# THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY'S "CRACK AND SPLATTER" METHOD OF ASSASSINATION 

The CIA's "crack and splatter" method of assassination, used to murder U.S. Marines assigned to the "Combined Action Program" in Viet Nam, can be compared, in some ways, to the "smash and grab" method of robbery. In "smash and grab", a hard object is used to break glass, such as a glass car window or a glass display case in a jewelry store. Then the robber is free to reach in and grab the target previously protected by the glass enclosure. If a lead pipe was used to smash the glass, the velocities reached by propulsion from the intentionally hard force of the human arm would be sufficient to cause the glass to shatter into large enough pieces for the robber to reach in and grab the target. If, however, the same lead pipe was fired out of some type of cannon at a high enough velocity, the pipe might shoot through said glass, leaving only a hole slightly larger than the diameter of the pipe. If the objective was only to propel the lead pipe through the glass and out the other side, the higher speed might be suitable. If, however, the objective was to remove the glass, as a barrier to the "grab", a speed closer to natural human velocity capability might better allow energy time to be dissipated laterally through the glass, as the pipe passes through it, rather than using inertia to propel the force through the glass with a higher percentage of energy dissipated in a forward direction.
Different types of "glass", such as ordinary window glass, safety-plate car windows, so-called bullet proof glass, or plexiglass, would each have their
own characteristics for "smashing". In the CIA's "crack and splatter" method of assassination, a relatively larger bore, lower velocity, less explosive type of round, the fracture round(s), is fired into the target skull first. This enters the skull at just the right combination of speed, shape, density, and other combination of ballistic characteristics to penetrate the skull, leaving an entrance hole slightly larger than the diameter of said projectile, and fracturing the skull plate, which is now held together by the scalp of the target
skull, into various cracks, where the fracture round(s), now having
dissipated most of its kinetic energy into cracking the bony plate of the skull, like cracking an egg, or scoring a brick or a piece of glass, lodges in the soft tissue of the brain. Then, immediately after the firing of the fracture round(s), a relatively smaller bore, higher velocity, more impact explosive type of round, the dispersion round(s), is fired into the target skull. This enters the scored, target skull, shattering into many smaller fragments, where the explosive impact reaction force splatters the soft tissue of the brain through sections of the skull previously scored by the fracture round(s), ripping away the scalp tissue holding the cracked edges of the bony scalp plate, as the soft brain tissue, scalp and skull plate sections, and possibly the lodged fracture round(s) are blown out of the target's head. This type of fire pattern has no practical use in legitimate ground combat. It is useful only for a carefully planned assassination, where the position or range of positions of the target skull can be pre-arranged and/or otherwise pre-determined. The objective is to make death as certain as possible, with as few rounds, and least noticeable damage to the surrounding environment and/or persons, as possible. Since people sometimes survive brain penetration of various types, knives, metal rods, etc. imbedded through the brain, the parameters of said fire pattern are set to blow out as much of the brains of the target skull as possible.

A successful example of the CIA's "crack and splatter" method is the JFK assassination. Although I had no part in planning and/or carrying out the JFK murder, and have not studied said case as extensively as many persons and agencies have, with the limited information I have about said case I will suggest a possible scenario, with the accuracy of the actual event depending on a certain number of unknown, (by myself), factors; although, regardless of the probable variation from the actual event in some aspects, the basic method and objective is the same; and, only the Central intelligence Agency had motive, method, and opportunity for said JFK assassination.

