

Philly Inquirer Jan. 4, 1967
The Death of Jack Ruby

Step by step, in a drama stranger than fiction, the tragedy in Dallas twists and turns in bizarre sequence.

Jack Ruby is dead—and, as irony would have it, he died in the same hospital where the mortally wounded President John F. Kennedy was taken on that grim November 22, 1963, and where, two days later, Lee Harvey Oswald died from a bullet fired by Ruby.

Millions of Americans saw the slaying of Oswald, on television, and Ruby admitted the killing. He was found guilty of murder four months later and sentenced to death. However, the conviction was overturned three months ago by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, which ruled that Ruby did not get a fair trial in Dallas. A new trial was scheduled for Wichita Falls, to have started next month, but cancer intervened. Jack Ruby's trials on this earth are at an end.

Thus Ruby was denied the final full measure of justice in the courts which he had denied to Oswald, the accused assassin of President Kennedy. If Oswald had lived, and had been put on trial, much of the continuing controversy about the circumstances and the motives of the assassination might have been averted. The Warren Commission's findings that Oswald was the President's assassin, and that he acted alone, have become a target of rumor and conjecture by critics who rest comfortably knowing that Oswald cannot refute them.

Ruby insisted to the end, as he did from the outset, that he acted alone in killing Oswald and there was no link between them until that moment. Now, with Ruby dead, the ghouls who thrive on speculation can be counted on to crank out any kind of copy that offers the prospect of a fast buck.