

Introduction

"Many of the agents take to the grave what they know"

—former Agent Jerry Parr

For well over 40 years, America and, indeed, the world has endlessly questioned the brutal murder of the 35th President of the United States, John F. Kennedy. During this time, countless books have espoused a conspiracy of some sort, along with a moderate dose of works seeking to defend the official government pronouncement that a lone unaided assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, took the life of the nation's President by a seeming quirk of fate. Ultimately, the collective result of this mountain of prose has been to confound and confuse the vast majority of thinking people. While an overwhelming majority of the public believes a conspiracy was behind the murder, in addition to a strong and vocal minority who adamantly state their conviction that the assassination was simply no more than what we were all told the first time around, a feeling of uncertainty and dissatisfaction remains.

Simply put, something has been missing from all these accounts, pro and con. That "something" is the role of the Secret Service on that fateful November day in Dallas in 1963 when JFK was struck down.

For the first time ever, the actions—and inactions—of the United States Secret Service before, during, and after the assassination are dramatically and exhaustively detailed with many disturbing and revealing results. *Survivor's Guilt* is a unique work: no other book—or, for that matter, official investigative body—has ever chronicled the specific actions and responsibilities of the Secret Service, and the ramifications concerning the President's tragic and untimely death, in such vast detail. The author is the only person to have ever contacted such a large number of former Secret Service agents, White House aides, and surviving family members—over 70 in all, many of whom have never spoken on the record before (by comparison, the 1963–4 Warren Commission spoke to a mere dozen Secret Service agents and officials). With scrupulous documentation and much primary source information, *Survivor's Guilt* lays bare the agency's failure in Dallas on November 22, 1963. The results are alarming: regardless of one's own view about who committed the assassination and why, *Survivor's Guilt* conclusively proves that the Secret Service is ultimately responsible for the President's death.

Official history has claimed that President Kennedy was difficult to protect and had even ordered the Secret Service agents to make certain actions that ultimately left JFK wide open for assassination that terrible day in Dallas.

Survivor's Guilt conclusively overrules this verdict.

The author demonstrates that, in fact, JFK was very cooperative and did not interfere with the Secret Service. In addition, much evidence of gross negligence

and, in a few instances, seeming culpability, is revealed. The reader also receives a critical, behind-the-scenes look at the agency during the JFK, LBJ, and Nixon years, clearly the most tumultuous in the agency's history.

For an unprecedented look at the Secret Service, the agency's interaction with President Kennedy, and their role in the assassination, *Survivor's Guilt* is second to none. Regardless of one's convictions about who or what was behind the President's murder (or why it happened), *Survivor's Guilt* provides a new and important framework for discourse and, in the process, many disturbing questions are answered.

From the February 22, 1978 House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) interview of Miami SAIC John Marshall, former White House Detail agent who conducted all the advance work on President Kennedy's frequent trips to Palm Beach:

TWICE DURING THE INTERVIEW, MR. MARSHALL MENTIONED THAT, FOR ALL HE KNEW, SOMEONE IN THE SECRET SERVICE COULD POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME AN AGENT HAS MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY THAT A CONSPIRACY EXISTED, BUT IT IS THE FIRST TIME THAT AN AGENT HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SECRET SERVICE COULD HAVE BEEN INVOLVED.

Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB) Director Tom Samoluk told the author in 1996 that JFK's longtime friend and Presidential Aide Dave Powers "agreed with your take on the Secret Service", based off a lengthy interview Samoluk had with the gentleman during the process of obtaining Powers' film of the fateful Dallas motorcade from the JFK Library.