**Note**: Barb’s Clarifications/Corrections/Comments are in *italics* in parentheses.

The London Times’ Tomlinson interviewed Files for an hour during a break in the public JFK Event that Barb co-produced with former MC Sharpshooter Jim Scott in Dallas on Nov. 21st 2023. Robert Morningstar, a decades long JFK researcher quoted in the article, arranged

for Tomlinson to interview Files.

The Photos are viewable at the article link but requires subscribing to open ...

**JFK Assassination: Conspiracy Theories Flourish on 60th Anniversary**

***As disputes about President Kennedy’s death continue to resonate in a bitterly divided nation, his nephew Robert Kennedy Jr. is demanding that all government files on the subject be opened to the public.***

**London *Times***

**By** [**Hugh Tomlinson**](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/profile/hugh-tomlinson)

**Washington, D.C. Correspondent**

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<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/jfk-assassination-conspiracy-theories-flourish-on-60th-anniversary-gccgtl8gb>

From behind the fence on the grassy knoll overlooking Dealey Plaza, James Files says he watched through the crosshairs of his rifle *(sic: it was a Remington Fireball pistol specially made for the CIA*) as John F Kennedy’s open-topped limousine made the turn on to Elm Street.

“I followed him all the way down. Chuck *(Nicoletti, the other CIA mercenary Chicago Mafia shooter)* was taking his shots. I was counting: “Miss, miss, miss *(by Nicoletti),”* Files said. “And before I lost my field of fire, I fired one shot, one shot only. I hit Kennedy in the right temple, and blew the back side of his head out.”

Sixty years on from that sunny day in Dallas on November 22, 1963, that changed the course of American history, the mystery and dispute around the Kennedy assassination continues to resonate in a bitterly divided nation.

*Photo Caption: John F Kennedy riding with his wife Jacqueline moments before the assassination*

*WALT CISCO/DALLAS MORNING NEWS/REUTERS*

Files, now 81, returned to Dallas and to the grassy knoll this week, the star guest at a conference to mark the anniversary. Files claims that he and Chuck Nicoletti, hitmen for the Chicago mafia, were part of a team of mobsters recruited by the CIA to kill Kennedy. He said he studied the president’s route and escape roads out of Dallas with Lee Harvey Oswald, the former Marine accused of the assassination of JFK *(In the same car Files and Oswald scouted everything for the assassination the five consecutive days leading up to Nov. 22nd.)*

Conspiracy theories still swirl six decades later about how many gunmen were involved, how many bullets struck JFK, who orchestrated the killing and why. A poll taken last week found that two thirds of Americans still do not believe that the man named as the assassin, Oswald, acted alone.

Indeed, Kennedy’s nephew, [Robert F Kennedy Jr](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/robert-f-kennedy-jr-bid-run-us-presidential-elections-2024-7cwsfscpl), who is running for the White House next year, has accused the CIA of conspiring in his uncle’s murder. In advance of the anniversary this week, RFK Jr called on President Biden to release the remaining government files on the assassination that remain hidden from the public.

“What is so embarrassing that they’re afraid to show the American public 60 years later?” said RFK Jr, the son of Bobby Kennedy, the late president’s brother who was assassinated in 1968.

*Photo Caption: Lee Harvey Oswald was established as the sole gunman by the Warren Commission in 1964. AP*

New details and allegations about the assassination are still tumbling out. A new memoir by Paul Landis, a former Secret Service agent who witnessed Kennedy’s assassination at close range, claims that he took a bullet from the limousine and placed it on the president’s gurney at the Parkland Hospital, where he was declared dead. The claims by Landis, now 88, have prompted renewed scrutiny of the so-called “magic bullet theory” — the long-disputed claim that a single bullet passed through Kennedy’s body before striking the Texas governor John Connally multiple times. The theory was crucial to the establishment of Oswald as the sole gunman by the Warren Commission, the 1964 government investigation of the killing, and has been contested ever since.

Files claims that the CIA was outraged when Kennedy threatened to break up the agency after the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, and feared that the president planned to pull the US out of Vietnam, the same allegations made in Oliver Stone’s Oscar-winning movie *JFK*.

Like *JFK*, Files’s claims have been widely dismissed or debunked, but many historians still obsessed with the assassination believe that these conspiracy theories are merely false leads, intended to keep generations of researchers obsessively hunting in the wrong direction. *(This paragraph is Tomlinson’s obligatory MSM ‘balancing’ with official story advocates.)*

*Photo Caption: The presidential limousine on Elm Street moments after the shooting*

*IKE ALTGENS/AP*

Many feel the shooting in Dallas and the distrust in government that it sowed has set America on the path to where it is today, where [conspiracy theories](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/what-life-is-like-down-the-conspiracy-rabbit-hole-0jhrwz9kt)

like that of QAnon flourish online and enter the political mainstream.

“They did it to split the country, to divide us and to make the people more malleable. It’s easier to manipulate a divided people,” said Robert Morningstar, a decades-long student of the Kennedy assassination. He said that the murder of the president broke the bond of trust between voters and the government, which has never been restored.

“The bullet that killed Kennedy didn’t just kill one man. It killed 58,000 Americans in Vietnam, it killed two million people in southeast Asia,” Morningstar said. “We know that this is not the history that we should have lived.”

That view is echoed by RFK Jr, who has himself promoted a string of conspiracy theories, and said this week that his uncle’s “vision of America as a nation of peace . . . was abandoned after his death.” “For the next 60 years, we maintained a military empire, squandering trillions of dollars as our economy hollowed out and our health and infrastructure decayed,” RFK Jr said.

*Photo Caption: Jackie Kennedy stands beside Lyndon Johnson as he takes the oath of office after the death of her husband. JFK LIBRARY/CECIL STOUGHTON/THE WHITE HOUSE/REUTERS*

Files claims that he was moved to confess to the assassination after converting to Christianity while serving a prison term *(of decades, released having served the term in c. 2016)* for attempted murder *(of a policeman).* Despite that, he insists his only regret in killing Kennedy was that his children were left to grow up without a father. “I don’t know if I changed history, but I think we did it for the best . . . I just didn’t like Kennedy after what happened at the Bay of Pigs,” said Files, who added he was paid $30,000 for the hit (*out of $2 Million raised by George H.W. Bush for the assassination).* “By killing JFK, we kept them in Vietnam. There is no money to be made by the military complex in peacetime, only in war.”

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