

James Tague are similar examples of witnesses confused by the acoustics in Dealey.*

Those who study the plaza are not surprised by its unusual echo characteristics.⁷¹ A number of witnesses reported "reverberation" or sounds that "bounced off the buildings."⁷² Others said that sounds were "reflected by the underpass and therefore came back," or that the concrete underpass caused a "concussion" of noises.⁷³ The worst confluence of echoes affected those witnesses close to the grassy knoll. Abraham Zapruder, the Dallas dressmaker who took the home movie of the assassination, stood atop a concrete divider wall on top of the knoll. "There was too much reverberation," he said. "There was an echo which gave me a sound all over."⁷⁴ Lee Bowers was in the second story of a railroad signal tower, 130 feet behind the grassy knoll. He could not tell whether the shots came from the Triple Underpass or the Book Depository. He had worked in that area for more than ten years and knew that echo patterns made it impossible to pinpoint the direction of sounds.⁷⁵ Roy Truly, Oswald's supervisor, was standing across the street from the Depository, but said the echo confused him so he believed the gunfire originated from the grassy knoll.⁷⁶

Yet if the overwhelming ear-witness testimony is that only three shots were fired, why did the House Select Committee conclude in 1979 there was a 95 percent certainty that a fourth shot was fired from the grassy knoll, and therefore there was a conspiracy involving a second gunman?

The committee agreed there were three shots from the rear (the Depository), and that two of those struck President Kennedy and Governor Connally.** It based its conclusion that there was a

*Despite his errors, Thompson is at least one of the more reasonable critics in his interpretation of the numbers. The author was present at a March 3, 1992, discussion in Texas when researcher Joe West said 76 percent of 290 witnesses at Dealey had selected the grassy knoll as the location for the shots. No one present, in a room of fifty other researchers, challenged his "fact." Jim Marrs, in *Crossfire*, writes, "One fact seems inescapable—most of the witnesses in the crowd believed shots came from the Grassy Knoll" (Marrs, p. 39).

**According to the committee, its unidentified grassy knoll assassin, who

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57. Testimony of Robert Edwards, WC Vol. VI, pp. 201-2.
58. Testimony of Ronald Fischer, WC Vol. VI, p. 194.
59. Interview with Ronald Fischer, January 19, 1992.
60. Testimony of Ronald Fischer, WC Vol. VI, p. 194; testimony of Robert Edwards, WC Vol. VI, pp. 203-4.
61. CD 1245.
62. Testimony of Jacqueline Kennedy, WC Vol. V, p. 179.
63. Testimony of Bobby Hargis, WC Vol. VI, pp. 294-95.
64. Interview with Danny Arce, March 9, 1992.
65. Author's review of Warren Commission volumes and statements from Dealey Plaza witnesses by FBI, sheriff's office, and Dallas police.
66. HSCA Rpt. p. 87.
67. *Ibid.*, p. 90.
68. Josiah Thompson, *Six Seconds in Dallas*, (New York: Berkley, 1976), p. 26.
69. Testimony of James Underwood, WC Vol. VI, p. 169.
70. Testimony of Bobby Hargis, WC Vol. VI, p. 294.
71. Moore, *Conspiracy of One*, p. 33.
72. Testimony of Tom Dillard, WC Vol. VI, p. 165; testimony of James Underwood, WC Vol. VI, p. 169; testimony of Ronald Fischer, WC Vol. VI, p. 195; testimony of Joe Murphy, WC Vol. VI, p. 259; testimony of D. V. Harkness, WC Vol. VI, p. 309.
73. Testimony of James Crawford, WC Vol. VI, p. 174; testimony of S. M. Holland, WC Vol. VI, p. 243.
74. Testimony of Abraham Zapruder, WC Vol. VII, p. 572.
75. Testimony of Lee Bowers, WC Vol. VI, p. 287.
76. Testimony of Roy Truly, WC Vol. III, p. 283.
77. "Analysis of Recorded Sounds Relating to the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy," Bolt, Beranek and Newman Inc., in "A Study of the Acoustics Evidence Related to the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy," appendix to the hearing before the Select Committee on Assassinations, Vol. VIII, sec. 4.1.
78. HSCA Rpt., p. 68.
79. *Ibid.*, p. 72.
80. Testimony of H. B. McClain, HSCA Vol. V, p. 637.
81. Interview with H. B. McClain, March 3, 1992.
82. *Ibid.*
83. Report of the Committee on Ballistics Acoustics, Commission on Physical Sciences, Mathematics, and Resources; National Research Council; National Academy Press, Washington, D.C., 1982, p. 7.
84. HSCA Rpt., pp. 75-76.
85. Interview with H. B. McClain, March 3, 1992.
86. James C. Bowles, "The Kennedy Assassination Tapes: A Rebuttal to the Acoustical Evidence Theory," unpublished, pp. 50-51.
87. *Ibid.*

