hit the ground.

"Now came the moment when I had to hit Oswald, timing my shot to the fusillade I expected from the Secret Service agents.

I swung my rifle at him and took a beautiful, perfect bead on his left chest, right over his heart. At that instant he fired his third and last shot.

"Oswald lowered his rifle and remained for several seconds standing at the window, as Troit had told me he would. I waited for the return fire from the Secret Service officers clustered over the President.

"Nothing. I sweated. The seconds were passing. I took the risk of taking my eyes off Oswald to see what the hell the bodyguards were doing.

"No shots were ever fired. I could not complete the final and vital part of my contract without exposing my position.

"I was furious. I lowered my rifle, put it back inside my clothes.

"It is, to this day, inconceivable to me that a well-armed screen around the President of the United States, all crack shots, failed to return one shot at a man in full view,

who had just fired not one, not two, but three shots at the President's car.

"Had just one of the officers fired at Oswald, I would have killed him. He was so perfectly in my sights, it was, in its own way, a crime not to kill him.

Two hours later, Saul was out of the country. Forty-eight hours later, Oswald was dead — killed by another gun, one which Saul believes was hired by the same men who hired him.

September, 1972, a room in the Westbury Hotel, London. The retired cop was sitting on the edge of the bed. The hired assassin was slumped in an armchair.

For Hugh C. McDonald, the hunt was over.

All quotations from Saul and Hugh McDonald are from MIDNIGHT interviews with Mr. McDonald or from his book "Appointment in Dallas: The Final Solution to the Assassination of JFK," published by Zebra Press and co-authored by Geoffrey Bocca.