

“Your Lying Eyes” – Josiah Thompson’s Lonely Labyrinth

A Critical Review of “Last Second in Dallas”

by Premier Kissov IIⁱ

“*Last Second in Dallas*” (LSID) purports to present a “startling new picture” of the Kennedy assassination. LSID is Josiah “Tink” Thompson’s Summa Theologica -- his *magnum opus* for dogmatic true believers in a JFK assassination conspiracy. LSID is Thompson’s modified, updated, and redux rehabilitation of the multiple-shooter hypothesis he outlined 54 years ago in his (1967) “*Six Seconds in Dallas*” (SSID).

Caveat emptor. LSID is not for the open-minded, informed, historian (amateur or professional) seeking to fairly weigh the competing evidence for and against a JFK assassination conspiracy.

With the manifest and mature (now 86-year-old) skills of a published author, private investigator, and former college philosophy professor, Josiah Thompson assembles all of the “best evidence” – pieces of his metaphorical puzzle that he believes prove that there were three shooters in Dealey Plaza. Sleuth Thompson deconstructs the JFK assassination as he discards puzzle pieces that now don’t seem to fit while crafting (with his jeweler’s loupe) others that should.

LSID is a prosecutor’s brief – a biased collage of evidence that Josiah Thompson believes settles the conspiracy question. LSID is Thompson’s final and best shot – his 476-page, *Warren Commission* “kill shot.” Many serious and informed “buffs” who have studied the JFK assassination will read LSID and see that Thompson laid his crosshairs on the wrong target. What is missing is Thompson’s failure to confront the more compelling, countervailing evidence (circumstantial and physical) that Lee Harvey Oswald was the “lone wolf” assassin.

LSID is a work of advocacy and suffers from confirmation bias. Had Oswald been tried in a court of law – which Ruby’s murder of Oswald avoided – there would have been an adversarial process where both sides would have to argue their case to a presumptively impartial jury. Few historians doubt that Oswald would have been convicted (in separate trials) of assassinating JFK *and* murdering J. D. Tippit – whether or not the question of multiple assassins was settled. In fairness to the author, that is not the objective of LSID. Thompson is prosecuting *his* case for a conspiracy.

This limited review will analyze several examples of confirmation bias in Thompson’s prosecutorial brief including what Thompson missed – or avoided. We will start this critique near the beginning of LSID when, in 1966, our 31-year old fledgling sleuth demonstrates his investigative creativity, initiative, conspiratorial predisposition – and naiveté.

TINK’S ABNEY LEVEL

The comprehensive Index in LSID shows the first mention of an “Abney level” to be on page 12. [It’s on page 13.] In 1966, Thompson is preparing for his first trek to Dealey Plaza and needs

some device to “measure the elevation from one point to another.” He goes to an “engineering supply company” in North Philadelphia and is sold an Abney level for (exactly) \$67.50.

Thompson (correctly) explains that an Abney level is a handheld device with a bubble level and small telescope that can be aimed at a target to measure the angle between the eye level of the viewer and the target. [An Abney level is nearly identical to a nautical sextant but uses a bubble level instead of the horizon line.] This is what a typical Abney level looks like:



Why does Thompson need an Abney level? Ref. to LSID, p. 14. He wants to use it to confirm the possible origin of the shot that struck Governor Connally in the back – Thompson explains: “the 27 degrees Connally’s surgeon had calculated, and how I had been reading about the assassination for months and had found no mention that anyone – not the Dallas police, not the FBI, not the Warren Commission – had ever asked the question: What would that 27-degree bullet trajectory line up with if you looked back along it?”

Our fledgling sleuth walks onto Elm street – to the approximate location of the limousine when Connally was wounded – whips out his Abney level and shoots elevations to the alleged sniper’s nest in the 6th-floor window of the TSBD, and the roofs lines of the Dal-Tex and Records Building. Thompson will mention the “27-degree” angle multiple times in LSID – as though it’s the cipher key to decoding the JFK assassination Rosetta Stone. It is not – for several reasons.

1. However Connally’s surgeon had “calculated” the 27-degree angle of the back entry wound, it was an *approximation*. What that surgeon, Thompson, and no one else knew with any degree of certainty is the vertical orientation of Connally’s body at the moment the bullet entered his back.
2. Connally’s surgeon at Parkland had not witnessed the assassination and (obviously) had not studied the Zapruder film. He had no idea of the orientation of Connally’s body at the moment the bullet entered his back. As a useful, accurate datum to plot a (back

azimuth) trajectory, the 27-degree measurement was worthless. The *guestimated* angle of Connally's back entry wound, while lying in an OR at Parkland, is irrelevant.

3. According to the "Single-Bullet Theory" (SBT) – accepted by the Warren Commission *and* the HSCA – the bullet that struck Connally first struck JFK's back and exited his throat. The possible deflection of CE 399's trajectory (caused by JFK's body) cannot be calculated with any degree of certainty.

A picayune criticism? Perhaps. Why even mention this? Because, apparently, at the very outset of his first, on-site investigation in Dealey Plaza in 1966 – three years after the assassination – Josiah Thompson is pursuing a conspiracy theory that has Connally wounded by another bullet – not Warren Commission exhibit CE 399.

BULLET FRAGMENTS and NEUTRON ACTIVATION ANALYSIS

Thompson *correctly* refutes the neutron activation analysis (NAA) that initially "proved" that the 3 bullet fragments recovered from the JFK limousine came from the *same* 6.5mm round that the Warren Commission and FBI concluded was fired by the Mannlicher-Carcano found on the 6th floor of the Texas School Book Depository (TSBD). Subsequent (post-Warren Commission) experiments indicate that NAA tests were not dispositive – the material used to cast the bullet's core is too heterogeneous. In LSID, Thompson declines to state the obvious: Although the NAA testing cannot be used to *confirm* that the fragments all came from the same bullet, does not prove that they did NOT come from the same bullet. Below is an image of one of the largest fragments – from the bullet nose (CE 567):



Below is an enlargement of another large limousine fragment from the base (CE 569):

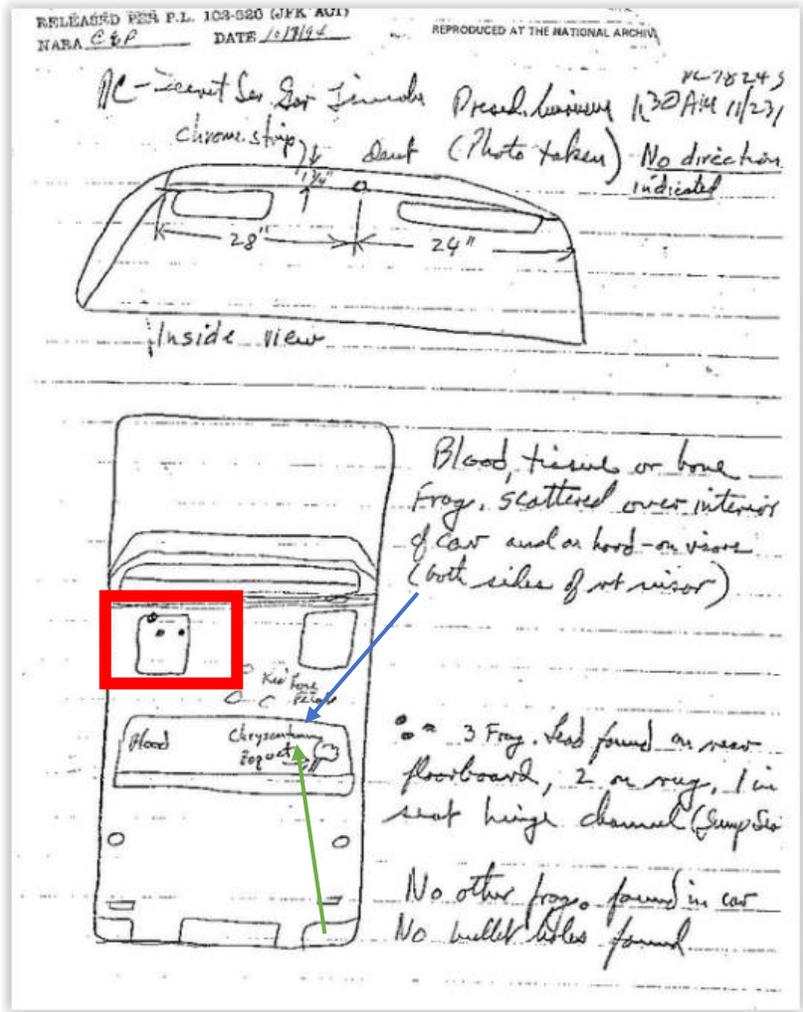


These two fragments (above) include portions of the copper jacket and the lead core – identical in appearance (and rifling symmetry) to the 6.5mm FMJ rounds fired by the Oswald’s Mannlicher-Carcano, and identical to CE 399 the so-called “magic bullet” (below). The FBI concluded that those large fragments *were* fired from the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle purchased by Oswald and found on the 6th floor of the TSBD.



Note the obvious and extreme deformation of the base of the CE 399, above. It has been crushed from its original *cylindrical* base to an *irregular ellipse*. What force (or impact) could cause that deformation? Thompson does not include an image of the deformed butt in LSID. Instead, he disingenuously claims that CE 399 *resembles* test rounds of 6.5mm ammunition fired into tubes backed with cotton. (Ref. Photo 2-1, p. 22)

The above images of the large fragments (CE 567 and CE 569) are clearly of a full-metal jacket (FMJ) 6.5mm round – not pieces of a “frangible” bullet that is designed to fragment on impact as Thompson theorizes for the first of his two “simultaneous” headshots – the alleged shot from the Grassy Knoll.



Three large fragments were found in the presidential limousine *forward* and *to the left* of JFK's location when his head exploded (Z-313). On the FBI field sketch above, the BLUE arrow indicates the approximate direction of the alleged shot from the Grassy Knoll (GK). The RED arrow shows the approximate direction of a headshot from the TSBD. The large fragments of a Mannlicher-Carcano, 6.5mm bullet, found under the jumpseat (one fragment on its frame) of Nellie Connally, are consistent with a headshot from the TSBD, not the Grassy Knoll. [The blue and red arrows and red box were added by this author.]

Below is a photo showing Nellie Connally moments before the assassination. Note the location of the two DPD motorcycle policemen (Hargis and Martin) to the left rear of the limousine. [Note also how JFK's jacket has moved up in back – bunched *above* his shoulder and neckline.]

Thompson repetitiously claims that the brain matter and blood splatter that went to the left-rear of the limousine – some of which hit the two DPD motorcycle policemen -- is consistent with the left, rearward head movement evident after Z-313 and, therefore, evidence of a shot from the Grassy Knoll (GK). Thompson also believes that the GK headshot was a "dum-dum"

(frangible) bullet – not a 6.5mm full metal jacket (FMJ) – like the “magic bullet” or the large fragments found on and under Nellie Connally’s jump seat. Thompson ignores the obvious implications of the large metal fragments – their type *and* location in the limousine – until he develops his *second* headshot (from the rear) hypothesis, later in LSID.



BLOOD-SPLATTER ANALYSIS

In his 1967, “Six Seconds in Dallas,” and again (54 years later) in “Last Second in Dallas,” Thompson claims that (noted above) the blood spattered on the two DPD motorcycle escorts to the left and rear of the presidential limousine, reinforces the hypothesis of an alleged Grassy Knoll kill shot from the right front. In 2008, NBC News presented new research into the Kennedy assassination in a report entitled:

“Tech puts JFK conspiracy theories to rest -- A team of experts assembled by the Discovery Channel has recreated the assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Using modern technology, the team determined that the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository was the most likely origin of the shot that killed the 35th president of the United States.” The summary of the report can be read [HERE](#).

LSID makes no mention of this 2008 report as it supports the Warren Commission concluded that the lethal headshot came from the TSBD and not the Grassy Knoll. The introduction to this study is telling [emphasis added]:

“A team of experts assembled by the Discovery Channel has recreated the assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Using modern blood spatter analysis, new artificial human body surrogates, and 3-D computer simulations, the team determined that the sixth

floor of the Texas School Book Depository was the most likely origin of the shot that killed the 35th president of the United States.” [emphasis added]

An excerpt from the body of the 2008 report indicates the impartiality of this study:

“Schliebe, along with Tom Bevel, an independent expert forensic investigator, was brought in to examine the simulated crime scene. Both scientists had no idea what the experiment was for or that it was a reenactment of the JFK assassination. [emphasis added]

The two experts found a simulated gunshot wound to the head that closely matched the wound Kennedy suffered. Most of the simulated body material had spattered forward into the car, consistent with a shot that entered the back of the head and exited toward the front.

There was some back-spatter — material that flew back in the opposite direction of the bullet's trajectory — but not much. The general lack of back spatter and the preponderance of spatter in another direction are two of the clues, among others, that the investigators used to pinpoint the origin of the shots.

"After Tom and I looked at the scene, we pointed up and back away from the vehicle," said Schliebe. "Apparently that lined up perfectly with where the sharpshooter had hit the model head."

The report's conclusion is significant:

“Only two of the 486 Zapruder frames actually show Kennedy being shot. Computer graphics expert Doug Martin highlighted the red parts of the frames and the blood resulting from the wound, and plotted them onto the computer simulation to see where the fatal shot came from.”

"We might never know if Oswald pulled the trigger, but when you look at the wind pattern, the spread of the debris, the angles and distances involved, it's consistent with a shot from the sixth-floor depository," said Martin. [emphasis added]

“This kind of computer analysis has only been available for about five years, says Martin. He expects criminologists will continue to make use of 3-D crime scene simulations to help reconstruct events and gather evidence a 2-D picture alone can't reveal.”

"I think this is the wave of the future," said Martin. "If we had this technology back in the '60s, I think it would have put a lot of the conspiracy theories to rest."

Doubtful.

The SINGLE-BULLET THEORY (SBT)

The Warren Commission's "Single-Bullet Theory" (SBT) predicate is that CE 399 -- the "magic bullet" fired by Oswald's rifle -- caused all the wounds to JFK's back and throat and (then) all of Governor Connally's 5 wounds (back, ribs, chest, wrist, and thigh). Thompson and other conspiracy theorists have a four-pronged attack on the SBT: Alignment, timing, the limited damage to CE 399, and the authenticity of CE 399.

Conspiracists promote the fallacy that there was never an alignment between the sniper's window on the 6th floor of the TSBD, Kennedy's back and throat wounds, and Connally's back and chest wounds. They allege that one bullet (the "magic bullet") could not have caused Kennedy's wounds and Governor Connally's 5 wounds, claiming CE-399 wasn't sufficiently damaged and often (falsely) referring to the "magic bullet" as "pristine."

The minimal damage assertion is one of the first that Thompson makes in LSID. Below an image (LSID, p.22) of CE-399 (apparently exhibiting little damage) standing between two other 6.5mm Mannlicher-Carcano rounds, author Thompson makes an "appeal to authority" -- the opinion of Cyril Wecht, "MD, a leading forensic pathologist and past president of the American Academy of Forensic Scientists." [Thompson forgot to include Wecht's "JD" after his "MD."] In May of 1967, Wecht (looking at pictures of CE-399) tells Thompson that it is "*utterly impossible*" for "*a projectile to have done all this and remain only slightly damaged.*" (LSID, p.22) Cyril Wecht was the Deputy Coroner and then Coroner of Allegheny County (Pittsburg), Pennsylvania. He never served in the military. He later became famous for making cameo televised appearances as an "expert witness" in numerous high-profile cases. [You can read more about Wecht's controversial professional and Democratic political career [HERE](#).] Thompson fails to ask Cyril Wecht the obvious question -- if Wecht had ever examined any wounds caused by a Mannlicher-Carcano, 6.5mm FMJ bullet. Or a related question: How many of the alleged 14,000 (routine) examinations (that Wecht claims to have made as a coroner), were caused by any type of military, full-metal-jacket ammunition? Subsequent recreations of the assassination with 6.5mm FMJ ammunition will prove that Wecht's incredulity is a meager substitute for detailed, *subject-specific* experimentation and knowledge. As Dale Myers notes:

"This was the same Dr. Wecht who [will testify] before the Rockefeller Commission...that the evidence established that there was only one headshot and it was fired from behind. [18] As I pointed out earlier, seventeen pathologists have reviewed the autopsy materials and agree that there is only one entrance wound in the president's skull -- in the back of the head." [Ref. [HERE](#)]

Thompson makes no mention in LSID of the June 1975 Rockefeller Commission Report (named after, then, Vice President Nelson Rockefeller) that was tasked with reviewing (inter alia) the CIA's post-1947 activities related to allegedly illegal domestic (US) intelligence activities -- including plans to assassinate foreign leaders like Fidel Castro. Chapter 19 of the Report is

entitled "Allegations Concerning the Assassination of President Kennedy." In its review of the Warren Commission evidence, the Rockefeller Commission considered the following:

- "The Allegation that President Kennedy was Struck in the Head by a Bullet Fired from His Right Front." Here is an excerpt from p. 258:

At Frame 313 of the Zapruder film, the President has been struck by the bullet that killed him, and his head has moved forward noticeably. At Frame 314 (which is about 1/18 of a second later) his head is already moving backward. Succeeding frames of the film show a rapid backward movement of the President's head and upper body, and at the same time his head and body are shown to be turning toward his left. Still later frames show the President's body collapsing onto the back seat of the car.

The evidence presented to the Warren Commission revealed that the speed of the Zapruder motion picture camera was 18.3 frames per second. If the film is projected at that speed, the forward movement of the President's head from Frame 312 to Frame 313 is not readily perceived. On the other hand, such forward movement is evident upon careful measurement of still projections of the relevant frames. It is very short, both in distance and duration. The backward movement and the turning of the President's head toward the left are rapid, pronounced and readily apparent during a running of the film at either normal or slow speed.

It was claimed that the movement of the President's head and body backward and to the left is consistent only with a shot having come from the right front of the Presidential car—that is, from the direction of the grassy knoll.

Medical and ballistics experts were consulted. Also considered were (1) the autopsy report on the body of President Kennedy, and (2) the report of a panel of medical experts who, in February 1968, at the request of Attorney General Ramsey Clark, reviewed the autopsy report and the autopsy photographs, x-ray films, motion picture

The Rockefeller Report continues on p. 259:

films of the assassination, the clothing worn by President Kennedy and other relevant materials.

The autopsy report of James J. Humes, M.D., J. Thornton Boswell, M.D., and Pierre A. Finck, M.D., described the President's head wounds as follows:

The fatal wound entered the skull above and to the right of the external occipital protuberance. A portion of the projectile traversed the cranial cavity in a posterior-anterior direction (see lateral skull roentgenograms) depositing minute particles along its path. A portion of the projectile made its exit through the parietal bone on the right carrying with it portions of the cerebrum, skull and scalp. The two wounds of the skull combined with the force of the missile produced extensive fragmentation of the skull, laceration of the superior sagittal sinus, and of the right cerebral hemisphere.

In February 1968, a panel of physicians met in Washington, D.C., at the request of Attorney General Ramsey Clark, to examine the autopsy report, the autopsy photographs and x-rays, the Zapruder, Nix and Muchmore motion picture films of the assassination, and various other evidence pertaining to the death of President Kennedy. Each of the four physicians constituting the panel had been nominated by a prominent person who was not in the employment of the federal government. They were:

William H. Carnes, M.D., Professor of Pathology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah; Member of Medical Examiner's Commission, State of Utah. Nominated by Dr. J. E. Wallace Sterling, President of Stanford University.

Russel S. Fisher, M.D., Professor of Forensic Pathology, University of Maryland; and Chief Medical Examiner of the State of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland. Nominated by Dr. Oscar B. Hunter, Jr., President of the College of American Pathologists.

Russel H. Morgan, M.D., Professor of Radiology, School of Medicine, and Professor of Radiological Science, School of Hygiene and Public Health, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland. Nominated by Dr. Lincoln Gordon, President of The Johns Hopkins University.

Alan R. Moritz, M.D., Professor of Pathology, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio; and former Professor of Forensic Medicine, Harvard University. Nominated by Dr. John A. Hannah, President of Michigan State University.

After reviewing the autopsy photographs, and making their findings concerning them, the Panel said in its report:

These findings indicate that the back of the head was struck by a single bullet traveling at high velocity, the major portion of which passed through the right cerebral hemisphere, and which produced an explosive type of fragmentation of the skull and laceration of the scalp. The appearance of the entrance wound

in the scalp is consistent with its having been produced by a bullet similar to that of Exhibit CE 399.²

After a review of the autopsy x-rays, the Panel's report states:

The foregoing observations indicate that the decedent's head was struck from behind by a single projectile. It entered the occipital region 25 mm. to the right of the midline and 100 mm. above the external occipital protuberance. The projectile fragmented on entering the skull, one major section leaving a trail of fine metallic debris as it passed forward and laterally to explosively fracture the right frontal and parietal bones as it emerged from the head.

The Panel discussed its findings as follows:

The decedent was wounded by two bullets both of which entered his body from behind.

One bullet struck the back of the decedent's head well above the external occipital protuberance. Based upon the observation that he was leaning forward with his head turned obliquely to the left when this bullet struck, the photographs and x-rays indicate that it came from a site above and slightly to his right.

The absence of metallic fragments in the left cerebral hemisphere or below the level of the frontal fosse on the right side together with the absence of any holes in the skull to the left of the midline or in its base and the absence of any penetrating injury of the left hemisphere eliminate with reasonable certainty the possibility of a projectile having passed through the head in any direction other than from back to front as described in preceding sections of this report.

Certain other evidence relating to the source of the bullets that struck President Kennedy was noted. This included the following:

a. The bullet fragments found in the Presidential car which were large enough to bear ballistics marks were determined by the FBI to have been fired by the Oswald rifle found on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository building, and not from any other weapon. CE 399 was also fired from that rifle.

b. No physical evidence, such as a rifle, shell casings, bullets, or damage to the Presidential car, was ever found which would support a theory that one or more shots were fired from a direction other than from behind and above the President.

c. Most eyewitnesses testified that three shots were fired. Three shell casings were found near the window at the southeast corner of the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository building, and all of them were determined by the FBI to have been fired by the Oswald rifle to the exclusion of any other weapon. That window was also the one in which a man firing a rifle was seen by witnesses who testified before the Warren Commission. The

² CE 399 was Warren Commission Exhibit 399, a nearly whole bullet found in Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas on the day of the assassination. It was established by ballistics experts as having been fired by the rifle found on the sixth floor of the TSBD building and found by the Warren Commission to have belonged to Lee Harvey Oswald. The Warren Commission determined that bullet passed through President Kennedy's neck and then struck Governor Connally, who was sitting directly in front of President Kennedy, and who was taken to Parkland Hospital.

Alfred G. Olivier, V.M.D., Director, Department of Biophysics, Biomedical Laboratories, Edgewood Arsenal, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland.³

The Panel members separately submitted their respective conclusions. They were unanimous in finding that the President was struck by only two bullets, both of which were fired from the rear, and that there is no medical evidence to support a contention that the President was struck by any bullet coming from any other direction.

They were also unanimous in finding that the violent backward and leftward motion of the President's upper body following the head shot was not caused by the impact of a bullet coming from the front or right front.

Drs. Spitz, Lindenberg and Hodges reported that such a motion would be caused by a violent straightening and stiffening of the entire body as a result of a seizure-like neuromuscular reaction to major damage inflicted to nerve centers in the brain.

Dr. Olivier reported that experiments which have been conducted at Edgewood Arsenal disclosed that goats shot through the brain evidenced just such a violent neuromuscular reaction. There was a convulsive stiffening and extension of their legs to front and rear, commencing forty milliseconds (1/25 of a second) after the bullet entered the brain. In the past two decades, Dr. Olivier and his associates have conducted extensive tests on the effects of high velocity bullets fired into live animals, using high speed photography to record the results.

Dr. Olivier reported that the violent motions of the President's body following the head shot could not possibly have been caused by the *impact* of the bullet. He attributed the popular misconception on this subject to the dramatic effects employed in television and motion picture productions. The *impact* of such a bullet, he explained, can cause some immediate movement of the *head* in the direction of the bullet, but it would not produce any significant movement of the *body*. He also explained that a head wound such as that sustained by President Kennedy produces an "explosion" of tissue at the area where the bullet exits from the head, causing a "jet effect" which almost instantly moves the head back in the direction from which the bullet came.

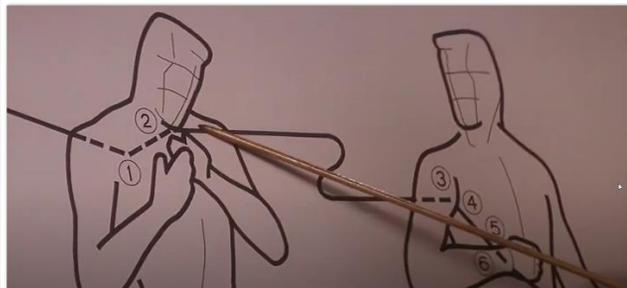
³ Dr. McMeekin is a forensic pathologist who has done extensive studies in the field of accident reconstruction, utilizing computer-assisted analysis of the reactions of human body components to the application of various forces. Dr. Lindenberg is a prominent authority in the field of neuropathology, i.e., the pathology of the brain and nervous system. Dr. Spitz is a forensic pathologist who has had extensive experience with gunshot wounds and is an editor of a textbook on forensic pathology. Dr. Hodges is a specialist in radiology and surgery associated with the brain and nervous system. In 1973-1974 he served as President of the American Society of Neuroradiology. Dr. Olivier has conducted numerous experiments to study the effects on animals and humans of penetrating wounds from high velocity bullets. Drs. Spitz, Lindenberg and Hodges hold faculty positions in the Medical Schools of Wayne State University, the University of Maryland, and The Johns Hopkins University, respectively.

Also not mentioned in LSID is the 1975-76 “Church Committee” (named after Democratic Senator Frank Church) that followed closely on the heels of the Rockefeller Commission. As noted by the Mary Ferrell Foundation,

“This short report sharply faulted those agencies, stating that the Committee developed evidence which impeaches the process by which the intelligence agencies arrived at their own conclusions about the assassination, and by which they provided information to the Warren Commission. This evidence indicates that the [Warren Commission] investigation of the assassination was deficient.”

The Church Committee’s investigation into the Kennedy assassination ([HERE](#)) did not extend into a review of the question of multiple shooters; however, they did not question the unambiguous conclusions of the Rockefeller Commission.

Regarding the so-called impossible alignment of JFK and Connally, Oliver Stone’s (1991) “JFK” motion picture portrayal (fictional canonization) of the alleged zigzag path of the Warren Commission’s single-bullet theory (SBT) seems to demonstrate that Oswald could not have wounded the President and Governor Connally with a single shot from the 6th floor of the Texas School Book Depository (TSBD). Below (left) is an image from Oliver Stone’s “JFK” showing Kevin Costner (playing New Orleans DA Jim Garrison) explaining the impossibility of the “magic bullet” single-shot theory. The zigzag diagrams can be seen on posters in the background of the courtroom movie scene – the image below on the left. The image below on the right shows Costner’s assistant using a pointer to explain the allegedly impossible alignment. Oliver Stone’s historical fiction was compelling, memorable – and *grossly* inaccurate.



