

## CHAPTER 8

### Greer: the most important agent

Secret Service Agent William R. “Bill” Greer was the driver of the Presidential Limousine on November 22, 1963. The following is from the author’s interviews with the late agent’s son, Richard Greer:<sup>1</sup>

When asked, “What did your father think of JFK?”, Richard did not respond the first time. When this author asked him a second time, Greer responded: “*Well, we’re Methodists ... and JFK was Catholic.*”<sup>2</sup> Bill Greer was born and raised in *County Tyrone, Ireland*, coming to America in February 1930. Greer also worked as a chauffeur for a wealthy family in Brookline, Massachusetts, which not only was JFK’s birthplace, it was also the town where the future President was raised. Greer also lived in Boston “for a little while.”<sup>3</sup> In a later taped interview, Richard watered down the divergent religious beliefs to “joking banter” between the driver and JFK, the humor relating to “my father, being Irish Protestant, and JFK being Irish Catholic.”<sup>4</sup> Bill Greer was in his late teens—approximately 18 or 19—when he came to America.<sup>5</sup> As author William Manchester wrote: “Even after the newcomers (1,186,000 Irish immigrants) had been established for a generation, newspapers carried two society pages, one for Yankee Protestants and the other for Irish Catholics.”<sup>6</sup> One is reminded of the “colored” and “white only” restrooms, restaurants, and drinking fountains from the pre-Civil Rights days of the early 1960s.

Richard said: “My father certainly didn’t blame himself; it’s not one of those things—‘if only I was driving one mile per hour faster.’” At the time of the shooting, Greer was actually decelerating from an already slow speed of just 11.2 miles per hour (a violation of Secret Service protocol).<sup>7</sup>

The agent’s son added: “My father had absolutely no survivor’s guilt. He figured that events were kind of out of their control. It was pretty common knowledge that a person riding in an open automobile was subject to a bullet at any time.” Regarding Greer’s alleged lack of guilt, this simply is not true—as Ken O’Donnell stated: “Greer had been remorseful all day, feeling that he could have saved President Kennedy’s life by swerving the car or speeding suddenly after the first shots.”<sup>8</sup> In addition, Greer told Jackie the following on November 22, 1963 at Parkland Hospital, shortly after the murder: “Oh, Mrs. Kennedy, oh my God, oh my God. I didn’t mean to do it, I didn’t hear, I should have swerved the car, I couldn’t help it. Oh, Mrs. Kennedy, as soon as I saw it I swerved. If only I’d seen it in time! Oh!”<sup>9</sup> Finally, Dave Powers confirmed Greer’s guilt to CBS newsman Charles Kuralt on November 22, 1988, also adding that if Greer would have sped up before the fatal headshot, JFK might still be alive today.<sup>10</sup>

Richard stated that his father “never left the body” from Dallas through, and including, Washington on November 22, 1963. Officially, Greer did not chauffeur the President’s body to Air Force One: Agent Andy Berger did.<sup>11</sup> Berger supposedly drove the President’s body because, as William Manchester tells us, “Preoccupied by paper bags [containing the President’s clothing and effects], he

[Greer] was temporarily lost in the warren of halls, and Kellerman was *unwilling to wait* [emphasis added].”<sup>12</sup> Greer stated that he had JFK’s clothing “in my hand at all times ... Then, I went, when they removed the casket from the emergency room; *I was in front of it going out to make a path to get it to the ambulance ... I helped get it into the ambulance ...* [emphasis added].”<sup>13</sup> If Greer led the casket out to the ambulance *and* helped get it aboard the hearse, then why didn’t he drive the hearse—how could Kellerman be “unwilling to wait” for a man who was right before him? Was Greer too shook up to drive ... or, at that point, was he not even trusted with the body of the dead President?

To compound the situation even further, in spite of the films, photos, and testimony that definitively and conclusively places Agent Berger behind the wheel of the hearse, Richard Greer was adamant to this author that it was *his* father that drove the hearse—containing the President’s body—out of the hospital!<sup>14</sup> After seeing film footage on a television documentary which was *identified* as being film of Aubrey Rike, an O’Neal funeral home employee,<sup>15</sup> Richard Greer maintained that he “certainly looked like my father”, adding further that “I would be the hardest person to fool” (being his son) and that “it was *only* my father who drove the President” up to—and including—Bethesda. The “stories” about Agent Berger chauffeuring the hearse were, as Richard put it, “not true” and “inaccurate”. Bizarre.

### **Deadly delay on Elm Street**

Sixty witnesses (ten police officers, seven Secret Service agents, thirty-eight spectators, two Presidential aides, one Senator, Governor Connally, and Jackie Kennedy) and the Zapruder film document Secret Service agent William R. Greer’s deceleration of the presidential limousine, as well as his two separate looks back at JFK during the assassination (Greer denied all of this to the Warren Commission).<sup>16</sup> By decelerating from an already slow 11.2 mph, Greer greatly endangered the President’s life, and, as even Gerald Posner admitted, Greer contributed greatly to the success of the assassination. When we consider that Greer disobeyed a direct order from his superior, Roy Kellerman, to get out of line *before* the fatal shot struck the President’s head, it is hard to give Agent Greer the benefit of the doubt. As ASAIC Roy H. Kellerman said: “Greer then looked in the back of the car. Maybe he didn’t believe me.”<sup>17</sup> Clearly, Greer was responsible, at fault, and felt remorse. In short, Greer had survivor’s guilt.

A sampling of the sixty witnesses to Greer’s gross negligence:

*Houston Chronicle* reporter Bo Byers (rode in White House Press Bus): Twice stated that the Presidential Limousine “almost came to a stop, a dead stop”; in fact, he has had nightmares about this.<sup>18</sup>

Dallas Police Department (DPD) officer Earle Brown: “... The first I noticed the [JFK’s] car was when it stopped ... after it made the turn and when the shots were fired, it stopped.”<sup>19</sup>

DPD motorcycle officer Bobby Hargis (one of the four Presidential motorcyclists): “... At that time [immediately before the head shot] the Presidential car slowed

down. I heard somebody say, 'Get going.' I felt blood hit me in the face and the Presidential car stopped almost immediately after that."<sup>20</sup>

Secret Service Agent John Ready (follow-up car): "... I heard what sounded like fire crackers going off from my post on the right front running board. The President's car slowed ...."<sup>21</sup>

Texas Governor John Connally (rode in JFK's limo and was himself a victim of the shooting): "... After the third shot, I heard Roy Kellerman tell the driver, 'Bill, get out of line.' And then I saw him move, and I assumed he was moving a button or something on the panel of the automobile, and he said 'Get us to a hospital quick' ... at about this time, we began to pull out of the cavalcade, out of line."<sup>22</sup>

*Dallas Morning News* reporter Robert Baskin (rode in the National Press Pool Car): "... the motorcade ground to a halt."<sup>23</sup>

*Dallas Morning News* reporter Mary Woodward (Pillsworth): "... Instead of speeding up the car, the car came to a halt." She saw the President's car come to a halt after the first shot. Then, after hearing two more shots, close together, the car sped up. She spoke forcefully about the car almost coming to a stop and the lack of proper reaction by the Secret Service in 1993.<sup>24</sup>

Alan Smith: "... the car was ten feet from me when a bullet hit the President in the forehead ... the car went about five feet and stopped."<sup>25</sup>

Ochus V. Campbell: After hearing shots, "... he then observed the car bearing President Kennedy to slow down, a near stop, and a motorcycle policeman rushed up. Immediately following this, he observed the car rush away from the scene."<sup>26</sup>

Peggy Joyce Hawkins: She was on the front steps of the Texas School Book Depository and "... estimated that the President's car was less than fifty feet away from her when he was shot, that the car slowed down almost coming to a full stop."<sup>27</sup>

David Broeder: "... The President's car paused momentarily, then on orders from a Secret Service agent, sputtered ahead."<sup>28</sup>

Hugh Betzner: "... I looked down the street and I could see the President's car and another one and they looked like the cars were stopped ... then the President's car sped on under the underpass."<sup>29</sup>

Bill Newman: After the fatal head shot, "... the car momentarily stopped and the driver seemed to have a radio or phone up to his ear and he seemed to be waiting on some word. Some Secret Service men reached into their car and came out with some sort of machine gun. Then the cars roared off ..."; "I've maintained that they stopped. I still say they did."<sup>30</sup>

Jean Hill: "... The motorcade came to almost a halt at the time the shots rang out and I would say it [JFK's limo] was just approximately, if not—it couldn't have been in the same position, I'm sure it wasn't, but just a very, very short distance from where it had been. It [JFK's limo] was just almost stunned." Hill had told ABC's Bill Lord on November 22, 1963 that the car "momentarily halted".<sup>31</sup>

