

# LIFE

TIME & LIFE BUILDING  
ROCKEFELLER CENTER  
NEW YORK 20  
JUDSON 6-1212

July 8, 1964

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Your letter confuses me a bit but I hasten to do what I think you want. The prints you received were indeed the pristine versions of the one we used; they came from the same copy negative (I assume the Commission has the original negative). I thought you could compare them with the published cover and figure out how much retouching was done.

But here is the retouched print. You can take out the retouching (which we put in simply to make it more reproduceable because the original was not exactly the acme of photographic perfection) with a piece of cotton soaked in water or a finger moistened with saliva and have the original as we received it. I note, on close examination, that the retoucher was a little careless in making the rifle stock straight instead of with a slight dip. There is a little more retouching around the bolt but a comparison with the original will convince you, I'm sure, that nothing essential has been changed. I said this previously.

We are, of course, glad to co-operate with the Commission. Could you return this print, please, for our files when you have finished with it?

Sincerely,

  
Edward K. Thompson  
EDITOR

Enc.

J. Lee Rankin  
General Counsel  
President's Commission on the Assassination  
of President Kennedy  
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.  
Washington, D. C.

Shaneyfelt Exhibit No. 12