

[PART 9]

[Warning: This work constitutes an historic review of a brutal murder! Readers are advised that certain portions of this work may be disturbing to some individuals. If an individual is easily disturbed by this report they are advised to limit their viewing experience.]

FBI Shooting Re-enactment

A



B



A - Best possible rifle angle to shoot Kennedy was from the 6th floor window. (Image from 7th floor)

B - May 24, 1964 FBI re-enactment of the alleged shots fired from the 6th floor window. Not one of the FBI's sharpshooters could match the speed or the reported accuracy of what the Warren Commission reported Oswald did with his supposed three shots in 5.7 seconds! These were shots that were never presented in a court of law. Note that the window needed to be at least half open to make any shots from that position.

U.S. Senate Investigator Harold Weisberg reported, "The best shots the Commission could get, under improved conditions, **could not duplicate the shooting attributed to Oswald, and Oswald was a truly lousy shot** who, when last tested, on an easy course, scored but a single point more than the absolute minimum demanded of every serviceman. In the appraisal of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, he was 'a rather poor shot'." "In plain English, none of the required, proper tests were ever made and **there is nobody, not the world's very best riflemen, who could duplicate the feat attributed to the incompetent, inexperienced Oswald.**"

"There is nobody, not the world's very best riflemen, who could duplicate the feat attributed to the incompetent, inexperienced Oswald."

By January 1964 the FBI had determined that the Italian 6.5×52mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifle "could not be fired twice in less than 2.3 seconds."

In the military members are tested each year and must qualify for marksmanship with a rifle as well as other weapons. The highest level or best shots reach the level of EXPERT; the next level lower on the scale earn the title of SHARPSHOOTER; while those who barely qualify receive the designation as MARKSMAN. Oswald shot the lowest marksman level with only one shot to spare.

Weisberg further reported that the weapon said to have been used by Oswald was "a weapon not designed for a scope and so undependable it was called Mussolini's contribution to humanitarian warfare; and of all of these [rifles] available, one of the most rickety, one a danger to

use – a weapon that had to be taken away from the eye after each shot before it could be reloaded in order for the alleged assassin to keep from putting out his own eye!”

“It was reported that ‘We have expert testimony to the effect that a skilled marksman would require a minimum of 2-1/4 seconds between shots with this rifle.’ This is false. That testimony was entirely different; that a really skilled man (and it must be kept in mind that Oswald was only a duffer) could reload the rifle in 2-1/3 seconds. **Thereafter, he would have to re-sight and fire, both operations requiring additional time.**”

Further: The bolt of the rifle stuck when pulled back making it very difficult to chamber another round. And it was a weapon that Oswald had little or no experience firing.

Finally: A paraffin test of Oswald’s cheek, as detailed in G. Paul Chambers 2010 book *Head Shot*, revealed no nitrates on Oswald’s cheek! This is as near as next to impossible if Oswald had fired a rifle, not once, but three times on November 22, 1963.



Conclusions:

- 1. It is impossible for anyone to make the three shots reported to have been made on November 22, 1963 with the Italian 6.5×52mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifle reportedly used during the assassination.*
- 2. The Italian 6.5×52mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifle weapon was not used!*
- 3. Lee Harvey Oswald could not have fired three shots in 5.7 seconds using any bolt action rifle; let alone a difficult to operate and inaccurate Italian 6.5×52mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifle.*

The motorcade enters Dealey Plaza and the kill zone.

The presidential limousine was slowed to a crawl and completely exposed with no security around the vehicle when it was driven into the kill zone by Secret Service Agent William R. Greer.

A



B



A - From the Zapruder film, lead motor officer is driving west on Elm Street.

B - View of Elm Street from the 7th floor imaged in 2015.

Despite the “X” painted on the street the actual position of the limousine was further east up the street behind the tree in the lower portion of photo “**B**”.