The conspiracists’ claim of an impossible alignment has been proven wrong – thanks to the research of forensic scientists and the computer recreation of Dealey Plaza – including the actual seating relationship of JFK and Connally in the presidential limousine as it moved down Elm Street.

In Nov 2014, Fred Kaplan wrote an article for *Slate*, entitled “Killing Conspiracy -- Why the best conspiracy theories about JFK’s assassination don’t stand up to scrutiny.” Kaplan notes:

“Then, in November 2003, on the murder’s 40th anniversary, I watched an ABC News documentary called ‘The Kennedy Assassination: Beyond Conspiracy.’ In one segment, the producers showed the actual car in which the president and the others had been riding that day. One feature of the car, which I’d never heard or read about before, made my jaw literally drop. The back seat, where JFK rode, was three inches higher than the front seat, where Connally rode. Once that adjustment was made, the line from Oswald’s rifle to Kennedy’s upper back to Connally’s ribcage and wrist appeared absolutely straight. There was no need for a magic bullet.” [emphasis added]

Dale Myers’ meticulous recreation ([HERE](#)) shows the *actual* position of Connally relative to JFK (lower and two the left) that makes the SBT hypothesis not merely probable, *but inevitable*. The HSCA, in agreement with the Warren Commission, confirmed this alignment and accepted the reality of the Single Bullet Theory.

Below is a picture of Warren Commission Counsel, Arlen Specter, demonstrating (much more accurately than Kevin Costner) the SBT, which Specter is credited with promoting to the Warren Commission.



Josiah Thompson doesn’t comment in LSID on multiple reenactments that confirm this alignment and mentions Arlen Specter only 3 times in passing; once, noting that Specter was not an advocate of the late-emerging acoustical evidence during the post-Warren Commission HSCA proceedings.

Thompson and other conspiracists assert that the holes in Kennedy's jacket and shirt are too low to account for the trajectory that would permit a single shot to align with the 6th-floor TSBD window, JFK's back entrance wound, his neck wound, and Connally's back entrance and chest exit wounds. Below are two photos showing how high JFK's jacket was riding shortly before the assassination:



The images below show the locations of JFK's back and throat wounds as they appeared during the autopsy at Bethesda Naval Hospital. Notice the location of the back entry wound relative to the lower neck crease. [The (added) orange arrow shows the *approximate* trajectory.]



THE PROVENANCE OF CE 399 – THE “MAGIC BULLET”

In LSID, as he did in his 1967 SSID, Thompson attacks the *authenticity* of CE-399, the “magic bullet,” which he infers was introduced (planted) into evidence – AFTER *another* bullet (with a pointed nose, unlike CE-399) was found on a stretcher in Parkland. With his inference of sinister activities related to CE 399, Josiah Thompson moves from his allegedly evidence-based investigation to *speculative* “evidence-switching” -- *by federal agents!* He enters this conspiratorial “Twilight Zone” early in LSID – Chapter 2, page 22.

According to Thompson’s account, a bullet was found by hospital engineer, Darrell Tomlinson “on a gurney shoved against the wall near the men’s room in the Emergency Department.” Tomlinson took the bullet to Parkland’s “Security Director,” O. P. Wright. Wright claims that he first attempted to give the bullet to an (unidentified) FBI agent who refused the offer. Wright then went to a Secret Service Agent, Richard Johnsen, who took the bullet and, later, typed a note (below) describing the location and circumstances of its discovery (pp 22-23). SSA Johnsen carried the bullet in his pocket back to Washington, DC, and gave it to Secret Service Chief, James Rowley – with his note. As Tompson (suggestively) writes in LSID: “Later that night, the bullet made its way to the FBI Laboratory. Testing was easy since the bullet was in such good shape. It had been fired from the rifle found on the sixth floor of the book depository.” [emphasis added]

Before SSA Johnsen gave the bullet to the Secret Service Chief, he typed the following note at 7:30 PM on 22 November, documenting the circumstances of his receipt of the evidence:

The attached expended bullet was received by me about
5 min., prior to Mrs. Kennedy's departure from the hospital.
It was found on one of the stretchers located in the emergency
ward of the hospital. Also on this same stretcher was rubber
gloves, a stethoscope and other doctor's paraphernalia. It
could not be determined who had used this stretcher or if
President Kennedy had occupied it. No further information
was obtained.

Name of person from who I received this bullet:

Mr. O. P. Wright
Personnel Director of Security
Dallas County Hospital District

By
Richard E. Johnsen
Special Agent
7:30 p.m.
Nov. 22, 1963

SSA Johnsen states that he received the bullet 5 minutes before Mrs. Kennedy's departure from the hospital. JFK's body left Parkland at about 2:07 PM. Below is a photo of the 2 vehicles just arriving at Love Field from Parkland Hospital. [Note the morning rain puddles on the tarmac.]



Kennedy's body and widowed First Lady Jackie Kennedy returned to Love Field in a two-car motorcade, escorted by only a few police motorcycles. (Photo by Cecil Stoughton/Mary Ferrell Foundation)

Based on SSA Johnsen's estimated time he received the bullet – 5 minutes before Mrs. Kennedy left Parkland -- we can assume that he received it at *about* 2:00 PM on 22 November. Below is the closing page of SSA Johnsen's statement (written on 30 November) to SS Chief Rowley of his activities in Dallas on 22 November.

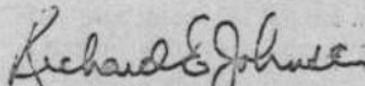
assured by the Congressman that the F.B.I. man had not attempted to produce any identification and appeared to be determined to enter the President's room. He stated that if there were any inquiries that he would be more than glad to give a statement in our Service's behalf.

Nurse Nelson was interviewed by SA Berger in my presence. She stated that the F.B.I. agent had showed her no identification.

Approximately 5 minutes prior to leaving the hospital with the casket and Mrs. Kennedy I was instructed to remain at the Presidential door and wait to be advised that the casket was leaving the hospital and then to ride the follow-up car to the airport. During this period a Mr. Wright from the security staff came to me with an expended bullet and wished to turn it over to a Secret Service Agent. The only information I was able to get from him prior to the departure of Mrs. Kennedy and the casket was that the bullet had been found on a stretcher which President Kennedy may have been placed on. He also stated that he found rubber gloves, a stethoscope, and other doctors' paraphernalia on this same stretcher.

On the drive from the hospital to AF #1 I rode the follow-up car. Upon our arrival at AF #1 I assisted in placing the casket upon USAF #26000. While awaiting for the departure of AF #1 I was instructed by STSAIC Stout to ride in the rear of the plane with the casket. This had been a request of President Johnson.

Upon our arrival at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., I positioned myself near the press area. After the statement to the press by President Johnson I rode helicopter #2 to the White House.

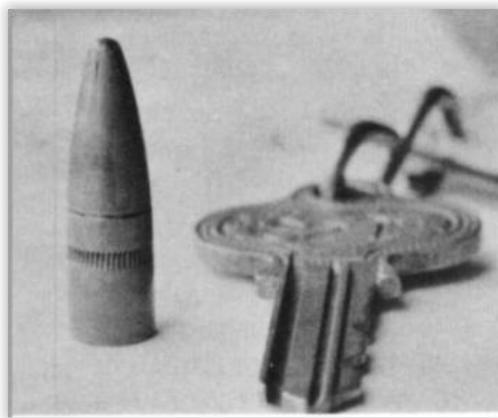

Richard E. Johnsen
SA 1-16

Three years later, in 1966, Thompson interviews Darrell Tomlinson, who is (seemingly) clueless about bullet types and cannot differentiate between different bullet shapes. O. P. Wright tells Thompson a different story; he claims that the bullet that he received did not look like CE-399. It looked like a pointed-nosed, .30-caliber bullet. How did O. P. Wright select the pointed-nosed bullet from others? Josiah Thompson "drew three bullet types on a white legal pad: one pointed like the .30 caliber, another long with a rounded tip like CE 399, and yet another rounded and squat like a .38 caliber." O. P. Wright picked the pointed-nosed bullet. For additional confirmation, Thompson pulls photos out of his "gray Danish book bag" – first a squat .38-caliber projectile. Wright "shook his head." When Thompson shows Wright the "firearms identification rounds, CE 572," (M-C, 6.5mm ammo). Wright tells Thompson, with obvious "attitude": "Look, I told you it had a pointed tip. Just like the bullet you have there." Thompson then shows Wright a photo of CE-399. Wright responds, "That's just like the last two. Same answer." Wright then gave Thompson a .30 caliber, pointed-nose bullet that Josiah Thompson later photographed in his hotel room. (Ref. p. 25, photo 2-4)

O. P. Wright just *happened* to have *in his office* the type of bullet that was allegedly found on a stretcher in the ER – 3 years earlier?! Josiah Thompson does not comment on this *bizarre* event – or how or why Wright had a replica of the bullet he received in 1963, in his office 3 years later. Thompson simply accepts Wright’s recollections as probative; it supports a very sinister conspiracy theory. [I wonder if sleuth Thompson, put the replica, pointed-nose bullet in his “gray Danish bookbag” before he left Wright’s office. Thompson doesn’t say what he did with that bullet.] In his (1967) “Six Seconds in Dallas,” (SSID) this is how Thompson mentions O. P. Wright’s introduction of the “pointed” .30-caliber bullet (p. 175, footnote #17). “As a professional law-enforcement officer, Wright has an educated eye for bullet shapes. Thomlinson’s recollection of bullet shapes was not very clear, and he could only say that the bullet resembled either CE 572 (the ballistics comparison rounds) or the pointed, .30-caliber bullet Wright had procured for us.” [emphasis added] So, in SSID, Wright had “procured” a .30-caliber bullet for “us.” Josiah Thompson understands the gravity of what he is proposing, as he explains (p. 176 of SSID in the continuation of footnote #17) [emphasis added]:

“This is an appalling piece of information, for if Wright’s information is accurate, then CE 399 must have been switched for the real bullet sometime later in the transmission chain. This could have been done only by some federal officer since it was in government possession from that time on. If this is true, the assassination conspiracy would have to have involved members of the federal government and been [sic] an ‘inside’ job.”

Based on the above O. P. Wright interview in 1966, author Thompson implies that the bullet found at Parkland was NOT the 6.5mm Mannlicher-Carcano bullet that became Warren Commission CE-399. [Thomson and fellow conspiracy buff, Gary Aguilar, MD (an ophthalmologist), will later write a short article ([HERE](#)), entitled “*The Magic Bullet: Even More Magical Than We Knew?*” elaborating on what they allege is a weak and apparently sinister “evidentiary chain of custody” for CE-399 between Parkland Hospital and the FBI in Washington, DC.] Below is the picture of the bullet that O. P. Wright gave to Josiah Thompson.



Thompson fails to tell his LSID readers that this bullet (above) is a “jacketed” bullet and NOT a frangible (or “dum-dum”) bullet that is designed to expand on impact. (Ref. LSID, p. 25)

Regarding the provenance of CE 399, what LSID author Thompson does not tell his readers is that CE 2011 documents the 1964 identification and transmission of CE 399 (then C1) from Dallas to Washington. Thompson makes no mention of CE 2011 in LSID.

Rifle Bullet, C1

On June 12, 1964, Darrell C. Tomlinson, Maintenance Employee, Parkland Hospital, Dallas, Texas, was shown Exhibit C1, a rifle slug, by Special Agent Bardwell D. Odum, Federal Bureau of Investigation. Tomlinson stated it appears to be the same one he found on a hospital carriage at Parkland Hospital on November 22, 1963, but he cannot positively identify the bullet as the one he found and showed to Mr. O. P. Wright. At the time he found the bullet, the hospital carriage was located in the Emergency Unit on the ground floor of the hospital.

On June 12, 1964, O. P. Wright, Personnel Officer, Parkland Hospital, Dallas, Texas, advised Special Agent Bardwell D. Odum that Exhibit C1, a rifle slug, shown to him at the time of the interview, looks like the slug found at Parkland Hospital on November 22, 1963, which he gave to Richard Johnson, Special Agent of the Secret Service. He stated he was not present at the time the bullet was found, but on the afternoon of November 22, 1963, as he entered the Emergency Unit on the ground floor of the hospital, Mr. Tomlinson, an employee, called to him and pointed out a bullet, which was on a hospital carriage at that location. He estimated the time as being within an hour of the time President Kennedy and Governor Connally were brought to the hospital. He advised he could not positively identify C1 as being the same bullet which was found on November 22, 1963.

On June 24, 1964, Special Agent Richard E. Johnson, United States Secret Service, Washington, D. C., was shown Exhibit C1, a rifle bullet, by Special Agent Elmer Lee Todd, Federal Bureau of Investigation. Johnson advised he could not identify this bullet as the one he obtained from O. P. Wright, Parkland Hospital, Dallas, Texas, and gave to James Rowley, Chief, United States Secret Service, Washington, D. C., on November 22, 1963.

On June 24, 1964, James Rowley, Chief, United States Secret Service, Washington, D. C., was shown Exhibit C1, a rifle bullet, by Special Agent Elmer Lee Todd. Rowley advised he could

not identify this bullet as the one he received from Special Agent Richard E. Johnsen and gave to Special Agent Todd on November 22, 1963.

On June 24, 1964, Special Agent Elmer Lee Todd, Washington, D. C., identified C1, a rifle bullet, as being the same one he received from James Rowley, Chief, United States Secret Service, Washington, D. C., on November 22, 1963. This identification was made from initials marked thereon by Special Agent Todd at the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory upon receipt.

It was SSA Richard Johansen who received the bullet in Dallas (from O. P. Wright) and delivered it to Secret Service Chief James Rowley in Washington D.C. [O. P. Wright to Johnsen to Rowley to Todd.] Yes, Chief Rowley and SSA Johnsen could not later *positively* identify the Dallas bullet – *because neither had inscribed his initials on the bullet*. However, FBI Special Agent Elmer Todd did! So, any evidence switching – from the pointy-nosed bullet to the round-nosed C1 – must have included the *criminal*, conspiratorial actions of SSA Johnsen and/or the *head* of the US Secret Service, James Rowley! Seriously?!

Additionally, the credibility of O. P. Wright's statements to Josiah Thompson in 1966 is impeached by CE 2011. On 24 June 1964 -- more than 2 years *before* they were interviewed by Thompson, *both Tomlinson, and O. P. Wright identified C1 (CE 399) as "appearing to be" and "looks like" the bullet found at Parkland*. In 1964, O. P. Wright did not hesitate, qualify, or imply that C1 was different in appearance in any way to the bullet he gave to SA Johnsen. In 1964, O. P. Wright doesn't mention a "pointed-nose" bullet that looked like a .30-caliber bullet.

CE 399 bears the initials of *three* (3) FBI agents. Does author Thompson believe that because federal agents who briefly handled the bullet between Dallas and the FBI laboratory in Washington, DC – and did not engrave their initials on the bullet (defacing the evidence) so they could not later *positively* identify the bullet as the one they received -- CE 399 was planted?! Yes! Thompson attempts to impeach the authenticity of CE 399, and, by implication, the credibility of SSA Johnsen, and the US Secret Service – including its Chief, James Rowley. From Commission Exhibit 2011 (above) the record is clear. When C1 (CE 399) left Dallas, it was in the possession of Secret Service Special Agent Richard Johnsen, who gave that bullet (and note) to the Chief of the Secret Service, James Rowley, who gave that bullet to FBI Special Agent Elmer Lee Todd on 22 November 1963 – the day of the assassination.

QUESTION FOR SLEUTH THOMPSON: The assassination occurred at 12:30 PM. Kennedy's limousine arrived at Parkland Hospital at ~12:34. The bullet that became CE 399 was found at Parkland Hospital was given to SSA Johnsen at about 2 PM. LBJ, JFK's body, and some of the Secret Service detail (among others) left Dallas Love Field at 2:48 PM; other members of the Secret Service left Dallas at 3:15 PM. The Mannlicher-Carcano rifle was found at ~ 1 PM on 22 November, on the 6th floor of the TSBD. That rifle was kept by the Dallas Police Department and not released to the FBI in Dallas until about 11:45 PM on 22 November. The Dallas FBI forwarded

the rifle (via air courier) to their FBI Identification Division, Washington, DC, where it was examined for fingerprints by Sebastian Latona, supervisor of the Latent Fingerprint Section, on November 23. *What is the evidence that Oswald's rifle was used (after the assassination) to produce (C1) CE 399 that was given to SSA Richard Johnsen by O. P. Wright before he left in the early afternoon of 22 November 1963? IF C1 (CE 399) was fired by Oswald's rifle and then planted to connect Oswald's Rifle to the crime scene – as inferred in LSID – when, how, and by whom was the forged "substitute bullet" (CE 399) created? Where is the "window of opportunity" for the fabrication and planting of CE 399? Where is the evidence?*



Richard Johnsen was born in California and graduated from the University of California. He joined the Secret Service in 1959. Special Agent Johnsen *"was assigned to the 4:00 PM to Midnight shift and was on post at the Trade Center when word came in that the President had been shot. Dick along with his fellow shift members immediately went to Parkland Hospital to assist in securing the hospital and (assisted with) the trip back to Washington D.C."* Richard "Dick" Johnsen [passed away](#) in October of 2010.

For *anyone* to allege or infer that SSA Johnsen (or Secret Service Chief Rowley) participated in a *criminal* conspiracy to frame Oswald by planting false evidence – *without compelling evidence and based on the impeached statements of O. P. Wright* – is completely *reprehensible*. It's defamatory and libelous. ["Libel" is an untrue defamatory statement that is made in writing.]

The difficulties associated with Thompson's planted CE 399 hypothesis are innumerable, insurmountable, and inexplicable. Here are a few examples – including some (paraphrased) from Professor McAdam's site [HERE](#). How could the conspirator who planted the bullet know:

- To not plant [CE 399] in a location where it could easily have been lost? [It was found under the edge of a gurney mattress – after the gurney was rolled against a wall.]
- To plant a bullet that was only "slightly" damaged -- if its role was to have passed through at least the President? [How could they know the extent of the wounds in advance?]
- To plant [CE 399] before it could have been known how many other bullets would be recovered? [Thompson believes 5 shots from 3 "professionals" were fired at Kennedy.]

- That CE 399 would *not* be the "one bullet too many" that would blow the whole plot?
- That a large bullet fragment would not be found in JFK's neck or upper back, a chunk too big to have come from CE 399?
- That Darrell Tomlinson or O.P. Wright (or others at Parkland) hadn't photographed and/or otherwise *absolutely* documented the bullet that CE 399 (supposedly) replaced!?!?

In LSID (and in SSID) Thompson's reliance on O. P. Wright's identification of a .30-caliber, pointed-nose bullet, implies two completely incredible possibilities: (1) SSA Richard Johnsen discarded that bullet he received from Wright, and replaced it with the Mannlicher-Carcano bullet that was fired by Oswald's rifle – *before the assassination*, or (2) sometime after the FBI Laboratory received the M-C rifle from the Dallas Police Department (on 23 Nov), they used it to fire a 6.5mm FMJ round (which they deformed) that was placed into evidence as C1 and became CE 399. *Each scenario is a criminal act!* Josiah Thompson seems incapable of recognizing the absurdity of either choice.

If CE 399 was *planted* evidence to connect Oswald's rifle to the assassination,

- where is the (truly magic) bullet that struck Kennedy in the back and likely exited his throat (or fell out of the back wound)?
- Where is the bullet that penetrated Connally's back, broke his rib, and exited his chest?
- If Connally was struck by another bullet *fragment* that *broke his wrist* -- as Thompson suggests (from the last headshot, not the one that exited his chest) – where is that large fragment?
- Where are the "frangible" bullet fragments?
- What bullet (or bullet fragment) made a shallow penetration of Connally's left thigh? Where is it?

In his "Final Reconstruction," (discussed below) Thompson declines to present a coherent, alternative theory – more compelling than the Warren Commission's SBT -- of the *simultaneous* wounding of JFK and Connally (at Z-223/224) who were aligned with a shot from the TSBD.

Devoted to the (rebutted) acoustical evidence, Thompson conflates those multiple (7) JFK-Connally wounds into a vague comment about a 3-shot volley being fired in "2.62 seconds" [sic. 2.75 seconds] from the vicinity of the TSBD, Dal-Tex, and Records buildings. However, Thompson knows that the FBI found ZERO bullet holes, or bullet fragments in the presidential limousine (car body, upholstery) – in addition to those Mannlicher-Carcano, 6.5mm fragments found under (and on) Nellie Connally's jump seat and CE 399 found at Parkland Hospital and the windshield and windshield frame damage – *all forward and consistent with a shot from the TSBD*. Five rifle shots fired *downward* at JFK in a limousine and – except for a dent in the windshield frame and cracks in the windshield – there is NO other damage to the limousine!

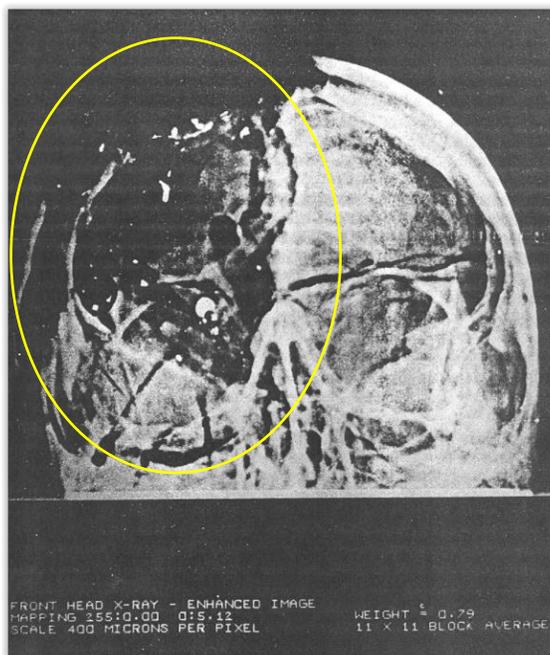
Is that documented fact more consistent with the LSID 5-shot (multiple-shooter) scenario or the Warren Commission's 3-shot (single-shooter) scenario, which includes one miss?

Thompson tries to disassociate those large fragments from the (dum-dum) headshot from the GK shooter – so (relying on the acoustical evidence) he fabricates a new piece for this puzzle: two shooters in the rear; one of them firing the final headshot from the TSBD at Z-327. The alleged headshot (shot #5) from the rear (the 6th-floor of the TSBD) can now tie up lots of loose ends left by the GK headshot -- the blood and brain debris forward in the limousine, the dent in the limousine windshield frame, the large Mannlicher-Carcano bullet fragments, and the cracked windshield.

Thompson's "newly-validated" acoustical evidence is driving his need to have two closely-spaced shots – one set at the beginning of the shooting (3 shots in 2.75 seconds) and the two nearly simultaneous (couplet) headshots at the finalé of the assassination (0.75 seconds apart).

IF you remove CE 399 from ballistics evidence, where are the fragments and bullet holes in the limousine from the multiple (5) rounds alleged fired at JFK and wounding both JFK and Connally? There is a dent on the *inside* of the limousine windshield *frame* and the "stellate" shaped defect on the *inside* of the limousine windshield (*left* of the rearview mirror) that cracked the laminated glass – consistent with a fragment from the headshot from the TSBD. And we have the 3 larger fragments under (one in the frame of) Nellie Connally's jump seat – consistent with the same headshot from the TSBD.

DAMAGE TO JFK'S HEAD



Above is the *front* x-ray of JFK's skull. Note the location of the small lead particles – ONLY in the RIGHT hemisphere of the skull (circled in yellow). Refer to Figure LSID, page 16-18. If there was

a shot fired *downward* from the GK that struck JFK on the side of his head, *above his right ear*, why is there no damage to the LEFT hemisphere of Kennedy's brain? Why don't the skull x-rays show bullet fragments embedded in the *left* brain hemisphere and *left* skull of JFK? [Frangible bullets are designed to EXPAND as they *penetrate* – which creates a more damaging wound. They are not designed to disintegrate on impact and turn into the tiny particles that Thompson suggests are indicative of a frangible (dum-dum) bullet. The most common type is the classic "hollow-point." No fragments were recovered from the limousine, or JFK, or Connally that were identified by the FBI as coming from a "frangible" bullet.]

The bullet that O. P. Wright gave to Josiah Thompson was not a "frangible" bullet! Thompson's LSID (Persian bizarre) hypothesis includes 3 bullet types: the TSBD 6.5mm FMJ M-C; the GK "dum-dum" frangible bullet; and a .30-caliber pointed-nose FMJ bullet found a Parkland.

The massive JFK right hemisphere skull damage and brain damage, and damage to the limousine are consistent with *one* headshot from the TSBD ranging from the back to the front of Kennedy's head. The airborne blood and brain matter, blown toward the left rear of the limousine is consistent with the gusty crosswinds (from the West) and direction of the limousine. JFK's head movement to the left rear is consistent with a *tangential* headshot -- from the TSBD. Kennedy's *body* movement was likely influenced by the neuromuscular reaction caused by the destruction of much of the right hemisphere of his brain, his back brace, and the location of Jacqueline Kennedy to his left.

THE HARPER FRAGMENT

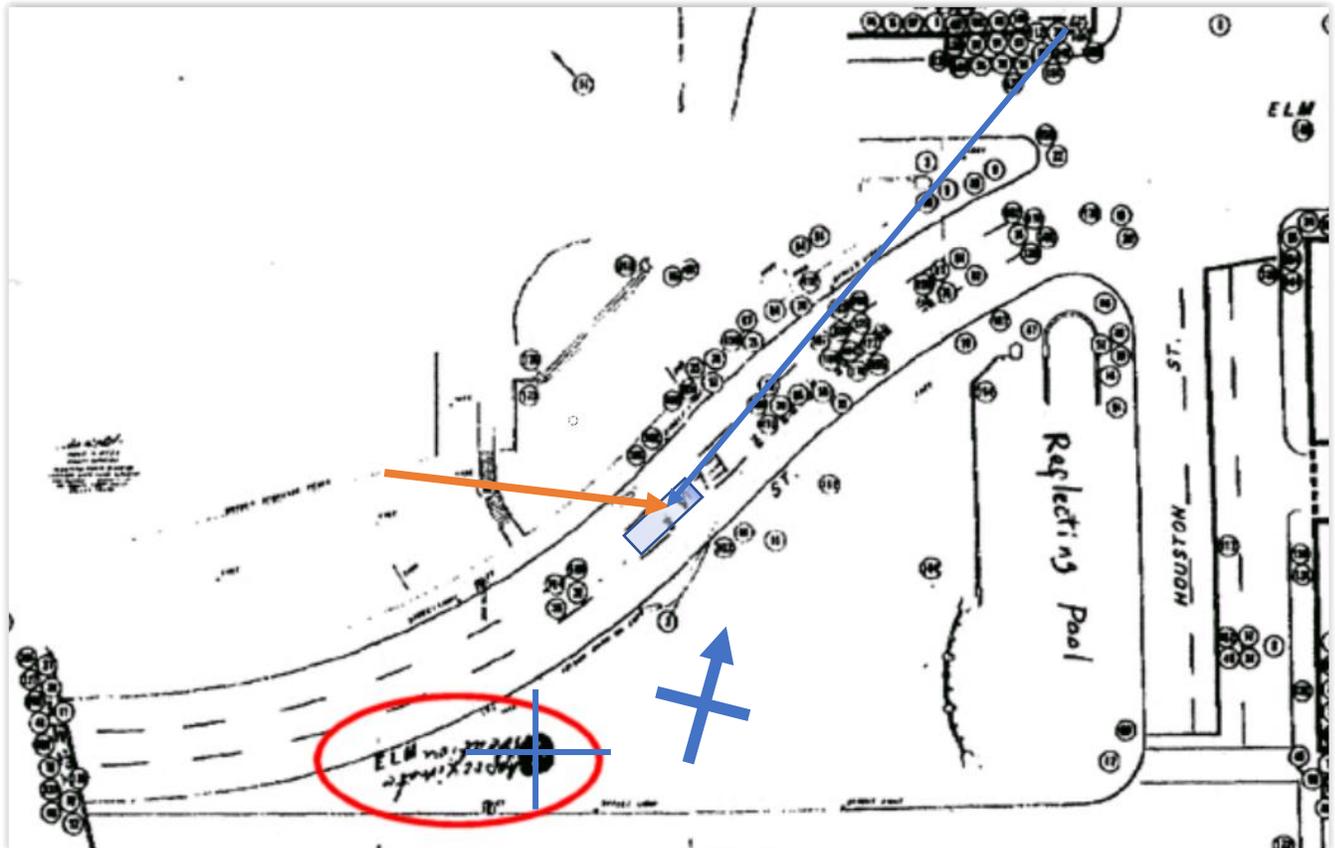
At least one bone fragment appears in Z-313 and 314 as JFK's head explodes. This fragment is moving upward and *forward*. Below is an enlargement of Z-313 with the fragment's movement highlighted. [Other "enhanced" Z-313 & 314 frames seem to show multiple fragments.]