Presidential Aide Ken O'Donnell (rode in the follow-up car): "... If the Secret Service men in the front had reacted quicker to the first two shots at the President's car, if the driver had stepped on the gas before instead of after the fatal third shot was fired, would President Kennedy be alive today?" The aide also reported: "Greer had been remorseful all day, feeling that he could have saved President Kennedy's life by swerving the car or speeding suddenly after the first shots." Indeed, William E. Sale, an airman first class aircraft mechanic assigned to Carswell Air Force Base and who was stationed at Love Field before, during, and after the assassination, stated: "When the agent who was driving JFK's car came back to Air Force One he was as white as a ghost and had to be helped back to the plane."<sup>32</sup>

Presidential aide Dave Powers (rode in the follow-up car): "... At that time we were traveling very slowly ... At about the time of the third shot, the President's car accelerated sharply." On November 22, 1988, Powers was interviewed by CBS reporter Charles Kuralt. Powers remarked about the remorse Greer felt about not speeding up in time to save JFK's life and agreed with Kuralt that, if Greer had sped up *before* the fatal head shot instead of afterwards, JFK might still be alive today. This is a very dramatic and compelling short interview. If that weren't enough, as previously noted, the ARRB's Tom Samoluk told the author that, during the course of an interview he conducted in 1996 in which the Board was in the process of obtaining Powers' film, Powers said that he agreed with the author's take on the Secret Service!<sup>33</sup>

Texas Senator Ralph Yarborough (rode in LBJ's car): "... When the noise of the shot was heard, the motorcade slowed to what seemed to me a complete stop (though it could have been a near stop) ... After the third shot was fired, but only after the third shot was fired, the cavalcade speeded up, gained speed rapidly, and roared away to the Parkland Hospital." Yarborough also said: "... The cars all stopped. I put in there [his affidavit], 'I don't want to hurt anyone's feelings but for the protection of future Presidents, they [the Secret Service] should be trained to take off when a shot is fired.'<sup>34</sup>

First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy (rode in the Presidential limousine): "We could see a tunnel in front of us. Everything was really slow then ... [immediately after shooting]. And just being down in the car with his head in my lap. And it just seemed an eternity ... And finally I remember a voice behind me, or something, and then I remember the people in the front seat, or somebody, finally knew something was wrong, and a voice yelling, which must have been Mr. Hill, "Get to the hospital," or maybe it was Mr. Kellerman, in the front seat ... We were really slowing turning the corner [Houston and Elm] ... I remember a sensation of enormous speed, which must have been when we took off ... those poor men in the front ..."<sup>35</sup> Mary Gallagher reported in her book: "She mentioned one Se-

cret Service man who had not acted during the crucial moment, and said bitterly to me, 'He might just as well have been Miss Shaw!' ”<sup>36</sup> Jackie also told Gallagher: “You should get yourself a good driver so that nothing ever happens to you.”<sup>37</sup> Secret Service agent Marty Venker confirmed that the agent Jackie was referring to *was* Agent Greer: “If the agent had hit the gas before the third shot, she griped, Jack might still be alive.”<sup>38</sup> Later, authors C. David Heymann and Edward Klein further corroborated that the agent Mrs. Kennedy was referring to was indeed Greer.<sup>39</sup>

Manchester wrote: “[Mrs. Kennedy] had heard Kellerman on the radio and had wondered why it had taken the car so long to leave.”<sup>40</sup> (For his part, former agent Walt Coughlin wrote the author on April 27, 2005: “Easy to criticize—Greer reacted his way—maybe someone else would have been worse [?].”)

As stated before, Greer was responsible, at fault, and felt remorse. In short, Greer had survivor's guilt.

But, then, stories and feelings changed.

Agent Greer to the FBI, November 22, 1963: “Greer stated that he first heard what he thought was possibly a motorcycle backfire and glanced around and noticed that the President had evidently been hit [notice that, early on, Greer admits seeing JFK, which the Zapruder proves he did two times before the fatal head shot occurred]. He thereafter got on the radio and communicated with the other vehicles, stating that they desired to get the President to the hospital immediately [in reality, Greer did not talk on the radio, and Greer went on to deny ever saying this during his Warren Commission testimony] ... Greer stated that they (the Secret Service) have always been instructed to keep the motorcade moving at a considerable speed inasmuch as a moving car offers a much more difficult target than a vehicle traveling at a very slow speed. He pointed out that on numerous occasions he has attempted to keep the car moving at a rather fast rate, but in view of the President's popularity and desire to maintain close liaison with the people, he has, on occasion, been instructed by the President to 'slow down'.<sup>41</sup> Greer stated that he has been asking himself if there was anything he could have done to avoid this incident, but stated that things happened so fast that he could not account for full developments in this matter ...”<sup>42</sup> [The “JFK-as-scapegoat” theme—and so much for Greer's remorse from earlier the same day.]

Agent Greer to the FBI, November 27, 1963: “... he heard a noise which sounded like a motorcycle backfire. On hearing this noise he glanced to his right toward Kellerman and out of the corner of his eye noticed that the Governor appeared to be falling toward his wife [notice that Greer now mentions nothing about seeing JFK hit—he does the same thing in his undated report in the Warren Commission volumes].<sup>43</sup> He thereafter recalls hearing some type of outcry after which Kellerman said, 'Let's get out of here.' He further related that at the time of hearing the sound he was starting down an incline which passes beneath a railroad crossing and after passing under this viaduct, he closed in on the lead car and yelled to the occupants and a nearby police motorcyclist, 'Hospital, Hospital!' ” [Nothing about using the radio this time out.] Thereafter

follows a complete physical description of Greer, as if the FBI agents considered him a suspect, including age, height, and color of eyes!<sup>44</sup>

### **What Greer should have done**

The relevant rule set forth in the Secret Service document outlining principles of Presidential protection states: “The driver of the President’s car should be alert for dangers and be able to take *instant action* when *instructed* or *otherwise made aware of an emergency* [emphasis added].”<sup>45</sup> Former Inspector and Assistant Director Thomas Kelley told the HSCA: “... generally the instructions to the drivers of the cars are to be prepared to get the President away from any dangerous situation.”<sup>46</sup> For his part, Chief Rowley wrote to the Warren Commission: “The Secret Service has consistently followed two general principals in emergencies involving the President. *All agents are so instructed.* The first duty of the agents in the motorcade is to attempt to cover the President as closely as possible and practicable and to shield him by attempting to place themselves between the President and any source of danger. Secondly, *agents are instructed to remove the President as quickly as possible from known or impending danger. Agents are instructed that it is not their responsibility to investigate or evaluate a present danger, but to consider any untoward circumstances as serious and to afford the President maximum protection at all times.* No responsibility rests upon those agents near the President for the identification or arrest of an assassin or attacker. Their *primary responsibility* is to stay with and protect the President.”<sup>47</sup> [Emphasis added.] In addition, the Secret Service liked to maintain speeds of at least 20–30 miles per hour during motorcades.<sup>48</sup>

### **What actually happened**

The sequence is crucial:

1. First shot (or shots) rings out: the car slows with brake lights on.
2. Greer turns around once.
3. Kellerman orders Greer to “get out of line; we’ve been hit!”.
4. Greer disobeys his superior’s order and turns around to stare at JFK for the second time, until after the fatal headshot finds its mark!

As Patricia (Billings) Lambert noted in her landmark 1976 article about the agency, *Five Seconds to Save the President*: “What is particularly disturbing about the behavior of the Secret Service agents guarding the President in Dallas is the degree of uniformity in their response, their almost total non-reaction at the crucial moment: Roberts did not shout a warning; Greer did not accelerate; Kellerman did not move into the back seat; and only one agent [Hill] attempted to reach the President before the fatal shot. Why was lethargy so pervasive?”

Today, there seems to be a movement to give Oswald (assuming he was the lone assassin) even more time than the Warren Commission (and Pat Lambert) gave him to allegedly carry out his deed. Ironically, the more time the “revisionists”

give to Oswald, the worse the Secret Service looks: they now would have had even *more* time to react ... and they didn't.

### **Leading the race to Parkland Hospital**

Washington-based Agent Greer could *not* have known how to get to Parkland Hospital on his own.<sup>49</sup> Greer even told the HSCA on February 28, 1978: "He had no prior knowledge whatsoever of the path of the motorcade route or of any conditions on and surrounding the route that might effect his driving. He simply entered the Presidential limousine and followed the car in front of him [Curry's lead car, with Sheriff Decker and agents Lawson and Sorrels]." However, it appears that he *led* the race to the site on his own. While the Jack Daniel film and several still photos clearly show the Presidential limousine *ahead* of the lead car, driven by Dallas police chief Jesse Curry, Greer told the Warren Commission that he "never passed" the lead car.<sup>50</sup> To compound the matter, Agent Winston Lawson, who rode in the lead car, told the Warren Commission that the limousine "never" passed their car: "We stayed ahead of them."<sup>51</sup> The other agent who rode in the lead car, Forrest Sorrels, concurred with Lawson.<sup>52</sup> In later years, Agent Greer stood by this "agency consensus": "I just looked straight ahead at the car in which the *police chief* was leading our way to the hospital [emphasis added]."<sup>53</sup> Interestingly, Chief Curry also denied that his car was ever behind the limousine.<sup>54</sup> As Agent Lawson testified to the Warren Commission: "... in any emergency situation the Presidential car will follow that lead car if possible unless told otherwise. It is the best place for an agent, and also he controls the motorcade speed, and so forth, from there."<sup>55</sup>

The radio communications are the key to this mystery.

