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Ex-CIA gun expert reveals more shocking details in the

By J. DAVID TRUBY MIDNIGHT Contributing Editor

Robert D. Morrow. Remember the name. For when the truth about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy is finally written into our history books, his name will be on Page 1

Page 1. By his own admission, Robert D. Morrow, acting on CIA orders, supplied the gun that killed the President. This is what he recently testified in secret hearings before the House Select Committee on Assassinations. But more than that, it is Morrow's story of a far-reaching conspiracy, in which Lee Harvey Oswald was set up as a patsy, that led to the formation of the controversial committee in the first place.

as a parsy, that ico to us to an adverter of the successful first place. Unwittingly, Morrow played a vital part in the successful conspiracy to kill Kennedy. From 1961 to 1964, he was employed by the CIA as a from 1961 to 1964, he was employed by the CIA as a prom 1961 to 1964, he was employed by the CIA as a specialist in weaponry and electronic equipment. Based on his experiences during those years, and additional informa-tion supplied by CIA and FBI agents. Morrow put together a book called "Betrayal." It was that book which prompted Congressman Thomas A. Downing to push for a re-investigation into the assassination and become the commit-iee's first chairman. tee's first chairman. As Morrow's story goes, Jack Ruby, a group of anti-

Castro Cubans and a right-wing faction within the CIA engineered the assassition. Three teams of

professional "hit" men took up posi-tions in Dallas' Deal-ey Plaza on Novem-ber 22, 1963, and fired on the President, says Morrow Lee Harvey Oswald, who was a CIA agent, was set up to

agent, was set up to take the rap. The plan, as de-tailed in "Betrayal," is sophisticated, in-tricate — and open to some question, since it's largely based on second-hand inforsecond-hand information. But the role that Morrow himself

played is difficult to dispute. "I bought the rifles that may have been used to kill have been concurring with this assessment of Oswald's rifle. They say it could not possibly have discharged three bullets in 6.3 seconds — the measured time in which the shots were fired. And not President Kennedy because the CIA ordered me to," he says flatly. "The so-called Oswald rifle

was not the actual murder weapon and Lee Oswald even expert marksmen have been able to duplicate Os-wald's alleged accuracy using the clumsy outmoded weapon. To the layman, the num-

didn't shoot anyone. "Oswald's rifle was a 6.5 mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifle while the ones I bought were the 7.35 mm models. The ones I bought were selected specifically as sniper rifles and were quite excellent weapons. "The Oswald rifle was by

all experts agree, is comparison, a piece of inactremendous For years ballistics experts curate junk.

FBI Was

Skeptical

6A switch was made in the confusion so the Oswald rifle would be found and the real killers could escape?

To the layman, the num-bers 6.5 mm (Oswald's rifle) and 7.35 mm (Morrow's rifles) don't mean much. The weapons are look-alikes. But the difference between them,



In-Depth Report har DISPATCH WARTEPORT PREPAREON

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INFORMATION ON THE WEAPON PRESUMABLY USED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY 1. AS REGARDS ARTICLES APPEARING RECENTLY IN THE ITALIAN AND FOREIGH PRESS CONCERNING THE PRESUMED 3C OF AN ITALIAN-MADE RIFLE IN THE SLAYING OF PRESIDENT KENKEDY, THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE MADE.

2. THE WEAPON WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED IN THIS ORIMHAL ATTACK IS A MODEL 91 RIFLE, 7.35 CALIBER, 1938 MODIFICATION

"so the Oswald rifle would be found for evidentiary pur-poses and the real killers could escape with the actual murder weapons, in all prob-ability, the 7.35 mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifles I bought on CIA orders." A declassified CIA memo, written just six days after the assassination, lends strong support to Morrow's statements.

statements.

statements. "The weapon which ap-pears to have been employed in this criminal act is a model 91 rifle, 7.35 caliber, 1938 modification," the CIA docu-

ment notes. Somewhere, someh w in the

The that satisfies that the 6.5 mm rifles (Oswald's) were sold to American arms dealers for as little as \$1.10 each. The wea-pons were imported into the U.S. classed as scrap iron. In addition, according to a number of gun experts, Os-wald's rifle was a downright danger to anyone who fired it. As the dean of arms experts Jack O'Connor wrote in his text "The Rifle Book," the 6.5 Mannlicher-Carcano rifle "has a coy habit of blowing the firing pin out in the shooter's face."