walked away from his control panel at a particularly busy time to stare at the back of a picket fence.* Indeed, Bowers testified that he "threw red-on-red"—a signal that effectively blocked all trains—just after the fatal shot. He had to be sitting at his control panel to take this action.²⁵

As far as I'm able to determine, no other critic or researcher was interested enough in the signal tower until Sixth Floor project consultant Carl Henry went into the building with a video recorder in the summer of 1988. Henry (who, unlike me, believes that there's "something being hidden"²⁶ about the assassination) told me simply, "There's no way Bowers could have seen what he said he saw."²⁷

Counsel Ball then asked Bowers if he had familiarity with sounds coming from both locations. Bowers replied that he "had worked this same tower for ten or twelve years and was there during the time they were renovating the School Depository Building and had noticed at that time the similarity of sounds occurring in either of these two locations. There is a similarity of sound because there is a reverberation which takes place from either location."²⁸

Predictably, Mark Lane, Sylvia Meagher, Josiah Thompson, and virtually every other published critic has ignored this portion of Bowers' testimony. Yet it is more valuable than the recounting of the "commotion" he witnessed behind the fence.

In the next chapter, we'll see that the weight of hard, physical evidence indicates that three shots were fired from the Texas School Book Depository building. But what about witnesses who heard shots from the grassy knoll?

Again, the Plaza is a vast echo chamber. I made the same statement at the beginning of this chapter without giving it much weight. Various individuals in various locations heard various sounds. Some thought the shots were backfires. Others thought they came from high above. Still others looked toward the knoll. In *Six Seconds in Dallas*, Josiah Thompson arranged an overall profile of witness testimony. Of sixty-four witnesses who gave an opinion as to where the shots originated, thirty-three pointed to the grassy knoll. Another twenty-five pin-

* Bowers, incidentally, was asked by Counsel Ball about the source of the three shots he heard. Bowers replied that the sounds "came either from up against the School Depository Building or near the mouth of the triple underpass." Bowers could not say which was the actual source.²⁹

Dallas
could
have
seen it

Nothing
complete

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96. Interview with Dr. Ron Jones, April 14, 1992.
97. Interview with Dr. Adolph Giesecke, March 5, 1992.
98. Interview with Dr. Robert McClelland, March 9, 1992.
99. Thompson, *Six Seconds in Dallas*, p. 140.
100. Interview with Dr. Malcolm Perry, April 2, 1992.
101. Interview with Dr. Paul Peters, March 10, 1992; Dr. Peters also drew a diagram that showed the doctors' positions around the table and provided it to the author.
102. Interview with Dr. Pepper Jenkins, March 10, 1992.
103. Interview with Dr. Michael Baden, February 1, 1992.
104. Charles Crenshaw, op. cit., p. 88.
105. HSCA Vol. VII, pp. 110, 115.
106. Ibid., p. 128.
107. Interview with Dr. Michael Baden, January 23, 1992.
108. "John Kennedy Assassination Film Analysis," Francis Corbett, Itak Corporation, 1975.
109. HSCA Vol. VII, pp. 174-75; Lattimer, op. cit., p. 255.
110. Lattimer, op. cit., p. 255.
111. Luis W. Alvarez, "A Physicist Examines the Kennedy Assassination Film," *American Journal of Physics*, Vol. 44, No. 9, September 1976, p. 819.
112. Interview with Dr. Michael Baden, January 23, 1992.

