

RFL

7 DEC 1963

A176WX

ADVANCE FOR AMS OF SUNDAY DECEMBER 8--NOTE DATE--FROM A.P. NEWS-
FEATURES

ASSASSINATION RIFLE ROUNDUP (1,400)

EDITOR'S NOTE--HERE AND THERE IN THE MILLIONS OF WORDS THAT TOLD
OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY WERE PIECES OF INFORMATION
ABOUT THE MURDER WEAPON--THE BARGAIN GUN THAT BOUGHT GREAT TRAGEDY.
THIS STORY PULLS TOGETHER WHAT HAS BEEN DISCLOSED ABOUT THE RIFLE AND
ADDS SOME NEW INFORMATION.

BY J. W. DAVIS

A. P. NEWSFEATURES WRITER

(ADVANCE) WASHINGTON, DEC. 7 (AP)--WHEN JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS A SENA-
TOR HE PROPOSED THAT THE UNITED STATE FORBID THE SHIPMENT OF FIREARMS
FROM ABROAD.

AND, AS THE WHOLE WORLD HAS BEEN TOLD BY NOW, IT WAS A MADE-IN-
ITALY, MAIL-ORDER RIFLE THAT FIRED THE SHOTS WHICH KILLED HIM.

THIS TURN OF FATE WAS RECALLED TODAY ALONG WITH THE PILING UP OF
INFORMATION ABOUT THE WEAPON, ITS SOURCE AND ITS USE IN FLEETING SECONDS
OF LASTING TRAGEDY.

THE INFORMATION HAS BEEN COMING OUT IN BITS AND PIECES--AND OCCA-
SIONAL LARGE CHUNKS--SINCE THE DAY OF THE PRESIDENT'S ASSASSINATION,
NOVEMBER 22, AT DALLAS.

QUESTIONS REMAIN--QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ANSWERED BY LEE
HARVEY OSWALD, NAMED AS THE ASSASSIN WHO OWNED THE RIFLE, HAD HE NOT
BEEN KILLED HIMSELF TWO DAYS LATER.

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BUT ALREADY THERE IS A VOLUME OF INFORMATION, CONTRIBUTED TO BY THE
FINDINGS OF FEDERAL AUTHORITIES, DALLAS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AND
PRIVATE CITIZENS.

TO BEGIN WITH, THE GUN WAS DESCRIBED AS AN ITALIAN-MADE MILITARY
CARBINE CALLED A MANNLICHER-CARCANO, A BOLT-ACTION, SIX-SHOT, CLIP-FED
RIFLE OF 6.5 MM. (25 CALIBRE) BORE. IT WAS EQUIPPED WITH A FOUR-POWER

THE AUTHORITATIVE MILITARY BOOK "SMALL ARMS OF THE WORLD," BY W. H. B. SMITH, SAYS THAT SEMI-AUTO ITALIAN RIFLES AS A CLASS "ARE REASONABLY WELL MADE OF GOOD MATERIALS." IT SAYS OF THE MANNLICHER-CARCANO:

"THE BOLT BEING RAISED AND PULLED BACK TO THE REAR BY THE BOLT HANDLE, A LOADED CLIP IS INSERTED IN THE BREECH AND FORCED DOWN INTO THE RECEIVER. PUSHING HOME THE BOLT HANDLE DRIVES THE CARTRIDGE INTO THE FIRING CHAMBER . . .

"THE MANUAL SAFETY RESEMBLES THAT ON OUR OWN SPRINGFIELD RIFLE. WHEN THE WEAPON IS COCKED, THE THUMBPIECE CAN BE SWUNG OVER TO THE RIGHT, PUTTING THE RIFLE AT 'SAFE'. OVER TO THE LEFT THE SAFETY IS INOPERATIVE AND THE WEAPON CAN BE FIRED BY PRESSING THE TRIGGER."

A MAGAZINE ADVERTISEMENT CIRCULATING IN THE UNITED STATES CALLED THE 6.5 ITALIAN CARBINE "FAST LOADING AND FAST FIRING."

"READY FOR SHOOTING," THE AD SAID.

MILTON P. KLEIN, PRESIDENT OF KLEIN'S SPORTING GOODS, A CHICAGO MAIL ORDER FIRM, CONFIRMED NOV. 24 THAT IT WAS HIS FIRM WHICH SOLD THE RIFLE THAT WAS IDENTIFIED AS OSWALD'S.

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KLEIN SAID A COPY OF THE SALES SLIP SHOWED IT WAS SHIPPED TO DALLAS IN MARCH 1963. THE TOTAL BILL WAS \$19.95--\$12.73 FOR THE RIFLE AND \$7.17 FOR THE SCOPE.