How then does Morrow believe the weapons he innocently obtained ended up being used to kill President Kennedy? And how were the conspirators able to incrimi-nate Lee Harvey Oswald as the lone assassin?

ONLY QUARTING DEM

Morrow says he managed to piece together the chilling tale from a variety of confi-dential sources.

'There was an on-going conspiracy to kill President Kennedy within a right-wing Cuban exile group with strong CIA connections," he

explains. "This group was head-quartered in New Orleans and was under the control of Clay Shaw, a CIA agent."

This first CIA memo accurately describes the murder rifle – but later the evidence Was ignored

This is the same Clay Shaw accused by New Orleans Dis-trict Attorney Jim Garrison of being a conspirator in the assassination. He was ac quitted of this charge in 1967, and Garrison was held up to considerable ridicule as a

Considerable ridicule as a result. "The conspiracy to murder the President," Morrow goes on, "revolved operationally around Clay Shaw, his Ca-bans, plus some American mercenaries with both Mafia and ClA connections.

and CIA connections. "Jack Ruby, David Ferrie and Guy Bannister, all CIA agents, coordinated the ef-fort, while Ruby hand-picked his friend Lee Oswald, an-other CIA employee, as the

Experts Are Sure The Murder Weapon Wasn't The There is a great deal of independent evi-dence to support Robert Morrow's claim that Oswald's 6.5 mm rifle was not the **One Used As Evidence Even** The

nurder weapon — and that the look-alike 7.35 mm which he supplied was really the instrument used to kill President Kennedy. Consider the following: Sylvia Meagher, a scholarly researcher and Wormen Commission

Sylvia Meagner, a scholarly researcher and Warren Commission critic, states: "The mail order rifle Oswald ordered from the Chicago sporting goods store was 36 inches long. The rifle the police brought out of the Texas School Book Depository

out of the Texas School Book Upepository measured 40.2 inches long. "Further," she says, "examination of the photographs easily shows that the front sight of the Oswald rifle is tapered, while the rifle removed from the building has a

round front sight." Canadian firearms expert John Min-nery contributed this assessment: "The length and configuration of the stock ap-

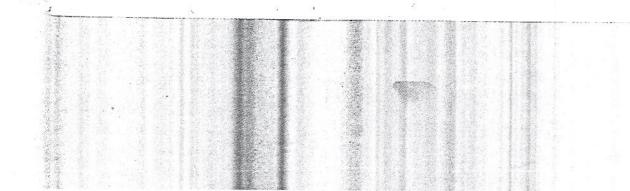
Pears different in each weapon, "Also, the wooden stock of the rifle dis-played for the press in Dallas on November 22, 1963 is shorter than that of the weapon

2... (Doors softer than dato it de weapon the Commission claimed was Oswald's. "I aim convinced," Minnery asserts, "that the murder weapon in Dalas that day was probably the 7.35 mm Mannlicher-Carcano sniper model rifle. The 6.5 mm rifle owned by Oswald was

obably used solely as evidence." Even the FBI is skeptical about Oswald's

Even the FBI is skeptical about Oswaut 3 rifle. The Bureau's experts noted that the weapon had 'wear and rust' and those agents who test-fired it expressed grave concern that it might explode. J. Edgar Hoover himself, in a memo to the Warren Commission, reported that the telescopic sight on Oswald's rifle "could not be monerval ailmed with the target."

telescopic sight on Oswald's rifle "could not be properly aligned with the target." And finally, the FBI experts noted that the telescopic sight on the Oswald rifle had been mounted for a left-handed shooter. Oswald was righthanded.



after the President's mur-der," Morrow continued. "so the Oswald rifle would be: found for evidentiary pur-poses and the real killers could escape with the actual ment states that the 6.5 mm rither wearons in all over sold to

plot to kill JFK

A POLICE PHOTOGRAPH of the rifle used as evidence against Oswald.



Helped To Murder Kennedy

patsy for the murder. "Jack Ruby dis-covered that Oswald had purchased an ob-solete 6.5 mm Italian rifle through a mail order house, using one of his CIA alione of his CIA ali-ases. Ruby passed this information along to Shaw, Ban-nister and Ferrie when they met in New Orleans in July of 1963 of 1963.