On LSID pages 268, 269, and in endnote #52 to Chapter 16, Thompson recounts the discovery of the Harper fragment and another bone fragment found by Sheriff's Deputy Seymour Weitzman "in the Elm Street gutter about 10 feet to the left of the limousine's path..." The Harper fragment was found the following afternoon (23 Nov) "approximately twenty-five feet left of its origin point in the president's head." That's false! Thompson continues his creative narrative, "Such paths for these fragments are consistent with the impact of a bullet from the right front striking the skull above the right temple on a tangent and throwing off these fragments." In endnote #52, p. 426, Thompson continues his deceptive account of the location of these fragments. Weitzman testified that the fragment he found was located "8 to 12 inches from the [south] curb of Elm street." [On page 268, Thompson said it was "in the Elm Street gutter..."] Concerning the Harper fragment, Thompson quotes from the FBI report that the fragment was found "approximately 25 feet south of the spot where President Kennedy was shot." [emphasis added] The FBI report is reasonably accurate. Thompson's characterization is not.

What Thompson does not show his readers is where, in 1997, Billy Harper located the fragment on a map of Dealey Plaza (below). The blue crosshairs (inside the orange ellipse) are directly over Harper's location of the fragment. Note the blue North arrow. The fragment was indeed located south of the limousine – not 25 feet "left of its origin point in the president's head."

22



[This author has superimposed the approximate location of the limousine at Z-313. The orange arrow is the approximate trajectory of the *alleged* GK shot. The blue arrow from the TSBD shows the trajectory of the headshot that drove the Harper fragment to the “south” of the limousine – where it was found by Billy Harper.] The alleged GK shot could not have driven the fragment backwards and against the wind. Only the most *doctrinaire* conspiracist would claim that an alleged GK shot could drive the Harper fragment where it was found. [Some conspiracists have claimed that the bone must have been moved by a dog!] Thompson completely ignores the obvious – for good reason. A more detailed study of the location of the Harper fragment is [HERE](#).

THE ACOUSTICAL EVIDENCE

In professorial jargon, Thompson would often refer to the “centrality” of the Zapruder film when he discussed (and promoted) his 1967 “Six Seconds in Dallas” hypothesis. Now, in “Last Second in Dallas,” his *deus ex machina* is not cinematic but auditory -- the alleged “acoustical evidence.” The acoustical evidence is the capstone of “*major new forensic discoveries since the year 2000 that overturn previously accepted ‘facts’ about the Kennedy assassination*” – at least according to the blurb on the dust jacket of LSID.

Thompson does a credible job of explaining the genesis of the “acoustical evidence” – the allegedly strongest, non-anecdotal, “scientific” evidence of multiple shooters. This acoustical evidence consists of the analysis of recordings of what are purported to be gunshots in Dealey Plaza during the assassination. These recordings were discovered and developed (belatedly and hurriedly) in the last several weeks of the 1977-78 House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) investigation. As their acoustical experts, the HSCA used Bolt, Baranek, and Newman (BBN) and, later for confirmation, professor Mark Weiss and Ernest Aschkenasy (WA) of Queens College, NYC. [Thanks to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), Engineering, and Medicine, you can listen to the *actual* recordings [HERE](#).] What Thompson ignores or attacks are the numerous studies and experts who disagree with and rebut the HSCA experts.

H. B. McLain, James Bowles, Michael O’Dell, Dale Myers, Greg Jaynes, Michael Russ, the NRC, the FBI, IBM, the Justice Department, Larry Sapabot and Sonalysts, etc., discredit the alleged “newly validated” acoustical evidence. As this paper and other studies show, the spacing of the sounds – alleged rifle shots allegedly recorded in Dealey Plaza – do not synchronize with the physical movements in the Zapruder film. That lack of synchronicity supports the opinion of many others that the Dictabelt recording did not include sounds of rifle shots in Dealey Plaza.

Thompson states (pp. 280-81) that some members of the HSCA had “basically accused the Committee of rushing to a conclusion.” Indeed they did. He mentions Christopher Dodd and Representative Robert Edgar of Pennsylvania. In fact,

"Four of the twelve committee members-House Representatives Harold S. Sawyer (R-Mich.), Robert W. Edgar (D-Penn.), Samuel L. Devine (R-Ohio), and Charles Thone (R-Neb.) vigorously disagreed with the HSCA's conclusions, contending that the panel rushed to judgment in concluding that a conspiracy existed. They felt that the last-minute acoustic evidence should have been studied more closely before drawing such a history-changing conclusion (see dissent of Edgar and Devine, HSCA Report, pp.491-498)." [Bugliosi, op. cit., Endnotes, p. 153][emphasis added]

HSCA Member, Robert Edgar succinctly states the dissenting opinion:

"We found no evidence to suggest a conspiracy. We found no gunmen or evidence of a [second] gunman. We found no gun, no shells, no impact of shots from the grassy knoll. We found no entry wounds from the front into any person, including President John Kennedy and Gov. John Connally. We found no bullets or fragments of bullets that did not belong to the Oswald weapon. And we found little, if any, evidence of partnership [sic] with Lee Harvey Oswald. Few credible ear-witness accounts back up the marginal findings of our acoustics experts" (HSCA Report, p.496). [Ibid][emphasis added]

While Thompson's LSID hypothesis selectively builds on the acoustical "evidence" included in the HSCA findings, he discards the HSCA's other findings regarding the JFK assassination:

"The HSCA concluded that Kennedy was only struck twice, by two of three bullets fired by Oswald from the Book Depository Building, and that the fourth shot, which they were 95 percent confident they had discovered acoustically and was supposedly fired from the grassy knoll, did not hit Kennedy or Connally." (HSCA Report, pp.1, 81) [Ibid][emphasis added]

Thompson makes no mention in LSID of the review of the HSCA's acoustical evidence, submitted in December 1978, by Anthony J. Pellicano, president of Voice Interpretation & Analysis Ltd. in Chicago.

Pellicano's report concluded that "the motorcycle with the open microphone on channel 1 was not part of the motorcade," and, therefore, "the noise impulses detected . . . were not shots." Pellicano's conclusions were based largely on the sound of sirens, which appear for the first time on the channel 1 open microphone recording more than two minutes after the presumed time of the shots. Pellicano pointed out that the sirens should have appeared immediately after the shots (not two and a half minutes later) if, in fact, the motorcycle with the open microphone was part of the motorcade, especially since Dallas police chief Jesse Curry said that the sirens were turned on after the shooting (4 H 161, WCT Jesse E. Curry). (And, in fact, sirens can be heard in the background of Curry's first command to "go to the hospital," as recorded on the channel

2 tape.) Pellicano also noted that the sound of multiple sirens "increases [on the tape] in volume and then fades out as would be expected if the motorcade were approaching, passing, and leaving the location of the open microphone." [emphasis added][Ref. Bugliosi, Reclaiming History, Endnotes, p. 172]

Thompson spends a significant portion of LSID explaining subsequent acoustical analysis by BBN's James Barger (et al) who defend their firm's original HSCA conclusions -- after their work was criticized and seemingly discredited (in 1982) by the (prestigious) National Academy of Science's (NAS) "Report of the Committee on Ballistic Acoustics" (aka the Ramsey Panel) [HERE](#). The NAS "Ramsey Panel" report notes the following [emphasis added]:

"Features of the recorded sounds, especially the siren sounds, strongly suggest that the open microphone was not in Dealey Plaza at the time of the assassination, even though the BRSW/WA analysis required it to be there and, in fact, identifies the open microphone explicitly as on the motorcycle of Officer McLain."

The Executive Summary of the NAS/Ramsey (8 Oct 1982) report states the following [emphasis added]:

"For these reasons and for others given in detail in the report, the National Research Council Committee on Ballistic Acoustics unanimously concludes that:

- *The acoustic analyses do not demonstrate that there was a grassy knoll shot, and in particular, there is no acoustic basis for the claim of 95% probability of such a shot.*
- *The acoustic impulses attributed to gunshots were recorded about one minute after the President had been shot and the motorcade had been instructed to go to the hospital.*
- *Therefore, reliable acoustic data do not support a conclusion that there was a second gunman."*

In LSID, Thompson attacks the conclusions of the "Ramsey Panel." One of the senior members – who, Thompson believes, unduly manipulated the other members – was [Luis Alvarez](#), Ph.D., the Nobel Prize-winning physicist who proposed the "jet-effect" to account (partially) for JFK's "backward" head movement. Thompson, and most other conspiracists who subscribe to a Grassy Knoll shooter hypothesis, reject the "jet-effect" theory. Toward the end of LSID (p. 349-50) Thompson opines on what he believes to be the nature of Ramsey Panel's undermining of the HSCA's acoustical evidence. It wasn't a "conspiracy" *per se*. It was "complicity." *"There is reason to believe that Alvarez saw his work on the Kennedy assassination as an act of patriotism that would cleanse the public arena of the confusion introduced by a 'bunch of nuts' criticizing the Warren Report."* Thompson doesn't mince words (p. 350).

"If its sole objective was to discredit the acoustics evidence in the public mind – to wipe it cleanly off the table, in effect silencing one of the most powerful arguments for shots

from multiple directions – the panel succeeded admirably. That success was reflected in the decades-long silence that followed the publication of its report and the wide acceptance of its findings that silenced implied.”

The germination of what would become LSID began in 2001 with Donald B. Thomas, Ph.D., an assassination buff and *entomologist* working for the Department of Agriculture in Weslaco, TX. Researcher Michael O’Dell (discussed below) explains how life was allegedly breathed into the seemingly discredited, HSCA acoustical evidence by D. B. Thomas:

“In March 2001 D. B. Thomas published an article in the peer-reviewed journal of the British Forensic Science Society. This article received considerable media attention and revived the debate over the acoustic evidence. Thomas concluded that the NRC made statistical errors of their own and the probability for a grassy knoll shot was actually greater than 96%. He also concluded that by using a different instance of crosstalk to align the channels the shots could be correctly placed in time at the period the assassination actually happened.” [emphasis added]

Josiah Thompson devotes Chapter 19 of LSID to “The Resurrection of the Acoustics.” If D. B. Thomas is correct, the “Six Seconds in Dallas” (1967) multiple-shooter thesis remains viable – with modifications (*mutatis mutandis*). It is the acoustical “scientific” evidence that supposedly bolsters the often sketchy, confused, ambiguous, and contradictory anecdotal eyewitness and earwitness accounts of possible multiple shooters.

The LSID dust jacket blurb states that “*this long-awaited [?] follow-up*” to “Six Seconds in Dallas” includes “*incontrovertible proof that JFK was killed in a crossfire,*” including “*newly validated acoustic evidence [that shows] a second shot struck the president’s head from behind...*” Unfortunately, in his presentation of the (allegedly) new acoustical evidence – as with virtually all other evidence suggesting a conspiracy -- Thompson’s confirmation bias controls and filters his presentation. The significant omissions are material.

What did Thompson minimize or omit (or bury in endnotes) from his lengthy dissertation on the “*newly validated acoustical evidence*”?

- In 1979, James C. Bowles writes a detailed critique of the HSCA acoustical evidence: “*The Kennedy Assassination Tapes -- A Rebuttal to the Acoustical Evidence Theory.*” Who is James C. Bowles? He is mentioned (like O’Dell) 9 times in LSID. Unfortunately, his significance and authority in the acoustics evidence are relegated by Thompson to footnote (#15) on page 435 – near the end of LSID. At the time of the assassination, James Bowles was (according to Thompson) “*in charge of the communications of the Dallas police...his essay influenced the Ramsey Panel...and the committee members were unstinting in their praise of it. Bowles went on to become the sheriff of Dallas County.*” Most of LSID’s references to Bowles (Chapter 20) are related to discrepancies (which Thompson suggests may have been intentional and sinister) between his (Bowles’)

transcripts of the Channel 1 and 2 recordings of DPD traffic during the time of the assassination and those published by the Ramsey Panel. Bowles' (now deceased) rebuttal of the HSCA acoustical evidence can still be found [HERE](#). Bowles' "Conclusion and Summary" should be read by every fair-minded weigher of the facts. It is devastating to the HSCA acoustical evidence, which is foundational to the LSID hypothesis.

- In December 1980, the [FBI's Technical Services Division](#) issued a report of their study of the acoustical evidence. The report concluded that the HSCA had failed to prove that there were gunshots on the recording and also failed to prove that the recording was made in Dealey Plaza. Using the same criteria used by the HSCA "experts" the FBI found a match for a gunshot fired in Greensboro, NC, in 1979 for a shot that was supposedly fired from the Grassy Knoll in Dealey Plaza in 1962. [Ref. Bugliosi, "Reclaiming History: The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy" 2007, Endnotes, p. 199]
- The IBM study: In December of 1982, researchers Agarwal, Garwin, and Lewis of the IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, NY, issued a report entitled "Signal Processing Analysis of the Kennedy Assassination Tapes." Their Summary states the following:

"Objective cross-correlation analysis of Channel-I and Channel-II recordings demonstrate common signals on both channels. The content of the signal on Channel II (and on Channel I) at the time of the so-called shots indicates that it originated about a minute after the assassination. Using Channel-II "sing-around" brief tones as probing signals, the transfer function between Channel II and Channel I is objectively estimated. Heterodynes on Channel I are demonstrated to reduce the transfer function drastically and to allow it gradually to recover after the heterodyne disappears, demonstrating both the presence of AGC and that the cross-talk was present at the radio receiver and could not possibly have been added later to the audio recording. The notorious "bell sound" is shown to be an electrical disturbance recorded simultaneously on both channels, verifying the derived relative speed and timing of the two channels. Therefore, the so-called "shots" are not the recording of anything at the time of the assassination."
[emphasis added] The entire study can be found [HERE](#). LSID makes no mention of this study.
- In March 1988, The [US Department of Justice](#) issued a report of their review of the HSCA report and that of the National Academy of Sciences acoustical studies. They rebuked the HSCA's conclusion of a "probable conspiracy." [Bugliosi, op cit, p. 379]

- In late 1997, Greg Jaynes publishes a study entitled “*Acoustical Evidence Revisited – A Controversial Study.*” It’s based in part on his physical reconstruction of a microphone traveling the route of the motorcade; it can be found [HERE](#). Mr. Jaynes confirmed H. B. McLain’s certain recollection of his location, well south of the Elm/Houston intersection, where the HSCA acoustical experts assumed he was.
- In 2002, independent researcher, Michael Russ, publishes (online) his study of the photographic evidence and shows that H. D. McLain could not be where the HSCA (BBN/WA) acoustical experts assumed he was during the assassination. [HERE](#) is his excellent and unrefuted study. Michael Russ is not mentioned in LSID.
- In 2003, after D. B. Thomas published his (2001) “peer-reviewed” article (that prompted Josiah Thompson to write LSID), [Michael O’Dell](#) posted a devastating critique of D. B. Thomas’s theory that the probability of a shot from the Grassy Knoll should be ~ 95%. Michael O’Dell’s study concluded [emphasis added]:

“1. The timeline relied on by the NRC report and by Thomas is inaccurate. 2. Both the "hold everything" and the "you want me" crosstalk alignments demonstrate that the suspect impulses happen too late to be the assassination gunshots. 3. There is no evidence that the Audograph machine that recorded channel II ran continuously in the first few minutes after the shooting, and evidence indicates that it did stop. Because the Audograph stopped, later instances of crosstalk cannot be used to align the suspect impulses on channel I. 4. There is no statistical significance of 95% or higher for a shot from the grassy knoll. There is persuasive evidence that BRSW/WA simply found a match to the speech pattern that exists at the same location on the recording.”

Thompson never mentions O’Dell’s refutation of D. B. Thomas’s assertions in LSID, although he makes 9 different *complimentary* references to Michael O’Dell’s research capabilities – but only when O’Dell found a flaw in the NRC analysis. Michael O’Dell’s important paper (a must-read for those studying the acoustical evidence) can be found [HERE](#).

- Thompson doesn’t mention the [Robert Berkowitz](#) study:

“In 2003, Court TV, in its fortieth anniversary special on the assassination, employed [Robert Berkowitz, a forensic audio expert from Boston](#), to conduct a reexamination of the police recordings. After working on the project for several months, Berkowitz disagreed completely with the HSCA acoustic experts. Seconding Pellicano's conclusion, not only did Berkowitz's research find that the

motorcycle that picked up the suspect impulses was parked somewhere outside of the motorcade through Dealey Plaza, but worse yet, he said the impulses weren't even those of gunfire." [Bugliosi, op. cit. p. 172][emphasis added]

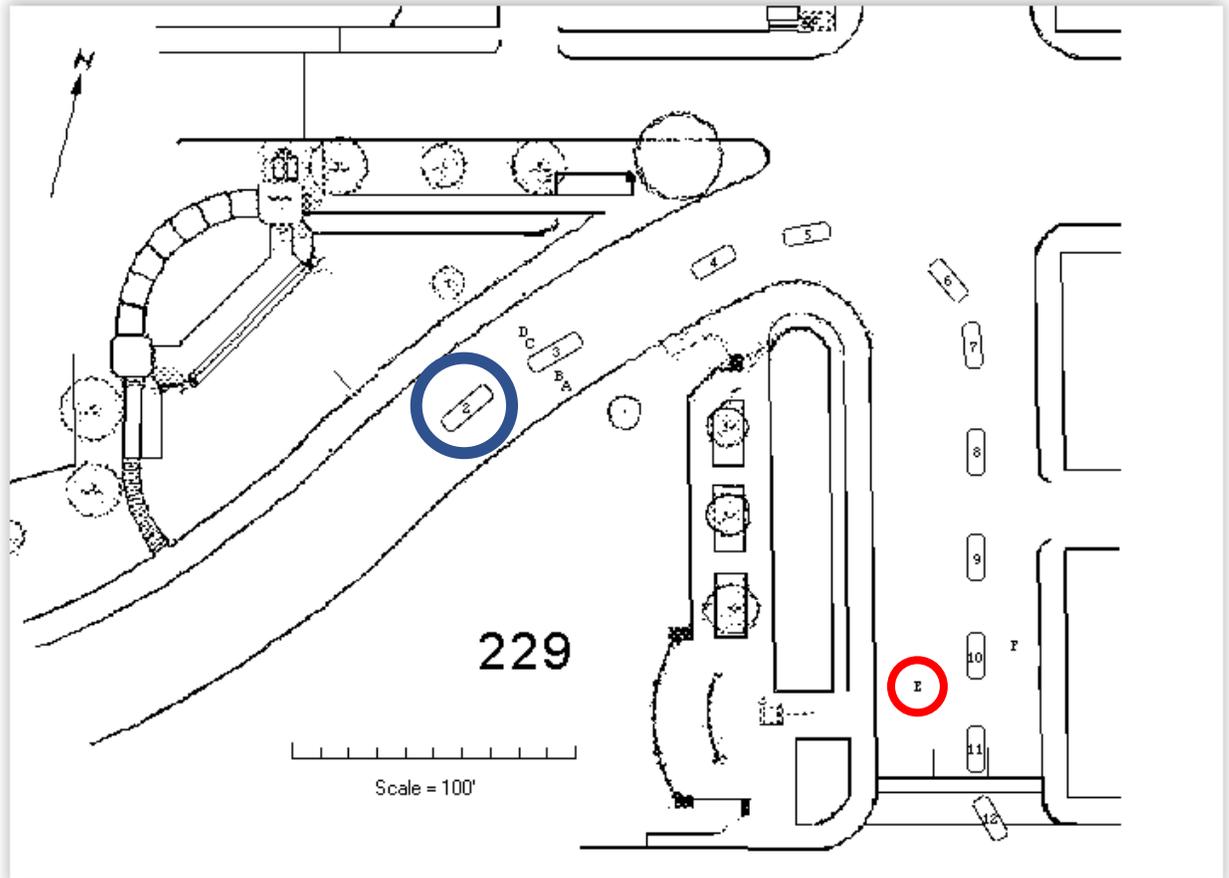
- In 2005, five authors (Linsker, Garwin, Chernoff, Horowitz, and Ramsey) publish "Synchronization of the acoustic evidence in the assassination of President Kennedy" in the "History, Medicine Science & Justice : Journal of the Forensic Science Society." They conclude the following:

"We have revisited the acoustic evidence in the Kennedy assassination--recordings of the two Dallas police radio channels upon which our original NRC report (Ramsey NF et al., Report of the Committee on Ballistic Acoustics. National Research Council (US). Washington: National Academy Press, 1982. Posted at <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10264.html>) was based--in response to the assertion by D.B. Thomas Echo correlation analysis and the acoustic evidence in the Kennedy assassination revisited. Science and Justice 2001; 41: 21-32) that alleged gunshot sounds (on Channel 1), apparently recorded from a motorcycle officer's stuck-open microphone, occur at the exact time of the assassination (as established by emergency communications on Channel 2). We have critically reviewed these two publications, and have performed additional analyses. In particular, we have used recorded 60 Hz hum and correlation methods to obtain accurate speed calibrations for recordings made on both channels, cepstral analysis to seek instances of repeated segments during playback of Channel 2 (which could result from groove jumping), and spectrographic and correlation methods to analyze instances of putative crosstalk used to synchronize the two channels. This paper identifies serious errors in the [D. B.] Thomas paper and corrects errors in the NRC report. We reaffirm the earlier conclusion of the NRC report that the alleged "shot" sounds were recorded approximately one minute after the assassination." [emphasis added] D. B. Thompson, to his credit, will later acknowledge his "serious" errors.

- There is no proof that H. B. McLain's microphone was, in fact, stuck open (in the transmit mode) during the assassination. Several DPD motorcycles, including McLain's, had experienced stuck open microphones in the past. [Why didn't author Thompson interview McLain? Other researchers did. McLain passed away on 25 June 2015.]
- The HSCA had public interviews with several DPD police officers – including H. B. McLain. According to the HSCA Report, *"In his interview on September 26, 1977, McLain said that he had been riding to the left rear of Vice President Johnson's car and that just as he was completing his turn from Main onto Houston Street, he heard what he believed to have been two shots."* Also from the HSCA Report: "No photographs of the

precise locations of the two officers [McLain and Courson] at the moment of the assassination were, at that time, found. Photographs taken shortly before the assassination, however, did indicate that McLain was on Houston Street heading toward Elm as the presidential limousine was turning onto Elm in front of the Texas School Book Depository. 12(73) At the time of the assassination, therefore, he would have been in the approximate position of the transmitting microphone, as indicated by the acoustical analysis." [emphasis added] Yes, McLain had just turned on to Houston Street, but he was some 250 feet behind the presidential limousine and not in the "approximate position of the transmitting microphone, as indicated by the acoustical analysis."

Below is a screen capture showing where H. B. McLain was at Z-229, about 0.3 seconds after the shot that wounded both JFK and Connally (Z-223-224). Note his location relative to the Houston / Elm intersection. You can watch the animated movement of all of the vehicles of the motorcade (by Michael Russ) [HERE](#).



The presidential limousine is vehicle #2 (inside the blue circle). H. B. McLain's motorcycle is vehicle E (inside the red circle). Vehicle #3, is the Secret Service Cadillac -- immediately behind the presidential limousine. Again, the HSCA acoustical experts didn't interview McLain to confirm his location. They assumed that McLain was near the

intersection when the shooting began. McLain was some 250+ feet behind the president's limousine on Houston (as shown above).

- [Richard Sprague](#), an expert on photographic evidence and consultant to the HSCA, confirmed that the amateur film and pictures that the HSCA relied on showed no motorcycles between those flanking the Secret Service convertible (immediately behind the president's limousine) and H. B. McLain's motorcycle.
- [HERE](#) is part of the testimony of Professor Mark Weiss (and Ernest Aschkenasy) before the HSCA. In the 27,254-word transcript, NOT ONE of those words is "McLain." This portion of the testimony attests to their "precise" methodology [emphasis added]:

Mr. CORNWELL - Just to be sure I understood one statement you made, you said you needed to know the source of the sound, the location of the source of the sound, and the location or approximate location of the motorcycle. Do I understand from that that what you are saying is you need to know a general area in which to begin making your calculations?

Mr. WEISS - That is correct, that is what I meant. As I said, I assumed that the motorcycle would have been somewhere in the vicinity of microphone 4, for example, which was down on Elm Street in the experiment performed by Dr. Barger.

Mr. CORNWELL - So you didn't take as a given that the motorcycle was in that location, and you simply began to look in that general area.

Mr. WEISS - That is correct, and if we had not found it, we would have looked in a wider and wider zone.

Mr. CORNWELL - Ultimately you may have found it was not even in the Plaza.

Mr. WEISS - That is correct. In fact, this brings up another point. If, in fact, after diligent searching, we could not get a pattern of echoes, a predicted pattern of echoes, that would sufficiently closely match the impulses visible on the police tape recording, then we would have to conclude either that we did not have a shot recorded there, or that if we did have a shot recorded, then the motorcycle was not anywhere near the position we had assumed it to be the shooter was not anywhere near the position we assumed to be, or both conditions.

Here is a later exchange between Cornwell and Weiss:

Mr. CORNWELL - So, in other words, you are using Dr. Barger's test waves, which are the exhibits you have been referring to, and when those were generated, of course we were all standing there watching, and we know exactly where the shooter was located and exactly where the microphone was. Is that correct?