The location in Dallas is decided on as the site to set up the shooting gallery. The building kiddy-corner from the book depository is decided on as one of the firing lines for the shot(s). After the limo turns the corner, the target skull would be traveling in a direction which would cause little variation in windage after the target skull is sighted in for point of aim/point of impact. A firing position on the second floor would allow the round(s) to clear the crowd while keeping
elevation variations to a minimum. The CIA would have to get covert controlling interest, financially, legally, and/or functionally, of the building, to prevent interference and/or discovery during the shooting. That might require numerous covers and cover stories. That would depend on manipulation logistics; and, thus, would be a separate aspect not necessarily relevant to the "crack and splatter" firing pattern. A window facing the general direction of travel of the limo after it turned the corner would only have to be open several inches to allow sighting in of the target skull and clearance of the round through the open portion of the window as long as the window could be opened or closed with sufficient ease to prevent malfunction. A rigid mount would be used for stability of the sight picture. The firing position would be back far enough away from the window to prevent easy observation by the crowd. The height of the mount would be set to allow sighting in on the target skull when it is within the range of positions selected for time of impact. An optical sight would be used. At that range, an optical sight would be within effective range of accuracy for the desired shot. Sighting methods using any type of electrical and/or electronic component would add an unnecessary elevated risk of malfunction. The rigid mount would have to be designed to be user friendly for the range of positions for sighting in. That might require an A-gunner to help adjust the mount smoothly as the limo progressed toward the point of firing and then keep the sight picture up to the time of firing of the fracture round(s). The exact function of shooter and/or A-gunner would depend on the specific design of the mount, firing machine, and any other mechanism(s) used to control the firing of the fracture round(s). For the dispersion round(s), a firing position would be set up at a point which, if pointed to by a person seated in the rear seat, to the far right, of the limo, would be forward and to the right of the limo. The trajectory would have to clear any fences, vegetation, crowd, and/or any other mass, over, under, around, or through, on the way to impact with the target skull. Since the angle of fire, for an effective field
of fire, for the traveling dispersion round(s), would cause an apparently larger variation in windage for sighting in on the target skull, a smaller magnification would be used, if optical sights were chosen, to compensate for that factor. However, although the timing of the release of the dispersion round(s) would be more critical than the release of the fracture round(s), for factors of accuracy, due to the lower windage variation of the latter, the fracture round(s) would need to make first impact on the target skull. Therefore, the sighting for the dispersion round(s) might be a timing mark, for release of a type of coded radio signal which would fire a radiocontrolled, solenoid-operated, trigger mechanism to fire the fracture round(s),
since the mount for the fracture round(s) would be adjusted for the target skull trajectory at the time of remote
firing of said solenoid operated trigger mechanism. A solenoid-operated trigger mechanism could be used to fire the dispersion round(s) with the same coded radio signal, with a sufficient lag time electronically designed into the trigger mechanism of the dispersion round(s) to allow the fracture round(s) to crack the target skull just prior to the dispersion rounds blowing the brains, skull and scalp fragments, and/or any fracture round(s) lodged in the brain, out of the target skull. A lead time could be built into the sighting mechanisms and/ or methods, to compensate for the necessary lag time between time of impact for the fracture round(s) and time of impact for the dispersion round(s). Because the shooter, A-gunner, and/or any
spotters and/or other personnel handling the release of the fracture round(s), as well as the rigid mount, firing machine, and/or other related equipment would be inside the room on the second floor of the building kiddy-corner from the book depository, and hidden from easy view by the crowd, as well as the factor of a lower apparent variation of windage, after the firing machine is sighted in on the target skull, a high degree of accuracy could be programmed for the fracture round(s). Therefore, only one fracture round would need to be fired to accomplish the objective of blowing the brains out of the target skull. Because the dispersion round(s) would be released from a firing position which would have a higher probability of being viewed by the crowd, which would increase the difficulty of concealing and/or camouflaging any mounting, firing, sighting, and/or triggering mechanism(s) and/or personnel, as well as the higher apparent windage variation as a result of the angle of fire for the dispersion round(s), a less positive degree of certainty of accuracy would be probable, all other factors being equal, for the release of the dispersion round(s). As a result of those factors, more than one round might be fired for the dispersion round(s), as supporting fire to increase probability of impact for the dispersion round(s), though not necessarily using the same firing position, and/or mounting, firing, sighting, and/or triggering mechanism(s) and/or personnel as the first firing dispersion round(s), which would be given priority for sequencing order of impact between fracture round(s) and dispersion round(s). If support fire was used for the dispersion round(s), it would require limitation to as few round(s) as practical to prevent the appearance of too well calculated of an ambush to pass for a civilian ambush. When the target skull reached the pre-determined position within the calculated range of positions, the release of the first (fracture) round(s) would be triggered, whereupon the round(s) would impact on the back of the target skull, leaving a slightly larger than bullet size opening in the back of the skull, along with numerous cracks in the skull, which would then be held together by the scalp of the target skull, and the fracture round(s) would then lodge in the brain or be
deflected through other soft tissue. The primary dispersion round(s) would then enter the right temple of the target skull, in the soft area just behind the right eye, where the dispersion round(s) would fragment into multiple irregular opaque metallic foreign bodies varying in size from minute flecks of metallic debris up to linear fragment(s) $3 \times 1 \mathrm{~mm}$. in size, dispersing in trajectory in multiple directions within the soft brain tissue, with a resultant of blowing the brains, skull and scalp fragments, and/or any fracture round(s) lodged in the brain, out of the target skull, causing certain death of the now assassinated person, a highly efficient variation of an L-shaped ambush. Any support fire to increase probability of impact of the dispersion round(s) would have a degree of accuracy, trajectory, point of impact and/or other parameter factors depending on the specific design of the program for that field of fire. The only reason more than two rounds might be required for said assassination is that the target skull was a moving target, traveling in a limo of undeterminable exact speed at time of aim/time of impact.