### **Who transmitted to whom—and how?**

Agent Greer told the FBI on the night of the murder: "He thereafter got on the radio and communicated with the other vehicles, stating that they desired to get the President to the hospital immediately." Greer later denied saying this to the FBI when he testified to the Warren Commission: "I didn't go on the radio. It was Mr. Kellerman who done the radio talking. I didn't. It is a misquote if I done it. I didn't get on the radio. Mr. Kellerman did."<sup>56</sup> That said, the FBI agents stood their ground and stated: "SA Greer told them just that."<sup>57</sup>

Agent Kellerman told the same FBI agents on the night of the murder: "Kellerman had the microphone in his hand and radioed to Lawson stating: 'we've been hit, lead us to a hospital immediately. Tell the police to escort us as fast as they can.'" The Zapruder film, as this author discovered on his own, confirms that Kellerman had a radio microphone in his hand.<sup>58</sup>

Agent Lawson told the Warren Commission the following ludicrous statement: "I recall seeing *Agent Hill* on the rear of the President's car receiving a radio message that we should proceed to the nearest hospital [emphasis added]." Agent Hill had no radio: as the Zapruder film shows, he was busy hanging on to the back of the limousine. Lawson stated in his report that he "heard a report

over a radio—either the police or our own network—that we should proceed to a hospital”.<sup>59</sup>

Sam Kinney’s report originally had it that *he* notified the lead car, but someone, presumably Kinney himself, scratched out this typewritten word (“I”) and changed it in handwriting to read an ambiguous “we”.<sup>60</sup>

Agent Emory Roberts, commander of the Secret Service follow-up car, stated in his report that *he* radioed to Agent Lawson an order to escort the agents and the limousine to the nearest hospital. The Altgens photo, as this author discovered on his own, depicts Roberts with a radio microphone to his mouth *during* the *first* shot! Since his report details only two radio transmissions—one a full minute before the shooting, the other after the shooting—we are left to ponder *this* particular transmission.<sup>61</sup> Since there was only *one* radio frequency eligible for this crucial transmission (the other two serviced the Vice-Presidential cars and the Dallas police respectively), how could all these agents—Greer, Kellerman, Lawson, Hill, Kinney, and Roberts—be responsible for this sole communiqué? In addition, Agent Greer told the Warren Commission that there was no radio communication “between the hospital and our car”, while Chief Rowley told the Warren Commission: “The Secret Service has not followed the practice of having nearby hospitals on alert status.”<sup>62</sup> Furthermore, as revealed in a recently uncovered document, Jack Puterbaugh told HSCA investigators that the Pilot Car he rode in “pulled over and let the motorcade pass”, so they obviously did not aid the limousine on the race to Parkland.<sup>63</sup>

In addition to the photo analysis and eyewitness statements, this author uncovered new evidence that totally undermines the testimony of every agent named above, and is a key to what *really* happened on November 22, 1963. From unpublished audiotapes from the LBJ Library, this author came across the oral history of Dallas police chief Jesse Curry, the driver of the lead car.<sup>64</sup> Curry stated the following:

1. There was no radio contact between the lead car and the limousine.
2. Agent Lawson’s portable radio was “not working too well at the time”!

Since no motorcycles rode past the limousine to the lead car (as the Bell film makes clear), and the Dallas Police’s Channel 1 was out of commission at this time anyway (due to a *stuck open microphone*), there are no excuses or innocent alternatives: the Secret Service is responsible.<sup>65</sup> With regard to Police Channel 1, author William Manchester noted: “The failure of the police radio—for it was the dispatcher’s stuck button which was largely accountable for this appalling situation [no ready medical personnel at Parkland] ....”<sup>66</sup> What does all of this mean? It appears that the Secret Service knew how to get to Parkland Hospital *in advance* of the assassination. Why? This author believes that this was a part of a security test, which involved the agents traveling to the Dallas hospital; FBI Agent Vincent Drain, who was monitoring the police radio when the President was shot, said: “I knew where they were taking him [Parkland Hospital] because I had been privileged to sit in on *some meetings with the Secret Service the previous four or five days in the event that either he or the Vice-President was shot*

[emphasis added].”<sup>67</sup> With this in mind, Agent Lawson makes a very telling “slip” during his Warren Commission testimony:

Mr. Lawson: “... The nearest hospital was a continuation of our route.”

Mr. Stern: “Did you know that or were you told that?”

Mr. Lawson: “*I knew that*. Let me make a correction. I don’t know if it was the nearest hospital, but *I knew that it would be the fastest one that we could get to under the circumstances of where we were going under this freeway.*”

[Emphasis added.]<sup>68</sup>

As author Peter Dale Scott summarized in the excellent *Deep Politics and the Death of JFK* [references in text]:<sup>69</sup>

Lawson also noted that “the motorcycles cleared a path to the Parkland Hospital” (17 WH 629), and later that his own car (the lead car, between Lumpkin’s and the President’s) “assisted the motorcycles in escorting the President’s vehicle to Parkland Hospital” (17 WH 632; cf. 21 WH 580). These claims are inconsistent with the radio orders on police channels to clear a route to Parkland (and block off the side streets), which had been issued, not for the President’s car, but for the ambulance summoned by the psuedo-emergency of the so-called “epileptic seizure” (23 WH 841; cf. 17 WH 368, 395). Lawson’s sworn testimony to the Warren Commission said nothing about the motorcycle escort; and it painted a picture even harder to reconcile with the orders for a route to be cleared: “We had to do some stopping of cars and holding our hands out the windows and blowing the sirens and the horns to get through.” (4 WH 54.) No one on the Commission asked about the orders on the police radio transcript, by which other cars had already been blocked from the route.”<sup>70</sup>

### **Greer and the unauthorized Dealey Plaza Agent**

*November 27, 1963*: FBI agents Sibert and O’Neil went to the White House to formally interview just three of the nearly fifty WHD agents:<sup>71</sup> SAIC Gerald Behn, ASAIC Roy Kellerman, and Bill Greer. In a strange departure from routine procedures when interviewing fellow government agents, the FBI men record Greer’s complete physical description: age, height, color of eyes, etc. Was Greer a target of FBI suspicion?<sup>72</sup>

Secret Service agent Abraham Bolden stated that it was “a matter widely known in the Service” that some unauthorized person had used Secret Service credentials in Dallas on November 22, 1963 (perhaps the greatest smoking gun in the entire case). Accordingly, all Special Agents were required to surrender their identification documents for “an unprecedented Service-wide check”—on *November 27, 1963!*<sup>73</sup>

### **Agent Greer: from Parkland Hospital to Bethesda Hospital**

Greer told a newspaper reporter in 1983: “I stayed with [JFK] through the examination *and then through the autopsy*, and was with him when they put his

body in the coffin and took him to Air Force One [emphasis added].” Officially, JFK’s autopsy was performed at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland; was Greer referring to an off-the-record Secret Service inspection of the President’s body? It is a known fact that the Secret Service stole the body away from the Dallas doctors (who almost all provided descriptions of the wounds that demonstrated that JFK was shot from the front),<sup>74</sup> as the murder of the President was then a state crime, *not* a federal crime.<sup>75</sup>

Since the “official” autopsy that night “revealed” that JFK was shot from the rear, this could be a crucial admission, or slip of the tongue, by Greer. This information appeared in a small North Carolina newspaper in 1983 and was not reported elsewhere.<sup>76</sup> Greer was in a unique position: unlike *anyone* else, he was the only agent to remain with the body *at all times* from Dallas to Washington (he was the *only* agent in the emergency room at Parkland Hospital). This raises the obvious question: Why would a mere chauffeur stick to the President’s body like glue, in contrast to everyone else?<sup>77</sup>

While Greer told the Warren Commission, “I had great thoughts the President was still living” on the way to Parkland Hospital, he told the aforementioned newspaper nineteen years later “I am sure the President was already dead,” thus confirming that he *did* indeed see JFK struck by the fatal head shot, which he denied doing before. Why, then, would he tell the Warren Commission the opposite story? This was his alibi—his overt reason—for going into the hospital and staying with the body throughout November 22, 1963. Greer *should* have stayed with the limousine outside, which was his usual duty.<sup>78</sup>

The following is yet another priceless excerpt from Greer’s Warren Commission testimony, this time regarding the (cracked) windshield of the Presidential limousine:

Representative Boggs: “Excuse me, did you say you did not notice this crack from the time that you drove the car after the shooting to the hospital?”