14 "MY GOD, THEY ARE GOING TO KILL US ALL"

1. Testimony of Lyndal Shaneyfelt, WC Vol. V, p.153.
2. "The Warren Report," CBS News, Part I, June 25, 1967, p. 14.
3. HSCA Rpt., p. 83.
4. Author's review of witness statements published in the twenty-six volumes of the Warren Commission and available in the National Archives.
5. WR, pp. 111-12.
6. Ibid., p. 114.
7. Testimony of Lyndal Shaneyfelt, WC Vol. V, pp. 146-51.
8. WR p. 115.
9. Testimony of Wesley Buell Frazier, WC Vol. II, p. 234.
10. Testimony of Howard Brennan, WC Vol. III, p. 143.
11. Testimony of Barbara Rowland, WC Vol. VI, p. 184.
12. Testimony of Royce Skelton, WC Vol. VI, p. 237.
13. Testimony of Geneva Hine, WC Vol. VI, p. 395.
14. Letter from the Secret Service to the Commission, dated June 11, 1964, with attached statements of Secret Service personnel concerning the events surrounding the assassination, CE 1024, WC Vol. XVIII, p. 723.

15. Ibid., p. 754.
16. Ibid., p. 760.
17. Interview with Jim Moon
18. David Lui, "The Little Gald, June 3, 1979, H-3.
19. Rosemary Willis interview
20. Testimony of John B. C
21. HSCA Vol. VI, p. 29.
22. Luis Alvarez, "A Phys Film," *American Journ* pp. 815-19.
23. "The Warren Report," C
24. Ibid., p. 29.
25. Ibid., p. 28.
26. Testimony of Dr. Vince
27. Testimony of Robert F
28. Interview with Robert
29. Testimony of Virgie R
30. Ibid., p. 513.
31. Interview with James
32. Ibid., January 20, 199
33. Ibid., January 19, 199
34. Warren Commission June 11, 1964; WC V
35. WR, p. 117.
36. Testimony of Robert
37. Testimony of Lyndal
38. Interview with Art P
39. WR, p. 105.
40. HSCA Rpt., p. 46.
41. HSCA Vol. VI, p. 43.
42. Testimony of Govern
43. Ibid., p. 133.
44. Interview with Dr. P Dr. Michael West, N
45. Testimony of Dr. I Kennedy and Lincol
46. Interview with Dr.
47. Interview with Dr.
48. Lattimer, op. cit., p 6, 1992.
49. Interview with Dr.
50. Interview with Dr. Dr. Robert Piziali,

like again. They moved all boxes from ^{or nest} southeast corner area, and had instead moved boxes of books from other, more central floor areas out into the fringes of the sixth floor storage space. Thus, many of the boxes the assassin stacked for his shield might well have been in place or nearly placed, and thus required little or no effort on the part of the gunman. I believe that the assassin built the shield sometime during the early morning hours on the day of the assassination. Likely, the shield served as a place of concealment for his rifle until the gunman occupied it during the noon hour.

The boxes themselves, weighing little more than fifty pounds each, would have been easily moved by someone of average strength. *43*

The shield itself had three basic components: First, a stack of cartons running parallel to the east window of the southeast corner, presumably, to guard against spectators in the Dal-Tex building across the street looking into the corner and seeing the assassin; second, a multi-stack arrangement that effectively screened the area from others working on the sixth floor, and third, the shield itself which served as a backdrop for the assassin and faced the southern wall of the building. These, then, were the boxes photographed by press photographers and spectators just before and immediately after the shots were fired. As is evident from our reconstruction, the assassin had carefully arranged the cartons to cover all angles by which he might be detected.

I believe that, after firing the shots, the gunman walked out of the shield by turning to his right and continuing along the eastern wall of the Depository for a few yards, then turning left and heading diagonally across the floor. I am about the same height and weight as Lee Harvey Oswald, and I had no difficulty in exiting the sniper's nest in this manner. *Surely anyone a child could make!*

Ms. Meagher, however, claims that entering and exiting the shield of cartons would have required additional time and would have meant that the assassin would have disturbed the arrangement of cartons on his way out of the area. ¹⁰

Ms. Meagher's assertion is incorrect. Rick and I placed those cartons within a half-inch of their original position. Marks on the old wooden floor, covered by plywood a few days after the assassination, were again visible when we removed the plywood to prepare the exhibit. *What marks, inside what 2 cardboard boxes do not imprint wood.*

Those same marks appeared in several of the photos we used as aids in re-creating the scene. Since there was no way for those marks to move during the twenty-five years they were covered over, they served as extremely accurate guides for placement of the boxes. * Not possible according to the FBI. Testing of the paper.

