

DPUK SEMINAR REPORTS

Canterbury 2007 Seminar Report

Another very enjoyable and informative DPUK Conference was held at Canterbury on the weekend of 24th/25th March. Our thanks must go to Barry Keane for all the hard work that he put into organising the event and to Tony McCulloch for once again allowing, and arranging for us, to use the excellent facilities that Christ Church University has to offer.

Two of our six presenters were, unfortunately, not able to attend the event. Chris Scally was to have spoken on the Great Dictabelt Mystery evidence points to the fact that the original held in the National Archives (apparently recorded from a police officers motorcycle that was escorting the Kennedy motorcade) is in fact a copy. Patrick Collins was to have spoken about his extensive personal experiences as a long-standing researcher into the JFK Assassination. Patrick has met many key people during the time he spent undertaking a two year dissertation, including Marina Oswald, Jean Hill, and Ruth Paine. We look forward to hearing both their presentations at a future date.

However, the remaining four presenters gave us a real treat, covering a wide variety of subjects in their excellent lectures. Alaric Rosman considered the digital simulation created by Dale Myers of the Zapruder film and the way that it was matched to a three dimensional computer model of Dealey Plaza in an attempt to prove a lone gunman theory. Alaric's own observations and geometrical calculations blow holes in the basic data used by Myers case closed obviously a conspiracy!

Ian Griggs gave us a flavour of the new book that he is writing on the structure and organisation of the Dallas Police Department at the time of the Assassination. He is currently researching the background of each and every member of the Force who was on duty that fateful day or who were subsequently involved with the investigations. From the examples that Ian drew upon, the finished book will form a very important historical document

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detailing how the examination of the crime was undertaken by the DPD, whilst also focusing on the human aspects of the tragedy.

John Geraghty, a young researcher from Dublin, who has set up his own website to help educate people with limited knowledge of the assassination, gave a very informative talk on the possible involvement of Charles Voyde Harrelson in the assassination. Harrelson, a convicted killer, had died in jail a few days before the Canterbury Conference - he had reportedly shot Judge John Wood in 1979. John Geraghty has been in letter contact with Harrelson in the past, so has an immediate insight into his character and his thoughts on life. John's presentation included an opinion on Harrelson as one of the Tramps, and the important links between Harrelson, Jack Ruby, the Havana Casinos, and the Dallas section of the Texas Underworld.

Mark de Valk gave a special preview of his new film SPERO, a Docu-Drama about the CIA's MK-ULTRA project. The film was very powerful, profoundly disturbing, but much thought provoking. It gave an excellent insight into what involvement with the Sidney Gottlieb mind control experiments must have been like.

Thanks go to all those who contributed items for the fundraising Auction and Raffle. The Auction was conducted with much aplomb, and in his own inimitable style, by Mike Dworetzky. One could feel the tension in the room as prices were forced higher! Thanks also go to Mark Bridger, our Librarian, for having produced and presented the DPUK Trivia Quiz. A wide range of topics were covered in the questions, which certainly got the brains ticking over.

Final thanks go to Francesca Akhtar who stepped into the breach at the last moment, and without any notes available to her, gave a very interesting talk on Jim Garrison, Clay Shaw, and the New Orleans/Louisiana aspects of the case.

Apart from the conference itself, the weekend gives plenty of opportunity for delegates to get together and discuss all aspects of the case over a pint

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of ale in very convivial surroundings. It is surprising what one learns when knowledge is pooled like that.

So if you have not been to one of these conferences before then I urge you to do so. The event is excellent value for money and you will meet some very interesting and well-informed people. Apart from that, the City of Canterbury is well worth a visit at any time.

Stuart Galloway

Canterbury 2006 Seminar Report

The 2006 Canterbury Seminar was held at the Ramsey lecture theatre, Canterbury Christ Church University on 18th and 19th March. Thanks are due to Dr Tony McCulloch, the head of History and American Studies for providing superb facilities which helped to make this year's event so enjoyable.