Mr. Greer: “No, sir; I had flags on the car and you know they were waving at a high rate of speed and you have the Presidential flag and the American flag in front of you there; you know when you are going at a fast speed you get a lot of, well, I don’t know how you would say it, it attracts you so much that I didn’t have any recollection of what happened on the windshield.”<sup>79</sup>

However, SA George Hickey, who drove the blood-splattered limousine from Parkland Hospital to Love Field, said that “he noticed some slight damage to the windshield on the drive to the airport”, according to a January 6, 1964 letter from Chief James J. Rowley to the Warren Commission’s J. Lee Rankin. In addition, according to this letter, Special Officer Davis, SA Kinney, and SA Gies also had noticed the damage—yet Greer allegedly did not.

In fact, Greer told the Warren Commission that he did not notice the cracked windshield and dented chrome plating in front of him until it was shown to him by an *unnamed* agent on November 23, 1963: “I can’t remember now who did say that ... I can’t remember who might have asked me.”<sup>80</sup> *ASAIC Floyd Boring* is

a prime candidate: he went over the limousine late November 22 to early November 23, 1963.<sup>81</sup> This is when bullet fragments, skull particles, and other things “appeared” and disappeared.

While it is an “official” fact that Agent Richard Johnsen gained possession of CE-399 (the magic bullet, linked to Lee Harvey Oswald) at Parkland Hospital via security chief O. P. Wright (Wright had obtained the bullet through employees Darrel Tomlinson and Nathan Pool, who had first obtained it in the *presence* of one or more Secret Service agents at Parkland Hospital), what has never been widely reported is the fact that Agent Greer maintained *very* close proximity to Johnsen and the bullet in question:<sup>82</sup>

- a. *Both* agents guarded the emergency room: Greer inside, Johnsen outside.<sup>83</sup> If the FBI’s report is accurate,<sup>84</sup> Greer was the *only* agent stationed inside the emergency room with JFK.
- b. The FBI’s report also stated that the bullet was “found on a stretcher in the *emergency room*”. Officially, the bullet was found in a corridor outside of this room.<sup>85</sup>
- c. Johnsen rode with Greer in a car on the way to Air Force One, along with fellow agents David Grant, Samuel Sulliman, Ernest Olsson, and Paul Landis—and we’re supposed to believe that *all* of these agents remained silent about the bullet.<sup>86</sup>
- d. Greer rode with Johnsen near the casket in the back of Air Force One, from the time that LBJ was sworn in, when the *majority* of agents and fellow passengers were up front.<sup>87</sup>

When we consider that Greer remained silent about this bullet until it was announced by Chief Rowley that night during the autopsy (via a phone call to Roy Kellerman),<sup>88</sup> we have to wonder about the implications of this “silence”; in a recently uncovered HSCA document, Roy Kellerman stated that SA Johnsen told him about the bullet while they were still at *Parkland*!<sup>89</sup> In addition, when researcher Roy Ennis asked Greer when he found out about the bullet found on the stretcher at Parkland Hospital (CE-399, the “magic bullet”), Greer said twice: “I learned about it during the autopsy.” Furthermore, when Ennis asked what the agent’s name was who brought the bullet back to Washington, Greer said: “Oh, no, I don’t know who brought it back.” When Ennis asked if it was Mr. Johnsen (who *was* the agent in question), Greer responded: “I never did know who brought it back. I have no idea. I still was never told who brought that back.”<sup>90</sup>

This early knowledge—and alleged “memory lapse” from Greer—is troubling because of the following: once the autopsy was underway, Greer “... said that a bullet had been found on a stretcher—or rather as it fell from a stretcher—in Parkland Hospital ... could this be the bullet that went into the neck and, in the jostling of the President on the stretcher, fell out?”<sup>91</sup> As author Jim Bishop reported: “*Greer’s thesis* had a supporter. Roy Kellerman ... said he remembered a Parkland doctor astride the chest of the dead President, applying artificial respi-

ration. Kellerman ... thought the bullet in the back ... might have been squeezed out by manual pressure ... [emphasis added].” This, of course, destroys the Warren Commission’s “single bullet theory” which is the keystone to their finding that Oswald was a lone gunman. Both agents—Greer and Kellerman—testified that the bullet wound was in the back, not the neck, as the Warren Commission needed, and critically, that this wound was a *non-transiting* wound, further destroying the sole assassin theory. Keep in mind, this was November 22, 1963, several months before Commissioner Arlen Specter would come up with the “single bullet theory”—these agents were unaware of the ramifications of their testimony at the time; they had their *own* stories to try to uphold.<sup>92</sup>

Furthermore, why would Greer and Kellerman even need Rowley’s call to “alert” them to the bullet found at Parkland and given to the FBI (two Bureau agents—Sibert and O’Neil—were in attendance with Greer and Kellerman at the autopsy)? Why would Rowley “order” Kellerman to tell the autopsy doctors about something he already knew about? It gets better (or worse, depending on which way you see it): during an interview conducted on September 29, 1992, the author learned from Agent Richard Johnsen that he did not seem to remember having possession of CE-399—or, at the very least, he was either drawing a blank (no pun intended), or deliberately stating the opposite of official history. “Gee, that was a long time ago,” and silent pauses greeted the author’s ten-minute interview attempt; Johnsen was non-committal, to say the least (yet he had no trouble with other common “name, rank, and serial number” information).

In addition, Agent Johnsen mentions in his first report that the bullet, quote: “may” have originated from Governor Connally’s stretcher<sup>93</sup>—obviously, one of the components of the “single bullet theory” is having the bullet on Connally’s stretcher; if the bullet was found on JFK’s stretcher (or Ronny Fuller’s, or elsewhere), the theory is in big trouble. Interestingly, Johnsen retired in 1979, having never been questioned by the FBI or the Warren Commission. It was the day after contacting Johnsen that the author received the infamous call from the (former) Executive Secretary of the Association of Former Agents of the United States Secret Service (AFAUSSS), “Percy” Hamilton Brown,<sup>94</sup> telling the author very angrily to “... cease and desist from contacting any more of my associates ... I gave you no authority to do so.” As former agent Bob Lilley told the author, “Who died and made him boss?” Likewise, Sam Kinney told the author, “Hey, it’s a free country.” In any event, Johnsen’s “second” report—a sort of mini-report enclosed with his first report, having to do with the acquisition of CE-399—is unsigned.<sup>95</sup> There may be more to Johnsen’s present “amnesia” over this evidence than meets the eye.

From CBS’s Eddie Barker’s<sup>96</sup> interview of O. P. Wright:<sup>97</sup> “... I got hold of a Secret Service man and they [sic?] didn’t seem to be interested in coming and looking at the bullet in the position it was in then. So I went back to the area where Mr. Tomlinson was and picked up the bullet and put it in my pocket, and I carried it some 30 or 40 minutes. And I gave it to a Secret Service man that was guarding the main door into the emergency room ...” Who was the first agent Wright spoke to? And was his use of the word “they” a mistake? No.

HSCA attorney Belford V. Lawson,<sup>98</sup> in charge of the Secret Service area of the “investigation”, is the author of a recently uncovered memo in regard to an interview with hospital employee Nathan Pool conducted on January 10, 1977 and headlined “Pool’s co-discovery of the ‘Tomlinson’ bullet”. In the memo, Pool mentions the fact that *two* Secret Service agents were by the elevator, one of which “remained there throughout most or all of Pool’s stay”. Before we can catch our breath, a *third* Secret Service agent enters the picture. Although all these men were in the immediate vicinity of the discovery of the bullet, one particular agent “was within 10 feet when Pool recognized the bullet”. According to Pool, the bullet was pointed, and he added that it “didn’t look like it had hit anything and didn’t look like it had been in anything”.

Lawson felt that further development of Pool’s testimony may reveal the following:

A Secret Service agent was for a significant period of time close enough to the elevator to plant a bullet; may lead to an identification of that agent ....

The following is a compendium of all the anomalies pertaining to what the author likes to refer to as the “legitimacy” of CE-399, including the Secret Service’s handling of it:

O. P. Wright, Darrel Tomlinson, Chief James J. Rowley, and SA Richard Johnsen could *not* identify CE-399 as the bullet they all allegedly handled on November 22, 1963.<sup>99</sup>

Although two FBI agents (Todd and Frazier) initialed the bullet they received from the Secret Service, Johnsen and Rowley did *not*, breaking the legal chain of custody.<sup>100</sup>

Although the bullet was “officially” found on a stretcher in a corridor of Parkland Hospital, the FBI (Sibert and O’Neil) reported that it was found in the emergency room!<sup>101</sup>

Sibert and O’Neil interview of SAIC Jerry Behn, November 27, 1963—the same FBI agents bypassed Johnsen and spoke instead to Behn (not even in Dallas) about “the location of a bullet which had been found on a stretcher at Parkland”.

