

Two gunmen fired at Kennedy, study claims

'Grassy knoll' theory gains new credibility

By SINEAD O'HANLON

LONDON — Two gunmen were almost certainly involved in the assassination of former U.S. president John F. Kennedy in 1963, a British forensic scientist has said.

In a peer-reviewed paper published in the British Forensic Science Society's journal *Science and Justice*, Dr. D.B. Thomas adds weight to the "grassy knoll" theory that a second gunman shot at the president at almost exactly the same moment as assassin Lee Harvey Oswald fired three shots from the Texas School Book Depository.



Above right, John F. Kennedy and wife Jacqueline in fateful Dallas motorcade. At right, Lee Harvey Oswald may not have been alone.



son on the knoll.

Kennedy was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963, as his motorcade passed through Dealey Plaza in downtown Dallas. His death gripped the world and sparked countless conspiracy theories, ranging from a Mafia hit, to Fidel Castro, to a KGB plot.

Eyewitness Jean Hill, known as "The Lady in Red" in footage of the assassination, always maintained she heard a shot

from the grassy knoll, not the book depository. Mrs. Hill, who died last year, ran toward the knoll to see the shooter, but was stopped by two police officers.

In 1964, the Warren Commission concluded that only three shots were fired by a single assassin — Oswald — from the book depository at the northeast corner of Dealey Plaza, which was above and behind the president's limousine. The

grassy knoll was to the right and in front of the limousine.

Oswald was shot dead shortly afterwards by Jack Ruby.

A 1978 investigation by the House of Representatives' Select Committee on Assassinations, which examined the radio evidence, found the assassination was probably a conspiracy, but a later study by the U.S. National Research Council dismissed the gunshot noises as

static.

Dr. Thomas' findings support the earlier view. He said the National Academy of Sciences made mistakes in lining up conversations on two police frequencies, making it sound as if a gunshot noise heard through the radio of a patrolman with the motorcade occurred long after the president had been shot.

"The unambiguous cross-talk evidence indicates that the gunshot-like sounds ... were recorded over the police radio at the precise instant the president was being assassinated by gunfire," Dr. Thomas said.

G. Robert Blakey, the former chief counsel for the House Committee on Assassinations welcomed the findings.

"The main thing is when push comes to shove, he increased the degree of confidence that the shot from the grassy knoll was real, not static," he said.

Reuters