Members present were:- Special Guest Sherry Gutierrez, who was accompanied by daughter Meesha and mother-in-law Sonja, Francesca Akhtar, Barry Keane, Ian Griggs, Mark Rowe, Mark Bridger, Mark De Valk, Mike Dworetzky, Tony Basing, Tony Austin, Paul Lee, Carly Spreadborough, John Simkin, Allan Johnson, Stuart Galloway, John Gaulter, Barbara Ireland, Tony McCulloch, John Geraghty, John Gill, Aleric Rosman, John Wassell and new member Malcolm Grundy.

MARK DE VALK

Mark's presentation was entitled "Imagery of JFK and Oswald: A Cultural Vision of an American Assassination" He showed some clips of films which demonstrated how life can imitate art. He explained that films have mimicked the Kennedy Assassination and even perhaps was a precursor to that tragic event. Mark spent the rest of the conference video the proceedings.

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JOHN SIMKIN

John presentation had the lengthy title "Military-Industrial-Congressional-Intelligence Complex and the Assassination of JFK"

His talk was a study of historic information showing how the military, industrial and congressional leaders of that time were impacted by the Kennedy political era. Although very complex he did a good job of linking various events.

BARRY KEANE - "Why was President Kennedy Assassinated?"

Barry's presentation look at the assassination in the broader historical context then concentrated on the financial aspect and how Kennedy was a threat to these interests. He was making decisions which were a serious threat to the power wielded by financial leaders of the times. Revealing interesting facts about how power and money are heavily linked.

SHERRY GUTIERREZ - "Trajectory Analysis applied to the Kennedy Assassination"

Sherry talked about trajectory showing how the positioning of the limo within Dealey Plaza, and the body and head position of the President within the limo, made the head shot from the grassy knoll impossibility a very interesting and thought provoking presentation.

IAN GRIGGS - "History of DPUK"

Ian gave a very interesting account of the founding of DPUK with fascinating anecdotes about former and current members. In addition he spoke about some colourful people who had applied to join in the past. A most enjoyable and informative account of DPUK's formation and history.

AUCTION - Mike Dworetsky

Mike once again used his considerable skills as our auctioneer to help raise much needed funds for DPUK. He also contributed a signed letter from Harold Wiesberg and then gave a short presentation about its history and how it came into his possession. Books, magazines, CD ROMs, coins and

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other memorabilia which had been donated by various members, were sold in a keenly fought auction. Many thanks to former member Barry Bullock for making his library available for sale to members, which greatly contributed to the auctions success

SHERRY GUTIERREZ

Sherry's second presentation, "Bloodstain Pattern Analysis in the Kennedy Assassination", was a fascination and in depth account of a specialist nature.

Her particular expertise in blood spatter interpretation added greatly to our understanding of the medical aspects of the case. As well as her considerable expert knowledge she utilised witness testimony and current and historical photographic evidence.

Thank you Sherry for gracing us with your charm and thoughtful presentations. It was a pleasure and a delight for us to spend an all too short a time with you.

My thanks to all the presenters and to all the attendees for helping to make another successful conference

Barry Keane Secretary Dealey Plaza UK

Canterbury 2005 Seminar Report

The Third Dealey Plaza UK International Weekend Seminar was held over the weekend of Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 June. 2005. The venue was The Powell and Newton lecture theatres at Canterbury Christ Church University College, Canterbury, Kent.

There were thirty two attendees, all of whom I would like to thank and I know from the responses that I have received that it was regarded as a great success. I am particularly indebted to those who gave presentations, all of which were very informative and well received.

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My special thanks to our guest from the United States, Larry Hancock who gave two presentations both full of fascinating information, first on the Kirknewton intercepts which described another example of official foreknowledge of JFK's assassination. His second presentation on the involvement of various Cuban exiles etc was outstanding.

