

Kurtz: Crime of the Century

rifle: Marina is the only one who claims to have seen the rifle in the Paine garage, wrapped in a blanket. When law enforcement officers came to question her, she took them to the garage to show them the blanketed rifle. The blanket, however, was empty.

Marina, however, did not know the difference b/t a rifle and a shotgun. She said that she heard Oswald practicing his shooting and she claims she heard him practicing with the bolt action.

But, she did not know enough about firearms and how they sound to distinguish them.

Also, although the serial number of the rifle found on the 6th floor of the TSBD had the same serial number as the one that LHO ordered, there were at least 10 gun companies manufacturing Mannlicher-Carcano 6.5 mm rifles at this time. Moreover, several other guns with the same serial number are still in the U.S. So there is no way to know whether it was Oswald's gun that was found on the 6th floor.

Oswald ordered from a coupon that said that the gun would be 36 inches long and 5.5 pounds. The gun found in the book depository was 40 inches long and 8 pounds. It seems that Oswald did purchase a weapon, but except from the palmprint, no one ever proved that Oswald possessed the gun found on the 6th floor. At best, LHO did not even see the gun at all from the time it arrived until the night before the assassination b/c it was in the Paine's garage.