Mr. WEISS - That is correct. We had good information as to where both of these points were so we could know in advance what the distance was from the shooter to the microphone, and we knew what the time would be that it took for the sound to go directly from the rifle to the microphone. [emphasis added]

- DPD officer H. B. McLain gave a sworn deposition to the Ramsey Commission that investigated the conclusions of the HSCA's BBN/WA acoustical evidence. Here is part of that deposition [emphasis added]:

"Now, the Committee staff Report says that I was from 80 to 90 feet west of Houston, westbound on Elm Street when the President was hit with the last shot. That's completely wrong! I never left Houston Street until after the chief said for us to go to the hospital and for someone to check the overpass. The agent didn't get onto the back of the limousine until some seconds after the last shot. I saw that happen while I was still on Houston Street, so while I only heard one shot, I could not have been on Elm Street until after the shots had been fired. Had the Committee staff told me what they had in mind, it would have made a difference in my testimony. They were at least deceitful if not outright dishonest with me."

- In June 2007, Dale Myers publishes his "Epipolar Geometric Analysis of Amateur Films Related to Acoustics Evidence in the JFK Assassination." The entire document is [HERE](#). This detailed and meticulous study represents a comprehensive analysis of all available photos and films showing the movement of the presidential motorcade through Dealey Plaza. Myers creates a virtual Dealey Plaza and proves that H. B. McLain's motorcycle was not where the HSCA acoustical experts claimed it was. Dale Myer's website, *Secrets of a Homicide* ([HERE](#)), includes the following quotes from the lead acoustics scientist with BBN (James Barger) and the Chief Counsel for the HSCA (G. Robert Blakey):

"...if it can be shown that there was no vehicle or person with a police radio near the trajectory where I found it to be, then, that is impeaching evidence." (James Barger, Ph.D., lead scientist, BBN, 2001)

"If you can prove to me that there was no police officer in the place where he had to be, you would falsify [the acoustics vidence]." (G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel, HSCA, 2003)

Here is the Conclusion from Dale Myer's website devoted to his research – including the impeachment of the HSCA's acoustical evidence hypothesis.

"The reconstructed photographic record conclusively demonstrates that no police motorcycles – including H. B. McLain's – were near the area designated by the HSCA's acoustic experts, and consequently, the committee's acoustic evidence of

a conspiracy in the Kennedy assassination is invalid. This finding, based on the photographic record alone, supports and is consistent with the conclusions reached by the 1982 National Academy of Sciences Committee on Ballistic Acoustics which determined that the record segment analyzed by the HSCA acoustics experts was recorded at least one minute after the assassination, and therefore, could not have contained 'gunshots.' [emphasis added]

- In 2007, while Josiah Thompson is preparing to write LSID, Vincent Bugliosi, the famous Los Angeles DA (prosecutor of Charles Manson) publishes a comprehensive study of the Kennedy Assassination entitled "Reclaiming History – the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy." It's a mammoth (1,612 pages) compendium of narrative-wrapped evidence and logic that methodically eviscerates the claims of JFK assassination conspiracists. The single, massive volume contains two books: Book One "*Matters of Fact: What Happened*" and Book Two "*Delusions of Conspiracy: What Did Not Happen.*" The volume also includes a CD with *thousands* of endnotes and sources. Pages 153 to 218 (66 pages) of Bugliosi's Endnotes are devoted to the "*The Entire Acoustical Issue.*" Compared to LSID, it is a much more detailed and thorough recapitulation and rebuttal of the disputed "acoustical evidence." Unlike Thompson, Bugliosi took the time and effort to interview McLain and other DPD officers who participated in the motorcade. Understandably, Thompson makes no references to Bugliosi's massive work in LSID (which does not include *any* bibliography). Professor John McAdam's JFK website ([HERE](#)) includes a section on the acoustical evidence where you can read Bugliosi's 65-page treatise.
- In 2008, D. B. Thomas *attempts* to rebut Dale Myer's (2007) study (mentioned above) [HERE](#). After a very detailed review of the evidence, Thomas threw in the towel: "*The dichotomy is that McLain was either in exactly the right place, near the mayor's car, or he was way back, no closer than the tenth car, which is where Myers believes he was. The reality is that until some new films or photographs surface, the presently available materials are consistent with either contention.*" That is *not* the reality. D. B. Thomas could not prove that H. B. McLain was not where he insisted (in sworn deposition) he was and he will not accept McLain's certain knowledge as evidence. Nor will Thomas accept Dale Myer's (or Michael Russ's) detailed study showing that McLain was far from the location assumed by the HSCA acoustical experts. D. B. Thomas infers that H. B. McLain – who was *in* the presidential motorcade -- is one of the few people on Earth who does not (accurately) recall where he was when he learned of (and witnessed) the JFK assassination! Josiah Thompson makes no mention of D. B. Thomas's failed rebuttal in LSID. Dale Myers detailed refutation of D. B. Thomas's inaccurate attack on his study of the photographic evidence – proving that H. B. McLain was not where the HSCA acoustical experts assumed – is [HERE](#). It's a must-read.

- In Oct 2013, Professor Larry J. Sabato, Ph.D. and Rhodes Scholar, Director of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics, commissioned a detailed analysis of the JFK acoustical evidence by Charles Olsen and Scott Martin of Sonalysts, Inc. Sonalysts used analytical techniques that were not available during the HSCA's investigation of the alleged acoustical evidence.

Professor Sabato teaches an online course at UVA entitled "The Kennedy Half-Century," which includes a review of the acoustical evidence. A video, narrated by Dr. Sabato, can be found [HERE](#).

The study was entitled "*The Kennedy Half-Century Acoustical Analysis of November 22, 1963.*" The subtitle was "*Analysis of the Dallas Police Department Dictabelt Recording related to the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy.*" The entire report can be read [HERE](#).

Below are the conclusions of that detailed 2013 report:

The data gathered support the following conclusions:

1. Some of the impulses attributed to gunfire are very similar to other impulses found in neighboring regions of the file. This is even true of impulses not attributed to gunfire that occur within the alleged gunshot periods. These observations suggest that at least some of the impulses attributed to gunfire are by no means unique, nor are they even generally discernible from other impulses contained in the relevant portion of the recording.
2. Some of the impulses associated with gunfire are quite common. A cursory examination revealed twelve similar impulses in a period spanning a little over three minutes. Three of these impulses were said to represent gunfire by BRSW but the other nine were not. The waveforms all suggest these impulses have the same or similar origins.
3. An impulse, unlike those mentioned above, was attributed to gunfire. Three nearly identical impulses occurring around the same time were not. This provides a second example, using different data, of the attribution of ordinary and common features of the audio recording to gunfire when the timing supports it.
4. An examination of the "grassy knoll" shot suggests that cyclical phenomena, i.e. damped oscillations, may have been chosen as representing individual transients. As these types of impulses are common throughout the audio files, we suspect that additional study would find more instances of this.
5. A study of transients due to mechanical defects in the recording medium show that BRSW's detections were not due to mechanical defects. In other words, the BRSW detections were of audio that was contained in the recording.
6. The application of an adaptive filter to remove motorcycle engine noise from the recording substantially change the appearance of one of the waveforms in unexpected ways. Some peaks were greatly diminished after filtering while other peaks emerged. This suggests that the motorcycle engine noise plays a substantial role in the appearance of the resultant waveform, even during the relatively "quiet" periods when it is at or near idle. Furthermore, the comparison of the original audio to the noise-reduced audio shows that many of the peaks selected as indicating gunshot impulses disappeared almost entirely.
7. An examination of the BRSW test methodology suggests that the binary correlation detector (matched filter) used by them was likely to have been overly optimistic in scoring candidate impulses, thereby allowing false positive detections to arise. Through over-reliance on timing information and under-reliance on amplitude information, it is likely that matches were made that would not have arisen using other methods. The performance of the algorithm does not appear to have been tested, so quantitative measures of its effectiveness or immunity to false positive detections are unknown.

- One year later, in June of 2014, while Josiah Thompson was still writing LSID, two acoustical scientists, Charles Olsen and Lee Ann Maryeski of Sonalysts, Inc., published a detailed (second) report entitled "*Further Research, Analysis, and Commentary on the Dallas Police Department Recordings of November 22, 1963.*" This supplements the above 2013 Sonalysts report. The entire report is [HERE](#). Below is a summary of their remarks:

“Since the original BRSW [HSCA] analysis in the 1970s, there have been remarkable advances in the technology and accepted methodology for audio analysis. We have been able to measure features of the recording that, as far as we know, have gone unmeasured until now. The data we have obtained do not support the conclusion that the recording contains the sounds of assassination gunfire where it was identified as such by BRSW. The conclusions reached by the HSCA are invalidated by the evidence of the recording itself. In our first report, we established that an acoustical analysis of motorcycle engine speed versus time was not reconcilable with the known movements of the motorcade. In this report, we examined the engine speed concerning Officer McLain’s movements and arrived at the same conclusion. Furthermore, analysis of the alleged Fisher crosstalk showed that it cannot be used to establish of [sic] synchronization of the recordings. The times of occurrence of true crosstalk events show that the impulses happened at the wrong time to have been assassination gunfire. Analysis of other sounds further supports these findings. These observations are not based on assumptions or hypotheses about the nature of the data but follow directly from measurements of the acoustic properties of the recording. It must be noted that our work does not draw any conclusions – because it cannot – about whether there was a conspiracy or more than one shooter. What it does support, however, is the proposition that researchers should look elsewhere for evidence of such possibilities, because the Dictabelt recording is of doubtful utility regarding assassination gunfire.” [Emphasis added]

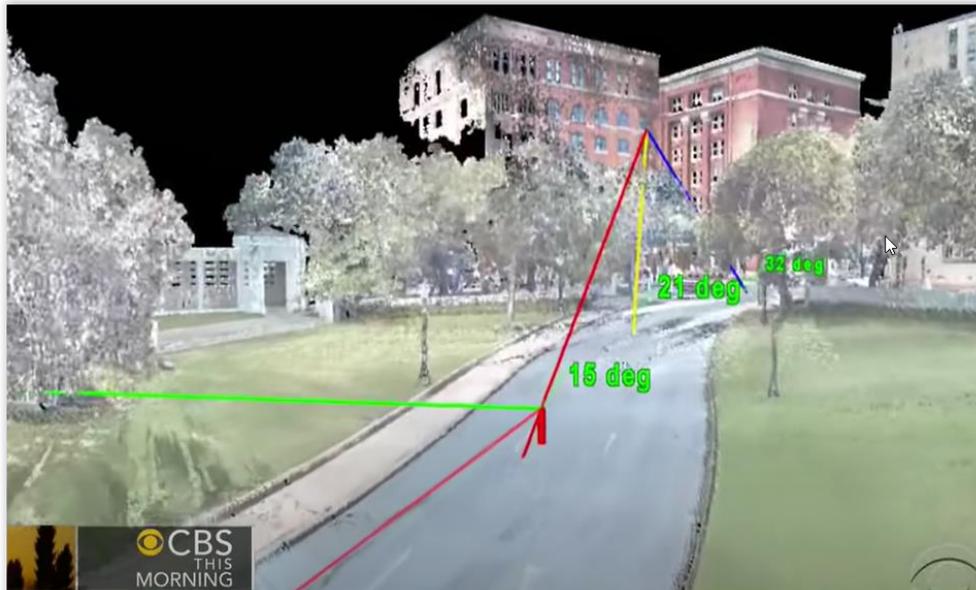
Thompson makes no rebuttal, any reference to, or comments about either of the two (2013-2014) Sonalysts, Inc. reports. [Curiously, Thompson uses one of Sonalysts charts in LSID – Figure 20-1 on page 309, which he does cite in his “Illustration Credits” while *ignoring* Sonalysts in his detailed Index.] Likewise, LSID includes no mention of Dale Myers, Greg Jaynes, or Professor Larry Sabato.

Amazingly, Josiah Thompson does not mention “H. B. McLain” in LSID. There are three, brief mentions of “H. B. McClain.” Josiah Thompson and his crack team of editors and fact-checkers consistently misspell (in the Index *and* body of LSID) the name of (arguably) one of the most crucial individuals (and witnesses) in acoustical evidence debate. [HERE](#) is H. B. McLain’s *complete* testimony before the HSCA.

OTHER EVIDENCE

Concerning other, non-acoustical evidence, Thompson uses the same selective filter as he assembles his carefully chosen, cut-to-fit puzzle pieces. What he omits from LSID is telling.

While author Thompson was writing LSID, there were several, detailed and accurate recreations of the Warren Commission's SBT. In November 2013, forensic scientists Michael Haag and (son) Luke Haag re-examined the validity of the Warren Commission SBT -- that one bullet hit both President Kennedy and Texas Gov. John Connally. Using a 3-laser scanner, they digitally reconstructed a 3-dimensional Dealey Plaza and the circumstances of the SBT in [THIS](#) PBS video presentation. Using a Mannlicher-Carcano (M-C) rifle (identical to Oswald's) and 6.5mm FMJ ammunition, they demonstrated (inter alia) that the bullet that struck Governor Connally in the back was just beginning to tumble! The elongated hole in Connally's jacket confirms the orientation (yaw) of the bullet. It had struck something else -- and slowed -- before penetrating Connally's back. Only JFK was between Governor Connally and the elevated, rearward source of the shot from the TSBD. Luke Haag (who test-fired the M-C rifle numerous times) also confirmed the accuracy of the M-C and that Oswald did not have to be an "expert" marksman to make the shot that wounded both Kennedy and Connally. Below is an image of the trajectories of the three shots from the TSBD -- the first missed, the second (the "magic bullet") wounded JFK and Connally, and the third was the JFK headshot.



[THIS](#) PBS video, made by two professional forensic scientists, is a MUST watch for anyone researching the JFK assassination. Josiah Thompson makes no mention of this or several other computer simulations and reenactments of the assassination that confirm the feasibility, logic, and reality of the Warren Commission's (SBT) conclusions.

In April of 2018, Nicholas Nalli, Ph.D., (Senior Researcher with the I.M. Systems Group, Inc., College Park, MD) published online, "[Gunshot-wound dynamics model for John F. Kennedy assassination](#)" which details why the alleged headshot from the Grassy Knoll was likely not the cause of JFK's apparent left and rearward lurch immediately after Z-313. The entire, detailed report can be found [HERE](#). Nalli's research – which supports Luis Alvarez's "jet-effect" theory -- was quickly attacked by long-time JFK conspiracy buffs, David Mantik [HERE](#) and Milicent Cranor [HERE](#). In a 2002 article, [HERE](#), Cranor concluded that JFK's throat wound was probably an *entrance* wound [another shot from the front!] and could not be the exit wound from a bullet that entered Governor Connally's back. [After extensive criticism by conspiracists, Nalli will make only minor, technical corrections to his originally published article in Oct 2018 in "[Corrigendum to Gunshot-wound dynamics model for John F. Kennedy assassination](#)" [HERE](#).]

GOVERNOR CONNALLY'S LAPEL FLIP

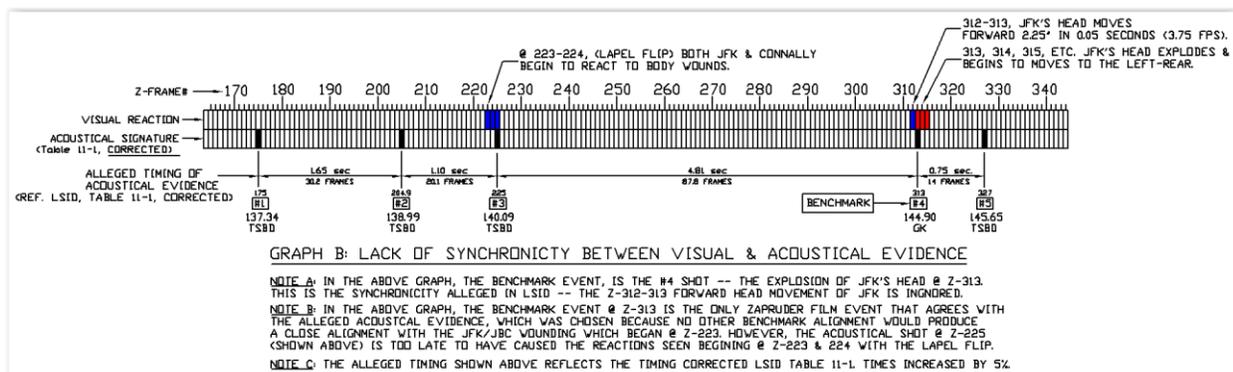
In LSID, Thompson dismisses the compelling and dramatic right lapel "flip" [possibly a jacket bulge] of Governor Connally's jacket at Z-223/224. Within ~1/18th of a second, both JFK and Connally begin to react *noticeably* to the same gunshot. Author Gerald Posner comments on this evidence:

*"At [frame] 224, the right front of the Governor's suit lapel flips up from his chest. Confirmed in a 1992 computer enhancement by Jeff Lotz of Failure Analysis Associates, this jacket movement may be one of the most important timing confirmations in the case, as it established the moment the bullet hit him...Since Kennedy and Connally were less than two [sic] feet apart in the car, the bullet, with an initial muzzle velocity of more than 2,000 feet per second, passed through them almost simultaneously, at frame 224." (Gerald Posner, *Case Closed: Lee Harvey Oswald and the Assassination of JFK*, Anchor Books, 2003, p.329) [emphasis added]*

In March 2021 – *after* LSID was published -- Josiah Thompson (in an email exchange with this author) made the following statements regarding the conclusions of Jeff Lotz of *Failure Analysis Associates* (above) – who confirmed the "lapel flip."

"I agree that evidence produced by Failure Analysis at an American Bar Association Conference some years ago in San Francisco seems to indicate a shot through Connally's chest at 224. I was in the audience when a representative of Failure Analysis brought it up. Since that matches the timing of the third shot as indicated by the acoustic evidence, this clearly strengthens the single-bullet theory as JFK and JBC end up reacting almost simultaneously. I was more than happy not to have to deal with all that." [emphasis added]

Thompson's comment is imprecise and misleading. He suggests that the acoustical evidence indicates a shot at Z-224. The lapel flip (flap or coat bulge) is *complete* at Z-224 and is not evident at Z-223. This means that Connally must have been wounded in the back at or before Z-223. IF JFK and JBC were wounded by the same bullet – as the SBT evidence indicates – then the bullet that struck Kennedy's upper back must have impacted at *or before* Z-223. The chart below shows the correlation between the physical reactions in Z-frames and the (alleged) acoustical evidence timing. This graphic is based on the (alleged) *timing* shown in LSID Table 11-1, p. 155, entitled "Match-up [sic] of audio candidates of the rifle shots." [However, the graphic below *corrects the timing* of the acoustic signatures which must be increased by a factor of 1.05 (5%). Additionally, *the graph below adds the relevant Z-frames*, which LSID does not include. Thompson published LSID with the *uncorrected* timing shown in Table 11-1 and a note telling the reader that the timing is off by 5%.] (Zoom in to view the details.)



Thompson's new LSID theory *eliminates* the obvious and documented Z-312-313 forward head movement and that places the benchmark event @ Z-313, the explosive headshot. And that places the #3 SBT shot at Z-225. Z-225 is too late for the shot that wounded JFK and then JBC. The lapel flip occurred at Z-223-224. Also, note (above) that the alleged acoustical evidence indicates the final #5 shot – that Thompson alleges came from the TSBD -- occurring 3/4th of a second after the benchmark (Z-313) event. With Thompson's new LSID hypothesis – locked into the acoustical evidence – there are two sets of nearly simultaneous shots, #2 and #3 and the headshots #4 and #5. The lack of synchronicity – between the Zapruder film and the alleged acoustical evidence -- is additional proof that the alleged "acoustical evidence" does not represent shots fired in Dealey Plaza and recorded on film by Abraham Zapruder.

Connally's lapel "flip" [confirmed by Failure Analysis] is *critical* as it establishes a benchmark of the passage of the bullet through the Governor's chest. You can watch the lapel flap [HERE](#) and [HERE](#). Immediately after Connally's lapel flap, his hat (clutched in his right hand) turns over – confirming the sequence of the governor's chest and wrist wounds. So, within a few frames, the Zapruder film documents JFK's reaction to his throat wound and Connally's reaction to his chest and wrist wounds – *all perfectly consistent with the single-bullet theory (SBT).*

In 1976, ITEK Corporation confirmed the early physical reaction of Connally beginning at ~ Z-224. [HERE](#) is a lengthy excerpt from their analysis.

Study the evidence supporting the SBT [HERE](#). Detailed photos of the damage to Governor Connally's shirt and jacket can be found [HERE](#). [Dale Myers believes the "lapel flip" is a "bulge" in Connally's jacket – caused by CE 399 exiting his chest, and impacting his shirt and jacket, which it penetrates.] Thompson and other conspiracists – attempting to prove that JFK and Connally were hit by *separate* shots -- want to remove the lapel flip as part of the "magic bullet" supporting evidence. They theorize that it is merely "reflected light" ([HERE](#)) or a wind gust. Researcher and JFK assassination buff David Von Pein has assembled a graphic presentation of the relevant Z-film frames [HERE](#).

KENNEDY'S FORWARD HEAD MOVEMENT @ Z-312-313

In Chapter 14, Thompson posits (based on the theory of assassination conspiracy buff David Wimp) that the Zapruder film "blur" – at the forward head movement of JFK's (Z-312-313) -- was caused by Zapruder's "startle reaction" to the muzzle blast of that headshot. Again, studies of the 312-313 forward head motion (about 2.26 inches) were confirmed by ITEK (pp. 174-75), using "the original Zapruder film plus 16mm and 35mm copies" (p. 174).

On page 174, Thompson acknowledges and confronts the conflict between the acoustical evidence (indicating a shot from the Grassy Knoll) and the Zapruder film evidence indicating that JFK was struck in the head *from behind* just before his head explodes at Z-313.

"So here was a genuine impasse in the evidence. Measurements of head movement show that Kennedy was hit from the rear at frame 313 [sic], while comparison of the Zapruder film with the acoustics evidence shows that frame 313 must [sic] be matched to a shot fired from the knoll. Both findings cannot be correct, but both appear to be correct." [emphasis added]

While acknowledging the conflicting evidence, above, Thompson misstates what the evidence on the following page 175 (Table 12-3) shows – ITEK's *confirmation* of the shot from the rear. Kennedy was struck in the head at Z-312, not Z-313 as Thompson states. It's the 2.26-inch *forward* movement between 312 and 313 -- immediately *before* JFK's head explosion beginning on Z-313 -- that confirms the headshot from the rear. Refer also to LSID, p. 415, endnote #1 – a table comparing measurements of JFK's head movements. In 1966, Josiah Thompson (*personally*) measured the Z-312-313 movement to be 2.18 inches; ITEK measured the movement to be 2.26 inches. David Wimp, who proposed the blur illusion theory, measured the movement to be 0.95 inches!!!!

Even though Thompson and ITEK (and many others) confirmed the forward head movement, Thompson now claims in LSID that the forward head *movement* is an *illusion* caused by a startled Abraham Zapruder's subtle, horizontal, irregular hand movement. As other researchers have pointed out (and is obvious from the analysis of the Z frames), while there is a blur, the brief, quick forward head movement of JFK is very real *and measurable*. ITEK did not believe the forward movement was illusory – nor did Thompson in 1967. [HERE](#) is a video showing the forward movement between Z-312 and 313. Additionally, there is no similar blurring in the Nix film of the assassination that also shows the forward head movement. [HERE](#) is the Nix film that shows the forward movement before the explosion – at ~ 28 seconds into the video.

ASYNCHRONOUS SHOT TIMING AND Z-FILM BLURS

A high-power rifle bullet travels *faster* than the speed of sound (~ 761 mph, or ~1,100 feet/second) – it is supersonic. The 6.5mm FMJ bullets fired by the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle have a muzzle velocity of ~ 2,100 fps – about *twice* the speed of sound. The muzzle blast travels *at* the speed of sound. [The more subtle “snap” sound of the bullet breaking the sound barrier, is not nearly as loud as the “muzzle blast” and is not considered to be the cause of any “startle” blurs on the Z-film.]

Assuming Z-313 represents the explosion of JFK's head from a shot fired from the 6th floor of the TSBD, the distance between the muzzle of the rifle and JFK's head was calculated by the Warren Commission (and others) to be ~265 feet. Therefore, the bullet impacted JFK's head about 1/8th of a second after it left the muzzle of the rifle. The muzzle blast would have reached the vicinity of the limousine in about 1/4th of a second. Zapruder's distance from the TSBD, 6th-floor window, was about the same as Kennedy's (at Z-313). IF Zapruder was reacting to muzzle blasts from the TSBD, then the blur associated with his reactions to those sounds would occur *no sooner* than 1/8th second *after* the bullet's impact – slightly more than two (2) Zapruder frames. However, IF Zapruder was reacting to a muzzle blast from the Grassy Knoll fence (as Thompson posits) – less than 50 feet to his right rear -- the muzzle blast from the GK shot would have reached Zapruder at about the same time that his camera documented the head explosion at Z-313. That means that Zapruder's hand movement that *allegedly* caused the Z-312-313 blur must have occurred a fraction of a second (reaction time) AFTER Z-313, *not before*. In other words, a muzzle blast of a shot (allegedly fired from the GK) could NOT have caused the blur that Wimp and Thompson claim caused the “illusion” of forward movement at Z-312-313.

Because Zapruder was so close to (and forward of) the *alleged* shooter behind the wooden fence, that muzzle blast from a rifle would have been *deafening* – unless (as some conspiracists suggest) the weapon had a silencer. [Imagine -- a weapon with a silencer... that emitted smoke! Another contradiction.] The more obvious possibility is that those who believe they heard a

shot from the area of the Grassy Knoll heard the reverberated echo of the muzzle blast from a shot (or shots) from the TSBD.

In his attempt to prove at least two shooters in the vicinity of Houston and Elm, Thompson claims (in both SSID and LSID) that the *minimum* time between shots for the bolt-action Mannlicher-Carcano (as determined by the FBI) is 2.3 seconds. Unfortunately, Josiah Thompson is hoisted by his own petard. [HERE](#) is a video of Thompson sitting at his desk “dry-firing” (i.e., without a live round), operating the bolt, and (again) firing a Mannlicher-Carcano rifle in ~ 1.8 seconds -- 22% faster than the alleged minimum firing time. What Thompson doesn't know (or chose not to mention in LSID) is that “*later tests showed that the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle found on the sixth floor shortly after the assassination could not be refired in less than 1.6 seconds*” using the open “iron sights,” which would be likely used for the first, closest shots. [Ref. Bugliosi, Endnotes, p. 164] [emphasis added]

[Obviously, the skill of the shooter and the condition of the rifle would affect the minimum cycle time. Whether or not the shooter used the fixed iron sights (likely for the closer shots) or the telescopic sight (possibly for the final headshot) would also affect the “target acquisition time.”]

MISCELLANEA

LSID is *very* autobiographical – a combination of the genesis of “Six Seconds in Dallas,” his career as a young, college professor and anti-Vietnam War protestor, “Gumshoe” (his final career as a private investigator), and his subsequent LSID research.

In LSID, author Thompson finds space to tell his readers about his Vespa, his cross-country motorcycle (BMW) treks, a rented Volvo, sabbaticals in Copenhagen, his sideburns and turtlenecks, his anti-Vietnam War protests and (unspecified) “resistance,” and some of his best PI cases – including a prime-rib dinner at the Cattlemen's Steak House in Dallas. Thompson finds space for a full-page picture of JFK, a large picture of BBN's office building (!), half-page pictures of Professor Mark Weiss and James Barger, a large picture of a young Luis Alvarez during WW II, etc.