Russell Kent's presentation on the John Connally wounds was very convincing, the hi-light being his practical demonstration, which actually involved him having his trousers removed! Which by way of an explanation, clearly showed that the so-called single bullet, would have fallen out when the doctors removed Connally's clothing

My thanks also to speakers Chris Robertson, Ian Griggs, Kim Reinholt and in particular Aleric Rosman; whose animated depiction of the shooting of J.D.Tippit was an undoubted showstopper

My thanks also to all those who helped in the organisation of the seminar, Mark Bridger, Barry Bullock, Ian Griggs (again!) and Mike Dworetzky, whose superb skills as our auctioneer helped to raise over £450. Special thanks to Tony McCulloch whose involvement made it such a special event through the use of the facilities of the college he helped to provide. Thanks are due also, to Allen Peppitt, whose donation of a variety of Kennedy books raised well over £20.

I would like to particularly mention Mark De Valk, our intrepid video technician; who once again spent almost the entire weekend viewing the presentations on a three-inch monitor. Thanks also to John Marshall, the head of the college's audio-visual dept, who was enormously helpful in the technical preparation of the presentations.

Barry Keane Secretary Dealey Plaza UK

Canterbury 2004 Seminar Report

Like the inaugural Weekend Seminar last year, this proved to be an unqualified success.

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The event was dedicated to the memory of Mary Ferrell and was opened with a tribute to Mary and a few moments of silence in her memory. Several people felt that she was actually present with us in spirit in the lecture theatre.

Once again we were indebted to Dr. Tony McCulloch, Head of History and American Studies, for making the university college facilities available to us - particularly the very well equipped Powell Lecture Theatre. This proved an ideal venue and also offered A/V equipment of a very high standard, which greatly assisted the presenters.

All the presentations over the two days were recorded on video. Members Mark de Valk and Barry Keane worked hard and long on this. Informal one-on-one interviews were conducted by Chris Robertson and recorded on video by Mark Rowe. It is intended to edit all footage and produce a permanent video record of the seminar.

Our American guest, Dr. George Michael Evica, was inevitably the star of the show. His friendly, outgoing manner and ready wit were greatly appreciated by all and he joined in the social as well as the 'official' functions with enthusiasm.

George Michael gave two presentations. He closed the first day with a fascinating lecture on the many mysteries and anomalies surrounding the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle (introduced by Ian Griggs, who brought along his own M/C and proved yet again that the 'long paper bag' story is unacceptable). On the second day, George Michael gave the final presentation of the weekend with an in-depth account of the use of trocars in the attempts to save JFK's life in Parkland Hospital.

It was a great pleasure to meet George Michael's charming wife Alycia, who was a gracious and delightful fellow guest.

The opening presentation of the weekend was given by Barry Keane, who updated his valuable work on Skip Rydberg and the Bethesda Cover-up. This was followed by a rather unusual presentation when Helen Taylor read an account of Francesca Akhtar, 'her first visit to Dallas last November'

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Francesca was unable to attend the seminar due to a hospital appointment - but Helen (who had travelled to Canterbury from Exeter on the overnight bus!) did an outstanding job.

Mark Bridger showed some Kennedy books signed by Allen Dulles and dedicated to a gentleman called Alan J.P. Crick. Mark had researched Mr Crick and established that he was an Englishman who had served in British Intelligence and had worked with Dulles. Crick proved to be something of a mystery man who had considerable intelligence links. Mark's lecture, produced in typical 'Bridger style', was enthusiastically presented and greatly enjoyed by all present.

Ian Griggs outlined the history of the Dallas Police Department from the early days of the Vigilance Committee (1845) up to the move of HQ from the old City Hall to the new Jack Evans Building (2003). He mentioned briefly some of the 'villains' who had passed through the city - outlaws like Doc Holliday, Frank and Jesse James, Frank Dalton and Sam Bass, plus the 1930s duo Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow, and the more modern characters like racketeer Benny Binion, stripper Candy Barr and oddball Jack Ruby.