Incredibly, SAIC *Jerry Behn* “stated that he was in the chain of custody of CE-399 ... Behn received the bullet from Johnsen, then turned it over to the FBI.”<sup>102</sup>

Former agent *Larry Newman* revealed a startling bit of information to the author: “I had the bullet. Dick Johnsen gave me the bullet in the EOB [Executive Office Building]. He said, ‘Some guy gave me this at the hospital’ and reached in his suit pocket and took out the bullet. I put the bullet in an envelope. Behn didn’t want it, so I gave it to [Inspector] Burrill A. Peterson.” Newman further remarked that an FBI agent called concerning the bullet. Regarding the condition of the bullet, the former agent added: “It wasn’t pristine, but it wasn’t

smudged.” Newman claims this occurred in the EOB in his capacity as a Washington Field Office (WFO) agent.<sup>103</sup>

O. P. Wright, the man who allegedly gave the bullet to Johnsen at Parkland, does not even *mention* this very important find at all in his lengthy report. Bizarre indeed.<sup>104</sup>

Darrell Tomlinson, O. P. Wright, Nathan Pool: All described a different bullet than CE-399 (pointed, hunting-type). According to research done by Josiah Thompson, the bullet was found on a stretcher used by a young boy named Ronny Fuller!<sup>105</sup>

According to Chief James J. Rowley, CE-399 “was found amongst the clothes on one of the stretchers.”<sup>106</sup> If that wasn’t enough, *Governor Connally* wrote in his autobiography: “But the most curious discovery of all took place when they rolled me off the stretcher, and onto the examining table. A metal object fell onto the floor, with a click no louder than a wedding band. The nurse picked it up and slipped it into her pocket. It was *the bullet from my body*, the one that passed through my back, chest, and wrist, and worked itself loose from my thigh.”<sup>107</sup> [Emphasis added.]

Corroborating Connally’s memory, Dallas District Attorney Henry Wade said: “I also went out to see Connally, but he was in the operating room [note the time frame]. Some nurse had a bullet in her hand, and said this was on the gurney that Connally was on ... I told her to give it to the police, which she said she would. I assume that’s the pristine bullet.”<sup>108</sup>

Finally, Gary Shaw<sup>109</sup> came across this passage from the Warren Commission testimony of Parkland nurse Jeanette Standridge:

Specter: “Did you notice any object in Governor Connally’s clothing?”

Standridge: “Not unusual.”

Specter: “Did you notice a bullet, specifically?”

Standridge: “No.”

Specter: “Did you hear the sound of anything fall?”

Standridge: “I didn’t.”<sup>110</sup>

Is *this* “CE-399”? What’s going on here?

Greer and Kellerman were the only two agents to remain with the President throughout the autopsy;<sup>111</sup> Greer *never* left. The President’s clothing, vital in any autopsy, especially one involving gun shot wounds, was *withheld* by Greer!<sup>112</sup> In addition, vital images on a roll of 120-speed film were destroyed by a Secret Service agent that night; it is strongly suspected that Greer was the culprit in this illegal destruction of evidence. As Dr. John Lattimer stated, “This had been

done deliberately by one of the agents present.”<sup>113</sup> Also at the autopsy, Admiral David Osborne stated that an intact bullet fell out of the President’s clothing at Bethesda. Osborne added: “Several people had it. I know the Secret Service had it ... the Secret Service took it.” If true, Greer is one of two suspects (the other being Kellerman).<sup>114</sup>

During his HSCA interview on February 28, 1978, Greer twice stated that there was a back wound on JFK and twice called it a shoulder wound, as well.<sup>115</sup> He also said that the metal probe “only went in a short way”. In addition, Greer said that “when the doctors pronounced President Kennedy dead [he] was handed the President’s clothing, wallet and *watch*, which he took back to Washington. He directed agent Rybka at Andrews Air Force Base to put the shopping bag in his locker at the White House. A few days later he returned Kennedy’s *watch* and wallet to Ken O’Donnell.” [Emphasis added.] However, Dallas agent Roger Warner’s report<sup>116</sup> tells a different story regarding JFK’s watch: it went to O. P. Wright,<sup>117</sup> then to Warner, then to D.C. In addition, O. P. Wright,<sup>118</sup> Nurse Diana Bowron,<sup>119</sup> and Inspector Thomas Kelley<sup>120</sup> contradict Greer’s account. Although seemingly trivial on its face, why would Greer be in such conflict with the others (who are corroborated) on this matter? However, in Greer’s defense, he did add: “He was puzzled about the single bullet ([CE-]399) theory. He could not see how one bullet could have caused both Kennedy and Connally such extensive wounds.” With this in mind, it should be noted that United States Park Police motorcycle officer Nick Prencipe is on record as claiming that Greer told him on the night of the murder that there were “shots coming from every direction,” adding that “one of them came right through the windshield.”<sup>121</sup>

Researcher Robert Milner, a former police officer, started a “very good” friendship with Greer in 1978; it lasted until Greer’s death in 1985. Recently, Greer’s second wife Mary gave Robert Bill’s handwritten manuscript, presumably at least one of three Greer himself said were “salted away in the attic” during his 1978 HSCA interview. Milner will not presently reveal the specific contents of the fourteen-page manuscript, except to say that there are no major revelations.<sup>122</sup>

### Aftermath

Greer was the oldest man in the White House Detail at 54 years of age.<sup>123</sup> As reported by Jim Bishop, “... the thought had crossed his mind to get out of the Secret Service and spend more time with Mrs. [Ethel] Greer, who was not strong, and a growing son [Richard], who would appreciate male guidance ....”<sup>124</sup>

*St. Louis Post Dispatch* (December 18, 1963): “*Secret Service gets revision on Kennedy wound; after visit by agents, doctors say shot was from rear.*” The article revealed: “... [The Secret Service] obtained a reversal of their original view that the bullet in his neck entered from the front. The investigators did so by showing the surgeons a document described as an autopsy report from the United States Naval Hospital at Bethesda. The surgeons changed their original view to conform with the report they were shown.” Furthermore, the *two* agents, who visited the Parkland doctors (nearly all of whom gave testimony and written accounts indicating that JFK was shot from the front)<sup>125</sup> and displayed the offi-

cial autopsy report (which changed the doctors' "opinions" in time for the Warren Commission's hearings),<sup>126</sup> were not named. While it has recently been established that the agents were Elmer Moore and Roger Warner (more on them later),<sup>127</sup> the influence of Greer and Kellerman cannot be dismissed. Consider the following facts:

- a. Richard Greer told this author that his father took part in the Secret Service's re-enactment in Dallas (December 5, 1963).<sup>128</sup>
- b. Both Richard Greer and June Kellerman told the author that they have photos of Agent Greer and Agent Kellerman with Governor John Connally—Connally was recuperating at Parkland Hospital into December 1963.
- c. Kellerman visited Connally over the Christmas holidays, December 1963.<sup>129</sup>
- d. The LBJ ranch was in Austin, Texas—Johnson, of course, was the new President these two agents were assigned to protect.
- e. Both agents attended the autopsy to which the report was written.

Keeping the above points into focus, Moore, Warner, Greer, and Kellerman are prime suspects into another cover-up of sorts. As author David Lifton revealed: "Although Secret Service Chief James Rowley claimed he could not locate no tape or transcript of the Parkland Memorial Hospital press conference [of Dr. Malcolm Perry, concerning his statements about the President's throat *entrance* wound, indicating a shot from the front], Marvin Garson ... was told by Dallas television executive Joe Long ... that the original recordings *had been seized by Secret Service agents* [emphasis added]."<sup>130</sup>

Although Richard Greer told this author that his father "didn't have a lot of fond memories of President Johnson", he stayed on with LBJ three quarters of a year past his retirement age.<sup>131</sup> Greer retired in July 1966, on a disability claim due to "a stomach ulcer that grew progressively worse after the Kennedy assassination."<sup>132</sup> The agent had joined the Secret Service on October 1, 1945.<sup>133</sup> According to G. d'Andelot Belin, Acting Secretary of the Treasury, "Special Agents of the Secret Service are eligible for retirement after satisfactorily completing twenty years of service and reaching the minimum age of 50, in accordance with Section 6(c) of the Civil Service Act applicable to Federal employees engaged in hazard duties."<sup>134</sup> So, having met *both* requirements on October 1, 1965, Greer nevertheless stays on for nine more months, only leaving because of the aforementioned disability. At the time of his Warren Commission testimony (March 9, 1964), Greer was *fifty-four years old*.<sup>135</sup> According to Agent Marty Venker, "The average agent leaves at the *mandatory retirement age, fifty five* [emphasis added]."<sup>136</sup> That said, if JFK would have lived (to be re-elected), Greer would probably have had to continue in his capacity as official chauffeur to the President for upwards of two to five more years, a duty he had fulfilled since election night 1960 for Kennedy.<sup>137</sup> This was especially true due to an unexpected shortage of veterans in October 1963.<sup>138</sup> Eisenhower's driver, Deeter B. "Dick" Flohr, was comparable in age to Greer, but went on to join the PRS during JFK's term. If this was a duty Greer was tired of, and *if* he was truly not

fond of JFK, this forecast of two to five more years with Kennedy may not have been to Greer's liking.

