

'Definitely a Shot' From Behind Fence

Father, Son '20 Feet Away'

DALLAS, Tex. (AP) — A survivor of the Normandy invasion, who nearly 20 years later witnessed another fateful moment in history, said today "I am more than satisfied" with the Warren Commission's findings on the Kennedy assassination.

At the same time he criticized authors of recent books seeking to disprove the commission report, saying, "This is nothing but cheap sensationalism on these people's part."

It was three years ago today that Charles F. Brehm, then 38, stood with his son less than 20 feet from President John F. Kennedy's limousine and saw him slump mortally wounded.

"I was so fascinated in looking at him I did not know anyone else was around. That's why I'm so positive of his actions," Brehm said in an interview.

Brehm was never called before the commission, which concluded that two rifle shots fired by Lee Harvey Oswald from the Texas School Book Depository just west of the downtown Dallas area struck the president. Neither were statements he gave authorities entered as exhibits.

"I see no reason why I should be called. I did not see the man who shot him. I did not see the shots fired. I don't feel that anything I would have said would have had any bearing on their outcome," he said.

Brehm said he knows nothing about anything that happened after, he said, he heard three rifle shots and saw two of them hit the president.

"These are the facts, this is the truth," he said of what he saw Nov. 22, 1963, when he took his son Joe, then 5, to see the president.

"When the first shot went off I really didn't think it was gunfire. He (the president) had a sense of humor, and when his hands went up to the sides of his neck I thought he was making a gesture. I thought it was a backfire.

"Then the second shot hit him. He went down. He just went down. I knew the sound that bullets make, and it was at this time that I thought it was shooting."

Witness Tells Of Gun Flash

DALLAS, Tex. (AP) — "There definitely was a shot fired from behind that fence," maintains S.M. Holland in regard to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy three years ago.

Holland, signal supervisor for the Dallas Union Terminal Railroad, was standing on the triple underpass when the presidential motorcade came under fire about a half-block away and heading toward the underpass.

He said in an interview Monday that one and possibly two shots were fired at the motorcade from behind a wooden fence adjacent to the underpass and some 150 feet from where he was standing.

"Four or five of us saw it, the smoke," Holland said. "One of my employees even saw the muzzle flash."

Holland's testimony on the matter is in Vol. 6 of the Warren Commission hearings.

"The way the Warren Commission published my testimony, it was kind of watered down some. It made it seem that I wasn't really sure whether I'd heard a shot from the fence.

"But I own too many guns myself, and I've done too much hunting. I know a rifle shot when I hear one," he said.

Asked why he thought the commission would delete or alter any of his testimony, Holland replied: "Well, obviously, what I had to say pretty seriously conflicted with their official version."

The Warren report concluded that three shots were fired at the motorcade, all by Lee Harvey Oswald from the Texas School Book Depository. That building is at the other end of the block from the overpass and the wooden fence.

Bullets fired from the depository would have struck the motorcade from behind. Shots fired from the fence would have come from the front. Shots from both places would have put the motorcade in a crossfire, and meant that more than one assassin was involved.