

PHANTOM SHOT

BOOK SYNOPSIS

PHANTOM SHOT concludes that not only was Lee Harvey Oswald the sole assassin of President Kennedy, but that he only fired TWO shots. The two-shot theory was mentioned as a possibility in the 1964 Warren Report. However, the Warren Commission determined that Oswald most likely fired three shots. But many assassination researchers over the years have disputed this, concluding that Oswald could not have fired three shots in less than six seconds and hit his target twice. Therefore, there had to be more than one shooter, and thus a conspiracy.

The Warren Commission based its conclusion on the fact that most witnesses said they heard three shots. However, it all but ignored the testimony of key eyewitnesses who only heard two shots. By and large, they were the ones closest to the president when he was assassinated. They include Jackie Kennedy, John Connally (who believed there were three shots but admitted he only heard two), Abraham Zapruder (who filmed the assassination), Secret Service Agent Clint Hill (who jumped on trunk of the presidential limousine and pushed Jackie back inside the vehicle), and Bonnie Ray Williams (who was looking out of an open window just a few feet beneath the sniper's nest).

Within hours of the shooting, many two-shot witnesses changed their stories to incorporate a third shot. They did this because of the nonstop repetition in the press that three shots had been fired. The very first bulletin reporting the shooting said: "Three shots were fired at President Kennedy's motorcade today in downtown Dallas." That bulletin was repeated over and over on radio and television, beginning just minutes after the shooting. This caused witnesses who only heard two shots to believe they must have failed to hear one, and to change their stories. Fortunately, many of them gave written statements just moments after the shooting, before they could be influenced by the press reports and the consensus groupthink that quickly enveloped the assassination. In those statements, many of them reported hearing only two shots.

One of the three empty shell casings found in the sniper's nest was dented in such a way that it could not have held a bullet that day. It also showed clear evidence that it had been dry fired prior to the assassination, meaning that it could not have been one of the bullets used during the shooting. Oswald dry fired his rifle with an empty shell casing in the chamber to prevent the firing pin from breaking. When he arrived at the sniper's nest just before the assassination, he remembered that there was an empty casing in the rifle. He had to eject it in order to chamber a live round. That is why there was one more shell casing found than the actual number of shots he fired. Two empty shell casings were found just inches apart under the sniper's nest window--they were the two fired during the assassination. The other empty shell casing was five feet away--that was the empty one Oswald ejected before he started shooting.

Logically, how could eyewitnesses have clearly heard two shots and failed to hear a third one, given that they were all fired within a time span of less than six seconds? And how could Oswald have made two of the most deadly accurate shots of all time, and missed everyone and everything with a third shot? The shot did not strike any of the six occupants of the presidential stretch limousine, the car itself, the motorcycle cops riding next to it, the spectators lining Elm Street, or anyone else. Despite exhaustive searches, no trace of a third bullet was ever found. There was no medical or ballistics evidence of a third shot. If one was fired, both the bullet and its shooter somehow managed to vanish into thin air. The Warren Commission had no explanation for what happened to the bullet, saying only that it “missed.” In reality, there was no third shot. It was a phantom shot.

Howard Brennan was looking at Oswald as he was firing the final shot. Immediately after the assassination, he said that the final shot was the second one he heard. He also said that Oswald did not appear to be in any hurry. If Oswald did fire three shots, he would have had to be in a hurry, given that he had less than six seconds to squeeze them off, and that it would have taken 4.6 seconds just to work the rifle bolt. The fact that he was not in a hurry is evidence that he only fired two shots.

The two-shot theory is a game changer insofar as the JFK assassination is concerned. No longer do you have to believe that in order for Lee Harvey Oswald to have been the sole assassin, he had to have performed the superhuman feat of firing three shots in less than six seconds and making two of them count. Expert marksmen over the years have largely been unable to replicate that feat. But firing only two shots in that amount of time was very doable. Oswald would have had plenty of time to aim and shoot.

The simplest solution is usually the correct one. One shooter. Two shots. Two hits. No misses. That is the simplest explanation for what happened on November 22, 1963.

PHANTOM SHOT is available in print and kindle e-book on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and other online bookstores. For additional information, email mike@phantomshotjfk.com.