A



B



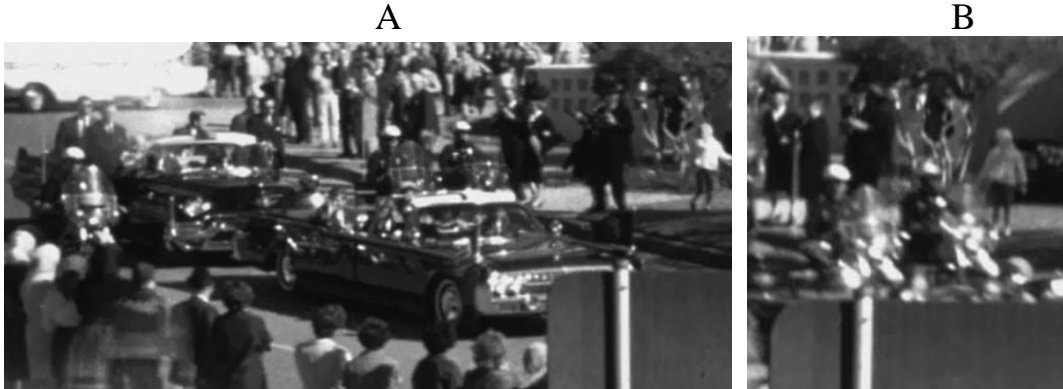
A - President John F. Kennedy is waving to the crowd. There are 201 people in Dealey Plaza. Most would come to understand that the shots at the motorcade must have come from at least two different directions. The Presidential limousine enters Dealey Plaza at 12:29 p.m. CST.

B - Frame 150 from the Zapruder film. Note that the motorcycle cops are not in a protective position. The President is apparently waving. Kennedy’s limousine has just turned onto west Elm Street, moments before the first shot that missed was fired. Vice President Johnson’s easily identifiable light colored vehicle can be seen at the top center of the image.

DATA POINT: James W. Powell Special Agent, 112th Military Intelligence Group, 912 Rio Grande Building, Dallas, Texas. “On 22 November 1963, at approximately 12:25 hours, I was standing at the corner of Austin Street and Main Street, Dallas, where I had just taken a picture of the late President John F. Kennedy and his wife as they passed in the motorcade. Hoping to get one more picture, I ran one block back to Elm Street and down Elm towards the intersection of Elm Street and Houston Street. As I approached this intersection, at approximately 12:28 hours, and was about one block away, Kennedy’s motorcade was just turning West off Houston Street. At this point, I heard at least two loud explosions, which I assumed could either have been shots from a rearm or some sort of

reworks.” It is recalled that Col. William Robert ‘Tosh’ Plumlee, also attached to the 112th reported, among others, that Oswald was “working an intelligence mission in Dallas on November 22, 1963!

What Special Agent Powell heard were the first two shots fired, one that missed and the second that hit President Kennedy in the throat.



- A** - The motorcycle cops are still not in a protective position; well back of the limousine. The President is completely exposed and waving. Kennedy’s limousine has continued west onto Elm Street, just as the first shot that missed was fired.
- B** - The little girl running on the far right of the frame is about to stop running in response to the first missed shot. The limo is about to move behind the sign blocking Zapruder from filming the first neck wound to Kennedy, but not from still photographer Willis the frame to the right of the motor cops.

DATA POINT: The motorcade has just turned past the Texas School Book Depository out of frame to the left of the photo. As written earlier the Texas School Book Depository was owned by Texas oil millionaire David Harold Byrd (1900-1986) purchased in the 1930s. Byrd was a founding member of the Civil Air Patrol an organization that both CIA operatives David Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald belonged. His second wife Mavis Bennett Heath was close friends with Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson and his wife, both of whom were riding behind Kennedy in the motorcade on November 22, 1963.

As detailed earlier the second car, a 1961 Lincoln Continental convertible, was occupied by driver Secret Service Agent William R. Greer, Secret Service Agent in charge (SAIC) Roy S. Kellerman, Governor John Connally, Nellie Connally, President Kennedy and Jackie Kennedy.

The third car, a 1955 Cadillac convertible code-named “Halfback”, contained driver Secret Service Agent Samuel Kinney, ATSAIC Emory Roberts, presidential aides Ken O’Donnell and Dave Powers, Secret Service Agent George Hickey and PRS agent Glen Bennett. Secret Service agents Clint Hill, Jack Ready, William Tim McIntyre and Paul Landis rode on the running boards.

DATA POINT: A minority of the witnesses recognized the first gunshot they heard as weapon fire, but there was hardly any reaction to the first shot from a majority of the people in the crowd. Many bystanders later said that they heard what they first thought to be a firecracker or the backfire of one of the vehicles shortly after the President began waving; although some close witnesses recalled seeing the limousine slow down. If true it would have been a direct violation of Secret Service protocol.

Governor Connally continued his memories of that day. “I heard the shot and I say shot because I immediately thought it was a shot, immediately thought it was a rifle shot.”