An unsuccessful example of the CIA's "crack and splatter" method is the tight group of rounds ${ }^{* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * ~ a t ~ C A P ~ *-*-* ~ w h e n ~ t h e ~ C e n t r a l ~ I n t e l l i g e n c e ~}$ Agency tried to blow the brains out of a "CAP" marine ${ }^{* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *, ~}$ using said "crack and splatter" method. The set up of the target skull was simple and routine. The results in that particular case was not. One night off ambush duty, said target "CAP"
marine was assigned to alternate bunker watch with another American who used the alias "Alphabet". There was a cot on one side of the bunker for sleeping while it was the other person's turn on watch. This night, however, the cot had been purposely ripped so bad that it was impossible to sleep on, so that said target "CAP" marine would try, when it was his turn to sleep, to use the regular bottom floor to sleep. The bunkers in the "CAP" units had an unusual feature that was different from guard bunkers at the rifle company command posts; that is, there was an elevated floor on one side reaching nearly to the top of the bunker. All of the bunkers in the "CAP" units had been uniformly designed with an elevated floor so that "CAP" marines who were used to
perform legitimate combat duties could be set up for a kill; and then, after they were murdered, labeled as killed in action to keep the assassination, psychological operation, and intelligence gathering covers and activities of the Central Intelligence Agency through "CAP" a secret from the people back in the states. Although it had no military value, even being a hindrance, since it took up space that could have been used for ammo, weapons, and/or personnel, target "CAP" marines did not dwell on thinking about it, especially since all of the bunkers in the "CAP" units were uniformly built in the same form. Since said target "CAP" marine couldn't sleep on the cot, when it was his turn to sleep, because it was suddenly ripped so bad, he tried to sleep on
the floor. Bait and/or other methods were used to lure cockroaches into inhabiting the regular bottom floor of the bunker, instead of the closed type ammo bunkers. Since the target couldn't sleep on the floor with roaches crawling all over his body, he would have no place left in the guard bunker to sleep except the elevated floor, which is where he would choose to sleep. Said elevated floor should have been theoretically safe, since the bunker was on a hill; and, any enemy fire from outside the perimeter would be uphill and would at the most strike the inside roof of the bunker instead of the target "CAP" marine. Although anybody firing from the center of the "CAP" compound, where the "squad leader's" quarters were, would be able to strike the target "CAP" marine with a bullet or bullets, it should have been theoretically safe from that direction because the target "CAP" marine would not expect to be shot at by those who are supposed to be on the same side that said target "CAP" marines had volunteered to fight for. Since it had been plotted, planned, and very elaborately pre-meditated ahead of time, all the CIA had to do was adjust the windage on the sights of the weapons they were using, after mounting the weapons in a pre-determined position, so the rounds would impact according to the particular sandbag the target skull was resting on as their body laid on the elevated floor, and then squeeze the trigger of their weapons, causing the head of the victim to be destroyed upon impact. Through what would be called by some a freak accident, and by others at least a minor miracle, the above-stated target "CAP" marine, an exception to what would usually be classified as a perfect crime, managed to survive his turn to be slaughtered in said manner. Between the time of aim and time of impact, the target skull dropped to the left, causing the rounds to pass by the spot where the target skull had been positioned and strike the target "CAP" marine in the right calf instead. The fracture round(s) entered the target "CAP" marine's leg first; and, after impacting at the fibula bone, absorbed the impact force of the dispersion round(s) following, thus acting, in effect, as a shield, and preventing the dispersion round(s) from tearing the target "CAP" marine's right leg off to the knee, as would have been the case if the dispersion round(s) would have been the first round(s) to strike the target "CAP" marine's unprotected limb. How the above-stated target "CAP" marine got out of CAP *_*_* alive, and eventually made it back to the states is a matter of circumstantial logistics, and is not necessarily relevant to the "crack and splatter" firing pattern described above.

