

HIGH REASON

PEOPLE AND SINISTER CONNECTIONS 249

Victor Marchetti, former assistant to the Director of the CIA, says he was told by Richard Helms that David Ferrie and Clay Shaw were contract agents in the CIA.⁶² Ferrie was frequently seen in Guy Banister's office by Banister's secretary, Delphine Roberts. Roberts says that Oswald went there too,⁶³ and he used that address on his Fair Play for Cuba Committee leaflets. Banister was clearly running Oswald as an *agent provocateur*.

AN ONI CONNECTION

Guy Banister, who had been in charge of the Chicago FBI office, "became associated with the Office of Naval Intelligence through the recommendation of Guy Johnson, an ONI reserve officer and the first attorney for Clay Shaw when he was arrested by Garrison.⁶⁴ Such an association with the ONI would have reinforced the set-up of Oswald as the patsy for the assassination, as Ferrie had known Oswald since he was a teenager, and Oswald probably went to Russia for the ONI (see Steve Parks in the *Baltimore Sunday Sun*, November 21, 1976).

During the Shaw trial, Sergio Archacha Smith, a primary actor in this drama, removed himself from New Orleans to Dallas, where he was protected by Assistant D.A. Bill Alexander and the Dallas Police Department. Governor John Connally would not sign the extradition papers during the Shaw trial.

Another witness, David L. Lewis, saw Oswald with Ferrie and Carlos Quiroga, a friend of Archacha Smith, with Banister.⁶⁵ Banister's secretary's daughter also saw Banister and Oswald together.⁶⁶ There are other witnesses as well to these meetings.

Following testimony before the House Committee, Veciana was shot at and hit in the head, but he survived.⁶⁷ He had a spotless reputation, but was put into prison on a narcotics charge as a result, he says, of a frame-up by the CIA.

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Certain crucial evidence for the Warren Commission hung on the testimony of a 19-year-old boy, Buell Wesley Frazier. He had driven Oswald to Irving after work the night before the assassination, and back to the Texas School Book Depository where they were both employed. This boy was picked up for questioning, arrested, and apparently told

Scott, Hoch 286
10 HSCA 123-172
109
HSCA Report 144

Summers
308

Summers 324

sniper on the knoll as well.³³ But the Dictabelt recording of the shots made by the Dallas Police was never essential to prove the conspiracy. The tape only corroborated "what we already knew," as Congressman Louis Stokes, the last Chairman of the Assassinations Committee, said on national TV.

The recent Congressional Committee decided to tell us of four shots, which is one more than the 1964 Warren Commission admitted; but they claim, after long confusion and debate, that the Grassy Knoll sniper's bullet missed.³⁴ They have to cover up the rest, because otherwise it would reveal that the autopsy evidence is fabricated, and the Committee had in fact evidence of that fabrication from the beginning.

This book will provide evidence of that forgery, and evidence of a third sniper and a probable fourth: two in front and two behind. Congressman Christopher Dodd (now Senator) believed it was clear that there were two snipers firing from behind the President, in addition to the Grassy Knoll sniper. In fact, the whole world believed there was a conspiracy in the assassination. President Johnson believed it right up to the time of his death, and he believed that the CIA was involved in the murder.³⁵

The 1980 book by Anthony Summers, *Conspiracy*, goes a long way towards saying what really happened on that terrible day in November, 1963. But even Summers' work leaves many questions unanswered. *High Treason* picks up where Summers' work left off.

The Committee, as with all of the other investigative bodies before it, could not conduct a clean, honest investigation, and it was doomed from the start. Considering the forces ranged against the inquiry, it is extraordinary that anything at all was achieved.

The key to understanding who killed President Kennedy lies with the autopsy photographs. Those photographs may tell us more about the assassination than all of the official investigations. Perhaps the single most important question in the investigation was never asked: Why were the autopsy photographs and X-rays never officially shown to the numerous doctors and nurses in Dallas who treated President Kennedy? Had this question been pursued, the true nature of the conspiracy would then have been exposed, because the crucial pictures allegedly of the back of the President's head are forged! That forgery is one of the keys to the conspiracy. Who would have had that kind of access to the evidence in order to alter it? Who had the capability to alter it?