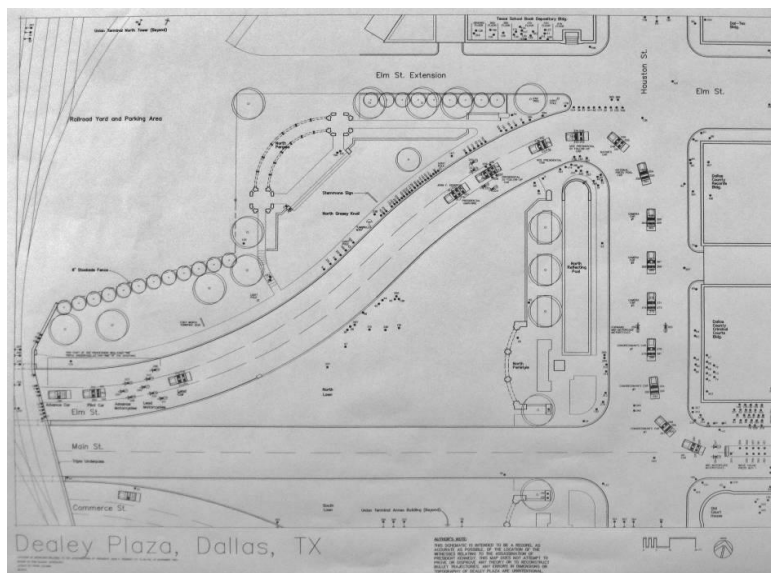


Texas School Book Depository not long after the murder.
 Note that the 6th floor 'sniper' window has now been partly opened.
 This is in contrast to the closed view of the window during the shooting!

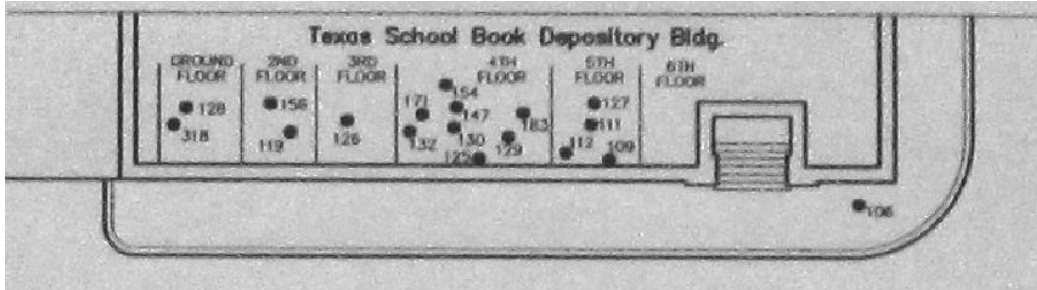


6th floor 'sniper' window imaged in 2015 and memorial plaque.

MOTORCADE LAYOUT JUST AFTER FIRST SHOT



Note how isolated the Presidential limousine is from the first section of the motorcade; isolating it from other vehicles and in front of the police escort vehicles. The positions of Jack Ruby and the sniper behind the Grassy Knoll fence are not indicated on the diagram.



It is also seen that even though several individuals are noted to be on several floors of the Texas School Book Depository **no one is indicated to have been on the 6th floor – NO ONE! Further: Why is the 7th floor not indicated on the diagram? Was this the actual sniper position? Why risk being spotted on the 6th floor when the 7th floor was rarely visited during the workday?**

It has been reported that building supervisor Roy Truly went up to the 6th floor and told the five workers on that floor to go to lunch just before noon. It has also been reported that Bonnie Ray Williams went to the 6th floor at that time to eat his lunch. He was alone! At the time of the Kennedy murder he was reportedly on the 5th floor with three other employees – number 112. He did not see Oswald.

*Question: Why was Oswald not indicated on this drawing?
Answer: Because he was not on the 6th floor!*



Johnson in light colored car with Senator Ralph Yarborough next to Mrs. Johnson. The light color of his vehicle made it very easy to identify it, separately from Kennedy's vehicle which was midnight blue. The driver was Texas State Police Officer Hurchel Jacks. Secret Service Agent Rufus W. Youngblood, Jr. (1924-1996) who had arrived in Dallas with President Kennedy onboard *Air Force One*, **throw himself on top of Johnson after shots rang out.** Youngblood said that he had not known whether the sound he heard was a gunshot, a bomb, or a firecracker. Clearly the security for Johnson was much better than for Kennedy. If the Secret Service officers in Johnson's car knew there were gunshots ringing out the Secret Service agents in Kennedy's vehicle must have also been aware of gunshots. It should also be noted how far down in the seat the riders in Johnson's vehicle are when compared with the Kennedy's riding in a much more exposed higher seated position.

