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In a re-enactment of the assassination federal agent sought to prove that the bullet which hit Connally had first gone through the President; a steel-jacketed bullet could have done such a thing. But then there is the problem in the above story [U.S. News & World Report, June 8, 1964] of a bullet splinter. As it was pointed out in the New Republic article by Jack Minnis who quoted from the book Homicide Investigation by LeMoyne Snyder, bullets (lead) which hit bones may split and give the investigation the impression that there were two bullets but that jacketed bullets don't splinter. This is especially true of steel-jacketed bullets (armor-piercing). These hold together very well and don't split unless they are shot against an even harder material and at the exact center of the bullet. Otherwise they deflect but are intact. So if a steel-jacketed bullet were used it is possible that it could have exited through the President and hit Connally, but in this case there would have been no splintering. If a soft-jacket bullet were used then it is possible that it would splinter but less likely that once splintered it would have gone all the way through Connally's shoulder.

There is then the problem, if the bullet were steel-jacketed, of where such a bullet would have been obtained. According to F. Bob Chow, gun expert, 3185 Mission (At28358) an armor-piercing bullet would not be available for a 6.5mm carcano carbine. This he explained is strictly a military bullet and would be sold only to military units and the gun in question is no longer used by any military since it went out of manufacture before the end of WWII. But on the other hand steel-jacketed ammunition is readily available for a 30 cal. rifle. Most US sporting rifles and military rifles are of this caliber and these are usually more reliable and accurate than the 6.5mm.

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These facts would then open the door to the speculation that Kennedy was killed by a weapon other than a carcano carbine if he was indeed killed by a steel-jacketed bullet. Or a second weapon such as an army M1 was used in addition to the carcano carbine and this second rifle was the one firing the steel-jacketed bullet. There is also the possibility that a 7.65 Mauser was really the other weapon involved. This is the standard military rifle of the German army (during WWII) and is still the weapon used by many Latin American armies such as the Mexican army. It would seem that since it is still used as a military weapon that there would be available, somewhere, some steel-jacketed ammunition. The 7.65 Mauser was the way the murder was identified at first until it was learned that someone calling himself A. Hidel had ordered a 6.5 carcano. Could it be that there were actually two riflemen in the window or one in the window of the book depository and others on the bridge? This would explain the divergent reports as to the type of ammunition used.

Murderer?