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Oswald-rifle

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26 (AP)- A gun expert said today it would be possible to fire three shots in about five seconds with the type of rifle allegedly used to kill President Kennedy.

But he said such rapid and accurate fire as was displayed would seem to require "a true expert, which Oswald didn't seem to be" on the basis of his record in the Marine Corps.

Leonard Davis, an official in the National Rifle Association, gave these technical opinions in response to a newsman's questions about details of the shooting with which Lee Harvey Oswald ~~was~~ was charged. Oswald was killed in Dallas Sunday, two days after the President's assassination.

As a marine, Oswald had barely qualified in the sharpshooter class, the middle of the three classifications in marksmanship.

Davis and some Marine officers in the Pentagon said Oswald would have to have practiced considerably since his release from the Marine Corps four years ago to have maintained and increased a proficiency with small arms.

The weapon police said was used was a 6.5mm bolt action rifle, apparently of Italian make but without any identifying marks. It was advertised for sale as a Carcano, which is a modification of the German Mauser design.

Davis, an ex-Marine, explained that four motions are required for each shot with a bolt action rifle -- raise the bolt lever, draw it back, move it forward and move the bolt lever down to lock the cartridge in the breach.

The range between the presidential car and the sixth floor window in which police said Oswald stood to fire three shots might have been 100 yards or less.

Davis said the Carcano rifle has a maximum accuracy of about 600 yards. He said the rifle's telescopic sight magnifies the image of the target four times.

The cars in the procession were moving slowly, at a few miles an hour, making easier ~~the~~ one element of the shooter's problem.

But it, was pointed out he needed to shoot at a downward angle, which is more difficult than aiming horizontally.

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