Beginning on page 185 and continuing to p. 188, Josiah Thompson discusses “The Philosopher as Gumshoe.” In LSID, Thompson does not mention the extent of his career as an investigator for attorneys defending some of the most notorious radical terrorists. Here is an excerpt of his bio as a Board Member of the *Assassination Archives and Research Center* (AARC). Josiah Thompson's fellow Board Members are all assassination conspiracists and include Gary Aguilar, Randolph Robertson, D. B. Thomas, James Lesar, and Rex Bradford.

“For the last thirty-five years, he has specialized in criminal defense. In the late 1970s, he participated in the defense of Huey Newton of the Black Panthers and Bill/Emily Harris of the SLA. [Symbionese Liberation Army] He was defense investigator for Chol Soo Lee in the death penalty case that became the film "True Believer". He was defense

investigator for Stephen Bingham in the aftermath of the San Quentin Six case and for Ben Dosti in the retrial of the Billionaire Boys Club case. In the early 1990s, he was retained to investigate the Judi Bari bombing and, in 1996 and 1997, was defense investigator for Tim McVeigh in the Oklahoma City bombing. More recently, he defended Sara Jane Olson and Bill/Emily Harris in their recent SLA cases.” [emphasis added]

Thompson has no compunctions about his PI services to the attorneys *defending* Timothy McVeigh, the infamous domestic terrorists who, in 1995, packed a rental truck with explosives that blew up the Oklahoma City, Murrah Federal Building – killing 168 (including many women and children) and wounding 680 others. Here is a quote from LSID about that case that also speaks to Josiah Thompson’s professional ethics as a PI:

“From what we could determine, the FBI Ryder truck appeared to be parked exactly where these [FBI] agents took tread measurements and made their plaster casts of tire treads. In short, the FBI measured its own tire tracks, not the tracks of any bomb truck. We had a few laughs over this while preparing it as a trap for the prosecution. As it turned out [this evidence] was dropped from the prosecution’s case and with it our trap.” [emphasis added]

Domestic terrorist, Timothy McVeigh, was executed by lethal injection on 11 June 2001.

Thompson spends *page after page* attacking the credibility, professional ethics, and research methodology of (Noble Prize winner) Luis Alvarez Ph.D., who posited the “jet effect” theory as possibly accounting for JFK’s left and rearward head movement after Z-313. In LSID, Thompson infers that Alvarez was the federal government’s go-to scientist who would (and did) bury stories that could embarrass the administration. According to Thompson, it was Luis Alvarez who poisoned the Ramsey Report. [Alvarez died in 1988 and cannot defend himself from Thompson’s character assassination in LSID.]

Thompson finds no space in LSID and spends no effort describing and developing the character and troubled history of the captured and accused (but un-tried) suspect in the JFK assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald. Thompson just couldn’t find space in LSID to discuss whether or not Lee Harvey Oswald had the “means, motive, and opportunity” to assassinate JFK?

In LSID, Thompson reveals in some detail that, while teaching at Yale (briefly) and then Haverford (before moving to Northern California to become a PI), he was politically on the “left” – as were most of the authors and researchers critical of the Warren Commission. Thompson acknowledges that he was part of the student-professor, anti-Vietnam War movement and that his “protests” escalated to “resistance.” He was arrested with other “peaceniks.” He acknowledges that a local newspaper referred to him as “Hanoi Hannah’s Helper.” Thompson is seemingly comfortable with and unapologetic of what he could easily now dismiss as “youthful indiscretions.” He was 31-32 years old when he wrote SSID.

Because it is a topic he discusses (in 3 places) in LSID, it is fair to wonder – without being accused of an *ad hominem* attack -- if Josiah Thompson ever considered that the derogatory epithet “*aid and comfort to the enemy*” could apply to his actions and those in the anti-Vietnam War movement of the mid-60s and early 70s, while the US was in a bloody war in Vietnam. Here is how Thompson characterizes his anti-Vietnam war activities (including his unspecified “resistance”) and having been referred to as “Hanoi Hannah’s Helper” (p. 105):

“It was a source of mirth, not embarrassment. The term ‘credibility gap’ was often used in those days to signify a growing distrust of government pronouncements. Surely the Kennedy assassination was a flagrant example of this, and equally surely [sic], what I was doing would increase that gap. In some roundabout way, then, increasing the credibility gap would help the antiwar movement. But that wasn’t why I was doing it. I was just trying to figure out the damn thing.”

A “source of mirth.” No direct correlation. Young Josiah Thompson’s anti-Vietnam war efforts were merely “in some roundabout way” increasing the “credibility gap”! If we accept, *arguendo*, Thompson’s above rationalization, then he didn’t have an overt ideologically-driven research agenda beyond “trying to figure out the damn thing.” And, we can assume that it’s merely a coincidence that LSID (like “Six Seconds in Dallas”) includes no serious mention of Oswald’s Marxism, his defection to the USSR, his career in USMC, his security clearance, his stint at a top-secret CIA U-2 base in Atsugi, Japan, his attempt to murder Brigadier General Walker (seven months before he assassinated JFK), Oswald’s trip to Mexico City including his visits to the Cuban consulate and Soviet embassy (7 weeks before the JFK’s assassination), Oswald beating (and dissenting) his wife Marina, evidence that Oswald carried the rifle (not a lunch bag) into the TSBD on the morning of the assassination, etc., etc.

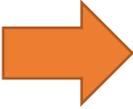
Most significantly, Thompson makes no serious mention of Oswald’s well-documented, cold-blooded murder of Dallas policeman Tippit in the immediate aftermath of the JFK assassination. Does Thompson consider Oswald’s flight from the crime scene and his murder of Dallas Police Officer, J. D. Tippit “consciousness of guilt”? [Read the comprehensive (~700-page), detailed, and fair “*With Malice: Lee Harvey Oswald and the Murder of Officer J. D. Tippit*” by Dale Myers.] Josiah Thompson mentions J. D. Tippit exactly *once* – on page 4 of LSID.

“THE ANSWER IS BLOWING IN THE WIND”

Thompson makes a serious error regarding some “inconvenient” physical, crime scene evidence. His two mentions in LSID of the wind speed and direction in Dallas during the assassination are first on p. 57, when he states, “*There was a breeze blowing that day out of the southwest [sic] that would have been blowing somewhat left to right [sic] as they headed down Elm street.”* Thompson’s second comment about wind speed and direction is in a footnote (#14 on page 391) when he (again) misstates the wind direction and speed: “*Mild wind between 10 and 15 mph...blowing in Dealey Plaza from the Southwest.*”

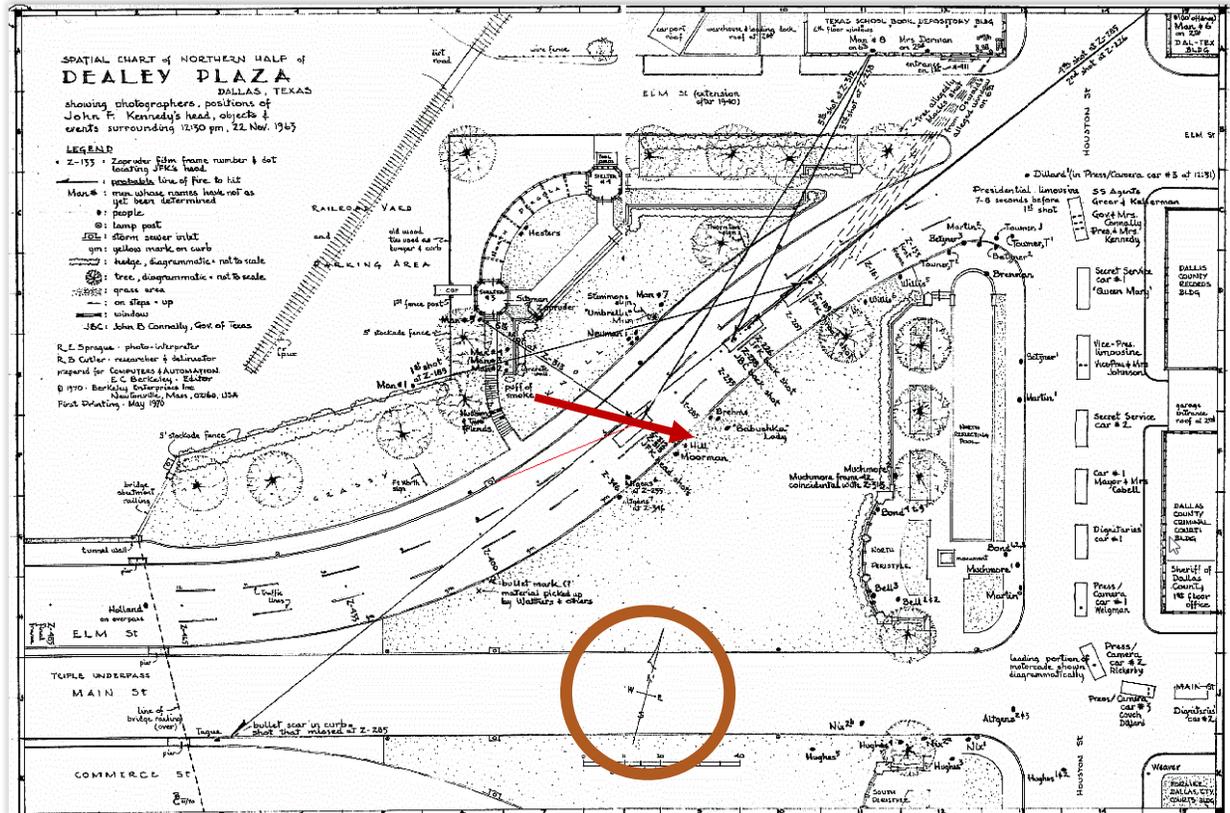
The assassination occurred at ~ 12:30 PM. Below is the hourly weather recorded at Dallas Love Field on 22 November 1963. You can find it [HERE](#):

**US Department of Commerce - NOAA
Surface Weather Observations (Hourly)
Dallas, TX (FAA Airport) -- NOV 22 1963**

<u>Time</u>	<u>Direction (deg/compass)</u>	<u>MPH</u>
11:00	225 (SW)	12
12:00	248 (WSW)	15
 12:30	270.5 (W)	17.5
1:00	293 (WNW)	20

Interpolating (in red) between 12:00 and 1:00 PM data, the wind was rapidly shifting from WSW to the WNW and rapidly building from 15 mph to 20 mph. At the time of the assassination (~12:30 PM), the best evidence is that the wind speed at Love Field was *directly* out of the West at ~17.5 mph – not a “*mild wind between 10 and 15 mph...from the Southwest*” as mischaracterized by Thompson, whose wind data is an hour and a half *before* the assassination. This correct data (above) was available when LSID was written. [Yes, but we know the *exact* price of Thompson’s Abney Level!]

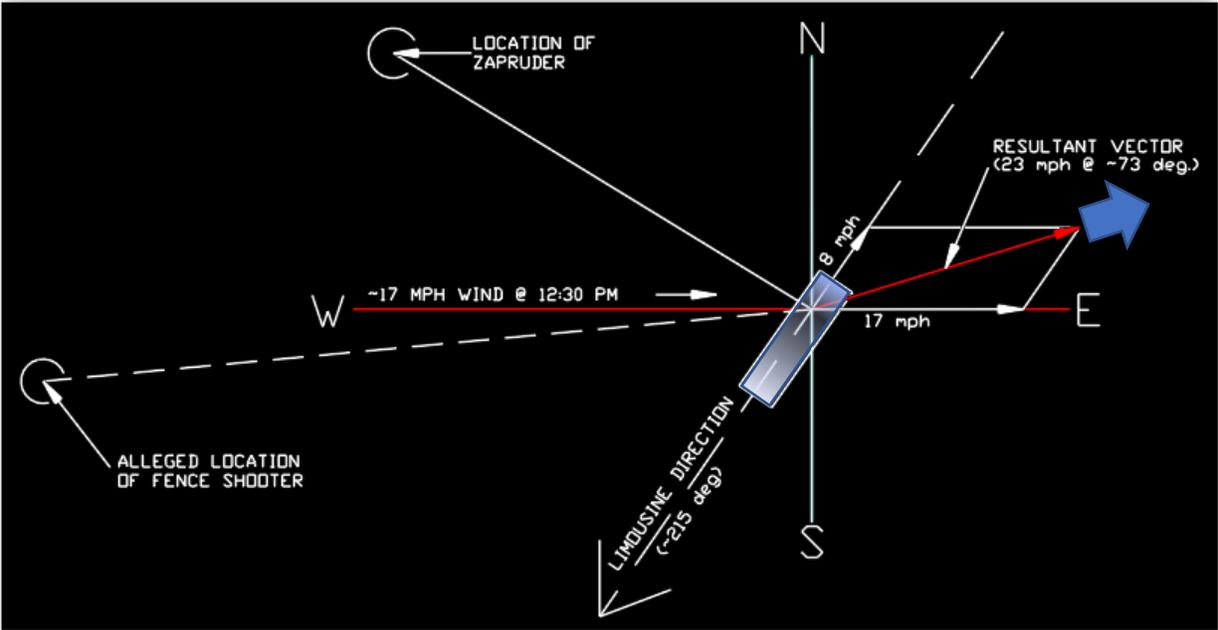
How would that building and shifting wind affect the movement of airborne particles immediately after JFK’s head exploded at Z-313?



Notice the North arrow (circled in red). The red arrow passing over the JFK limousine is the wind direction at the time of the assassination – from the WEST. At the time of the assassination – relative to the direction of the presidential limousine – the strengthening winds were blowing from the RIGHT-FRONT to the LEFT-REAR!

As noted in the “blood splatter” comments above, Thompson uses the direction of the airborne debris to bolster his argument for a headshot from the Grassy Knoll. He must assume that when the (alleged) frangible bullet impacted the right side of JFK’s head, the force of the exploding bullet fragments carried the aerosol mixture of blood, water, and brain matter to the rear and left of the presidential limousine. [Thompson should ride in a convertible at ~8 mph into a gusty, ~17 mph *crosswind* -- and throw a cup of coffee (or pink lemonade) into the air. What does he think would happen? What is the resultant vector of the vaporized, airborne liquid – caused by the speed and direction of the vehicle, and the ambient crosswind? This is not a difficult experiment.]

Let’s take a closer look at the effect of the local winds and the movement of the limousine.



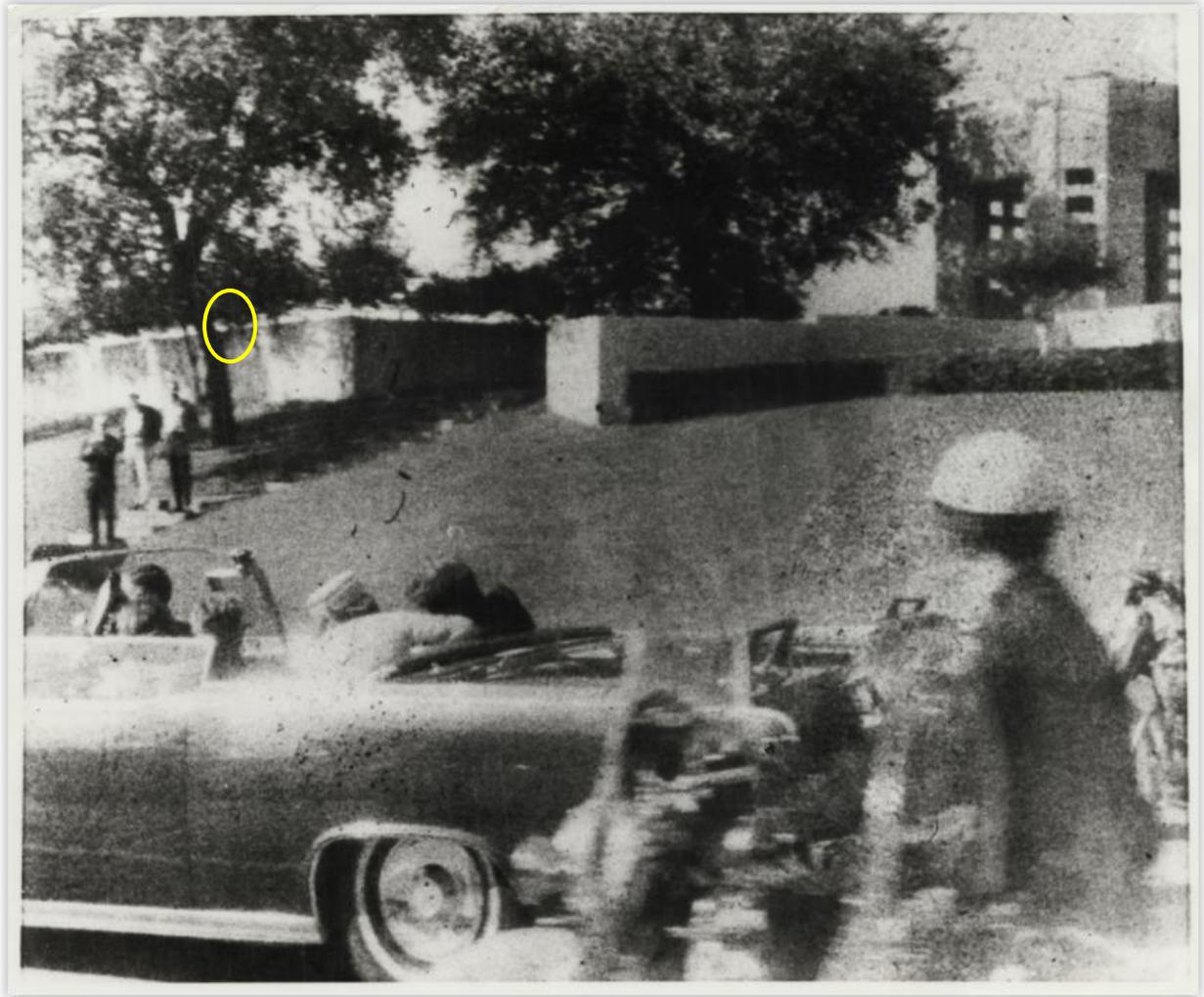
The above graphic shows the presidential limousine’s location and orientation in Dealey Plaza (*rotated so that North is vertical*) at frame Z-313, the head explosion. It shows the approximate velocities and direction of the ambient wind in Dealey Plaza (out of the West at ~ 17 mph) as well as the direction and speed of the limousine (~215 deg. at ~ 8 mph). The parallelogram in the upper righthand corner of the graphic shows the “resultant vector” direction of the two velocities – the limousine’s and the ambient wind. As can be seen from the above graphic, the direction of the (combined) air movement at the limousine – at the moment of Z-313 – was “back and to the left” without ANY OTHER INFLUENCING FORCES (such as the alleged shot from the GK). The airborne debris from the explosion of JFK’s head would have moved to the “left and rear” *regardless of the origin of the shot.* Thompson’s claim (p. 57) that the wind was blowing “from left to right” as the limousine moved down Elm Street is absolutely false. In fact, it was just the opposite! Note the orientation of the flag on the *left* front of the limousine, below.



Likewise, the dynamic effects of the high, gusty winds in Dealey Plaza diminish (or completely discredit) "Skinny" Holland's claim of seeing a puff of smoke -- that looked like cigarette smoke, and first associated with a firecracker noise he heard -- rising above the wooden fence. What did that "smoke" look like? Oliver Stone in his movie JFK had to use "bellows" and "theatrical smoke" to duplicate the anecdotal accounts (Holland, et al) of smoke rising from the top of the "grassy knoll" wooden fence into the trees.

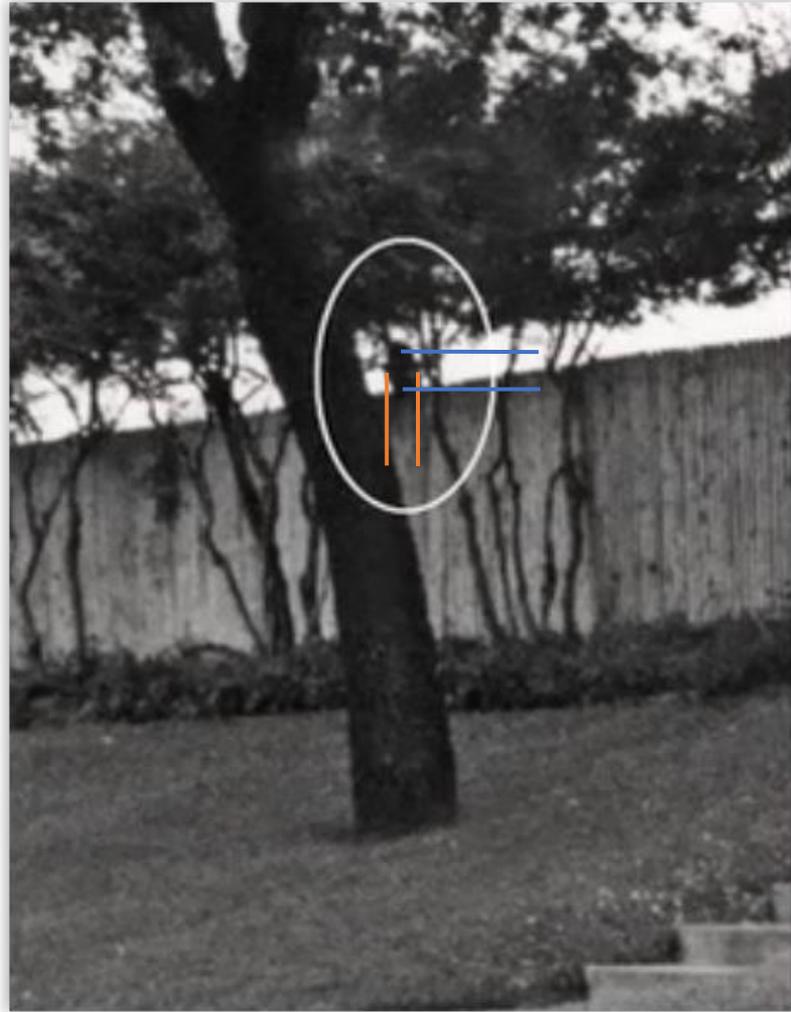
Thompson and other conspiracy buffs offer no credible evidence that rifle *ammunition* from that era was anything but "smokeless." There are no eyewitness reports of *any* gunshot "smoke" emanating from *any* of the other firing sites that Thompson suggests -- the 6th floor of the TSBD, Dal-Tex, or Records Building -- just the Grassy Knoll.

THE MOORMAN PHOTO

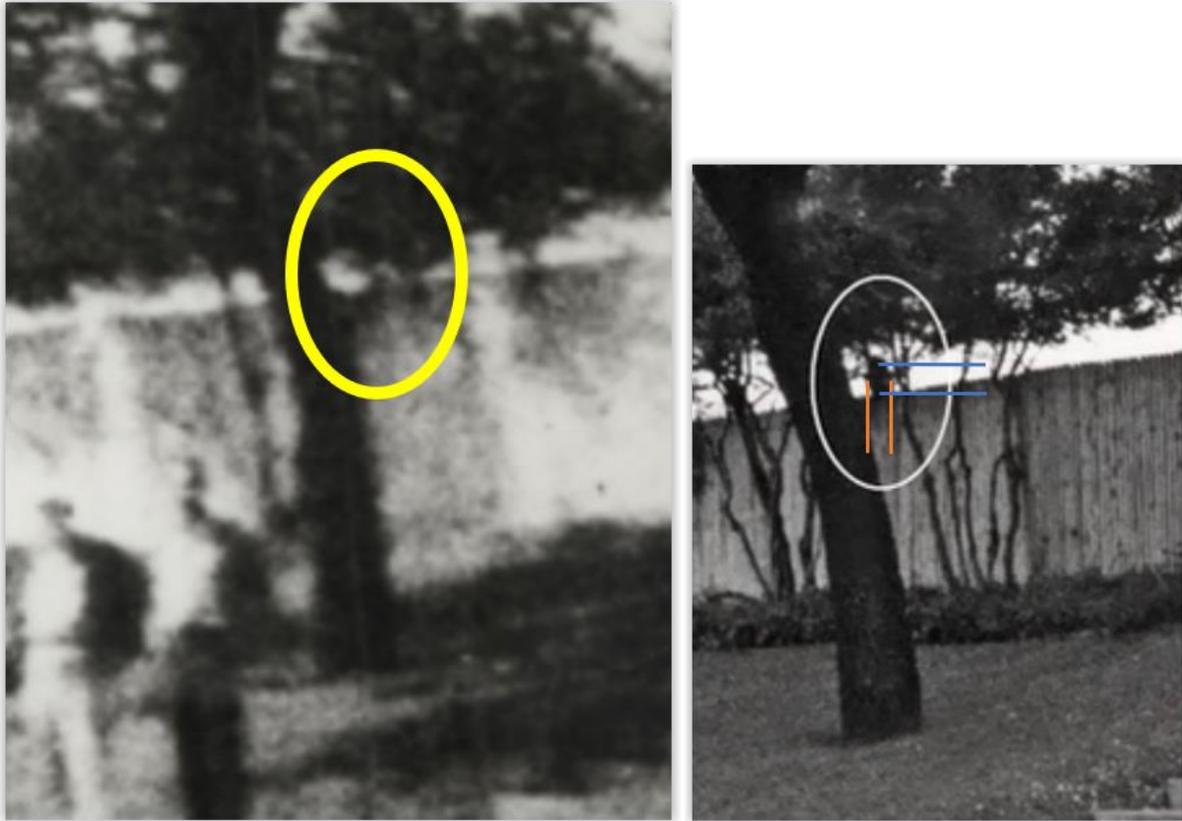


The yellow ellipse is centered on what Thompson and some other conspiracists would have you believe is the Grassy Knoll shooter. Let's take a closer look.

The enlarged Moorman photograph (LSID, p. 80) appears to show *something* behind the fence line that could be a photographic artifact, a shadow, or perhaps someone (or something else). Refer to LSID, p. 78, Photo 5-12. That photo (below) shows "Skinny" Holland wearing a hat, standing at the exact spot where the Moorman "anomaly" was seen. Holland is a short man, but the top of his hat is well above the height of the object (or artifact) we see in the Moorman photograph. Notice the difference in the size of Holland's head and the "object" in the Moorman photo. Whatever that indistinct object is, it does not appear to be a human head. Compare that obvious head with the "object" seen in the Moorman photograph (above):



The object in the Moorman photograph is *much* smaller than the head of “Skinny” Holland – even *without* his hat. The vertical orange lines represent the approximate width of Holland’s head. The horizontal blue lines approximate the height of Holland’s head (without his hat). See below.



Above, on the left, is an extreme enlargement of the Moorman photo. S. M. Holland is on the right. Whatever the object was in the Moorman photo, it was not a human head near the fence.

According to Thompson (p. 79), the Moorman photograph was taken “*one-ninth of a second after the president was struck in the head.*” The alleged Grassy Knoll gunshot was just taken. QUESTION: Where is the gunsmoke? Thompson believes that a shot was *just fired* from that *exact location* -- behind the wooden fence. His star “smoke witness,” “Skinny” Holland claims that he watched smoke travel (10 to 15 feet?) from the fence to the tree line. WHERE IS THE SMOKE in the Moorman photograph? It couldn’t have been seen (and watched as it moved) by “Skinny” Holland *and* disappeared in 1/9th of a second!

