

## **IN THE PRESIDENT'S SECRET SERVICE by Ronald Kessler**

### **Chapter 2 - LANCER**

At seven agents per shift, John F. Kennedy's Secret Service detail consisted of about twenty-four agents, including supervisors. Before being hired, they were taken to a range for target practice with a pistol and handed a manual. There was no other initial training.

"On my second day on the job as an agent, they put me in the rear seat of the president's limousine," says former agent Larry D. Newman. "A supervisor on the detail placed a Thompson submachine gun on my lap. I had never seen a Thompson, much less used one."

Over the next several years, Newman received a total of ten weeks of training, consisting of four weeks on law enforcement procedures at the Treasury Department and six weeks of Secret Service training. But he never could figure out why locked boxes of shotguns were kept in the White House for the Secret Service, yet only the White House police had the keys.

Newman was told to take a bullet for the president and keep his mouth shut about the president's personal life. Human surveillance cameras, Secret Service agents observe everything that goes on behind the scenes. To this day, Secret Service directors periodically remind agents that they must not reveal to anyone—let alone the press—what they see behind the scenes. Usually the directors cite a phrase about trust from the commission book that agents carry with their credentials. The book says the agent is a "duly commissioned special agent of the United States Secret Service, authorized to carry firearms, execute warrants, make arrests for offenses against the United States, provide protection to the president and others eligible by law, perform other such duties as are authorized by law, and is commended as being worthy of trust and confidence."

Newman and other agents assigned to guard Kennedy soon learned that he led a double life. He was the charismatic leader of the free world. But in his other life, he was the cheating, reckless husband whose aides snuck women into the White House to appease his sexual appetite.

Former agent Robert Lutz remembers a gorgeous Swedish Pan Am flight attendant who was on the press plane that was following Kennedy on Air Force One. She seemed to take a liking to Lutz, and he planned to invite her out to dinner. The detail leader noticed that they were getting chummy and told the agent to stay away.

"She's part of the president's private stock," he warned Lutz.

Besides one- night stands, Kennedy had several consorts within the White House. One was Pamela Turnure, who had been his secretary when he was a senator, then Jackie's press secretary in the White House. Two others, Priscilla Wear and Jill Cowen, were secretaries who were known as Fiddle and Faddle, respectively. Wear already had the nickname Fiddle when she joined the White House staff, so Kennedy aides applied the name Faddle to Cowen.

"Neither did much work," says former agent Larry Newman, who was on the Kennedy detail. They would have threesomes with Kennedy.

"When Jackie was away, Pam Turnure would see JFK at night at the residence," says former Secret Service agent Chuck Taylor.

"Fiddle and Faddle were well- endowed and would swim with JFK in the pool. They wore only white T-shirts that came to their waists. You could see their nipples. We had radio contact with Jackie's detail in case she came back."

One afternoon, Kennedy was cavorting in the pool with young women when Secret Service agents on Jackie's detail radioed that she was returning to the White House unexpectedly.

"Jackie was expected back in ten minutes, and JFK came charging out of the pool," says agent Anthony Sherman, who was on his detail at the time. "He had a bathing suit on and a Bloody Mary in his hand."

Kennedy looked around and gave the drink to Sherman.

"Enjoy it; it's quite good," the president said.

According to Secret Service agents, Kennedy had sex with Marilyn Monroe at New York hotels and in a loft above the Justice Department office of then Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, the president's brother. Between the fifth and sixth floors, the loft contains a double bed that is used when the attorney general needs to stay overnight to handle crises. Its proximity to a private elevator made it easy for Kennedy and Monroe to enter from the Justice Department basement without being noticed.

"He [Kennedy] had liaisons with Marilyn Monroe there," a Secret Service agent says. "The Secret Service knew about it."

If Kennedy was reckless in his personal life, he was also rash when it came to security. Before his trip to Dallas on November 22, 1963, he received warnings about possible violence there. United Nations Ambassador Adlai Stevenson called Kennedy aide Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., and urged him to tell the

president not to go to Dallas. He said he had just given a speech in Dallas and had been confronted by demonstrators who'd cursed at him and spat on him. Stevenson said Senator J. William Fulbright also warned Kennedy.

"Dallas is a very dangerous place," Fulbright told him. "I wouldn't go there. Don't you go." Nonetheless, Kennedy aide O'Donnell told the Secret Service that unless it was raining, the president wanted to ride in an open convertible, according to the Warren Commission Report, which was largely based on the FBI's investigation. If it had rained, Kennedy would have used a plastic top that was not bulletproof. Kennedy—code-named Lancer—himself told agents he did not want them to ride on the small running boards at the rear of the car.

Shortly after eleven-fifty A.M., Kennedy's limousine proceeded from Love Field toward a scheduled luncheon at the Trade Mart. The car made a gradual descent on Elm Street toward a railroad overpass before reaching the Stemmons Freeway at Dealey Plaza. The Texas School Book Depository was on Kennedy's right.

Only two Secret Service agents had gone ahead to Dallas to make advance preparations for the trip.

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