Mike Dworetsky discussed the claims by Gerald Posner that the reported smell of smoke and gunpowder in the plaza proved that shots came from the book depository. Mike has studied the detailed half-hourly weather reports from the day and these proved that the wind direction was completely wrong for this to have been so. Case closed? No!

Former Sunday Times journalist Chris Robertson's offering was entitled "How to deal with the media" but he went on to discuss far more than that. Chris feels that if the forthcoming American election brings Senator Kerry to the White House, the research community could well find itself bombarded with aggressive press attention. We have to be on our guard against attempts to twist what we may say when approached by the media. A relative newcomer to DPUK, Chris proved a convincing speaker and his fine presentation were acknowledged as one of the weekend's highlights.

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Dave Graham was an unscheduled speaker but a spot was found for him to present his incredible (and original!) research into the money order sent to Chicago for the purchase of Oswald's Mannlicher-Carcano. Having followed the course of the money order through the various stages of its travels, Dave is able to prove that it has never actually been presented for payment. Why is this? Has it been treated differently on purpose? Dave has really got his teeth into this mystery and will present his findings in a future issue of our journal.

During a scheduled 'open forum' period, Paul Lee was able to describe current research in which he is engaged and which involves an authorised visit to the BBC archives to study all TV footage from the 'assassination weekend' - including out-takes and other relevant material. Paul appeals to any members of the group who would be willing to assist and accompany him in this complicated but potentially rewarding exercise.

Other 'happenings' during the seminar included a trivia quiz, presented by Tony Basing and won by Ian Griggs, and a successful room auction conducted by Mike Dworetsky.

It was unfortunate that some members who had planned to attend were unable to do so, particularly our two European members, Kim Reinholt (Denmark) and Marcel Dehaeseleer (Belgium). Hope you can make it next year! On the plus-side, however, it was good to have two students in the audience. Carly Spreadborough and Lindsay Craig are each engaged in dissertations on the subject of the assassination. We hope that their attendance was of value in their work.

This event could not have taken place without the hard work of many people. There are too many to name here but special thanks are due to Barry Bullock and Tony McCulloch (our men on the spot), Barry Keane ('king of the PowerPoint') and Mark de Valk (who came to a seminar but found himself 'working' the weekend with the video camera).

The entire weekend was a success - and will definitely be repeated next year. Those DPUK members, who would like to present research papers or

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participate in other ways, are invited to contact Ian Griggs or Barry Keane. We will again endeavour to secure the services of a star guest and full details will be posted here and in the journal as details are known.

Those attending the seminar were as follows: Tony Basing, Colin Battcher, Mark Bridger, Barry Bullock, Chris Cherlin, Lindsay Craig, Paul Dennis, Mark de Valk, Mike Dworetzky, Alycia Evica, George Michael Evica, Stuart Galloway, Jon Gaulter, John Gill, Dave Graham, Ian Griggs, Barbara Ireland, Allan Johnson, Barry Keane, Paul Lee, Tony McCulloch, Keith Patrick, Chris Robertson, Alaric Rosman, Jeremy Rowbottom, Mark Rowe, Carly Spreadborough, Helen Taylor and John Wassell.

Canterbury 2003 Seminar Report

Held at Canterbury Christ Church University College, Kent: Saturday 29th/Sunday 30th March 2003

Introduction

This event, the first such two-day meeting ever hosted by Dealey Plaza UK, was such an unqualified success that it has already been decided to repeat it next year.

The facilities available at the college were first class. Once again those original members present were reminded how much the group has progressed since those early days in the mid-1990s when meetings were held in rooms above pubs.

DPUK owes much to the support and enthusiasm of a new member, Dr. Tony McCulloch, Head of American Studies at the college. Tony acted as our man on the spot and the dates of the seminar were chosen with him specifically in mind. He was due to fly to Australia for a family holiday a few days later and would be unable to attend the following weekend, our original intended period for the event.

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We are also indebted to UK Membership Secretary Barry Bullock for his many valuable contributions. Barry acted as an unofficial local liaison for us.

