

Rifle Photos

Furor Over Oswald Photos

Paris

The publication by the French press of pictures showing Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged assassin of President Kennedy, holding a rifle has set off a new wave of skepticism among Europeans about the official theory of who killed the late President.

The French press, from far left to far right, pronounces one of the pictures to be a fake and hints that the Dallas police were responsible for faking it.

The first picture originally appeared here last February on the cover of the biggest magazine in Paris, *Paris Match*, which bought it from *Life Magazine*. It shows Oswald holding a rifle with a telescopic sight. "The end of the mystery of Kennedy's death," *Paris Match* boldly proclaimed.

Earlier this month other French papers and magazines published an apparent identical picture of Oswald holding a rifle, but this time the telescopic sight was missing. This picture had been bought from *Newsweek*, the original source of both pictures was said to have been the Dallas police.

A sociologist named Claude Meillassoux did some research on the pictures. He claims that the first picture was doctored by addition of the telescopic sight. This made the rifle look like police descriptions of the murder weapon and "proved" Oswald's guilt.

The result of Meillassoux's researches were published in a bimonthly French review called *Analyses and Documents*, and French newspapermen jumped on them like a pack of dogs on a lump of meat.

SIGHT

Their conclusions were that if it was necessary to fake a telescopic sight on Oswald's rifle to make it look like the crime weapon, the famous Dallas police "proofs" against Oswald were fragile and fabricated.

Almost all the French newspaper — including the influential and usually reserved *Le Monde*—have published lists of what they call the "unsolved mysteries of the late President's assassination."

The consensus is that even if he were at all responsible for the murder, Oswald could not have been the sole culprit.

POLICE

"These culprits are still at large" wrote one paper, "and may be dressed in police uniforms or even hold important positions."

Many papers have announced the forthcoming publication of a book by American expatriate Thomas Buchanan, who conducted his own inquiry in Dallas. Buchanan came to the conclusion that the President was not shot from behind but from in front by a killer posted on a bridge facing the presidential cavalcade.

The theory that Oswald was a crackpot who shot President Kennedy out of sheer insanity does not and will not satisfy the European public, unless more convincing proofs of his guilt can be shown than those already put forward.

Some French psychiatrists say that, had Oswald been insane, as he is said to have been, his first reaction on being caught would have been to admit and possibly boast of his deed.



A. P. Wirephoto

OSWALD AND THE RIFLE
This one had no telescopic sight

Many thoughtful Europeans are more and more convinced that Oswald was not the real killer but was used as a scapegoat for the actual murderer or murderers.

The same people feel that the American public has been too easily satisfied by official reports from Washington and Dallas. They hope the report of the Warren commission will throw light on the events at Dallas.

If, however, the commission's report turns out to be just an expansion of the conclusions of the Dallas police, there will be great disappointment on this side of the Atlantic. Many people will believe that reasons of internal security are behind the concealment of the truth.

Chicago Daily News