Testimony of Mark Lane at Warren Commission, March 4, 1964

“The authorities who were confronted with what seemed to be irrefutable evidence that the President had been shot in the front of the throat, concluded that the Presidential limousine

was approaching the Book Depository Building when the first shot was fired, because it seems at the very outset a theory was developed by the prosecuting authorities that Oswald was on the sixth floor of the Book Depository Building, that he was the assassin, and that he acted alone. I think that the record and an examination of the activities of the Dallas police, and the Dallas district attorney's office, will show that the only area where they have been consistent from the outset was once this theory was enunciated, they stayed with the theory, and they were devoted to the theory, regardless of the discovery of new evidence and new facts. For example, the *New York Times* stated on November 26, 1963, 'The known facts about the bullets, and the position of the assassin, suggested that he started shooting as the President's car was coming toward him, swung his rifle in an arc of almost 180 [degrees], and fired at least twice more.' At that time, the prosecution case had already been developed in terms of the theory that Oswald was the assassin and that Oswald acted alone. There were newspaper pictures published in many portions of the country showing the Textbook Depository Building on Houston Street where the Presidential limousine approached. The Book Depository Building, and Elm Street, where after the limousine made a sharp left turn it continued until it reached the underpass directly ahead. **And in these newspapers, there were superimposed dotted lines showing the trajectory of the three bullets, showing that the first bullet was fired while the Presidential car was still on Houston Street, still approaching the Book Depository Building.** However, it soon became essential for the prosecution to abandon that theory, because the eyewitnesses present including Governor Connally and Mrs. Connally stated that the limousine had already made a left turn, had passed the Book Depository Building at the time that the first shot was fired. In essence, then, the prosecution remained with the theory that Oswald, while acting alone, shot the President from the front from the back."

Mr. Rankin: "I don't understand that Mr. Lane."

"I don't understand that either, but this was the theory of the prosecution; that the President had, it had been conceded at that time that the President had been shot in the front of the throat. However, the evidence then developed indicated that the Presidential limousine had already passed the Book Depository Building, and the President was not facing the Book Depository Building when the first shot was fired. At that time, *Life* magazine explains it all in a full page article entitled, 'An End to Nagging Rumors, the 6 Crucial Seconds.' **And *Life* conceded that the limousine was some 50 yards past Oswald when the first shot was fired, and that the shot entered the President's throat from the front, but explained that the President had turned completely around and was facing the Book Depository Building when the shot was fired.**"

"The trouble with that theory, however, which was enunciated by *Life*, and from where they secured it I do not know, but they certainly were in Dallas very much in evidence on the scene, was that the week prior to then *Life* magazine itself printed the stills of the motion pictures, and in those stills, with *Life*'s own captions, it was quite plain that the President was looking almost completely forward, just slightly to the right, but almost forward, and certainly not turned around when the first shot was fired. And so the stills printed in *Life*'s own publication a week before they enunciated this theory proved that the *Life* theory was false."

"In addition to this, persons present on the scene, such witnesses as Mrs. Connally and the Governor of Texas, indicated that the President was looking almost straight ahead. And I believe that Mrs. Connally stated that she had just made a statement to the President, tragically enough, something about, 'You cannot say the people of Dallas have not given you a warm welcome today,' and he was about to respond when the first bullet struck him. In order for the prosecution to remain with the theory in the light of the new evidence that Oswald was the assassin and he acted alone, something would have to give, and it became plain that the third try would have to result in a new examination of the medical testimony."

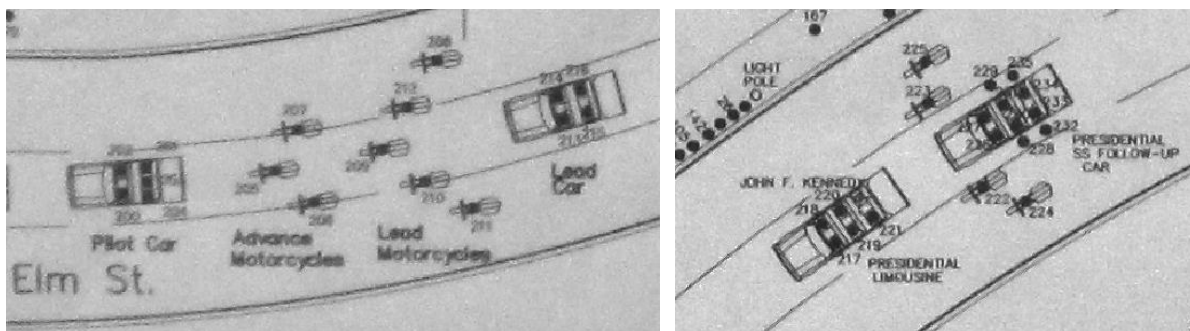
MARIE M. MUCHMORE FILMS THE ASSASSINATION