The x-ray autopsy photos of the back of the President's head were altered immediately after the autopsy in order to cover up the fact that the President received two bullets in the head, one from the rear and one from the front, and this second shot blew out the back of his head, as Jackie Kennedy testified to the Warren Commission. Nobody, including the Warren Commission, saw these pictures for years.

The Groden enhancement of the Zapruder film taken during the assassination clearly shows the President rocketed backwards by this frontal shot, and the back of his head blowing out. Subsequent frames of the film show that the shape of the President's head has changed and is elongated after the explosion, with the back of the head stretched out, a large ring apparent where the hole in the back of the head is, beneath a shock of hair. Part of the President's skull and brains were blown backwards and to the left onto a motorcycle policeman, and onto the grass beside the road.³⁶

"There was nothing Robert Kennedy could do about... the cover-up that he knew Allen Dulles was perpetrating on the Warren Commission... Harris Wofford wrote in his book *Of Kennedys and Kings*. President Kennedy was killed because of his policies, and because he was too "liberal," because he would have been re-elected, and, specifically, because he had begun the complete withdrawal from Vietnam three weeks before he died.

"That's why he was killed," writes Col. Fletcher Prouty, former liaison between the CIA and the General Staff.

The War Party that took America into Vietnam killed him. They are still in power, and still calling the shots.

shape from its description by the autopsists, the Clark panel found at the base of Kennedy's skull "... a large metallic [bullet] fragment which ... is round and measures 6.5 mm in diameter."

This could be construed as strong evidence against Lee Harvey Oswald, since he reportedly used a 6.5 mm rifle. However, recall that the official version states that one bullet—the "Magic Bullet"—traversed the President's neck, penetrated Connally, and was found intact at Parkland Hospital.

Since officially no large fragments had been noted by the autopsy doctors and no such fragments could have come from the whole bullet found at Parkland, it seems probable that either more than two shots struck Kennedy in the head area or that the autopsy materials viewed by the Clark panel were somehow faked.

Furthermore, yet another bullet base, about 6.5 mm in diameter, was said to be found in the front seat of the presidential limousine. All this goes far to prove that more than two bullets struck Kennedy.

A Navy officer who might have been able to clarify some of the questions about the President's autopsy is unavailable. He died under strange circumstances.

Over the years, as attempts have been made to clarify and substantiate the medical evidence, the wounds seem to take on a life of their own.

The head wound as seen by the Dallas doctors, consisted of a large blasted-out area in the right rear of the skull. Both medical and nonmedical persons in Dallas gave consistent descriptions of this wound.

Secret Service Agent Clint Hill told the Warren Commission:

The right rear portion of his head was missing.

Dr. Charles J. Carrico noted a large hole:

... in the posterior skull, the occipital region. There was an absence of the calvarium or skull in this area ...

Dr. Malcolm Perry:

I noted a large avulsive wound of the right parietal occipital area. [The occipital is the large bone on the back of a human skull.] in which both scalp and portions of skull were absent ...

Dr. William Kemp Clark:

I then examined the wound in the back of the President's head. This was a large, gaping wound in the right posterior part, with cerebral and cerebellar tissue being damaged and exposed. [The cerebellum controls muscle coordination and is located at the low rear portion of the head behind the occipital bone.]

Dr. Robert McClelland:

... I noted that the right posterior portion of the skull had been extremely blasted.

Yet the autopsy doctors saw a head wound that stretched from the upper side of the rear to the right front of Kennedy's head.

The autopsy doctors said a small entrance wound was located in the back of the skull at about the hairline, while the House Select Committee on Assassinations' medical panel placed the entrance wound four inches higher, near the top of the head.