A QUOTE FROM THE INTERNET:

## "Of the 5,000 Marines/Corpsmen who served in CAP,

## the best estimate we have heard is that fewer than

HBADQUARTERS
lst Combined Aotion Group
III Marine Amphibious Force
FPO, San Francis00, California 96602
5 November 1968

## Dear Mr. \& Mrs. Kibbe:

I should like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your son's new Commanding Officer, and to explain briefly what his duties will be while a member of this Command. First, however, please accept my apologies for using a form letter. The heavy administrative burden of a Command of over 400 Marines precludes a personal letter at this time. I assure you that any future correspondence in response to questions you may have about your son will receive my personal attention, and will not be by form letter.

Your son will be assigned to a Combined Action Platoon (CAP). A CAP is the joining of U. S. Marines and local Vietnamese Militia, called Popular Forces, to form a village security force. This force consd sts of 35. Vietnamese Popular Force soldiers, a 14 man Marine rifle squad and one J. S. Navy Corpsman. The Popular Porces personnel are looal villagers armed, equipped, and trained primarily for the role of village security. The Marines act as military advisors and provide the experience and knowhow for adequate village security. A most important member of this team, the Corpsman, provides medical aid to Marines, popular Forces and local villagers alike.

As the CAP trains, works and conducts counter-guerrilla operations, the Vietnamese contingent becomes more proficient and is finally capable of assuming full responsibility for the mission of insuring the security of their village. The squad leader has trained his counterpart and the individual Marine has assisted in instilling the team spirit in the PF. The Corpsman, likewise, has brought one or more Vietnamese to an acceptable level of medical proficieny. With this accomplished, the Marines are then able to move on to another village which does not enjoy the freedom from Viet Cong harassment, and the cycle begins again.

Home to your son for his tour with the CAP will be a well defended living area located in or near the village requiring CAP security. Food, water, clothing, health and comfort items (toilet articles, etc.) and all other required supplies are provided daily through American sources. The compound has adequate livinf, bathing and sanitary facilities.

This is the program your son will be associated with for the remainder of his tour in Vietnam. It is an important program. Indeed, it is the answer to ending the wars that have plagued the people of Vietnam for over 20 years. Your son in conjunction with his Vietnamese teammates is responsible for the lives and property of hundreds and sometimes thousands of people. They depend upon him for their freedom to live free of Viet Cong reprisals, to harvest their rice without enemy taxation, and to send their children to school each day knowing the teacher was not kidnapped or muxdered during the night. A more fulfilling mission could be found nowhere in Vietnam today.

Please feel free to correspond with me on any problems or questions you may have regarding your son, his health, well-being or his mission with this Command.

E. F. PIERSON

Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding
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Situated in the posterior scalp approximately 2.5 cm . laterally to the right and slightly above the external occipital protuberance is a lacerated wound measuring $15 \times 6 \mathrm{~mm}$. In the underlying bone is a corresponding wound through the skull which exhibits beveling of the margins of the bone when viewed from the inner aspect of the skull.

Clearly visible in the above described large skull defect and exuding from it is lacerated btain tissue which on close inspection proves to represent the major portion of the right cerebral hemisphere. At this point it is noted that the falx cerebri is extensively lacerated with disruption of the superior saggital sinus.

Upon reflecting the scalp multiple complete fracture lines are seen to radiate from both the large defect at the vertex and the smaller wound at the occiput. These vary greatly in length and direction, the longest measuring approximately 19 cm . These result in the production of numerous fragments which vary in size from a few millimeters to 10 cm . in greatest diameter.

The complexity of these fractures and the fragments thus produced tax satisfactory verbal description and are beter appreciated in photographs and roentgenograms which are prepared.

The brain is removed and preserved for
further study following formalin fixation.
Received as separate spocimens from Dallas, Texas are three fragments of skull bone which in aggregate roughly approximate the dimensions of the large defect described above. At one angle of the largest of these fragments is a portion of the perimeter of a roughly circular wound presumably of exit which exhibits beveling of the outer aspect of the bone and is estimated to measure approximately 2.5 to 3.0 cm , in diameter. Roentgenograms of this fragment reveal minute particles of metal in the bone at this margin. Roentgenograms of the skull reveal multiple minute metallic fragments along a line corresponding with a line joining the above described small occipital wound and the right supra-orbital ridge. From the surface of the disrupted right cerebral cortex two small irregularly shaped fragments of metal are recovered. These measure $7 \times 2 \mathrm{~mm}$. and $3 \times 1 \mathrm{~mm}$. These are placed in the custody of Agents Francis X. 0'Neill, Jr. and James W. Sibert, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who executed a receipt therefor (attached).
2. The second wound presumably of entry is that described above in the upper right posterior thorax. Beneath the skin there is ecchymosis of subcutaneous tissue and musculature. The missile path through the fascia and musculature camot be easily probed. The wound presunably of exit was that described by Dr. Malcolm Perry of Dallas in the low anterior cervical region. When observed by Dr. Perry the wound measured "a few millimeters in diameter", however it was extended as a tracheostony incision and thus its character is distorted at the time of autopsy. However, there is considerable ecchymosis of the strap muscles of the right side of the neck and of the fascia about the trachea adjacent to the line of the tracheostony wound. The third point of reference in connecting