Marie M. Muchmore (1909-1990). Muchmore was in Dealey Plaza with five of her co-workers. From a dress manufacturer in Dallas Wilma Bond, who had a still camera was with Muchmore to watch the presidential motorcade. Muchmore began filming near the northwest corner of Main Street and Houston Street with her 8mm Keystone movie camera and awaited the president's arrival. The Muchmore film consists of seven sections: six before the assassination, and one during the shooting. Muchmore began filming the motorcade with her movie camera from her initial location near the northwest corner of Main and Houston Streets as the motorcade turned onto Houston Street into Dealey Plaza. She then walked with Wilma Bond northwestward to begin filming the President's limousine as it went down Elm Street. Imaged from around 138 feet away Muchmore's film then recorded the fatal head shot to the President. The film ends seconds later as Secret Service agent Clint Hill runs to and then climbs on board the now accelerating limousine. At that side angle from the Grassy Knoll she may have captured the flash of the rifle shot as it was fired at Kennedy from the Grassy Knoll.

ATTEMPT TO COVER-UP THE LACK OF SECRET SERVICE PROTECTION

It has been suggested that the lack of Secret Service protection occurred because Kennedy himself had asked that the Secret Service make itself discreet during the Dallas visit. However, Vince Palamara, who interviewed several Secret Service agents assigned to the Kennedy detail, disputes this. Palamara reports that Secret Service driver Sam Kinney told him that requests – such as removing the bubble top from the limousine in Dallas, not having agents positioned beside the limousine's rear bumper and reducing the number of Dallas police motorcycle outriders near the limousine's rear bumper - were not made by Kennedy.

Questions regarding the truthfulness of the Secret Service continued in the 1990s when the Assassination Records Review Board – which was created when Congress passed the JFK Records Act – requested access to classified Secret Service records. The Review Board was told by the Secret Service that in January 1995, in direct violation of the JFK Records Act, the Secret Service destroyed protective survey reports that covered President Kennedy's official trips from September 24 through November 8, 1963, when several assassination plots were uncovered. There is only one word for that criminal action: **COVER-UP!** If the individuals responsible for the destruction of those records can be identified they should be tried, convicted and sent to prison for destroying and covering-up pre-assassination/murder records.



There were 8 motor officers positioned between the Pilot Car and the Lead Car. There were 4 motor officers besides the Secret Service car. The snipers would have needed to identify which vehicle Kennedy was riding in. A tight motorcade would have made that job difficult. With the escort vehicles far in front and the security behind Kennedy his vehicle was isolated and would have been easily spotted as the one Kennedy was riding in. It is noted that the Pilot Car and Lead Car were driven by local people and not the Secret Service.

HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE

History records that when Nedeljko Cabrinovic tossed his bomb at the vehicle which carried Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife in Sarajevo that summer of 1914 the potential assassin missed as his bomb bounced off the back of the vehicle. It exploded under the follow-up car injuring some twenty passengers and local bystanders. Realizing that they were under attack the archduke's driver immediately stepped on the gas and drove the party out of range of Trifun Grabez, Cvjetko Popovic and Gavrilo Princip, three other men who were also in place to kill Ferdinand. And even though the assassins were eventually able to kill the archduke at another location, at least his body guards did their best to save his life.

That would not be the case in 1963 when President Kennedy's driver and security detail were not as dedicated or professional as the archduke's detail, and it cost Kennedy his life. The historic question is: Were the security detail part of the conspiracy which took his life?

Conclusions:

- 1. There were no vehicles protecting the President's car when the shots were fired – none!*
- 2. The Kennedy vehicle, driven very slowly by Secret Service Agent William Greer, was completely isolated and fully exposed as it slowly entered the ambush zone.*
- 3. Secret Service driver Greer did not speed up after the first shots were fired.*
- 4. Secret Service driver Greer speed up only after he turned around a second time to verify the kill shot to the president's head.*
- 5. There were no secret service agents protecting the President during the entire period when the shots were fired.*

[END PART 9]

R. Michael Gordon, 2021

[Next week: Part 9: How many shots were fired?]