[How difficult would it have been to recreate the smoke allegedly witnessed by Holland emanating from the wooden fence? You would need a Polaroid camera and film (like Moorman’s) and someone blowing cigarette smoke from behind the wooden fence – in wind conditions similar to those on 22 Nov 1963 -- ~ 17 mph out of the West. Also, Holland’s alleged witnessing (cigarette-like) smoke from his location on the overpass could be verified – as could the ability of the Polaroid film to capture the blowing smoke.]

In addition to the two Secret Service Agents in the front seat of the presidential limousine, the follow-up Secret Service convertible, immediately behind the presidential limousine, was filled with experienced, armed Secret Service agents who were scanning the bystanders on both

sides of Elm Street. None of them saw smoke or anyone aiming or shooting a rifle from the fence line -- or anywhere else forward of the limousine.

The best evidence is that any cigarette smoke (or alleged gunsmoke) would have dissipated *immediately* in the gusty winds at 12:30 on 22 November. The best evidence is that "smokeless" rifle ammunition does not emit smoke that resembles cigarette smoke. No conspirator, attempting to conceal his presence behind a fence, would use ammunition that emitted smoke! Most significantly, the photographic anomaly (artifact) seen in the Moorman photo behind the fence is not the head of a human.

A closer look at S. M. "Skinny" Holland's changing story is appropriate.

S. M. "SKINNY" HOLLAND

Thompson gives great credence to S. M. "Skinny" Holland who was standing on the overpass watching the presidential motorcade as it turned from Houston to Elm Street. Refer to LSID, p. 243, Photo 15-51. Holland gave a detailed, formal statement to the Dallas Sheriff's Department on the day of the assassination. Here is that statement (*not included in LSID*):

(50)

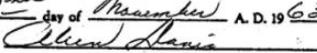
VOLUNTARY STATEMENT. Not Under Arrest. Form No. 86

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF DALLAS, TEXAS**

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this the 22 day of November A. D. 19 61
personally appeared: S. M. Holland, Address 1119 Lucille, Irving,
Age 57, Phone No. BI3-2185 Texas

Deposes and says: I am signal supervisor for the Union Terminal and I was inspecting signal and switches and stopped to watch the parade. I was standing on top of the triple underpass and the President's Car was coming down Elm Street and when they got just about to the Arcade I heard what I thought for the moment was a fire cracker and he slumped over and I looked over toward the arcade and trees and saw a puff of smoke come from the trees and I heard three more shots after the first shot but that was the only puff of smoke I saw. I immediately ran around to where I could see behind the arcade and did not see anyone running from there. But the puff of smoke I saw definitely came from behind the arcade through the trees. After the first shot the President slumped over and Mrs. Kennedy jumped up and tried to get over in the back seat to him and then the second shot rang out. After the first shot the secret service man raised up in the seat with a machine gun and then dropped back down in the seat. And they immediately sped off. Everything is spinning in my head and if I remember anything else later I will come back and tell Bill.



Subscribed and sworn to before me on this the 22nd day of November A. D. 19 61

Notary Public, Dallas County, Texas

32

Note when Holland saw the “smoke” – *immediately* after the FIRST noise which he thought was a firecracker. It was then that Holland sees the President “slump over.” It was then that Holland looks toward the “arcade” and sees a “puff of smoke come from the trees and I heard three MORE shots AFTER the first shot but that was the only puff of smoke I saw.” [emphasis added]

Above is a signed deposition of what Holland claims to have seen – *on the day of the assassination*. Holland continues: “I immediately ran around to where I could see the arcade and did not see anyone running from there.” Really!

Refer to Photo 5-5 on page 71, and then Photo 15-51 on page 243. In the second picture, much of the motorcade has passed below Holland and his co-workers who stand -- motionless. “Skinny” Holland is not looking at or pointing toward or running to the Grassy Knoll in either photograph. He hasn’t moved. Holland didn’t “immediately run” anywhere! Author Thompson doesn’t question this obvious contradiction -- embedded in LSID.

Holland was interviewed by the FBI on 24 November 1963 – two days after the assassination. According to that FBI report, “The only unusual thing that Holland could recall was an approximate [sic] one and one-half to two foot diameter of what he believed was gray smoke which appeared to him to be coming from the trees which would have been on the right of the Presidential car but observed no one there in the vicinity.” [emphasis added] [The smoke wasn’t coming *from the fence!* It was coming *from the trees!* Also, it would be difficult to find a muzzle-loader 18th-century rifle that would emit that much smoke.] Thompson makes no mention of Holland’s statement to the FBI.

Thompson, justifiably, places the most credence on the earliest witness statements. He knows that witnesses’ memories can be influenced (or contaminated) by subsequent news and events – or “leading questions.” Almost exactly 3 years after the assassination, Thompson will personally interview “Skinny” Holland in Dallas in late November of 1966. Holland’s account (pp. 69-76) has now changed *dramatically* from the signed affidavit he made the day of the assassination. Now, the noise he associated with the smoke near the fence was the THIRD shot – not the first. [The acoustical “evidence” indicates that the GK shot was the 4th shot.]

“...and about the same instance, there was a louder report that came from up the street, and they were so close together you could say, well, you could say they were just [snaps his fingers together twice, one immediately after another to indicate the closeness of the sounds of the shots]. But one of them wasn’t nearly as loud as the fourth report, and it knocked President Kennedy completely over; just almost turned a flip.”

Could the “smoke” that Holland (and few others) claim to have seen from the area of the fence been something less sinister than gunsmoke? In 1966, Holland described the “smoke” to Thompson. “It was like the puff of a cigarette....The smoke was about nine foot [sic] from the ground up to the trees, but it would be just with, or maybe just a little bit higher than that fence, but by the time it got out under the tree, well, it would be about eight or nine feet.” [emphasis

added] Holland is asked if the “smoke” could have come from a cigarette. Holland responds, “He couldn’t have blown the smoke that far...cause the tree is about ten or fifteen feet from that fence.” Holland claims to have seen “smoke” at the fence line “maybe a little bit higher than the fence” but, by the time it got to “the tree,” it was about “eight or nine feet” high. According to Holland, the tree was 10 to 15 feet away from the fence! [Refer to Photo 5-8 (p. 74).] Holland is claiming to have seen the smoke travel (drift? blown?) from the fence to the tree line and rise slightly – from “a little bit higher than that fence” to “eight or nine feet” when it got to the treeline. Additionally, Holland now rejects the possibility that what he admits looked like a “the puff of a cigarette” was what it appeared to be -- because a smoker “could not have blown the smoke that far”! His account infers that he watched (for some unspecified amount of time) the smoke move (at some unknown speed) some 15-feet from the fence line to the tree line. Was Skinny Holland watching the assassination unfold as he also was watching the smoke floating out and up into the trees? Thompson doesn’t ask.

As noted above, Holland told the FBI on 24 Nov 1963, that the smoke he saw was “gray” and between 1.5 and 2 feet in diameter! Does that describe “the puff of a cigarette” – as Holland told Thompson in 1966?

We do know from the Zapruder film that Holland exaggerated when he claimed that the shot “knocked President Kennedy completely over; just almost turned a flip.” [emphasis added] Thompson isn’t clear why he accepts Holland’s reasoning that the smoke could not have been cigarette smoke. Holland told Thompson (p. 76) that when he moved to the back of the fence – to the area where he saw the smoke – he found “three, four, or five cigarette butts. They was [sic] trampled under, just like you would trample grass, but there were four or five cigarette butts.” Note that in two consecutive sentences, Holland modifies the number of cigarette butts from “3, 4, or 5,” to “4 or 5.” Holland also says that the cigarette butts were “trampled under, just like you would trample grass...” How do you “trample under” cigarette butts like you would “trample grass” -- in the mud that Holland earlier claimed to have *hundreds* of footprints?

If Holland could see those cigarette butts, they were *exposed* and not covered with mud – the mud that was trampled by hundreds of footprints! It had rained in Dallas that morning. The parking lot was muddy. A cigarette butt is a very perishable object – thin paper and some tobacco and possibly a filter. Thompson doesn’t ask if any of the cigarette butts Holland saw were partially covered with mud. He doesn’t ask Holland if the cigarette butts had filters. He doesn’t ask Holland if all of the butts were between the fender and the fence – in the same area as footprints. If they were, that would indicate that whoever was behind the fence was smoking cigarettes! Importantly, Thompson didn’t ask Holland if the mud was soft and clung to his shoes when he went behind the fence! In other words, Thompson does not attempt to confirm the age of the “hundreds” of footprints behind the fence. Why didn’t the suspicious “Skinny” Holland take down the license plate numbers of the cars parked behind the fence? Thompson doesn’t ask.

Significantly, Josiah Thompson doesn’t bother to ask “Skinny” Holland his recollection of the wind

speed and direction at the time of the assassination. How would that have affected the dispersion of the “smoke” – and Holland’s claim of the “smoke” drifting from the fence toward the treeline?

In his sworn testimony to the Warren Commission, Lee Bowers (in the switching tower) saw *“something...in that particular spot which was out of the ordinary, which attracted my eye for some reason, which I could not identify it [sic].”* (LSID, p. 64) [emphasis added]

Of the *hundreds* of bystanders in and around Dealey Plaza, no one claims to have witnessed a rifle firing from the fence (or anywhere else) in Dealey Plaza – with exception of the 6th floor of the TSBD.

In his first meeting with Thompson, in 1966, “Skinny” Holland describes his recollection of the assassination in much more detail than the statement he gave the Sheriff’s Department on the day of the assassination. Holland now claims:

“all that [shooting] took place in a period of four, five, or six seconds. Then we all...four of us broke around the fence where we saw smoke [and the shot]. [There was a] steam line. One of the boys jumped over against Mr. Simmons. And he stumbled and fell. He almost caused Mr. Simmons to fall...[continuing]...and we were trying to thread our way through the cars. And I got to the spot where I saw the smoke come from and head the shot. I was looking for empty shells or some indication that there was a rifleman or someone was over there.” [underline emphasis added]

Holland’s changing story is simply incredible.

THE EARWITNESSES

Secret Service Agent Clint Hill was riding in the convertible that closely followed the presidential limousine. Here is part of his sworn testimony:

“The motorcade made a right-hand turn onto Elm Street. I was on the forward portion of the left running board of the follow-up car. The motorcade made a left-hand turn from Elm Street toward an underpass. We were traveling about 12 to 15 miles per hour. On the left-hand side was a grass area with a few people scattered along it observing the motorcade passing, and I was visually scanning these people when I heard a noise similar to a firecracker. The sound came from my right rear and I immediately moved my head in that direction. In so doing, my eyes had to cross the Presidential automobile and I saw the President hunch forward and then slump to his left. I jumped from the Follow-up car and ran toward the Presidential automobile. I heard a second firecracker-type noise but it had a different sound -- like the sound of shooting a revolver into something hard. I saw the President slump more toward his left.” SSA Hill’s account is entirely consistent with the last two shots from the rear – JFK was “hunched forward” (when he and Connally are shot in the back) and then the second shot hit JFK in the head and Hill saw the President “slump more to his left.”

Author Thompson relegates part of Hill's account to endnote #29 on page 424-5 (near the end of LSID), but does NOT quote Hill's statement above, which indicates that Kennedy's first hit came from a shot Hill believed to be from his "right rear." Instead, Thompson quotes Hill's (struggling) attempt to characterize the sound of the last headshot. [emphasis added]

"The second one had almost a double sound – as though you were standing against something metal and firing into it, and you hear both the sound going off and the sound of the cartridge [sic, bullet] hitting the metal place [sic], which could have been caused probably by the hard surface of the head. But I am not sure that is what caused it."

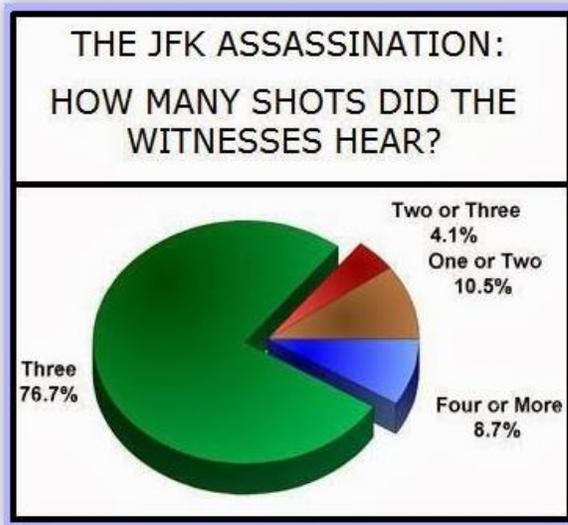
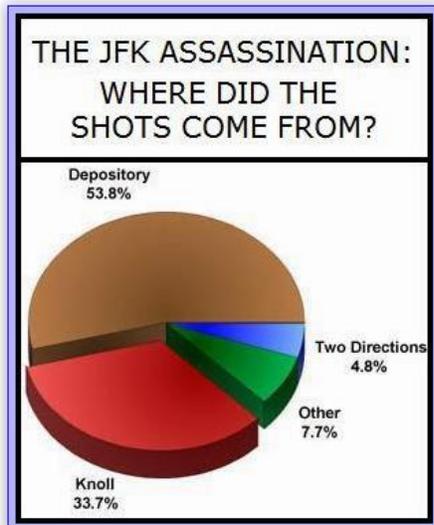
We know that one of the bullets fired from the rear (even in Thompson's new scenario) created a deep, round indentation in the chrome-plated, steel windshield frame. That impact likely made the sound that SSA Hill described as "hitting the metal place" – *immediately after striking JFK's head at Z-313*. Thompson does not comment on that obvious possibility – the double sound of a bullet impacting JFK's skull (the kill-shot) and part of that projectile (probably the nose) making the deep, round indentation in the windshield frame. You will not find this image in LSID:



Note the deep, round (hemispherical) symmetry of the impact. This is consistent with the impact of the *nose* of a round-nose bullet – not an irregular fragment. Without serious ballistic, forensic analysis, it is not possible to confirm that this impact was caused by an *undamaged* 6.5mm FMJ bullet or the *nose portion* of a 6.5mm FMJ bullet – likely the fatal headshot. What is apparent is that this damage is *consistent* with the Warren Commission hypothesis of Mannlicher-Carcano bullets fired from the rear – the sniper's nest in the TSBD.

"What about the many other earwitnesses. Was there any consensus regarding the number of shots? There was. [HERE](#) is one of the better tabulations that include 4 sources – including Thompson's.

Assassination buff, David Von Pein, has made graphic piecharts of the earwitness accounts. His remarkable website is [HERE](#): The two charts below are from data compiled by Professor John McAdams, Ph.D., of Marquette University.



Note that nearly 80% of witnesses believed there were 3 shots and less than 9% believed that there were “four or more” shots – which is the conspiratorial hypothesis of Josiah Thompson (5-shots) and the HSCA’s “acoustical experts.” Three empty cartridges were found in the TSBD.

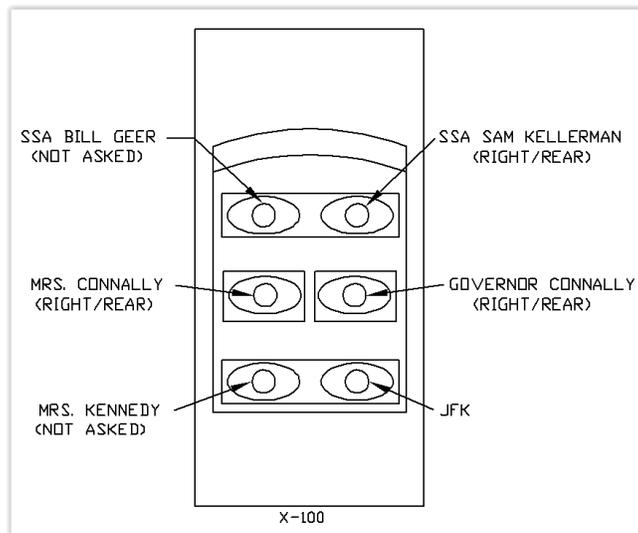
Mr. Von Pein notes: *“Two witnesses who never varied in their ‘What Direction?’ testimony were two of the people who were actually riding in the same car as assassination victim JFK -- John and Nellie Connally. They had absolutely no doubt whatsoever that all of the gunshots they heard had come from over their right shoulder (from the direction of the Book Depository Building). Governor Connally, who was severely wounded and nearly killed by one of Oswald's bullets in the attack, was particularly adamant in his belief concerning the direction of the shots. Listen him say so [HERE](#).”* [Emphasis added. Scroll down to the video insert. It’s compelling.]

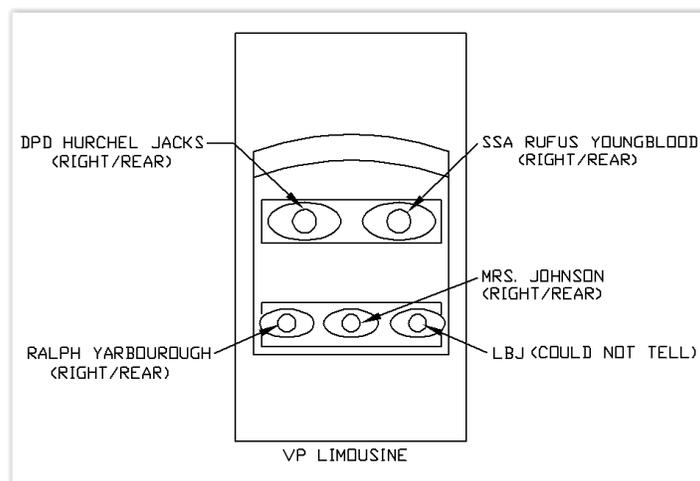
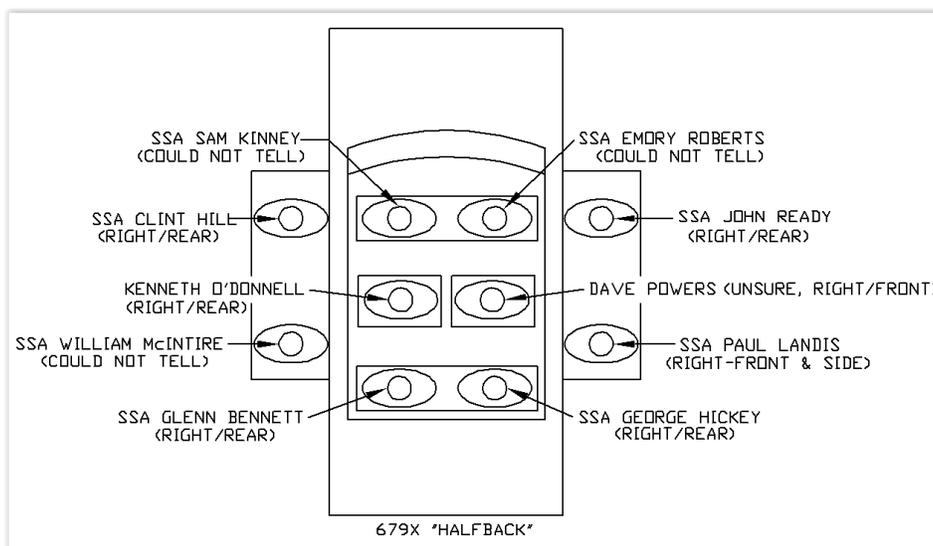
BEST EARWITNESSES

In LSID, Josiah Thompson incorporates those earwitnesses who believe a shot may have come from the area of the Grassy Knoll. In doing so, he typically ignores the obvious -- the “best” earwitnesses – those trained federal agents in the motorcade and in the direct “line of fire.” They would have received the direct muzzle blast. Below are schematic diagrams showing the occupants of 3 motorcade vehicles – the Presidential Limousine, the Secret Service follow-up convertible, and Vice President Lyndon Johnson’s convertible. They all had experienced Secret Service and/or DPD officers who routinely train with firearms and should be the “best” earwitnesses. John Connally was an experienced hunter. Based on testimonies and interviews of the occupants, their locations for the shots are included in parentheses. Here is a summary of what they believed was the origin of the shots:

PRESIDENTIAL LIMOUSINE	SECRET SERVICE LIMOUSINE	VICE PRESIDENT LIMOUSINE
Bill Greer (not asked)	Clint Hill (right/rear)	Hurchel Jacks (right/rear)
Sam Kellerman (right/rear)	Sam Kinney (could not tell)	R. Youngblood (right/rear)
Mrs. Connally (right/rear)	Emory Roberts (didn't know)	R. Yarbrough (right/rear)
Gov. Connally (right/rear)	John Ready (right/rear)	Mrs. Johnson (right/rear)
Mrs. Kennedy (not asked)	Ken O'Donnell (right/rear)	VP LBJ (could not tell)
	Dave Powers (?, right/front)	
	Bill McIntire (didn't know)	
	Paul Landis (right/front/side)	
	Glenn Bennett (right/rear)	
	George Hickey (right/rear)	

To summarize the opinions of the (above) 20 surviving witnesses in the first three vehicles that (literally) came “under fire” – 4 didn’t know and 2 were not asked. Of the remaining 14 who offered an opinion as to the origin of the shots, 12 thought (or were certain) they were from the “right-rear.” That’s 86%! Only 2 thought they *may* have come from the “right front” or “right side,” and one of those (Dave Powers) was not sure.





Thompson displayed his confirmation bias in (1967) "Six Seconds in Dallas" when he misrepresented the testimony of numerous eyewitnesses. Professor John McAdams, Ph.D., of Marquette University, details those errors [HERE](#). Below is a screen capture from McAdams' website summarizing SSID Thompson's errors.

Witness	Thompson Classification	Correct Classification
Bobby Hargis	Knoll	Uncertain
Nellie Connally	Uncertain	Depository
Amos Lee Euins	Uncertain	Depository
Charles Hester	Knoll	Depository
Hurchel Jacks	Knoll	Depository
Marilyn Sitzman	Uncertain	Depository
Emmett Hudson	Knoll	Depository
Mrs. R. A. Reid	Uncertain	Depository
Abraham Zapruder	Knoll	Uncertain

The most comprehensive tabulation of eyewitness opinions can be found [HERE](#).

Another example of Thompson's bias in LSID and related to the witnesses is the alleged confirmation of Richard Dodd, who, Thompson claims (p. 394), was standing on the overpass and "saw the same thing as [Skinny] Holland and Simmons." Thompson bases Dodd's concurrence with Holland on a 1966 interview Dodd had with author Mark Lane who was preparing "Rush to Judgement." Here is what Richard Dodd told the FBI in 1964 – which Thompson omits from LSID.

ev. 1-23-40)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Commission Exhibit 1420

1

Date 3/18/64

Mr. RICHARD CALVIN DODD, 1216 South Tyler, Dallas, Texas, was interviewed at Lamar and Henning Street in Dallas, and furnished the following information:

Mr. DODD stated he is employed as a track supervisor for the Union Terminal Company, 500 South Houston Street, Dallas, and was so employed on November 22, 1963. On this date, he took up a position on the Elm Street railroad viaduct overlooking the route used by the Presidential motorcade on this date. Mr. DODD stated that when the motorcycle escort and the automobile carrying President KENNEDY approached the area where he was standing his attention was directed on President KENNEDY. He stated he first realized something was wrong when he saw President KENNEDY slump forward and simultaneously heard shots ring out. He stated he did not know how many shots were fired, but that the sounds were very close together. Mr. DODD advised that his attention remained on President KENNEDY; he did not look up and did not know where the shots came from.

Mr. DODD stated he did not know LEE HARVEY OSWALD and had never met or seen JACK RUBY.

THOMPSON'S "PROFESSIONAL" HIT

In LSID, Chapter 7, "Puzzling the Pieces," Thompson departs from his "evidence" and pontificates. Without any supporting citations, he makes this *outrageous* claim: "Most amateur assassinations do not succeed since single individuals acting alone cannot bring enough force to the point of attack. The Kennedy assassination was efficiently carried out and was devastatingly effective. These are the hallmarks of a professional hit." [emphasis added] Thompson repeats his personal opinion in the Epilogue (p. 361). Really?!

Here is a *very* short list of "amateur assassins" and other lone-nut, unhinged individuals who (except for John Hinckley, Jr.) were able to "*bring enough force to the point of attack.*"

1865, President, Abraham Lincoln -- John Wilkes Booth
1881, President, James Garfield -- Charles J. Guiteau
1901, President, William McKinley -- Leon Czolgosz
1914, Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand (and his wife) by Gavrilo Princip.
1933, Chicago Mayor, Anton Cermak -- Giuseppe Zangara
1935, Louisiana Governor & Senator, Huey Long -- Carl Weiss
1963, President, John F. Kennedy -- Lee Harvey Oswald
1963, Lee Harvey Oswald -- Jack Ruby
1966, Charles Whitman (ex-Marine), Univ. of TX, tower shooter -- killed 14 and wounded 31.
1968, Martin Luther King -- James Earl Ray
1968, Senator Robert F. Kennedy -- Sirhan Sirhan
1978, San Francisco Mayor, George Moscone -- Dan White
1979, US District Judge, John Wood -- Charles Harrelson
1979-1995, "lone-nut" Unabomber, Ted Kaczynski killed 3 and wounded 23.
1980, US Congressman, Allard Lowenstein -- Dennis Sweeney
1981, President Ronald Reagan (attempted assassination) – John Hinkley, Jr.
1995, Timothy McVeigh packed a rental truck with explosives and blew up the Oklahoma City, Murrah Federal Building – killing 168 (including many children) and wounding 680 others.
[Josiah Thompson was part of McVeigh's defense team!]
2017, Las Vegas mass killing (59 killed) from a highrise by "lone-nut" sniper Stephen Paddock.

Thompson assiduously avoids Lee Harvey Oswald – for good reason. What sophisticated conspiracy (a "professional hit") would include the likes of the erratic loner, Lee Harvey Oswald -- as a coconspirator *or* as a patsy? Oswald, the quintessential "lone nut," was *figuratively* and (then) *literally* a "loose cannon." Read Bugliosi's "Reclaiming History" (not mentioned in LSID) and the documented history of Lee Harvey Oswald assembled by John McAdams, Ph.D. – [HERE](#).

THOMPSON'S "FINAL RECONSTRUCTION"

In his 2-page, "Final Reconstruction" of the assassination (pp. 355-7), just before the Epilogue, Josiah Thompson distills his complex, multiple-shooter, conspiratorial scenario based on his

absolute faith in the “newly validated” HSCA acoustical analysis – 5 shots including one from the Grassy Knoll. [Recall from the piecharts above that only 8.7% of the earshot witnesses believed that there were “4 or more” shots in Dealey Plaza. 76.7% believed there were only 3 shots. Almost 9 times as many earwitnesses believe there were 3 shots compared to those who believed there were 4 or more.] Thompson does not cite *ONE* witness who claims that there were 5 shots – as the (alleged) acoustical evidence indicates. Thompson is undeterred.

