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The Jig-Saw of Evidence

'Oswald Is the Killer'

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WASHINGTON—The Warren Commission put together a vastly complicated jigsaw puzzle of evidence — some pieces as hard, clear-cut and incontrovertible as steel, some as wispy as a spider's web—in concluding "that Lee Harvey Oswald was the assassin of President Kennedy."

Tiny, seemingly insignificant bits of material or verbal evidence were put to test after test of laboratory and logic, checked and cross-checked and carefully weighted before they were thrown into the balance.

THE FINDINGS

On the basis of the evidence which it meticulously reviews in the report released yesterday the commission found that Oswald:

"(1) Owned and possessed the (Manlichter-Carcano 6.5 millimeter) rifle used to kill President Kennedy and wound Governor Connally,

"(2) Brought this into the Texas schoolbook deposi-

tory building on the morning of the assassination,

"(3) Was present, at the time of the assassination, at the window from which the shots were fired,

"(4) Killed Dallas Police Officer J. D. Tippit in an apparent attempt to escape,

"(5) Resisted arrest by drawing a fully loaded pistol and attempting to shoot another police officer (in the Texas movie theater),

"(6) Lied to the police after his arrest concerning important substantive matters,

"(7) Attempted, in April 1963, to kill Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker, and

"(8) Possessed the capability with a rifle which would have enabled him to commit the assassination."

100 PAGES

The direct evidence in support of these conclusions fills more than 100 pages of the report. But here is one example, how the case was built on ownership of the assassination weapon.

Within hours after the assassination, the FBI checked

retail outlets in Dallas and learned that Crescent Firearms, Inc. of New York was a distributor of the make of rifle used in the assassination, that they had shipped a rifle with the same serial number C2766 as that one to Klein's Sporting Goods Co. of Chicago.

Klein's searched its records, found that a rifle with that serial number had been mailed to one "A. Hidell" at Post Office Box 2915 in Dallas on March 20, 1963, after receiving a mail order and postal money order for \$21.45. A check of postal authorities showed the post office box had been rented to Oswald.

HANDWRITING CHECK

Document examiners for the Treasury Department and the FBI "testified unequivocally" that the handprinting and writing on the mail order and money order was the same as that appearing on documents known to have been written by Oswald, such as letters, passport application, and indorsements of checks.

Among other cards found in Oswald's wallet was a Selective Service card with the signature "Alek J. Hidell," in Oswald's handwriting and a photograph of Oswald on it.

As one of the ways in which apparent "sure thing" bits of evidence were put to further tests, the Italian Armed Forces Intelligence Service established that this particular rifle was the only rifle of its type bearing the serial number C2766.

FINGERPRINTS

Beyond that, fingerprint evidence established to the commission's satisfaction that Oswald had handled two of the four cartons next to the window from which the assassin fired his fatal shots and also handled a paper bag which was found near the cartons.

The report adds:

"Oswald was seen in the vicinity of the southeast corner of the sixth floor approximately 35 minutes before the assassination and no one could be found who saw Oswald anywhere else in the building until after the shooting.

"An eyewitness to the shooting immediately provided a description of the man in the window which was similar to Oswald's actual appearance. This witness identified Oswald in a lineup as the man most nearly resembling the man he saw and later identified Oswald as the man he observed.

"Oswald's known actions in the building immediately after the assassination are consistent with his having been at the southeast corner window of the sixth floor at 12:30 p. m.

"On the basis of these findings the commission has concluded that Oswald, at the time of the assassination, was present at the window from which the shots were fired."

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