THE FBI SAID IT WAS SENT TO A DALLAS POST OFFICE BOX RENTED BY OSWALD. THE BOX WAS RENTED IN THE NAME OF "A. HIDELL." THE GUN ARRIVED MARCH 20.

(KLEIN'S WAS ASKED THIS WEEK HOW ITS BUSINESS HAS BEEN SINCE THE ASSASSINATION. THE REPLY WAS, BUSINESS HAS BEEN AVERAGE. ONE OF THE FIRM'S OFFICIALS SAID THEY HAD NO MORE OF THOSE RIFLES FOR SALE-- "HAVEN'T HAD THEM FOR SOME DAYS." HE WOULDN'T SAY WHETHER THE FIRM HAD REMOVED THEM FROM ITS RACKS, OR WHETHER IT HAD SOLD THEM OUT.)

BACK IN MAY 1958, WHEN KENNEDY WAS A SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS, THERE WERE COMPLAINTS TO CONGRESS THAT IMPORTS OF MILITARY-TYPE WEAPONS WERE HURTING THE AMERICAN ARMS INDUSTRY.

KENNEDY WAS ONE OF SEVERAL MEMBERS WHO INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO MEET THE SITUATION. HE PROPOSED THAT THE UNITED STATES PROHIBIT THE IMPORTATION FOR RESALE OF ALL FIREARMS MANUFACTURED FOR THE ARMED

MOVES ARE NOW GOING FORWARD IN CONGRESS TO CRACK DOWN ON EAST-TO-BUY ARRANGEMENTS FOR F

MOVES ARE NOW GOING FORWARD IN CONGRESS TO CRACK DOWN ON EASY-TO-BUY ARRANGEMENTS FOR FIREARMS GENERALLY, REGARDLESS OF ORIGIN.

THESE PIECES OF LEGISLATION WOULD FORBID MAIL-ORDER SALES OF ALL FIREARMS, WOULD TIGHTEN REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FIREARMS, AND WOULD REQUIRE THAT A WOULD-BE BUYER FURNISH PROOF OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP AND SOUND MENTALITY.

A179WX

THE GUN IDENTIFIED AS OSWALD'S, TOGETHER WITH OTHER EVIDENCE, WAS TURNED OVER TO THE FBI BY THE DALLAS POLICE. SPEAKING OF OSWALD, DISTRICT ATTORNEY HENRY WADE OF DALLAS COUNTY DECLARED:

"HIS PRINTS WERE ON THE GUN, THE GUN WAS THE GUN THAT KILLED KENNEDY."

ASKED WHETHER A BALLISTICS TEST HAD BEEN MADE, WADE REPLIED THAT HE HAD STATED THIS WAS THE GUN THAT KILLED THE PRESIDENT. THEN, ASKED ABOUT A CONVERSATION WITH THE FBI, WADE REPLIED:

"I WON'T GO--I'M NOT AT LIBERTY TO GO--INTO THE FBI REPORT."

FEDERAL AUTHORITIES SAID THIS WEEK THAT A REPORT THEN BEING PUT TOGETHER BY THE FBI, EMBRACING THE FINDINGS OF SEVERAL FEDERAL AGENCIES INCLUDING THE SECRET SERVICE, WILL INDICATE:

--OSWALD, AND OSWALD ALONE, FIRED THE THREE SHOTS THAT RANG OUT AS THE PRESIDENTIAL MOTORCADE MOVED SLOWLY OUT OF DOWNTOWN DALLAS THAT FATAL FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

--THE FIRST AND THIRD SHOTS HIT PRESIDENT KENNEDY; EITHER COULD HAVE KILLED HIM. THE SECOND WOUNDED GOV. JOHN CONNALLY OF TEXAS, IN THE WHITE HOUSE CAR WITH THE PRESIDENT.

--BALLISTIC STUDIES REPORTEDLY SUBSTANTIATE THAT ALL THREE SHOTS CAME FROM THE SAME WEAPON.

PENDING THE FORMAL FBI REPORT, THERE WAS NO DETAIL ON THE FATAL BULLETS. ALSO, ANY POST MORTEM FINDINGS WERE WITHHELD FOR THE PRESENT.

THE EVIDENCE WILL SHOW, IT WAS SAID, THAT THE THREE SHOTS CAME FROM BEHIND AND SLIGHTLY TO THE RIGHT OF THE CAR. THE SNIPER'S TARGET THUS WAS APPROXIMATELY IN HIS LINE OF FIRE, RATHER THAN MOVING ACROSS IT.

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DALLAS POLICE CHIEF JESSE CURRY, ESTIMATED THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL MOTORCADE WAS MOVING 12-15 MILES AN HOUR. HE ESTIMATED THE ANGLE OF FIRE, FROM THE SIXTH FLOOR OF A BUILDING, AT 45 DEGREES.