Greer "worked one summer on the estate of Henry Cabot Lodge",<sup>139</sup> JFK's two-time political opponent (a staunch Republican defeated twice by Kennedy) and Ambassador to Saigon during the CIA and U.S. government-sponsored assassination of President Diem of Vietnam on November 2, 1963 (Lodge was principally involved).<sup>140</sup> Obviously, Greer, just from his association with Lodge, as well as his work in and around Boston, *had* to have known about Kennedy, as well as his rich family, Ambassador father Joe, and their controversial heritage of alleged bootlegging, Nazi sympathizing, and political history in Boston.<sup>141</sup>

Ironically, Governor Connally signed a picture depicting himself, Greer, and Kellerman with the following notation: "*Your skill and efficiency saved my life. The doctors said if I had reached the hospital 15 minutes later, I would have been dead [emphasis added].*"<sup>142</sup> Unfortunately, the same could *not* be said for Greer's handling of the limousine and the President. Most of Bill Greer's civilian life after leaving the agency was spent taking care of his bed-ridden wife, Ethel, who had had several cancer surgeries. When his beloved wife died in 1969, he remained in Rockville, Maryland, until 1973, at which time he moved to Waynesville, North Carolina. Greer later married Mary Finger, whom he had met when they both lived in Maryland. Greer passed away February 23, 1985.<sup>143</sup>

## Conclusion

In the event Greer was not sinisterly involved in the events of November 22, 1963, as the author suspects and is on record as stating, then Greer was, borrowing a term applied to Oswald *by* Oswald himself, a "patsy". He certainly was no angel, as we look at his role in this whole affair, but he was, in the final analysis, just one man—a Secret Service chauffeur—subservient to orders and willing to obey; whether these were *official* orders from an *official* chain of command is another matter entirely. Obviously, Greer was not the one pulling the strings on that fateful day in Dallas; events, official and otherwise, were planned and implemented, orders were selectively followed and obeyed by all the agents involved, and ultimately, the agency to which the driver was employed only carried so much power and authority on its own.

Nevertheless, Greer's retirement was fast approaching, and he had the perfect background to be the target of a set-up. In short, by his witting—or unwitting—participation in a covert plan, such as one that involved a security test on JFK that (purposely?) backfired in the worst way, Greer had little to lose, unlike some of the other, younger agents in Dallas. However, that does not mean that he did not later regret what had happened: survivor's guilt can strike at any moment. A case in point: Greer went on record with a small North Carolina newspaper, less than a year and a half before his death: "That [November 22, 1963] was the saddest day of my life. I think we lost probably the best President we ever had. If he had lived, I don't think we'd have been in the Vietnam War so long; either he would have cleared it up or gotten out of Vietnam. And we wouldn't have had some of these other situations we've had."<sup>144</sup> Coupled with his early remorseful feelings at Parkland hospital, we are presented with a di-

lemma of sorts: how can we marry these statements with the overwhelming weight of damning evidence against the driver? We can easily try to dismiss these statements as lies—indeed, one would think his wife's death in 1969 would have been the saddest day of his life<sup>145</sup>—but that would be too oversimplified; after all, even Greer did not lie all the time. Again, survivor's guilt strikes people in different ways and at different times.

### Some relevant quotes

*“As for the assassination is concerned [sic] it is my belief that there was a conspiracy because there were those that disliked him and felt the only way to get rid of him was to assassinate him. These five conspirators, in my opinion, were Lyndon B. Johnson, J. Edgar Hoover, the Mafia, the CIA, and the Cubans in Florida. The House Intelligence Committee investigation, also, came to the conclusion that there was a conspiracy.”*

— Evelyn Lincoln, JFK's secretary, who rode in the motorcade: October 7, 1994 letter to Richard Duncan; see also Noel Twyman, *Bloody Treason*, p. 831, and James H. Fetzer, ed., *Assassination Science*, p. 372.

*“It was a conspiracy. There was no doubt about that ... J. Edgar Hoover was involved in it.”*

— Lincoln to Harrison Livingstone, *High Treason 2*, p. 437.

*“The President of the United States is like a pilot and the election is when the nation picks an airplane and a pilot for the next four years. Once you pick him, and you're flying across the water in bad weather, don't go up and open the door and try to knock him in the head. He's the only pilot you have and if the plane goes down, you go with it. At least wait until next November before you shoot him down.”*

— Vice President Lyndon Johnson's curious statement following his premature April 23, 1963 announcement that the President might visit Dallas and four other Texas cities, which committed Kennedy to go to Texas. (*Dallas Times Herald*, April 24, 1963.) LBJ, as a very experienced politician, had to know that 1963 was not a Presidential election year.

*“In the South this year, next year, will decide who the next President is. Whoever the South votes for will be the President, because you can't win without the South. And you're gonna see the South is going to be against some folks.”*

— Governor George Wallace of Alabama, June 10, 1963, right after a bitter political defeat by the Kennedy brothers (1963 film *Crisis* by Robert Drew).

*“Here are a few of the security measures called for: Every manhole and sewer along the route ... had to be sealed ... every single building and all of its occupants along the parade route had to be checked. We had to have a dossier on each occupant sufficient to guarantee that he was 'safe'. Only then could we grant him the privilege of viewing the parade from his window or his rooftop ... As the ... people roared and waved and applauded, both of them [the President and the First Lady] would have been sitting ducks for a determined lunatic in a window even if he were a relatively*

poor shot ....” “*I only know that far too many men around our Presidents are quite willing, if it will benefit them, to let the Chief Executive put his life on the line.*”

— From former Chief U. E. Baughman’s book, *Secret Service Chief*, written *before* the JFK assassination (pp. 176, 39–40).

<sup>1</sup> Agent Kinney told the author on March 4, 1994: “I knew Richard ever since he was three years old.” The author interviewed Richard Greer on September 17, 1991; October 7, 1991; and September 23, 1992.

<sup>2</sup> The following authors and researchers found this statement very troubling and important: Fred Newcomb (letter to author dated January 2, 1992); Harry Livingstone (phone conversation of September 17, 1991); David Lifton (phone conversation of September 19, 1991); Jerry Rose (phone conversation of September 17, 1991); Dr. Cyril Wecht (phone conversation of September 17, 1991); Gary Rowell (letter to author dated September 26, 1991); John Davis (phone conversation of October 1, 1991); and Gus Russo (phone conversation of January 28, 1992). Only one author—Anthony Summers—was not convinced: “The perception from abroad, that we are all at each other’s throats here, is way off base ... I would doubt, without personal knowledge, that Greer took the ‘problem’ of the President’s Catholicism terribly seriously ....” (Letter to author dated December 12, 1991). Interestingly, Summers lives in Ireland: the origin of the letter. Nevertheless, what *may* be true of parts of Ireland circa 1991 does not necessarily apply to the Ireland of the early twentieth century (during Greer’s upbringing).

<sup>3</sup> See also 2 H 112–3: February 28, 1978 HSCA interview of Greer. According to Richard Greer, this Brookline family was the Brown family, and his dad “kept a lifelong friendship” with the son (Franklin Brown) of the man of the house ([first name unknown] Brown), “who had the military rank of Colonel”. (Audio taped interview with Richard Greer, October 7, 1991.)

<sup>4</sup> Audio taped interview with Richard Greer, October 7, 1991.

<sup>5</sup> Age 18: *The Washington Post*, February 28, 1995; age 19: according to Richard Greer.

<sup>6</sup> William Manchester, *One Brief Shining Moment* (Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1983), p. 16.

<sup>7</sup> See the Zapruder film; 18 H 710; HSCA September 1978 audiotape: Inspector Thomas Kelley.

<sup>8</sup> *Johnny, We Hardly Knew Ye*, p. 44.

<sup>9</sup> Manchester, p. 290 (and 386). See also Bishop, p. 196.

<sup>10</sup> See also Mikita Brotzman, *Car Crash Culture* (New York: Palgrave, 2001), p. 173 (chapter authored by Pamela McElwain-Brown): USPP Motorcycle Officer Nick Prence spoke to Greer on the night of the murder and said that the agent was quite distressed that evening.

<sup>11</sup> 18 H 726, 796; 7 H 453; Bishop, pp. 296–7. Manchester, p. 307. Still photo included in *JFK: The Day the Nation Cried* video/DVD. *Johnny, We Hardly Knew Ye*, p. 37.

<sup>12</sup> Manchester, p. 307. See also 2 H 97.

<sup>13</sup> 2 H 126.

<sup>14</sup> Author’s interview with Richard Greer, October 7, 1991.

<sup>15</sup> *The Men Who Killed Kennedy*.