Here is an excerpt (p. 356) from Thompson’s “Final Reconstruction” – beginning shortly after the presidential limousine navigates the 120-degree, left turn from Houston to Elm Street. [emphasis added]

“There was a flurry of sounds [sic]. The Dictabelt indicates 3 shots in 2.62 seconds. [Oops! The correct time between (alleged) shots #1 and #3 is 2.75 seconds; ref. notes below Table 11-1.] Clearly, not all three could have come from the rifle found later on the sixth floor of the depository. This indicated a second shooter in the vicinity, possibly firing from the Dal-Tex or Records Building. Then there was a pause that lasted almost 5 seconds. Toward the end of this pause, Bill Greer turned around in his seat to look back and see what was happening. He must have taken his foot off the accelerator, for the limousine slowed from twelve to eight mph. On the knoll, the gunman behind the fence may have noticed the car slowing as he squeezed the trigger.” [Thompson continues his reconstruction]

“The bullet produced the ‘tangential hit’ high above the right temple seen minutes later by Dr. Kemp Clark at Parkland Hospital. The force of the impact ranged rearward but largely up [sic], throwing blood and brain debris over Mrs. Kennedy’s right shoulder onto Clint Hill and the motorcycle outriders. The shot first drove the president’s head downward, twisting the front of his skull to the left. Then [sic] it lifted his head and body up and backward. Less than ninety-five feet away, the gunman must have recognized his success, must have seen his shot hit its mark.” [A frangible bullet drives the head downward, twists it, and THEN lifts JFK’s head AND body?! That is the “magic bullet”!]

“Virtually at the same time [sic], the gunman in the corner window of the depository squeezed the trigger. Ten feet below him in the fifth floor [sic] window, depository employee Bonnie Ray Williams heard another shot from above as ceiling plaster from the concussion sprinkled down.”

Note that in his “Final Reconstruction” Thompson makes no effort to explain what happened to the (alleged) first 3 shots that (according to the “Dictabelt”) were fired in *under* 3 seconds. Why not? Perhaps because those alleged three shots would have been (as Kevin Costner said in the movie “JFK”) like “shooting ducks in a barrel.” The limousine was slowly navigating the 120-degree Houston to Elm Street turn and the distances of the 3 shots (from any of the 3 buildings) would have been minimal. Why would the multiple (“professional”) shooters at the

intersection wait for the more difficult shot – after the limousine had turned on Elm and was accelerating (from ~5-mph to ~11 mph) on a declining, downward street grade!?

IF there were multiple shooters concealed in buildings at the Houston/Elm intersection, they would have waited until the presidential limousine AND the Secret Service follow-up car had just made the turn onto Elm – when the armed Secret Service Agents were looking down Elm Street with their backs toward the multiple shooters. The same scenario would apply to a lone assassin on the 6th floor of the TSBD.

Below is Ike Altgen’s famous and telling photo taken shortly after the 2nd shot that wounded JFK and Governor Connally.



Zoom in and note the positions of Kennedy and Connally. In the Secret Service Cadillac convertible, immediately behind the president’s limousine. Note the orientation of the two, standing SS Agents (Jack Ready in front of Paul Landis) on the *right* running-board of the Secret Service follow-up car close-behind the presidential limousine. SSA Ready’s head (orange ellipse) is pointed *directly* toward the entrance to the TSBD. Note Jackie Kennedy’s gloved, left hand on the left wrist (forearm) of her wounded husband. Note how close the Secret Service Cadillac convertible is to the presidential limousine. Note the motorcycle policemen to the left and rear of the presidential limousine.

Several car lengths behind the Secret Service Cadillac convertible (codenamed “Halfback”) is the Vice Presidential limousine - a steel grey Lincoln convertible. For a reasonably accurate stop-motion diagram of each of the vehicles in the motorcade – including the location of H. B. McLain at the moment of the fatal headshot -- go [HERE](#).

DECONSTRUCTING THOMPSON’S “FINAL RECONSTRUCTION”

In his “Final Reconstruction” (pp 355-357), Thompson distills his theory for the initial volley of three shots from the vicinity of the Houston/Elm intersection, and the two headshots -- one from the GK and the final shot from the rear. Thompson offers no hypothesis that accounts for 2 of the 3 shots that he alleges (p. 256) were fired in “2.62 seconds.” [Ref. Table 11-1. The

actual time between the *alleged* 3 shots is 2.75 seconds – not “2.62” seconds. *Thompson forgot to increase the time by 5%.*] Thompson now concedes that one of the 3 shots was likely fired from the 6th-floor of the TSBD. Regarding the “kill-shot”:

1. The GK shooter fires (with a smoking gun) from behind the fence. [The alleged GK shooter is well ABOVE the elevation of the limousine.]
2. The (alleged) GK bullet impacts JFK’s head “tangentially” above the president’s right temple.
3. The *force* of the GK bullet’s “tangential” impact “ranges” [sic] rearward but “largely up.” [sic] [The bullet’s trajectory is DOWNWARD, but Thompson now claims (without explanation) the *force* of the impact was acting “largely up.”]
4. This counterintuitive “largely up” force, sends “blood and brain debris over Mrs. Kennedy’s right shoulder onto Clint Hill and the motorcycle outriders.” [Thompson includes enhanced images of Z-313 showing skull fragments flying *forward* but will not connect that movement with a shot from the rear!]

Immediately after the GK headshot, in his “Final Reconstruction,” Thompson adds the missing piece to this puzzle. This is Thompson’s *pièce de resistance* – with “sprinkles” – two (2) nearly simultaneous headshots! This is what was missing from his 1967 “Six Seconds in Dallas.”

5. “At the same time,” as the GK headshot, the TSBD gunman fires from the 6th floor. [It was .75 seconds later – according to the acoustical evidence.]

Remarkably, in his “Final Reconstruction,” Thompson concedes that Elm Street witness Howard Brennan saw the shooter in the 6th-floor window of the TSBD who (Brennan said) “took a couple of seconds” to take “positive aim and fire *his last shot.*” [emphasis added] Thompson now elaborates on Brennan’s testimony as he continues his reconstruction (p. 357):

“Since his earlier shot, the gunman had had [sic] plenty of time to acquire the target in his scope, zero in the crosshairs, and squeeze the trigger.” Thompson continues, *“His bullet hit high up on the back of the president’s head, accelerating his head forward and wounding Governor Connally for a second time. At the same time, this bullet spewed [sic] fragments and impact debris forward and against the windshield and over the limousine.”*

Thompson concedes the obvious. He accepts Brennan’s eyewitness testimony. The shooter from the 6th-floor window fires his “last shot” which, Thompson says, hits “high up on the back of the president’s head, accelerating his head forward...” [emphasis added]

So, Thompson has now *erased* (from his new LSID hypothesis) the *obvious* forward head movement we see between Z-312 and 313 – confirmed by ITEK and many others -- with his “blur” theory. He now claims that the only significant forward movement *seen after the explosion in Z-313* is caused by the TSBD headshot – beginning *exactly* 0.75 seconds (14 Z-frames) after the GK headshot at Z-313 – impacting JFK’s head at Z-327.

Students of the Zapruder film must now ignore (cancel, erase, and forget) the “forward acceleration” of JFK’s head between Z-312 & 313. The acoustical evidence controls! All of the puzzle pieces *must* conform to the acoustical evidence -- or they are discarded.

[With apologies to the Marx Brothers.] *Whom are you going to believe? Josiah Thompson or “your lying eyes”?!*

The Zapruder film *documents* the Z-312-313 *forward* movement immediately *preceding* the explosion of JFK’s head at Z-313; therefore, the TSBD trigger pull (and muzzle blast) must have *preceded* the (alleged) GK trigger pull (and muzzle blast) at Z-313. However, that is not what the “acoustical evidence” – apostle Thompson’s new catechism -- requires. Shot #4 is the Grassy Knoll shot and the final shot #5 (at Z-327) is from the TSBD.

If you believe “your lying eyes,” and *accept* the Zapruder Z-312-313 forward head movement (caused by the impact from the rear) then you have two options: (1) completely discard the acoustical evidence of the GK shot #4, or (2) assume that the GK shot missed and that none of the alleged “back and to the rear” head movement was caused by a shot from Kennedy’s right-front (the GK). If there was a shooter behind the fence, he missed. [The second option (the missed GK shot) was adopted by the HSCA – *by a majority vote of its members!*]

Thompson chooses to discard what you see -- the 312-313 forward movement, which he believes salvages the GK shooter *and* the acoustical evidence, his new-found evidentiary Holy Grail.

“Houston, we have a problem!”

The time difference (Delta T) between the 4th and 5th shots – according to the acoustical “evidence” -- is 0.75 seconds. Zapruder’s camera was capturing frames at ~ 18.3 frames/second. In 0.75 seconds, the Z-film is creating almost exactly *14 frames!* Thompson now claims that Kennedy’s head begins to dramatically move forward at Z-327 -- 14 frames AFTER the GK shot (at Z-313) that explodes and then moves JFK’s head “back and to the left.” [Thompson is now changing Oliver Stone’s JFK tag line from “back and to the left” to “back and to the left and then forward.”]

Chapter 15 of LSID, “Breaking the Impasse” describes how Thompson adopted his novel theory. Keith Fitzgerald, an assassination buff, explains this to Thompson during a Kennedy assassination conference in 2005. Fitzgerald shows Thompson that “*according to your own measurements, JFK’s head moved forward 6.44 inches between frames 327 and 330*” and the final movement between 229 and 330 is 2.85 inches which “*is the fastest his head moves at any point, even faster than between 312 and 313.*” Fitzgerald tells Thompson that “*beginning with 327 and ending with 337, the president’s head wound changes and his head and body accelerate forward and down.*” [emphasis added]

On page 229, Thompson shows two enlarged images – one of frame 227 and one of frame 337 (10 frames apart). Below the image of frame 337 on page 229, Thompson claims the

president's head and body moved "forward over a foot in five-ninths of a second." What's the acceleration due to gravity? 32 ft/sec/sec. The formula for the distance (d) an object will fall in time T is $d = 1/2 \times G \times T^2$.

Gravitational acceleration (g)	32.17405 ft/s² ▾
Initial velocity (v ₀)	0 ft/s ▾
Height (h)	4.96513 ft ▾
Time of fall (t)	5/9 sec ▾
Velocity (v)	17.874 ft/s ▾

So, if the dying (or dead) JFK is simply *collapsing*, the distance his body will travel *due to gravity alone* will exceed the distance it traveled between Z-227 and Z-237 by a factor of 5!

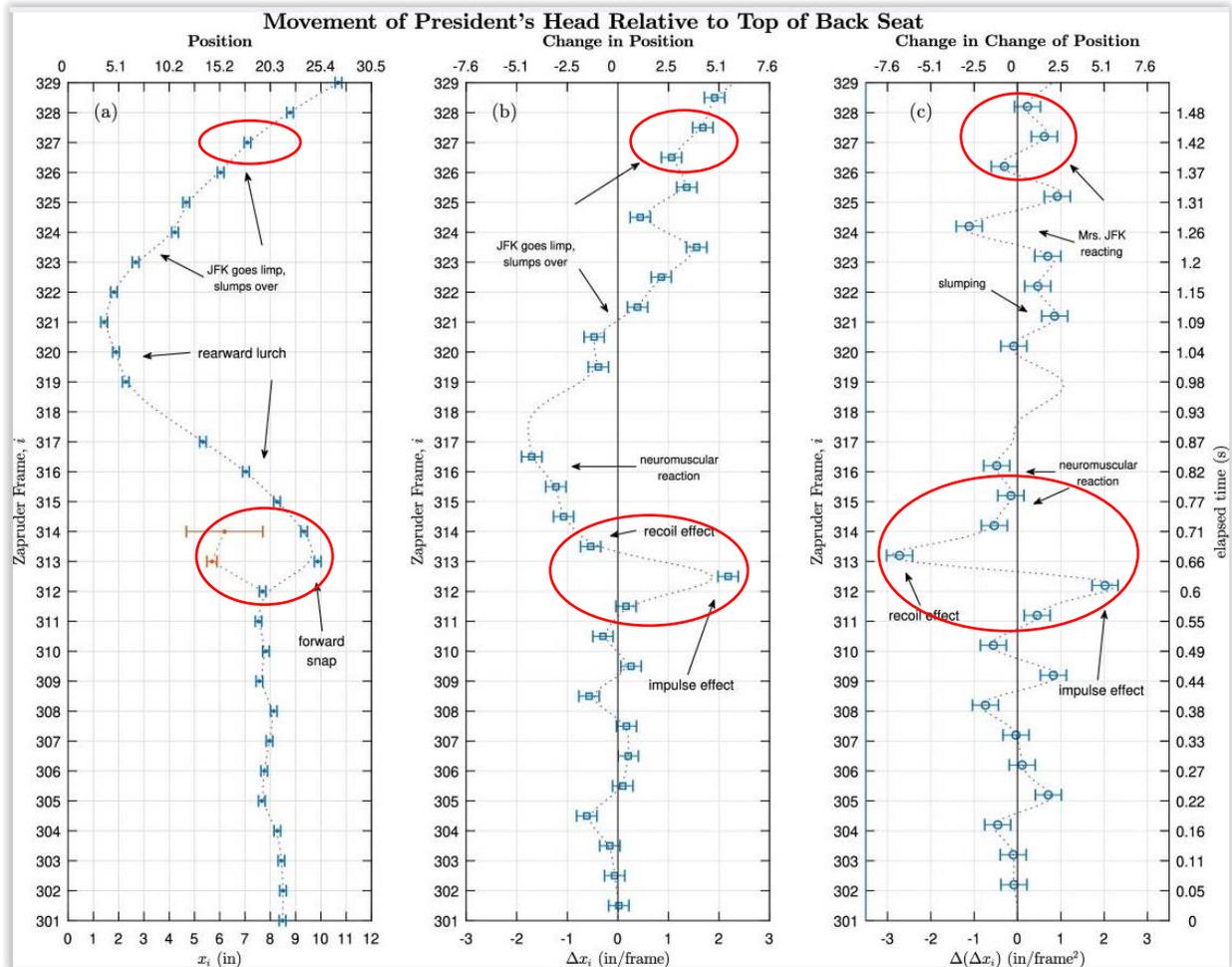


Gravity *alone* can account for JFK's forward and downward movement after Z-321. JFK's collapse to the front and left would have been more *complex* than the simple movement of a free-falling object. He's sitting on a bench seat. JFK suffered from scoliosis and his lateral movement would be restricted by his corset (back brace), pictured above, and the location of Jacqueline Kennedy seated immediately to his left.

Thompson used two fixed reference points on the limousine (mentioned in SSID, p. 273) – to arrive at the movement dimensions -- *allegedly accurate to 1/100th of an inch* – on enlarged 8mm, grainy film images. The 2 reference points on the limousine were the "forward-most point on the left-rear handhold and the upper edge of the backseat directly in front of it." The "back of the president's head" was the datum point used to measure the head movement. As that head datum point would change with the orientation of Kennedy's head and become virtually unmeasurable (with any precision) after the Z-313 explosion, the accuracy of those dimensions becomes questionable. The alleged accuracy to 1/100th inch is preposterous.

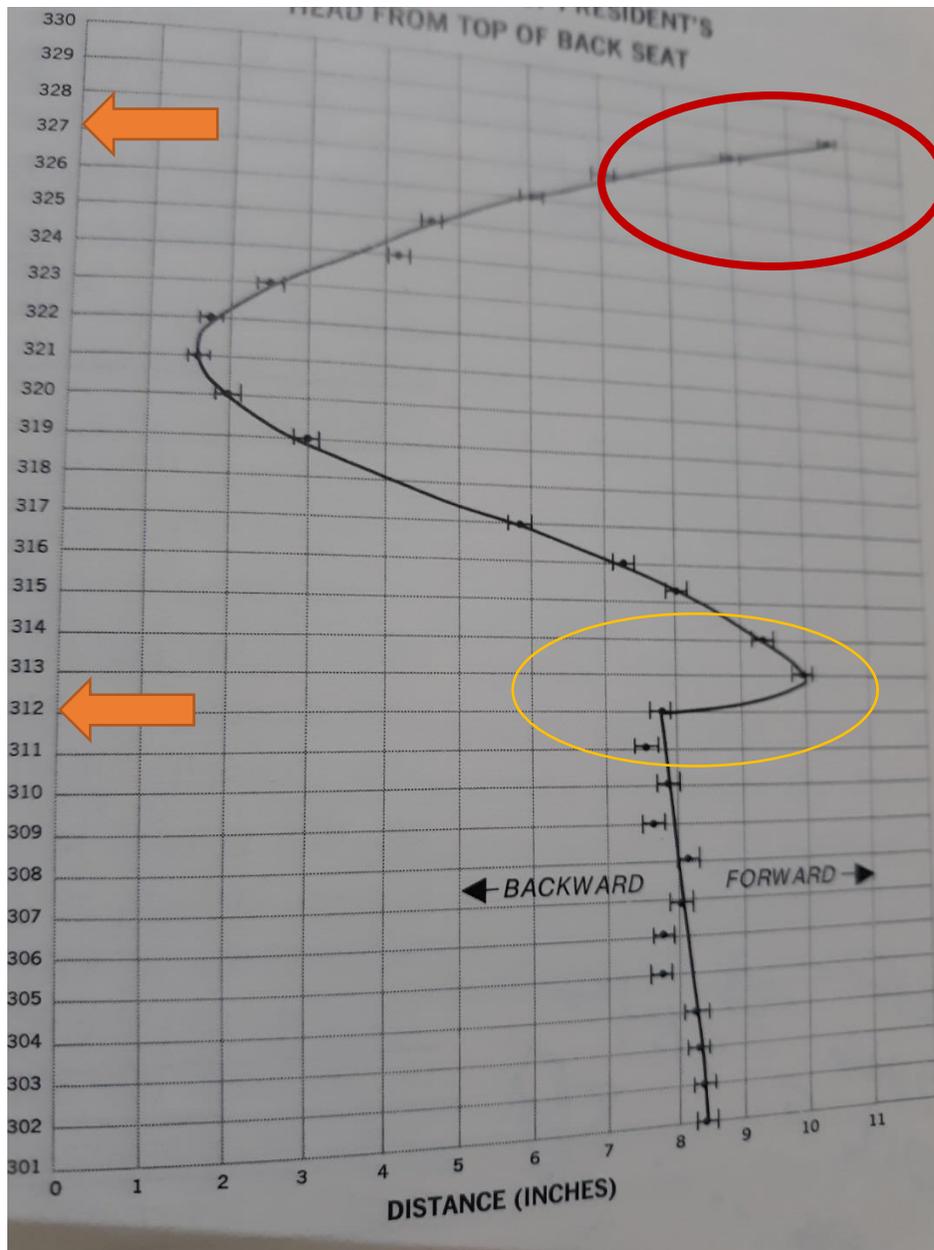
In "[Gunshot-wound dynamics model for John F. Kennedy assassination](#)," [the Corrigendum] ([HERE](#)), Nicholas Nalli, Ph.D., provides graphs showing Kennedy's head movement – positional,

velocity, and acceleration. He uses measurements provided by Josiah Thompson in “Six Seconds in Dallas” (page 91.). Here are those graphs:



In the “Position” graph (leftmost above), note the “forward snap” between 312 and 313. [Again, this data is from Thompson’s (1967) “Six Seconds in Dallas” (below).] Note the continuous forward movement of JFK’s head beginning at 321. There is no rapid acceleration beginning at 327 – caused by the alleged #5 shot from the Grassy Knoll -- as Thompson now claims in LSID. [The orange ellipses in the above graphs were added by this author, not Dr. Nalli.]

Below is an image of p. 91 of “Six Seconds in Dallas.” [arrows & ellipses added by this author]



Graph (from p. 91) "Six Seconds in Dallas" (1967)

Note the points of inflection (change in direction) above – 312, 313, and 321. There is zero measurable indication that JFK's head was struck at 327 as Thompson now claims. The movement we see at 327 is merely the *continuation* of the accelerating movement that began at 321.

In 1967, in SSID (p. 90), Thompson includes numerous qualifications and caveats regarding the head movements that he plotted. He claims that these are only the "minimum values" and the "*true acceleration values are perhaps twenty times larger.*" [emphasis added] If the "true values" are "perhaps twenty times larger" what is the scientific, evidentiary value of his graph?

ASYNCHRONICITY

IF Josiah Thompson's LSID hypothesis is correct, the Zapruder film *should* synchronize with the acoustical evidence -- the *sine qua non* of LSID! The 14-frame (*acoustical evidence*) differential between the 4th and 5th shots cannot be reconciled with the single-frame (312-313) differential we see in the Zapruder film. In the Z-film, JFK's head explodes immediately after the forward head movement – as evident from the graphs by Nalli and Thompson! After the change in direction at Z-321, there are no dramatic points of inflection indicating a change in direction – as we see in 312-313. Kennedy's head begins its forward movement at Z-321 – not at Z-327, when (according to the acoustical “evidence”) Kennedy's head is struck again.

The fact that the Z-film and (the dubious and disputed) acoustical evidence are not synchronized is consistent with a) H. B. McLain's contention that he was not near the intersection (or on Elm Street) when the shooting began; b) the significant research by others indicating that the recorded sounds were not of gunshots fired in Dealey Plaza, and c) the Warren Commission's conclusion that the headshot was fired from the School Book Depository.

“The hits just keep on coming!”

According to Thompson's “Final Reconstruction,” Connally is hit multiple times – including an (unspecified) wound(s) at Z-223/224 and, later (c. Z-327) from a fragment from the TSBD headshot (discussed above) that nearly coincided (14 frames later) with the GK shot. Governor Connally has never said that he was hit twice (or more) – at different times. He is also adamant (as noted above) that ALL of the shots fired in Dealey Plaza came from his right rear – i.e., the direction of the TSBD.

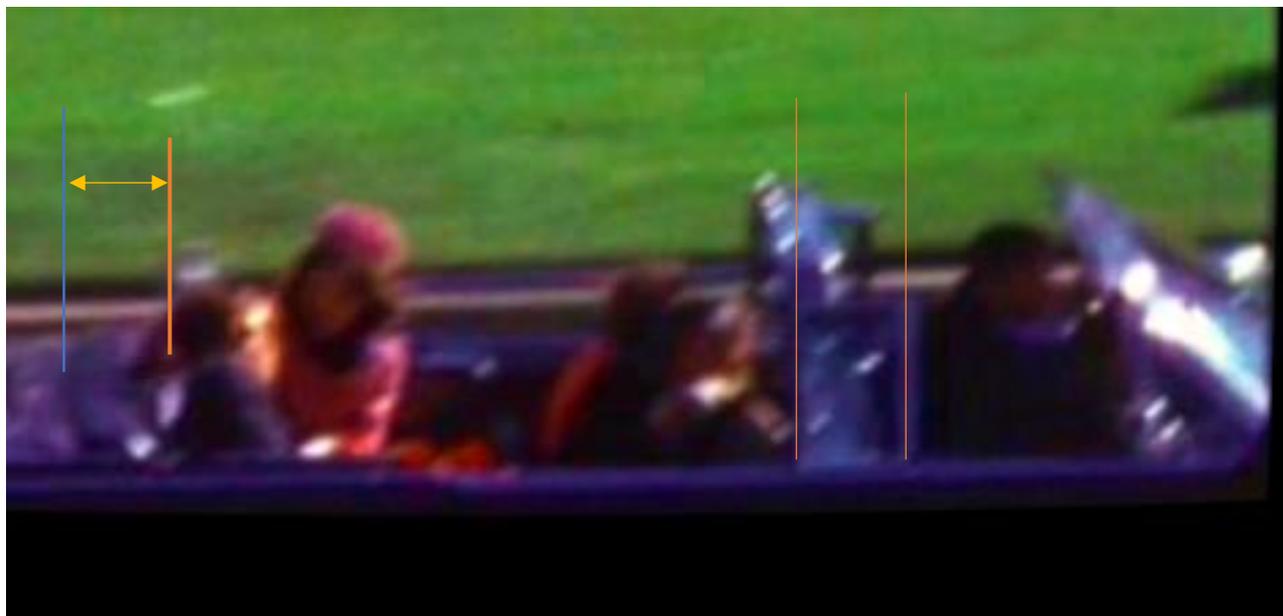
There is another big problem with Thompson's hypothesis that Connally was wounded by a fragment of the alleged 327 (second) headshot. In his Amazon book review of LSID, assassination conspiracist, Randolph Robertson, MD, explains:

“This book attempts to prove that JFK was shot twice in the head, the first from the Grassy Knoll and the second from behind. In claiming this his final conjectured shot through the head must fragment to cause the crack in the windshield, a dent in its frame, and the wound to Connally's wrist. The problem with this is that at frame 328 when this wound was supposed to occur Connally's French cuff is fully out of his jacket sleeve. At surgery, Mohair fibers were found in the wound and a bullet entering his French cuff at 328 could not have also passed through his jacket sleeve.” [emphasis added][Neither Thompson nor Robertson explains how those tiny fragments (or other fragments) fractured Connally's right wrist! Thompson has no plausible explanation for Connally's thigh wound.]

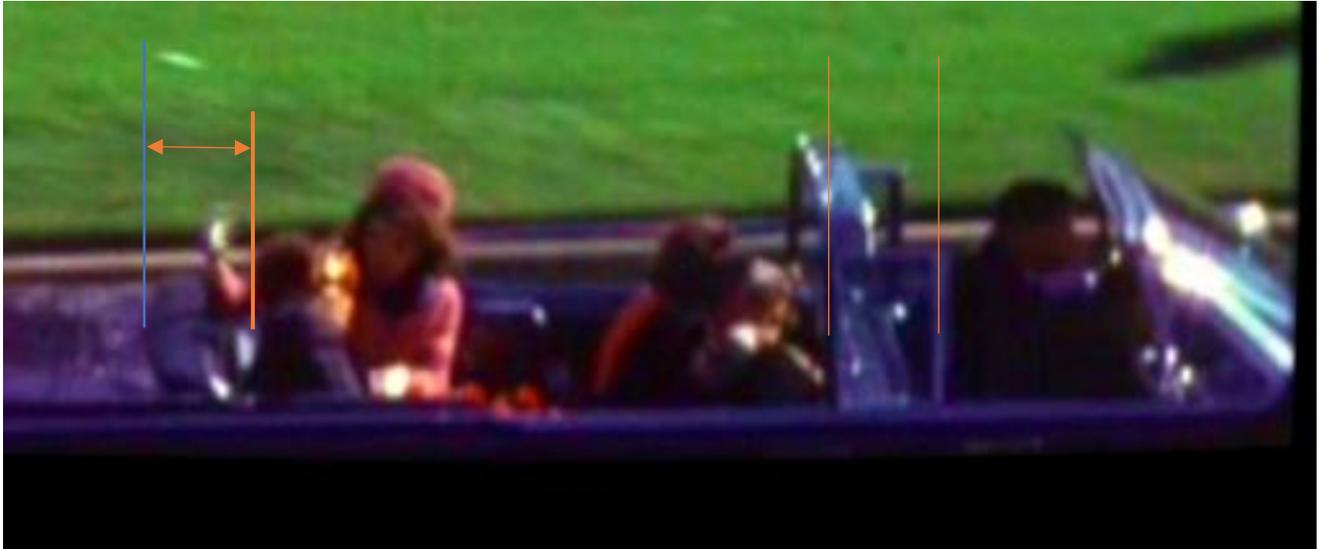
The Warren Commission SBT is perfectly consistent with a bullet striking Connally decelerating (and losing kinetic energy) *multiple times* which minimizes its ability to create wounds and break apart: First, as it passes through JFK's upper back and neck; then as it passes through Connally's chest (striking a rib); then striking Connally's wrist (and breaking the radius bone); and, finally, a shallow (low velocity) penetration of Connally's left thigh. The Warren Commission concluded that the weight of the recovered bullet fragments from Connally -- when added to the weight of CE 399 -- did not exceed the weight of a typical, unfired 6.5mm FMJ round. For a thorough discussion of the merits of the SBT, read [THIS](#).