The wrapping-paper bag found near the window must have been fashioned by the assassin the afternoon prior to the assassination and used to carry the murder weapon into the Depository on the morning of the crime. There are, however, problems with any hypothesis regarding the paper bag. First, it was not photographed in place as it was discovered. Second, although the outside of the bag contained Oswald's palm print, there were no oil stains on the bag and precious little in the way of fibers or traces to connect the rifle with the bag. Third, both of the witnesses who saw Oswald with a long and bulky package on the morning of the assassination recall the package as being about twenty-seven inches long. The disassembled rifle would have been at least thirty-five inches long, the length of the wooden stock.¹¹

Critic Robert Groden has suggested another explanation for the brown paper bag: "It would seem; therefore, that the cops found a bag in the junk-pile on the sixth floor and turned it over as evidence to the FBI since there was no other way of explaining how Oswald had brought in the gun . . ."¹²

What Mr. Groden neglected to do was to check to see if there was a junk-pile on the sixth floor. In a brief conversation with Depository Superintendent Roy Truly during the summer of 1974, I asked him if there was any sort of collection of garbage, waste, or castoffs on floor six. His two-word reply: "Absolutely not."¹³ In a word, Mr. Truly ran a clean ship.

The only explanation for the paper bag (unless you accept a carefully spun web to entrap young Oswald) is that it was used to carry the Mannlicher-Carcano into the Depository. I believe that Oswald manufactured the bag (the paper was proven to have come from the Depository shipping department) at the Depository prior to leaving for the Paine residence in Irving on the afternoon before the assassination. And I believe, as the Warren Commission did, that Wes Frazier and his

* Markings on the floor are even more evident in the corner stairway area, where I was able to place the position of the rifle with great precision.

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while they ignored my FOIA request held in their lawsuit

They did not even answer my letters

Why did he do this to him?

He did not ask by what he referred Oswald as man.

las. A special thank you to both Cynthia Wegmann, Esq., New Orleans, who allowed me to review her father's voluminous papers on the Garrison case, and to Peter Earnest, chief of the CIA's Office of Public and Agency Information, who was always very generous in his assistance.

For help in obtaining information in other countries, I am indebted to Rene Mujica of the Cuban mission to the United States; Yuriy Kobaladze, press bureau chief of the KGB, Moscow; Kravchenko Pyotr Kuzimich, foreign minister, Belorussia; General Dmitri Volkogonov, Moscow; Anatoliy Petrovich Privalov, KGB Veterans of Foreign Espionage, Moscow; Nicholas Vykhodtsev, manager, Alice 24-Hour Information Service, Moscow; Gerald Nadler, *The Washington Times*, Moscow; and Ambassador Akira Sono, Tokyo.

Almost two hundred people were interviewed for this book. While I am grateful to all of them for the time they took to speak with me, a few made an extra effort. Carlos Bringuier clarified the anti-Castro issues as well as the problems in New Orleans in 1963; Dr. John Lattimer and Dr. Michael Baden resolved many persistent medical discrepancies; and Earl Ruby provided valuable insights into his brother Jack.

Yuriy Nosenko, the 1964 KGB defector, is familiar with the KGB's handling of Oswald in Russia. He is living under an assumed name in the United States since his life is still at peril because of a standing KGB death warrant. Only twice before had he agreed to private interviews, and they had not been about Oswald. A journalist from one of the earlier meetings had later disclosed the U.S. state in which Nosenko was living, forcing him to move. Despite the risks in granting another interview, he agreed with the argument of my first letter to him, emphasizing his duty to the historical record. The extended time he spent with me, combined with his recall for details, was more than I originally expected.

Bill Alexander, Esq., was the assistant district attorney in Dallas at the time of the assassination. He was an integral part of the investigation after Oswald's arrest and later prosecuted Jack Ruby for Oswald's murder. He is a significant source of untapped information about the case but has seldom given interviews. I am

grateful for the sever the many retired Dal tions of the assassina many of those about

Dallas sheriff Jim larly Jim Ewell and Sheriff Bowles's crus tion's acoustics issue He shared his work e considerable assista

Some private corpa am especially thank and Janet Steele of I

Dr. Robert Pizial Michael West have puter-enhancement gave me access to th also patiently guide issues. Du took di

Steve Goldberg, E astute legal advice, expertise on Oswald tour through the Te ley Plaza. David W intelligence agents tion for retired Sec hol, Tobacco, and I retired from their r

I owe a special th tor who has studie is one of a small nu ject in a scholarly landish stories wh case. While he may in this book, he wi hood that clutter often spending hot the mystery death