A total of 29 DPUK members attended, some travelling a considerable distance (in UK terms!) to be present.

International status

We feel totally justified in hanging an "international" tag on to the title of the seminar thanks to the welcome presence of Overseas Members Mark Rowe (USA) and Kim Reinholt (Denmark). They each played a significant part - Mark being responsible for making a permanent video record of the seminar, and Kim being one of the presenters.

The First Day

Tony McCulloch and DPUK Secretary Ian Griggs opened the seminar by welcoming those present to the ancient city of Canterbury and to the first such DPUK-organized weekend event.

LES BOLLAND, recently-retired Detective Superintendent (Hertfordshire Police), was our first speaker, with a paper entitled "You Only Get One Chance" which dealt with the importance of crime scene examination. Drawing on his vast experience gained during a 32-year police career, the last ten of which saw him running serious crime and murder enquiries, Les explained the nature of crime scenes and the way in which they are identified, defined and protected.

Les then went on to discuss the situation in Dallas on 22nd November 1963, stressing the fact that there were several crime scenes - none of which was correctly handled. As well as the sixth floor of the TSBD, other crime scenes included the whole of that building, the presidential limousine, JFK's body, John Connally's body, the Parkland trauma rooms, Tippit's patrol car, the area around Tenth and Patton and even Tippit's body. In outlining the many errors, mistakes and omissions which took place, Les was particularly critical of Lieutenant Carl Day, the titular head of the Crime Scene Search Section. Day not only failed to take control of the sixth floor crime scene

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but was also seriously guilty of badly mishandling (physically) vital items of evidence, most obviously the rifle.

In some respects, Les said, the DPD was fortunate that the case never came to trial since it is obvious that they would have come in for some severe criticism for the way they handled the sixth floor crime scene. Les closed by asking: "How did they do?" His answer: "Could do much better!"

KIM REINHOLT was our second speaker. As well as being DPUK's only Danish member, Kim is also, at 18, the group's youngest. His account of "A Danish view of the assassination and its aftermath" was delivered with confidence and clarity. Kim also showed his Bell and Howell 414 model double 8mm movie camera - identical to the one with which Mr. Zapruder shot his famous film. He also discussed the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, one of which he regularly uses for target shooting. Kim proved a lively and knowledgeable young man and it was good to see him making contact with many of his fellow researchers. It is unfortunate that his high school studies in Denmark will prevent him attending the 40th anniversary event in Dallas this year.

RUSSELL KENT followed Kim and presented an updated paper on "The Warren Commission and John Connally's doctors". Russell's work in this area has previously been published in the Dealey Plaza Echo and was presented at the 1998 Lancer Conference in Dallas.

Using his own extensive medical training and experience, Russell comes to the conclusion that Connally was struck by bullets from two directions, his wrist wound being caused by a bullet fired from his right front. This entered the dorsal surface (the back or top of the wrist) and exited through the volar surface (same side as the palm of the hand). Due to the position of Connally's right arm and wrist at the time he was hit, a bullet traversing the wrist in that direction (dorsal to volar) would completely negate the Single Bullet Theory.

MIKE DWORETSKY called his presentation "Ear witness accounts of the shots - a new interpretation" and much of it came in the form of a practical

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demonstration of how the human perception of sudden and unexpected sounds can vary greatly from one person to the next. Midway through his talk, and using the audio facilities to the full, Mike suddenly unleashed a series of audible 'shots' at his unsuspecting audience. Later, he asked everyone to write down how many shots they had heard.

The results of this experiment were collated by Mike's assistant (his wife Isabel) and they produced some very interesting figures. Estimates varied from three shots to ten (actually there were three). This practical experiment was a new concept to almost everyone present. Like the traditional 'picture' it demonstrated far more than could be conveyed in 'a thousand words'.