Neither the Warren Commission nor the House Committee spoke of a hole blasted out of the right rear portion of the President's head. The House Committee even produced a drawing reportedly made from an autopsy photograph that depicts the rear of Kennedy's head. It is entirely intact except for what appears to be a small hole—the entrance wound—near the top.

Humes had problems with this drawing, stating he had never seen the small hole before. He suggested it might be dried blood. But he was certain that he had seen no entrance wound in that location.

Robert Groden, a researcher and photographic consultant to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, had a simple explanation for the mystery surrounding the autopsy photographs—after careful study, he decided several, if not all, were forgeries. After discovering evidence of retouching, Gordon wrote:

The vital autopsy photos of the back of the President's head were altered immediately after the autopsy in order to cover up the fact that the President received two bullets in the head, one from the rear and one from the front, and this second shot blew out the back of his head, as Jackie Kennedy testified to the Warren Commission.

Contemporary autopsy drawings and reports placed the location of the back wound in the middle of the back, between the shoulder blades—this description is corroborated by the bullet holes in Kennedy's clothing—yet the Warren Commission placed the back wound on the right shoulder near the base of the neck.

X-rays and other autopsy materials such as photographs, tissue samples, and blood smears—including Kennedy's brain, which was removed and preserved—could have provided definitive proof of the location of the wounds. However, much of this material is missing from the National Archives. (The House Select Committee on Assassinations hinted that the brain may have been taken by Robert Kennedy to prevent future public display, however, this has not been proven and Kennedy is not alive to comment.)

It also should be noted that the Warren Commission—the group officially charged with finding the truth of Kennedy's assassination—apparently never was allowed to view for themselves the President's autopsy photographs and X-rays. Commission attorney Arden Specter on October 10, 1968, interview in U.S. News & World Report stated:

The complete set of pictures taken at the autopsy was not made available to me or to the Commission. I was shown one picture of the back of a body which was represented to be the back of the President, although it was not authenticated. It showed a hole in the position identified in the autopsy report. To the best of my knowledge, the Commission did not see any photographs or X-rays. . . . The photographs and X-rays would, in the thinking of the Commission, not have been crucial, because they would have served only to corroborate what the autopsy surgeons had testified to under oath as opposed to adding any new facts for the Commission.

But they are crucial—if not in truthfully understanding Kennedy's wounds, then in understanding the manipulations surrounding the medical evidence. As Groden later told his author:

The key to understanding who killed Kennedy lies with the autopsy photographs. These photographs may tell us more about the assassination than all of the official investigations. Perhaps the single most important question in the investigation was never asked: Why were the autopsy photographs and X-rays never officially shown to the surgeons, doctors and nurses in Dallas who treated President Kennedy? Had this question been pursued, the true nature of the conspiracy would then have been exposed, because the crucial pictures allegedly of the back of the President's head are forged! That forgery is one of the keys to the conspiracy. Who would have had that kind of access to the evidence in order to alter it? Who had the capability to alter it?

Summary

The medical evidence in the JFK assassination, which should be the basis for truthful determination of how many bullets struck Kennedy and from which direction, is hopelessly flawed. Some of it is still missing and other material has come under serious question as to its authenticity.

Kennedy was given an incompetent autopsy, with military and civilian authorities directing the three inexperienced and intimidated military doctors. The late Dr. Milton Helpern, who as chief medical examiner for New York City supervised sixty thousand autopsies, once described Kennedy's autopsy thusly:

PPH PPHK

It's like sending a seven-year-old boy who has taken three lessons on the violin over to the New York Philharmonic and expecting him to perform a Tchaikovsky symphony. He knows how to hold the violin and bow, but he has a long way to go before he can make music.

Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, an experienced coroner and former president of the American Academy of Forensic Medicine, was more blunt:

[Kennedy's autopsy was] extremely superficial and sloppy, inept, incomplete, incompetent in many respects, not only on the part of the pathologists who did this horribly inadequate medical-legal autopsy but on the part of many other people. This is the kind of examination that would not be tolerated in a routine murder case by a good crew of homicide detectives in most major cities of America.