REAR OF HEAD SHowing Appleximeney how mucht of The skull is missing


The wourd in te Right side of The skuch wAs rtuq he But Nor Big evarg to Remsue the BRAiv wirnert teasing. The ORYAN APART


BETHESDA lab technician Paul O'Connor, who helped at the autopsy, drew this illustration depicting the exact condition of the wound to the president's head when he saw it the night JFK died.

O'Connor says the government's photos are not what he saw. In his illustration he clearly shows that the top and the rear of Kennedy's head were missing - blown apart by a bullet. O'Connor, who calls the wound "huge," says: "Brain blown completely out."


II M1


KEYS TO SCHEMATIC DIAGRAMS LABELED II M1,II N 1,II 01 U=up, $D=$ down, L=left, $R=r i g h t, 1=o n e ~ m a j o r ~ g r i d ~ s q u a r e, ~$ .1=one minor grid square

Key to: II M $1=$
from point $A$ :
to D 4.5 :bottom floor of bunker.
to L 3.0:interior wall of bunker.
(D) 1.0,L2.0:point on wall (exterior)
(D 2.2.L 3.2:point on vertical roof pillar.
D 2.2.L 3.7:point on horizontal roof pillar.
(D 2.2.L 4.4:point on roof of bunker.
D 4.0.L . 5:point on doorway threshold.
(D 4.0.L 2.0:point on wall (interior).
D 6.0.L 2.4: point on raised floor.

Key to: II N 1:
from point A:
U 3.0 :point on roof of bunker.
U .8.L 2.8 to U . 8.R 1.8: raised floor.
U 2.0:point on horizontal roof pillar.
U 1.6.R 2.0: point on vertical roof pillar.
D 1.6:point on bottom floor.
D.1.1/R 2.0:point on doorway threshold.

U .8.R. 1.0:improvised pillow area.
point A:point on wall (exterior).
Three dashed lines beginning at left of diagram (slightly shorter dashes_ and raising upward to right: potential field of fire from direction of outside of perimeter.

Four dashed lines beginning at right of diagram (slightly larger dashes) and lowering downward to left:potential field of fire, from direction of center of compound.

Key to II 01 : from point $A$ :

U 2.0: point on ripped cot in bunker
U 1.0.R. 2.5: point on horizontal roof pillar
D.1.L 3.0: point on $\mathrm{M}-60$ machine gun
D.7.L 3.0 : point on wall toward perimeter
D.9.L 3.1: point on claymore trigger

D 3.4: point on bayonet fixed M-16 rifle
D 2.55.R. 2.95 to D 2.40.L.95: functional trajectory
D 2.40.R 1.80 to D 3.0.R 1.8: pillow area
D 2.50.R 1.95: point of aim, point on position of head at time of aim; (bull's eye).
D 2.90.R 1.80: turned head, point on position of head, time of impact.
D 2.40.L . 95 : point of impact, point of position of leg at time of impact; (maggie's drawers, close only counts in boot camp).

> (as seen from above)


Photo One of Bunker of Impact, taken by an Instamatic camera prior to the shooting, and developed over one year later after I finally got my belongings back from the "CAP" unit I was assigned to. At the time I was photographing two Willy Peter rounds dropped by a jet fighter in the distance. The first bomb dropped was already dissipating from the mushroom-shaped cloud it produced; and, the second bomb was just starting to produce the standard mushroon shape formed from the explosion. The bunker just happened to be in the view while I was photographing the air strikes by the jet...

Photo Two of Bunker of Impact, taken by an Instamatic camera prior to the shooting, and developed over one year later after I finally got my belongings back from the "CAP" unit I was assigned to. At the time I was photographing two Willy Peter rounds dropped by a jet fighter in the distance. The first bomb dropped was almost completely dissipated from the mushroom-shaped cloud it produced, (which is seen in an earlier view in Photo One); and, the second bomb was partially dissipated, (also seen in an earlier view in Photo One), from the standard mushroom shape formed from the explosion. The bunker just happened to be in the view while I was photographing the air strikes by the jet...