<sup>16</sup> 2 H 112–132 (Greer): see his entire testimony. Based on the author’s original 1991 article, “47 Witnesses: Delay on Elm Street” that appeared in *The Third Decade*, January/March 1992, and which has since been cited in *The Third Decade* (November 1992), *The Fourth Decade* (November 1993 and September 1997); *Proceedings of the Second Research Conference of the Third Decade*, June 18–20, 1993, pp. 128, 162; *The Proceedings of the Research Conference of the Fourth Decade*, July 19–21, 1996, p. 277; several websites, including “The Puzzle Palace”; James H. Fetzer, ed., *Assassination Science* (Chicago: Catfeet Press, 1998), p. 274; *Bloody Treason* (1997), Zap-

- ruder frame 313 photo section; *November Patriots* (1998), p. 465; the 1998 revised edition of *High Treason*, p. 551; *The Dealey Plaza Echo*, U.K. research journal, July 1999; James H. Fetzer, ed., *Murder in Dealey Plaza* (Chicago: Catfeet Press, 2000), pp. 119–128; Michael Benson, *Encyclopedia of the JFK Assassination* (New York: Checkmark Books, 2002), pp. 233, 327; James H. Fetzer, ed., *The Great Zapruder Film Hoax* (Chicago: Catfeet Press, 2003), pp. xv, 27, 336; Melanson, *The Secret Service ...* (2003), p. 74.
- <sup>17</sup> Manchester, p. 160.
- <sup>18</sup> C-Span, November 20, 1993, “Journalists Remember the Kennedy Assassination.” See also the January 1994 *The Fourth Decade* article by Sheldon Inkol.
- <sup>19</sup> 6 H 233.
- <sup>20</sup> 6 H 294; Fred Newcomb and Perry Adams, *Murder from Within* (1974), p. 71; June 26, 1995 videotaped interview with Mark Oakes and Ian Griggs: “That guy [Greer] slowed down, maybe his orders was to slow down ... slowed down almost to a stop.” Like Posner, Hargis feels Greer gave Oswald the chance to kill Kennedy.
- <sup>21</sup> 18 H 750.
- <sup>22</sup> 4 H 133; WR 50; Jim Marrs, *Crossfire* (1989), p. 13; CBS, November 27, 1963: Martin Agronsky interview with Connally.
- <sup>23</sup> *Dallas Morning News*, November 23, 1963, p. 2; Fred Newcomb and Perry Adams, *Murder from Within* (1974), p. 71.
- <sup>24</sup> 2 H 43 (Lane); *Dallas Morning News*, November 23, 1963; 24 H 520; *The Men Who Killed Kennedy*, 1988; C-Span, November 20, 1993, “Journalists Remember the Kennedy Assassination.” See also the January 1994 *The Fourth Decade* article by Sheldon Inkol.
- <sup>25</sup> *Chicago Tribune*, November 23, 1963, p. 9; Fred Newcomb and Perry Adams, *Murder from Within* (1974), p. 71.
- <sup>26</sup> 22 H 845.
- <sup>27</sup> Fred Newcomb and Perry Adams, *Murder from Within* (1974), p. 97.
- <sup>28</sup> *Washington Evening Star*, November 23, 1963, p. 8.
- <sup>29</sup> 19 H 467.
- <sup>30</sup> Jim Marrs, *Crossfire* (1989), p. 70; Fred Newcomb and Perry Adams, *Murder from Within* (1974), p. 96; Bill Sloan, *JFK: Breaking the Silence* (1993), p. 169; November 20, 1997 videotaped interview with Bill Law, Mark Row, and Ian Griggs, as transcribed in *November Patriots* by Connie Kritzer and Larry Hancock (1998), p. 362; Larry Sneed, *No More Silence* (1998), p. 96.
- <sup>31</sup> 6 H 208–9. Hill’s testimony on this matter was dramatized in the Oliver Stone movie *JFK* (1991): “The driver had stopped—I don’t know what was wrong with that driver.” See also *JFK: The Book of the Film* (1992), p. 122. Therein is referenced a March 1991 conversation with Jean Hill.
- <sup>32</sup> As quoted in Marrs’ *Crossfire*, p. 248, based on a passage from *Johnny, We Hardly Knew Ye*, p. 31. See also 7 H 450; *Johnny, We Hardly Knew Ye*, p. 44; undated Sale letter provided to the author by Martin Shackelford.
- <sup>33</sup> 7 H 473–5.
- <sup>34</sup> 7 H 439–440; Jim Marrs, *Crossfire* (1989), p. 482; see also *The Men Who Killed Kennedy*, 1988: “The Secret Service in the car in front of us kind of casually looked around and were rather slow to react.”
- <sup>35</sup> 5 H 179–181.
- <sup>36</sup> Mary Barelli Gallagher, *My Life With Jacqueline Kennedy* (New York: David McKay, 1969), p. 342; Secret Service Agent Marty Venker (Rush, p. 25) and Jackie biographer C. David Heymann [*A Woman Called Jackie* (New York: Lyle Stuart, 1989), p. 401] confirm that this unnamed agent was indeed Greer. See also Edward Klein, *Just Jackie: Her Private Years* (Ballantine Books, 1999), pp. 58, 374.
- <sup>37</sup> Gallagher, p. 351.
- <sup>38</sup> Rush, p. 25.

- <sup>39</sup> *A Woman Called Jackie* (New York: Lyle Stuart, 1989), p. 401; Edward Klein, *Just Jackie: Her Private Years* (Ballantine Books, 1999), pp. 58, 374.
- <sup>40</sup> Manchester, p. 163.
- <sup>41</sup> Ironically, in former Chief U. E. Baughman's book, *Secret Service Chief*, it is written (p. 69): "It is a cardinal principle of Presidential protection never to allow the president to stop his car in a crowd if it can possibly be avoided."
- <sup>42</sup> Sibert and O'Neil Report, November 22, 1963.
- <sup>43</sup> 18 H 723.
- <sup>44</sup> Sibert and O'Neil Report, November 29, 1963.
- <sup>45</sup> 3 HSCA 452.
- <sup>46</sup> 3 HSCA 328.
- <sup>47</sup> 18 H 709–710; WR 453. See also Dennis McCarthy, *Protecting the President*, p. 89, and Michael Dorman, *The Secret Service Story*, p. 45.
- <sup>48</sup> Philip Melanson, *The Politics of Protection* (1984), p. 171.
- <sup>49</sup> 4 H 350; 2 H 121. Greer further told the HSCA on February 28, 1978: "He had no prior knowledge whatsoever of the path of the motorcade route or of any conditions on and surrounding the route that might effect his driving. He simply entered the Presidential limousine and followed the car in front of him [Curry's lead car, with Sheriff Decker and agents Lawson and Sorrels]."
- <sup>50</sup> 2 H 121.
- <sup>51</sup> 4 H 354. Conversely, Lawson also added: "... the Presidential car *leaped ahead* ... They seemed to have a more rapid acceleration than we did." [Emphasis added.] Lawson also wrote that the limousine "leaped ahead" in his November 23, 1963 Secret Service report (CD 3 Exhibits).
- <sup>52</sup> *Crossfire*, p. 361.
- <sup>53</sup> *The Washington Post*, February 28, 1985.
- <sup>54</sup> *The Continuing Inquiry* journal, April 22, 1980.
- <sup>55</sup> 4 H 350.
- <sup>56</sup> 2 H 131.
- <sup>57</sup> Sibert and O'Neil report, November 22, 1963; 2 H 131; 2 H 104; Harold Weisberg, *Post Mortem* (MD: self-published, 1975), pp. 537–8. See also Ann Graham Gaines, *The U.S. Secret Service* (Philadelphia: Chelsea House Publishers, 2001), p. 41.
- <sup>58</sup> Sibert and O'Neil report, November 22, 1963; Zapruder film.
- <sup>59</sup> 4 H 353; 17 H 628–9.
- <sup>60</sup> 18 H 732. (The sentence changed from "I notified them we were heading for the hospital," to "They were notified we were heading for the hospital.") Kinney told the HSCA on February 26, 1978: "I didn't know Parkland from the man in the moon."
- <sup>61</sup> 18 H 735, 739.
- <sup>62</sup> 2 H 121; 18 H 711.
- <sup>63</sup> RIF#180–10080–10069: April 14, 1978 HSCA interview of Jack Puterbaugh.
- <sup>64</sup> Oral History, Jesse Curry, LBJ Library, August 1969.
- <sup>65</sup> *High Treason*, p. 213.
- <sup>66</sup> Manchester, p. 169.
- <sup>67</sup> *No More Silence*, pp. 245–6.
- <sup>68</sup> 4 H 353.
- <sup>69</sup> Scott, p. 278.
- <sup>70</sup> See also RIF#180–10093–10320: May 31, 1977 Memorandum from HSCA's Belford Lawson to fellow HSCA members Gary Cornwell and Ken Klein (revised August 15, 1977).
- <sup>71</sup> After the assassination, out of necessity, the JFK and former V.P. LBJ agents combined as one detail.
- <sup>72</sup> Sibert and O'Neil Report, November 27, 1963: CD 7. One wonders if the DPD held similar suspicions: the Police radio Channel 2 transcripts mention that the police wanted to hold the two cars—JFK's limo and his Secret Service follow-up car—at