MALCOLM BLUNT was the final speaker of Day One. Rather than present a research paper, Malcolm spoke in general terms about the records and documents held at National Archives II at College Park, Maryland. Malcolm has spent so much time there that he has gained the unofficial title "guru of NARA". Members of the audience were invited to put specific questions to Malcolm with the result that everyone ended the session with a far clearer idea of the type of records held at Archives II and the manner in which they are preserved, catalogued and made available to researchers. Unfortunately, of course, despite the ARRB, some still remain closed to public scrutiny.

The Second Day

TONY BASING opened Day Two with a magnificent presentation in which he greatly updated his previously published work on Chauncey Marvin Holt. Tony opened by listing some of Holt's known aliases. This (incomplete!) list runs to 40 names. He then described some of the activities Holt had followed during a very eventful life - everything from circus performer and trick cyclist to expert marksman, gifted painter and forger.

Tony stressed that several of his sources cannot be named, but knowing of his dedication and accuracy of research, this did not lessen the impact of a major presentation. It was a tour de force which put together a virtual

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jigsaw and demonstrated how many well-known names (mostly of Latin origin!) all fitted in place, many of the people involved coming together on 22nd November 1963. It is impossible to describe in detail Tony's presentation. Hopefully, he will be able to convert it into article form and it can appear in the Echo at a later date.

IAN GRIGGS had the unenviable task of following Tony. His presentation was entitled "Forty years of worldwide press coverage" and was based on two previously published articles dealing with the manner in which the media, both in the USA and worldwide, had dealt with the events of the assassination weekend.

Ian has taken great interest in the way the news of the assassination was handled by the print media and he was able to show that even now, 40 years on, the subject continues to attract press attention. The press reports he showed and discussed ranged from items in the Dallas Times Herald of the afternoon of 22nd November 1963 to a long article in the East Anglian Daily Times of 22nd March 2003.

The draft of this presentation will appear in the July 2003 issue of the Dealey Plaza Echo and will also form the basis of Ian's presentation at this year's Lancer Conference.

BARRY KEANE updated his recent valuable research into the actions of "Harold 'Skip' Rydberg at Bethesda Naval Hospital" and was able to confirm that it is very likely that Rydberg will be appearing and speaking at this year's Lancer Conference in Dallas in November. Barry also showed a copy of Rydberg's book The Head of the Dog.

SEAN SWEENEY was the final speaker of the weekend. The plan had been for Sean and Jason Wakefield to host a joint presentation on the subject of the acoustics evidence. Unfortunately, due to a family illness, Jason was unable to attend. However, Sean was still able to give his own part of the presentation. This was based on his recent Echo article and was very well received.

Other activities

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With the acoustics presentation being shorter than anticipated, the opportunity was taken for Mark Bridger to run a light-hearted trivia quiz. This was won by Tony Basing.

Mike Dworetsky then returned to the stage to host a room auction of JFK-related coins, newspapers and other memorabilia including some Mannlicher-Carcano inert ammunition, a rubbing from Oswald's headstone and a piece of one of the roof tiles from Ruth Paine's Irving house. This proved both competitive and successful and also provided valuable funds for the group. Many thanks, Mike!

Closing remarks

Tony McCulloch closed the seminar by congratulating all the speakers on their presentations, each of which had been different but nevertheless of great interest. He stated that as a relatively new member of the group, the seminar had enabled him to meet other members and exchange opinions and ideas with them. He also thanked the organizers of the seminar and offered the facilities of the college for a repeat event.

The attendees: Tony Basing, Colin Battcher, Malcolm Blunt, Les Bolland, Mark Bridger, Barry Bullock, Chris Cherlin, Ian Colclough, Mike and Isabel Dworetsky, Jon Gaulter, John Gill, Dave Graham, Ian Griggs, Barbara Ireland, Allan Johnson, Barry Keane, Russell Kent, Tony McCulloch, Bill and Linda Meek, Allan Peppitt, Kim Reinholt, Jeremy Rowbottom, Mark Rowe, Sean Sweeney, Melanie Swift and John Wassell.