THE ALLEGED FINAL SHOT #5 AT Z-327

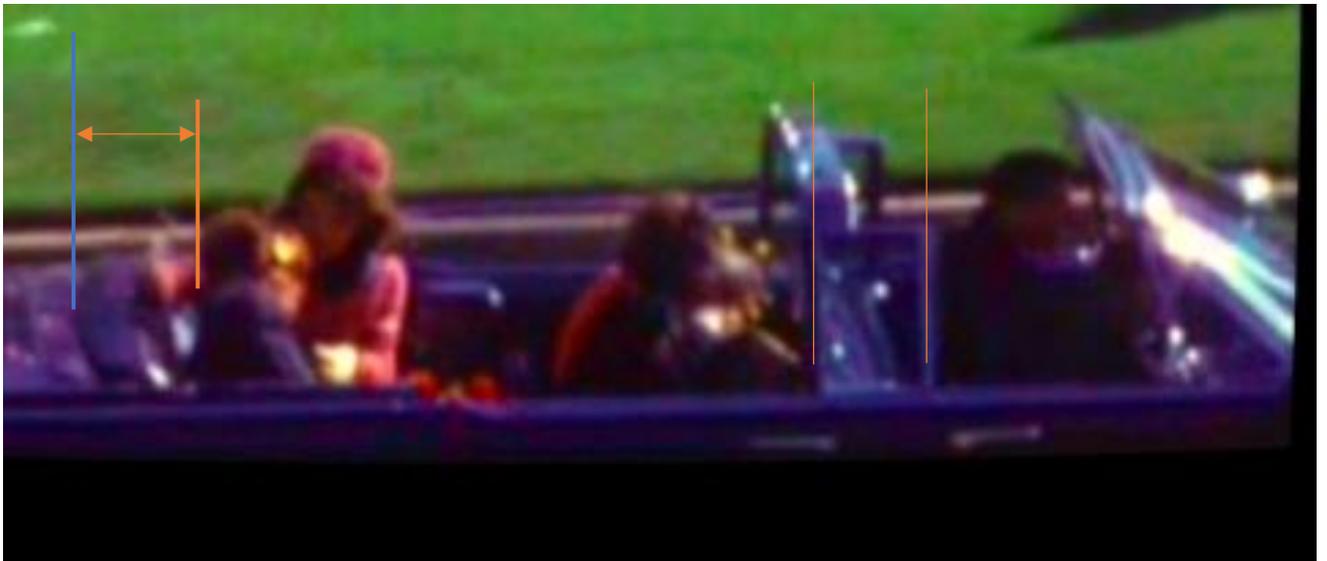
The "acoustical evidence" requires a shot from the TSBD at Z-327. As the Thompson and Nalli graphs (above) demonstrate, there is no measurable evidence indicating that JFK's head was struck a second time – 14 frames after Z-313. Even so, Thompson claims that there is circumstantial evidence (in addition to the acoustical evidence) of shot #5 striking Kennedy's skull, breaking up and causing the damage to the windshield frame, windshield, Connally's wrist, and leaving blood splatter and bullet fragments forward in the limousine. In other words, Thompson uses the alleged shot #5 at Z-327 as a "cleanup shot" – to account for physical evidence that the GK shot at Z-313 could not have caused. In Chapter 15, "THE CRUCIAL PIECE – THE FINAL SHOT," Thompson includes numerous, small images of Z-frames 312 to 324. On page 225, Thompson shows Z-325, 326, & 327. Thompson states, "*Recall now [sic] the measurements and calculations that show that Kennedy's head doubled in forward speed beginning in [sic] frame 328. Does that extraordinary forward movement signal the impact from the rear for [sic] which we've [sic] been searching?*" On the following page, 226, Thompson adds Z-328, 329 & 330. Below are clear images (better than those in LSID) of the supposed shot #5 sequence – beginning with Z-325. [All of the Zapruder frames can be found [HERE](#).]



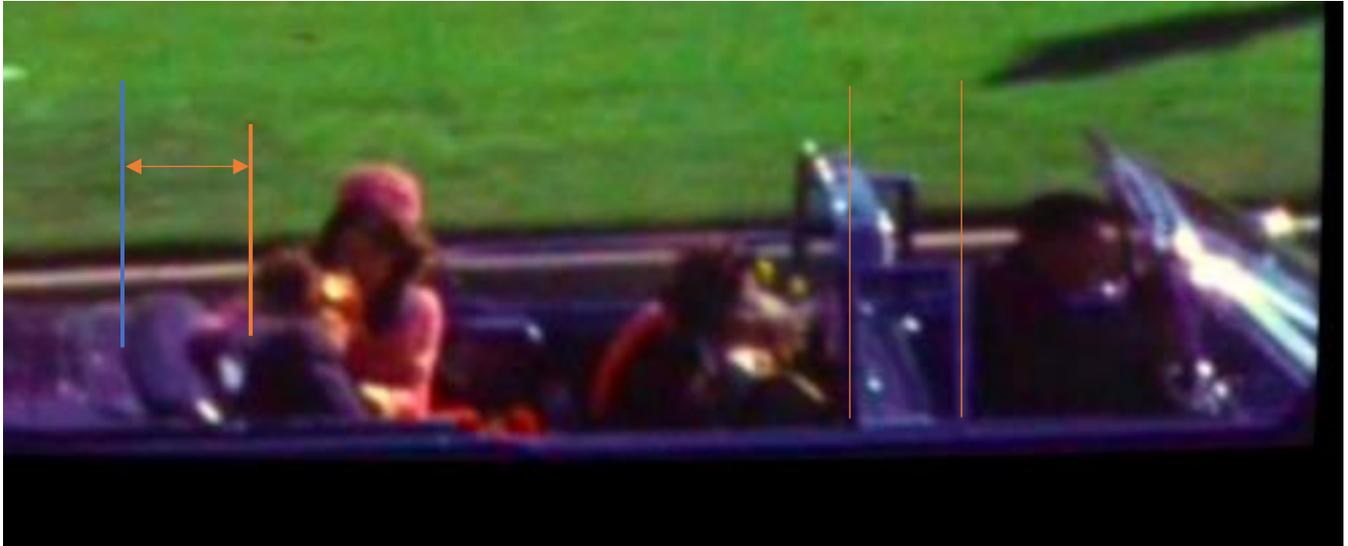
Z-325 (above)



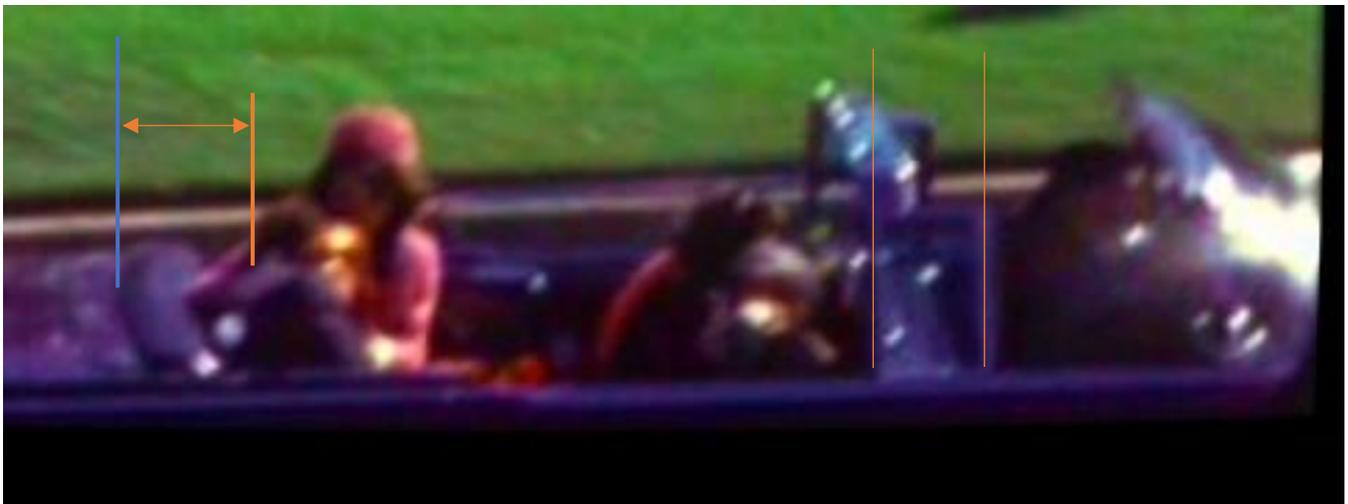
Z-326 (above)



Z-327 (the alleged headshot -- above)



Z-328 (above)



Z-329 (above)

The above five Z-frames have been scaled to the same size – using the rectangular window frame centerlines (the fine vertical orange lines forward of John Connally). The bluish vertical (benchmark) line is centered on the back of the curved fixed seat behind the Kennedys. The orange line and dimension line represent the approximate horizontal displacement between the benchmark and the approximate back of JFK’s head.

Below is a summary of the 4 (single-frame) horizontal displacements between the 5 frames. The unit “1.0” is the distance between the centerlines of the small, rectangular, vertical window on the right side of the limousine (shown above):

Z-325 = 1.04

Z-326 = 1.06 (1.9% increase)

Z-327 = 1.21 (14.2% increase) ----- The alleged #5 (headshot from the TSBD)

Z-328 = 1.25 (3.3% increase)

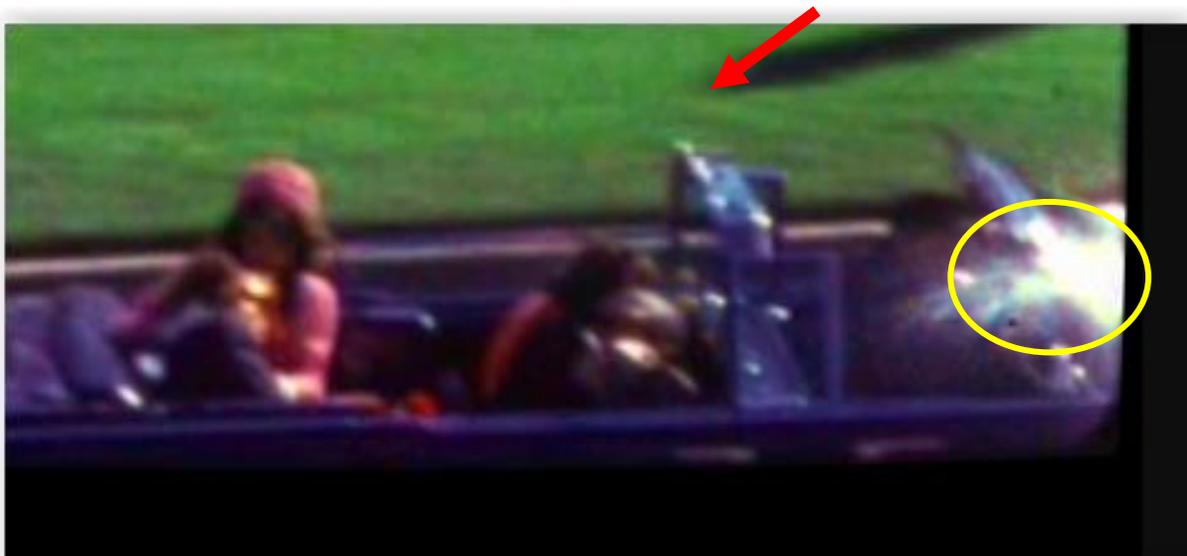
Z-329 = 1.32 (5.6% increase)

We can measure the horizontal movement of Kennedy's head with *limited* accuracy. As shown in the graphs in Thompson's SSID in 1967 and Dr. Nalli's graphs in 2020, JFK's head *and body* appear to be falling *forward* and to his left *after* Z-321. We do not know if Mrs. Kennedy is contributing to that apparent movement. Using the Zapruder film alone, the angular, 3-dimensional movement of JFK (downward and to his left) cannot be measured accurately.

Note that the above *horizontal* displacement of JFK's head, between Z-326 and 327 (before the alleged headshot), is *significantly* greater than the displacement between the alleged headshot between Z-327 and Z-328. This is *exactly the opposite* of what can be seen in the Z-312-313 *forward head movement* before the Z-313 head explosion. Also, note that there is no visible ejection of additional brain and skull matter for JFK's head at (or immediately after) Z-327.

ALLEGED WINDSHIELD IMPACT @ Z-327

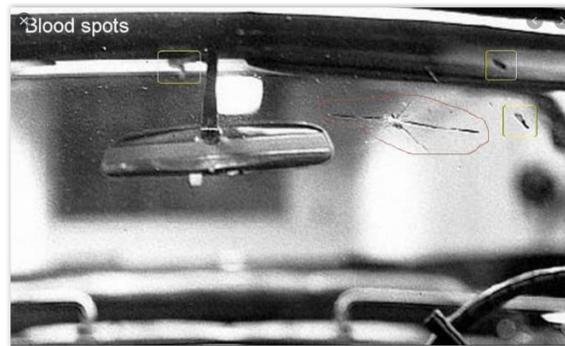
In LDIS, p. 234, Thompson posits that a bulge in the windshield – caused by the impact of the Z-327 bullet fragment -- causes a "flare" reflection of sunlight. He shows images Z-328, 329, and 330 to support his hypothesis. Frames 327, 328, and 329 are shown above. There is no "flare" where the windshield was (allegedly) struck from the inside. Thompson's Photo 15-44 (Z-330) is blurred but obviously at the extreme right end of the windshield & windshield frame. Below is a better image of Z-330, showing the flare reflection on the right windshield frame.



Thompson neglects to note the *progressive* changing sun angle as the limousine moves along the serpentine Elm Street to the SSW. Note the shadow angle of the bystander on the grass.

Note the *progressive* movement of the reflected sunlight on the curve of the windshield at Z-325 through Z-330. The sunlight is beginning to reflect off of the chrome-plated windshield frame at Z-329 & 330. At Z-330 it is significant and obvious. Nothing more.

On pages 206 and 207 (Photos 14-18 & 14-19), Thompson shows *exactly* where the defect in the windshield is located – on the left side of the windshield to the left of the centered rearview mirror. Now, on P. 234, Thompson claims that the flare is on the far RIGHT side of the windshield and was caused by the sunlight reflecting off of the *deformed* windshield – caused by the impact of part of the bullet fired at Z-327. The defect in the windshield was to the LEFT of the centerline of the windshield! It wasn't *near* the right edge of the windshield. Below is a photograph of the location of the windshield defect.



THREE OPTIONS

If you research the spectrum of “best evidence” – pro and con conspiracy – you will be left with these three options:

- 1. OSWALD ACTED ALONE -- NO CONSPIRACY:** Lee Harvey Oswald was the sole assassin of JFK; he had no confederates. He acted on his own.
- 2. OSWALD WAS AN INNOCENT PATSY – OTHERS CONSPIRED:** Oswald was *completely* innocent. He had nothing to do with the assassination; he fired no shots and was set up as a “patsy.” This conspiracy requires multiple shooters at multiple sites and the planting of evidence in the TSB to frame Oswald.
- 3. OSWALD WAS A CO-CONSPIRATOR:** Oswald was actively involved with others in the assassination; he was (possibly) one of the multiple shooters – a willing, co-conspirator. His role may have been to merely plant his rifle and 3 empty cartridges as directed by others.

If Josiah Thompson's LSID hypothesis is correct, we must eliminate OPTION 1 – Oswald could not be the lone assassin of JFK; *there were other shooters.* We (and Thompson) are left with two remaining conspiracy options – Oswald the clueless, innocent patsy, or Oswald the active co-conspirator.

Remarkably, after making his case for multiple shooters, Josiah Thompson takes off his private investigator “gumshoes,” and becomes completely incurious – no interest in “running to ground” the implications of his conspiratorial hypothesis. Thompson is seemingly content with not knowing what he *suggests* is unknowable.

Josiah Thompson realizes that either of the remaining two options requires a massive suspension of disbelief – and *galactic credulity*. He walks away from the puzzle he fabricated. Let’s not give up quite yet. Perhaps Thompson’s puzzle is the illusion, a false construct, and the reality is self-evident.

COULD OSWALD HAVE BEEN AN INNOCENT PATSY?

- How could the conspirators be assured that the untethered, unpredictable Oswald would not be in the company of others during the shooting to (inadvertently) create a perfect alibi? They couldn’t be.
- How could conspirators know that someone on the staff of the TSBD wouldn’t walk into the area of the “staged” sniper’s nest before, during, or immediately after the shooting? They couldn’t.
- There is zero evidence that anyone other than Oswald created the 6th floor, TSBD sniper’s nest. His palm and fingerprints were on multiple boxes in the “sniper’s nest.” He purchased the discovered rifle that fired CE 399. His palm print was on the rifle. He was witnessed carrying a long paper bag into the TSBD on the morning of the assassination.
- Two witnesses on the 5th floor – directly below the sniper’s nest -- heard firing and shell casings falling on the 6th floor above them!
- Witnesses in Dealey Plaza – near the intersection of Houston and Elm -- saw someone aiming and firing a rifle from the 6th-floor sniper’s nest window! No one saw anyone else firing from any other location.
- No one inside the TSBD saw Oswald during the assassination.
- Why would a professional hit team use any ammunition – like the frangible (dum-dum) bullet Thompson’s theory requires -- other than that used by the patsy?! They wouldn’t.
- Why would they use ammunition that emitted “smoke”? They wouldn’t.
- Why wouldn’t the shooter on the Grassy Knoll (or elsewhere) use a silencer and flash suppressor if they are trying to set up the TSBD shooter? They would have.
- Why would a planted Mannlicher-Carcano be wiped (almost) clean of Oswald’s fingerprints? It wouldn’t be.
- IF Lee Harvey Oswald was the innocent patsy, why would he murder DPD officer J. D. Tippit in *cold blood* and then attempt to kill the arresting officer in the Texas Theater? What was he afraid of? Did a completely innocent Oswald commit cold-blooded murder to escape capture from an assassination he didn’t commit and knew nothing about? No.

- As Marquette University professor John McAdams, Ph.D., author of “JFK Assassination Logic: How to Think about Claims of Conspiracy” asks, how would the conspirators know that they had to plant a bullet fired from the Mannlicher-Carcano found in the TSBD?
- Why would they plant a bullet in the condition of the “magic bullet” – which was ballistically traced to the 6th-floor rifle – if shots *were* fired from the TSBD by the found weapon”? They wouldn’t have to!
- How would they know which stretcher to plant the “magic bullet” (CE-399) on?
- Were the large 6.5mm Mannlicher-Carcano fragments found under (and on) Nellie Connally’s jump seat also “planted”? If so, then the FBI, the Secret Service, and many others were actively involved in the massive “coverup conspiracy.”
- How did the conspirators get Oswald’s rifle into the TSBD?
- Who was shooting from the 6th floor of the TSBD? There is no evidence of anyone other than TSBD employees in the building on 22 November. Only Oswald left the TSBD immediately after the shooting.
- If Oswald was being set up as a “patsy” why would the conspirators fire 3 rounds in 2.75 seconds – as the “acoustical evidence” allegedly indicates? *The alleged acoustical “evidence” is antithetical to a conspiracy theory to frame Oswald!*
- How could the conspirators, *firing other weapons*, know that their bullets would not be traced to weapons other than Oswald’s? They couldn’t – *unless* there was a massive conspiracy that included the Secret Service and the FBI.

Byzantine nonsense. Is the only other possibility more believable?

COULD OSWALD HAVE BEEN A CO-CONSPIRATOR?

- Why would a “professional,” multi-assassin hit team include the ner-do-well, loner, defector Lee Harvey Oswald? They wouldn’t.
- How could Oswald’s co-conspirators know that if captured (as he was), Oswald would not implicate them to save his life? They couldn’t.
- How could the other co-conspirators know that Oswald had not created an “insurance policy” – evidence that he could use to implicate his fellow conspirators – if they attempted to scapegoat him? They couldn’t.
- How could the co-conspirators know that the erratic Oswald would or could perform his limited assignment – whatever that was? They couldn’t.
- It would be critically important (to protect the scope of the conspiracy and identities of other conspirators) that NONE of the conspirators – including Oswald -- would be captured; they would all have an undetectable escape plan – or all of the “mechanics” in Dealey Plaza would have to be killed. Oswald was captured within hours of the JFK assassination and his murder of Tippit. He was carrying a *false* ID!

- How could the conspirators know that Oswald wasn't being surveilled by some intelligence agency? [Oswald was being monitored by the Dallas FBI. Read FBI Agent James Hosty's testimony [HERE](#).]
- Oswald's movements (walking, bus, taxi) were desperate, ad hoc, and erratic.
- Oswald was photographed, fingerprinted, and interrogated for 12 hours *before* being killed by Jack Ruby. If Oswald was duped by co-conspirators they would have killed him as he left the TSBD, before he could be captured by the DPD and interrogated.
- Oswald's meager personal belongings – including incriminating evidence -- were recovered from his rented room and the duplex of his abandoned wife.

The "Oswald the co-conspirator" option (like Oswald the "unwitting patsy") is facially absurd.

These are the two completely implausible conspiracy options that our PI and former philosophy professor points to – *and then wisely avoids*. Thompson never confronts the massive and compelling case that Oswald was the lone (nut) assassin. The best documentation of this evidence is not the Warren Commission Report and its encyclopedic exhibits, but former Los Angeles DA, Vincent Bugliosi's massive (2007) "[*Reclaiming History*](#)." Additionally, Gerald Posner's "Case Closed," and a dozen other thoughtful books contribute to Bugliosi's thesis – lone-nut Oswald was the assassin. Thompson never mentions Bugliosi in LSID.

Of the numerous pro and con conspiracy websites still operating, the most reasonable, fair, and comprehensive is Marquette Professor John McAdam's, [HERE](#). The Mary Ferrell Foundation is also an excellent research resource [HERE](#). JFK Files Blogspot is excellent [HERE](#).

Lone nut, patsy, or conspirator. Which option is the most reasonable? Which hypothesis has the most explanatory power? Which is the most compelling and consistent with the best evidence? Unless you have an agenda, the choice is not difficult. In your deliberations of Thompson's LSID hypothesis (or any other of the myriad assassination conspiracy theories), read David Reitzes's "[*JFK Conspiracy Theories at 50: How the Skeptics Got It Wrong and Why It Matters*](#)." It's [HERE](#).

PUBLIC OPINION AND THE VERDICT OF HISTORY

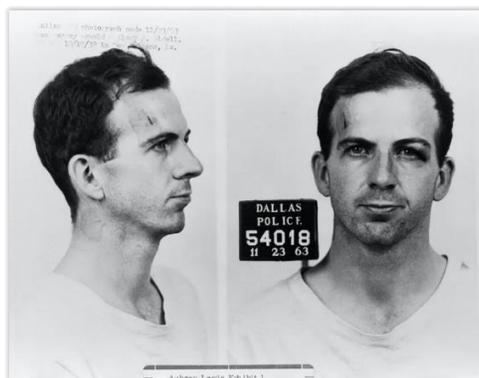
Since 1967 – *for more than a half-century* -- in two books, several papers, and dozens of lectures and cameo appearances, Josiah "Tink" Thompson has been writing and speaking to convince the public of the veracity of his personal view of the Kennedy assassination – there were multiple shooters, ergo a conspiracy. His personal investment and equity in his hypothesis are *enormous*. It's been his adult life's obsession. Josiah Thompson -- a "super-sleuth" who doesn't ask "Who Done It?" A private investigator who doesn't question, and directly confronting the mass of contrary evidence. Thompson withdraws from his chosen battlefield without fairly considering the "preponderance of the evidence" or whether or not the evidence for or against a conspiracy is "beyond a reasonable doubt."

With a half-smile and a catch in his voice, Thompson now claims that we will likely never know the “who and the why.” Tink is fine with that. This is Josiah Thompson’s *existential* reality. It’s not reality. It is also the failure – biased myopia and numerous errors in judgment – that is the unfortunate dénouement of “Last Second in Dallas,” his very personal “lonely labyrinth.”

Josiah Thompson’s LSID is a conspiratorial Potemkin village. It’s a false construct that cannot withstand scrutiny and common sense. Three shots fired from the TSBD – one miss and two hits (CE 399 and the headshot) can account for all of the documented, physical evidence, wounds, and limousine damage.

What does not “fit” in Thompson’s puzzle is the discredited “acoustical evidence,” which is the *sine qua non* of LSID. H. B. McLain was where he said he was – not where the HSCS “acoustical experts” *wanted* him to be. Apply Occam’s Razor, common sense, reason, and the “best evidence.” It’s game over!

As Richard Rhodes wrote in his carefully parsed Foreword to “Last Second in Dallas,” “Based on what he’s found, although we’ll never know for sure, I believe he’s right.” Indeed... “Based on what he’s found” and “although we’ll never know for sure...”? Damning with faint praise?



After Oswald was captured, he stated “I didn’t shoot anybody” and “I’m a patsy.” We *absolutely know* that the first statement was false. Oswald murdered J. D. Tippit -- in cold blood. An eyewitness watched Oswald wound J. D. Tippit with his first shot, then walk around the front of his police car, stand over the wounded Tippit, and put a bullet in the officer’s head! Oswald *assassinated* Tippit! Why would anyone give *any* credence to Oswald’s second statement? *Falsus in Uno, Falsus in Omnibus!*

THE REAL LABYRINTH

What remains unsettled is whether or not intelligence agencies (US, Soviet, Cuban, or Mexican) were aware of Oswald’s attempt on General Walker’s life and suspected (after his trip to Mexico) that he may attempt to assassinate JFK -- *but did nothing to intercede*. There is ample evidence that (defector) Oswald was surveilled by multiple intelligence agencies after he

returned from the Soviet Union, in New Orleans, during his trip to Mexico City (7 weeks before the assassination), and in Dallas by the FBI. [FBI Agent James Hosty is mentioned once in LSID in an unrelated endnote.] Unfortunately, LSID does absolutely nothing to help resolve those legitimate and disturbing questions.

Is it *possible* that Josiah “Tink” Thompson has been wondering about on his quixotic journey searching in the wrong labyrinth – the conspiratorial one of his own making – *for the past 57 years?! “Last Second in Dallas”* suggests the answer is Yes.

15/ Premier Kissov, 11

ⁱ “Premier Kissov,” a comical, buffoonish character in Stanley Kubrick’s masterpiece “Dr. Strangelove.” “Premier Kissov” is my alter ego. Why use a pseudonym? The substance of this review should, like LSID, speak for itself. “Res ipsa loquitur.” If you have any serious, constructive comments regarding this paper you can contact me, Louis T. Girdler, at ltgargaz@gmail.com.

FWIW, I know and like Tink Thompson, *personally*. He’s *very likeable* and is a great story-teller – as he proves in LSID. However, I *profoundly* disagree with his research methodology, the limited scope of LSID, his dogmatic *a priori* reasoning and conclusions. Thompson’s calumnious, speculative insinuations of criminality on the part of SSA Richard Johnsen, SS Chief James Rowley, Luis Alvarez, and others – without compelling evidence – is especially repellent.