- Parkland Hospital so they could print them! (17 H 485.) November 27, 1963 was also the date of the Secret Service's first re-enactment of the assassination [Mark North, *Act of Treason* (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1991), p. 442; see also Mikita Brottman, *Car Crash Culture* (New York: Palgrave, 2001), p. 174 (chapter authored by Pamela McElwain-Brown)].
- <sup>73</sup> Mark Lane, *A Citizen's Dissent*, p. 193; AARC files on Bolden provided by Bill Adams; author's interviews and correspondence with Bolden, September 15 and 16, 1993.
- <sup>74</sup> See, for example, Prof. James H. Fetzer, ed., *Murder In Dealey Plaza* (Chicago: Catfeet Press, 2000), pp. 197–200.
- <sup>75</sup> However, the murder of a Secret Service agent *was* a federal crime: 18 USC 1114. Perhaps this explains the proliferation of the tale of the “dead” agent on November 22, 1963. For the notion that these stories may also be genuine, see Mark Crouch and James Fox (next chapter).
- <sup>76</sup> *Asheville Citizen-Times*, November 6, 1983.
- <sup>77</sup> 2 H 126; 18 H 722–800.
- <sup>78</sup> As confirmed to the author by Richard Greer and photo analysis. See also 2 H 124.
- <sup>79</sup> 2 H 123. See also January 6, 1964 letter from Chief James J. Rowley to the Warren Commission's J. Lee Rankin regarding the presidential limousine.
- <sup>80</sup> 2 H 122. Notice how Greer seems to have the same “amnesia” regarding Boring as Hill did in his report (see Chapter 1)!
- <sup>81</sup> CD 80, p. 3.
- <sup>82</sup> 18 H 799–800.
- <sup>83</sup> 2 H 126; 18 H 798.
- <sup>84</sup> CD 7.
- <sup>85</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>86</sup> 18 H 799; 18 H 723.
- <sup>87</sup> 18 H 799; 2 H 126.
- <sup>88</sup> 2 H 99–100.
- <sup>89</sup> HSCA document: interviews with Kellerman, outside contact report, August 24–25, 1977.
- <sup>90</sup> Roy Ennis, audiotaped interview with Greer, December 6, 1970 (in author's collection).
- <sup>91</sup> Bishop, p. 498.
- <sup>92</sup> Bishop, p. 530; Tomlinson: 2 H 412; Greer: 2 H 127 and February 28, 1978 HSCA interview with Greer; Kellerman: 2 H 93.
- <sup>93</sup> Agent McIntyre told the HSCA on January 31, 1978 that Johnsen “didn't say which stretcher but McIntyre got the impression it was from the President's stretcher.”
- <sup>94</sup> Phone conversation with author, September 30, 1992; Brown was assigned to protect JFK's father in Hyannis Port. Brown later spoke to Christopher Andersen, author of *Jackie after Jack: Portrait of the Lady* (Warner Books, 1999), as well as Edward Klein, author of *The Kennedy Curse: Why Tragedy has Haunted America's First Family for 150 Years* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2003). As of 2005, former agent Donald A. Stebbins was the Executive Secretary of the AFAUSSS.
- <sup>95</sup> 18 H 799–800. This report actually exists separately, as documents uncovered from the LBJ Library reveal (CD 3 exhibits), although the same report as reproduced in the Warren Commission Volumes gives the impression it is part of the same [first] report, due to its juxtaposition on *top* of the first report.
- <sup>96</sup> Interestingly, Barker's son is a Secret Service agent (C-Span, November 20, 1993)!
- <sup>97</sup> *Postmortem*, p. 46.
- <sup>98</sup> A former adviser to JFK on civil rights; a D.C. political figure; any relation to *Winston G. Lawson*, in charge of the advance security in Dallas?
- <sup>99</sup> CE 2011. “Over-the-counter” references: *JFK: Conspiracy of Silence*, p. 133 (updated version: *Trauma Room One*, pp. 85–86); *Crossfire*, p. 365; *Reasonable Doubt*, p. 70.
- <sup>100</sup> 24 H 412.

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- <sup>101</sup> CD 7.
- <sup>102</sup> RIF#180-10104-10481: HSCA interview of SAIC Behn.
- <sup>103</sup> Author's interview with Newman, February 7, 2004.
- <sup>104</sup> Price Exhibits, Warren Commission Volume 21.
- <sup>105</sup> Josiah Thompson, *Six Seconds in Dallas* (New York: Bernard Geis, 1967); *High Treason*, p. 102; HSCA document: interview with Nathan Pool, January 10, 1977.
- <sup>106</sup> LBJ Library document: Memorandum to File.
- <sup>107</sup> *In History's Shadow: An American Odyssey* (Hyperion Press, 1999), p. 18; *The Investigator*, February–May 1994.
- <sup>108</sup> November 21, 1993 *Dallas Morning News* interview with Henry Wade; *The Investigator*, February–May 1994.
- <sup>109</sup> November 22, 1993: "Dateline: Dallas".
- <sup>110</sup> 6 H 117.
- <sup>111</sup> Agents Clint Hill and John O'Leary visited the morgue briefly (CD 3 exhibits).
- <sup>112</sup> 2 H 125; see also RIF#180-10090-10263: November 23, 1963 PRS document, Greer to SAIC Robert Bouck regarding inventory of JFK's clothing; see also Manchester, pp. 307, 455, 515.
- <sup>113</sup> Manchester, pp. 307, 515; Adams and Specter to Rankin, memorandum dated January 23, 1964; 16 H 979, 981; Lattimer: Resident and Staff Physician, May 1972.
- <sup>114</sup> David Lifton, *Best Evidence*, pp. 646–7.
- <sup>115</sup> Greer later told the *Asheville Citizen-Times* (November 6, 1983): "The first of three shots ... hit the president in the *right shoulder*; the second hit Connally in the back ... The third shot hit the President in the head [emphasis added]." Like Agent Kinney (below), Governor Connally, and aide Dave Powers [*JFK: The Day the Nation Cried* (1988) video/DVD], Greer does *not* acknowledge a missed shot (the James Tague wounding).
- <sup>116</sup> As well as CD 3.
- <sup>117</sup> 17 H 1; 21 H 153.
- <sup>118</sup> 21 H 230.
- <sup>119</sup> 21 H 203–4.
- <sup>120</sup> December 10, 1963 report to Chief Rowley and PRS (LBJ Library).
- <sup>121</sup> Mikita Brottman, *Car Crash Culture* (New York: Palgrave, 2001), p. 173 (chapter authored by Pamela McElwain-Brown).
- <sup>122</sup> Milner email messages to the author, 1998.
- <sup>123</sup> 2 H 112.
- <sup>124</sup> Bishop, p. 570 (see also p. 684).
- <sup>125</sup> See, for example, Prof. James H. Fetzer, ed., *Murder in Dealey Plaza* (Chicago: Catfeet Press, 2000), pp. 197–200.
- <sup>126</sup> CD 379; 3 H 363, 364, 387; 6 H 6, 7, 17, 27, 44, 50, 51, 57, 63, 75.
- <sup>127</sup> According to an online article entitled "The Strange Tale of Dr. Malcolm O. Perry", "For roughly three weeks following the assassination, Moore and another Secret Service Agent, Roger C. Warner, spent a lot of time at Parkland Hospital."
- <sup>128</sup> The Warren Commission re-enactment in May 1964 involved Agent George Hickey [see Bonar Menninger, *Mortal Error* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1992)]; CD 5, p. 117: November 28, 1963 (Agent Howlett); 17 H 870–895: December 5, 1963 Secret Service survey photo album. Also, on November 25, 1963, the Secret Service made a survey in Dealey Plaza to establish bullet trajectories: *Dallas Morning News*, November 26, 1963. Greer could *not* have been involved in the November 27, 1963 re-enactment: as noted above, he was being interviewed by Sibert and O'Neil at the White House.
- <sup>129</sup> 2 H 83.
- <sup>130</sup> *Best Evidence*, p. 62.
- <sup>131</sup> Author's interview with Richard Greer, October 7, 1991.
- <sup>132</sup> *The New York Times*, July 2, 1966, p. 10; *The Washington Post*, February 28, 1985.

<sup>133</sup> 2 H 113.

<sup>134</sup> 18 H 934.

<sup>135</sup> 2 H 112; *Crossfire*, p. 9.

<sup>136</sup> Rush (Venker), p. 214.

<sup>137</sup> 2 H 113.

<sup>138</sup> See Thomas Shipman, Chapter 10.

<sup>139</sup> 2 H 113.

<sup>140</sup> O'Leary and Seymour, *Triangle of Death* (Nashville, TN: WND Books, 2003).

<sup>141</sup> *Crossfire*, p. 2.

<sup>142</sup> *Asheville Citizen-Times*, November 6, 1983; author's interviews with Richard Greer and June Kellerman.

<sup>143</sup> Author's interviews with Richard Greer.

<sup>144</sup> *Asheville Citizen-Times*, November 6, 1983.

<sup>145</sup> *The Washington Post*, February 28, 1985.