CURRY PUT THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE ASSASSIN AND THE CAR AT ABOUT 75 YARDS--225 FEET. OTHERS HAVE FIGURED IT WAS PERHAPS CLOSER TO 250 FEET.

BEST ESTIMATES ARE THAT ABOUT 5 1/2 SECONDS ELAPSED BETWEEN THE FIRST AND THIRD SHOT. THIS HAS RAISED MUCH CONTROVERSY--SOME PERSONS WONDERING WHETHER IT WOULD NOT HAVE REQUIRED TWO MEN TO FIRE THAT RAPIDLY.

BUT THE FEDERAL MEN AND SOME PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS WHO MADE TESTS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE FOUND THAT THE RIFLE COULD WELL HAVE BEEN FIRED THAT RAPIDLY BY ONE MAN. ALSO, IT WAS NOTED THAT THE 5 1/2 SECONDS WERE TIMED FROM THE FIRING OF THE FIRST SHOT--SO ACTUALLY IT WAS A QUESTION OF GETTING OFF TWO MORE SHOTS IN THE ELAPSED TIME.

A TEST BY LOS ANGELES POLICEMEN, THEY SAID, SHOWED THREE SHOTS COULD BE FIRED IN 3 1/2 SECONDS.

LEONARD DAVIS, A GUN EXPERT WITH THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION IN WASHINGTON, SAID IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FIRE THREE SHOTS IN ABOUT 5 SECONDS WITH THE MANNLICHER-CARCANO.

BUT DAVIS SAID SUCH ACCURACY AS WAS DISPLAYED IN THE ASSASSINATION WOULD SEEM TO REQUIRE "A TRUE EXPERT, WHICH OSWALD DIDN'T SEEM TO BE," ON THE BASIS OF HIS RECORD IN THE MARINE CORPS.

AS A MARINE, OSWALD HAD BARELY QUALIFIED IN THE SHARPSHOOTER CLASS, THE MIDDLE OF THREE CLASSIFICATIONS IN MARKSMANSHIP. IN OTHER WORDS, HE WAS RATED AS BETTER THAN AVERAGE BUT NOT TOP NOTCH. LATER, WHEN HE WAS IN RUSSIA, HE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE JOINED A RIFLE CLUB.

A131WX

THE TELESCOPIC SIGHT ON THE ASSASSINATION RIFLE WOULD GIVE A FIELD OF VIEW ABOUT THE LENGTH OF THE CAR IN WHICH KENNEDY WAS RIDING. THUS IT IS PRESUMED THE SNIPER COULD PUT HIS TARGET DISTINCTLY WITHIN HIS SIGHTS. WHILE HE HIT THE PRESIDENT AND THE GOVERNOR, HE DID NOT HIT EITHER MRS. KENNEDY OR MRS. CONNALLY, CLOSE BY IN THE CAR.

A GUNSMITH AT IRVING, TEXAS, A SUBURB OF DALLAS, SAID HE ATTACHED A TELESCOPIC RIGHT AND BORE-SIGHTED A RIFLE FOR A CUSTOMER NAMED OSWALD ABOUT A MONTH BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION. THE SMITH SAID HE WAS NOT CERTAIN WHETHER HIS CUSTOMER WAS LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

BORE-SIGHTING CONSISTS OF LOCKING THE RIFLE IN A VISE AND SIGHTING TO A MARK THROUGH THE BARREL. THE TELESCOPE IS THEN ADJUSTED TO AGREE WITH THE SIGHTING.

IN ITALY, WHERE THE RIFLE WAS MADE, VARIOUS TESTS WERE REPORTED THIS WEEK TO "PROVE" AND "DISPROVE" THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO FIRE THREE SHOTS FROM THAT TYPE RIFLE IN FIVE SECONDS.

ITALY'S BIGGEST SPORTS DAILY, CORRIERE DELLO SPORT, SPONSORED A DEMONSTRATION AND REPORTED THAT IT COULD BE DONE, AND RATHER EASILY.

THE PRO-COMMUNIST ROME NEWSPAPER PAESE SERA SPONSORED A SIMILAR DEMONSTRATION AT ALMOST THE SAME TIME, AND THEN CARRIED A STORY SAYING IT COULDN'T BE DONE.

THE TESTS DIDN'T COST VERY MUCH.

NEITHER DID THE REAL THING: \$19.95 FOR THE GUN AND SCOPE, PERHAPS \$6.00 TO ZERO THE SIGHT IN AND ABOUT 21 CENTS FOR THREE SHELLS. JUST \$26.16--THAT'S ALL.

END ADVANCE FOR AMS SUNDAY DEC. 8; SENT DEC. 4

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