For whatever reasons—some innocent bumbling and some not so innocent—the medical evidence in the JFK assassination will forever be considered tainted, incomplete, and inconclusive.

And the question remains—who had the power to misdirect and confuse the official medical examination of the assassinated President?

FROM THE TREASURY

neither the X-rays or the photographs. They were submitted to... either the Federal Bureau of Investigation or to the Secret Service. I am not sure..." "Did you submit those yourself immediately after they were taken, Dr. Humes?" "Again, one of the senior people present, I believe my own Commanding Officer, Captain Stover, took care of turning this material over to these authorities, and receiving a receipt... I supervised the positioning of the body for various of these examinations but as far as beyond that, I did not consider that my responsibility." (Humes Warren Commission testimony, *supra*).

Arten Specter was interviewed by *U.S. News & World Report* on October 10, 1966. He was asked if he had seen the pictures. "The complete set of pictures taken at the autopsy was not made available to me or to the Commission. I was shown one picture of the back of a body which was represented to be the back of the President, although it was not technically authenticated. It showed a hole in the position identified in the autopsy report. To the best of my knowledge, the Commission did not see any photographs or X-rays... The photographs and X-rays would, in the thinking of the Commission, not have been crucial, because they would have served only to corroborate what the autopsy surgeons had testified to under oath as opposed to adding any new facts for the Commission."

WHERE WAS THE EVIDENCE?

It would seem that the evidence at this point was being co-opted by other agencies, either the Secret Service or the FBI. In an adversary hearing, the best evidence rule would exclude any testimony about the photographs and X-rays without actually introducing these materials into evidence.

One member of the Warren Commission, John McCloy, asked Commission Counsel Rankin "about this raw material business that is here. What does it consist of? Does it consist of the raw materials of the autopsy? They talk about the colored photographs of the President's body - do we have those?"

Mr. Rankin: "Yes, it is part of it, a small part of it." Mr. McCloy: "Are they here?"

Rankin's reply: "Yes. But we don't have the minutes of the autopsy, because we wanted to see what doctor said about something while he

THE AUTOPSY AND THE AUTOPSY PHOTOGRAPHS 75

was saying it, to see whether it is supported by the conclusions in the autopsy and so forth, and then we have volumes of material in which people have purported to have said, or say to various agents certain things, they are not sworn..."

FILM SEIZED

A Secret Service statement claims that "the X-ray films were used for the briefing of the Warren Commission staff on the autopsy procedure and results," and that the evidence was turned over to the National Archives and/or the Commission.

The autopsists said, "One roll of 120 film (processed but showing no recognizable image) which we recall was seized by Secret Service agents from a Navy medical corpsman whose name is not known to us during the autopsy and immediately exposed to light."

Other witnesses at Bethesda stated that the Naval photographer had taken photographs of the autopsy room itself and those present. Somebody didn't want that kind of a record: Texas Highway Patrolman Hurchel Jacks, in his statement of November 28, 1963, said, "We were assigned by the Secret Service to prevent any pictures of any nature to be taken of the President's car or the inside." We will learn in a later chapter that on the following day, the President's limousine, a crucial piece of evidence since it had been struck in several places by bullets or fragments, was taken to Detroit, torn apart, and rebuilt, thus deliberately destroying the evidence. The boundary between coincidence and deliberate action seems to have again been overstepped.

"I, James J. Humes, certify that I have destroyed by burning certain preliminary draft notes relating to Naval Medical School Autopsy Report A63-272 and have officially transmitted all other papers related to this report to higher authority." (24 November 1963). This certificate was apparently required by the President's personal physician, Admiral George Burkley, who wrote on it "accepted and approved this date." Burkley, a crucial eyewitness present at both Parkland and Bethesda, was never called to answer any questions about anything. *Why not?*

In a separate certificate signed the same day by Humes, again apparently required by Burkley, who again wrote "accepted and approved," Humes wrote: "I, James J. Humes, certify that all working papers associated with Naval Medical School Autopsy Report