"This is when they decided | Castro to make the hit using the highly accurate 7.35 mm rifle. which looks just like the inferior 6.5 mm version that Oswald owned. "I've been told that Banni-

ster got the idea of getting the 7.35 mm sniper rifles, and using fragmentation ammuni-tion for the murder." A fragmentation bullet, it should be noted, disinte-

grates on contact with human bone.

bone. "Then." Morrow contin-ues, "the conspirators would plant a few bullets pre-fired from Oswald's rifle as being in the same Civil Air Patrol unit. evidence

Patrol unit. "Ferrie convinced Oswald that Shaw's CIA group wanted to have a look at Oswald's 6.5 mm Mann-licher-Carcano rifle because they were considering using weapons like this on a special mission out of the country. "Actually." Morrow con-cluded, "they only wanted his rifle so they could fire some bullets into cotton for later use as planted evidence. "Their hitmen would make

The plotters agreed and "The plotters agreed and Clay Shaw, as a ClA officer, contacted the Agency to re-guest 7.35 mm Mannligher-Carcano rifles for a "mission dut of the country." ClA people in Washington." Morrow says, "This is here l became involved. My bact Clay Shaw had told the country. Morrow says, "This is cubed, "they only wanted bat Clay Shaw had told the country." Morrow says, "This is cubed, "they only wanted that Clay Shaw had told the some bullets into cotton for on have his Cubans hit case officer that he was going to have his Cubans hit case officer alled me and back. J was later to learn hat Clay Shaw had told the back officer that he was going to have his Cubans hit officer who was a close ally of Fidel

'I bought the rifles that may have been used to kill **President Kennedy because** the CIA ordered me to?

Castro. "My case officer specified the 7.35 mm sniper model, which involved nothing more than my selecting units for superior workmanship. I lo-cated the rifle at the Sunny Surplus Store in nearby Tow-son, Maryland. I bought four rifles, two that day and two later. Police work and publicity did the rest."

Morrow's last point, that Ruby planted a cartridge on an empty stretcher — the one "In the meantime," Morrow continued, "to get the 'patsy' involved, David Fer-rie had contacted Oswald. The two knew each other from both CIA work and from used to carry wounded Texas Governor John Connally — is at least partially documented.

They would leave Oswald's Ruby was at Parkland Hospi-rifle and cartridges as evi-dence for the police to find. "Then Jack Ruby would were rushed in. plant at least one already-fired bullet from Oswald's roversy about that bullet which Ruby allegedly

Intere has been much con-troversy about that bullet which Ruby allegedly planted. It is the "magic" bullet which supposedly hit both Kennedy and Connolly yet remained in pristine condition.

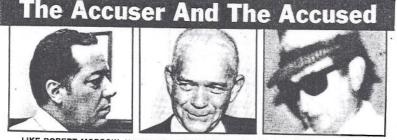
After Morrow purchased the rifles, he explains, they were picked up at his home in

one of the 7.35 mm rifles he bought for the "kill Kennedy" conspiracy.

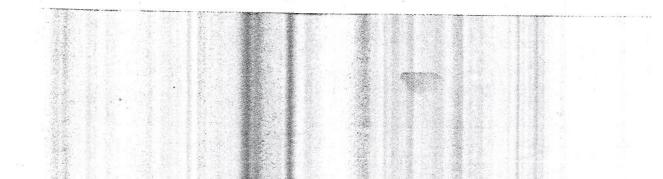
ROBERT D. MORROW, former CIA agent, with

the one he owns was used to

And he is convinced that by following CIA orders, he un-knowingly played a key role in the assassination of Presi-dent John F. Kennedy. Robert D. Morrow is the



LIKE ROBERT MORROW, New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison (left) accused Clay Shaw (center) of conspiracy to murder JFK. Now Morrow has also named David Ferrie pictured right shortly before his death.



condition

kill Kennedy.

He is convinced that CIA agent Lee Harvey Oswald was set up as a patsy by a

Roseland, Maryland by a Cu-ban CIA courier. "I gave the courier only three of the four rifles be-cause one had a defective machine screw." The adds. "I still have that fourth rifle in my possession today." Robert D. Morrow is con-vinced that a rifle identical to the one he owns was used to owns was used.