

Dallas, Texas  
 April 14, 1963  
 Mr. J. Beers  
 Ex 5350

Date December 2, 1963

Mr. IRA JEFFERSON "Jack" BEERS on interview at his residence, 10913 Joaquin, Dallas, advised that he has been a cameraman for the Dallas News for about fifteen years and worked for the Times Herald for about three years before that. He was present in the basement of the Dallas Police and Courts Building on Sunday, November 24, 1963, at the time JACK RUBY shot LEE HARVEY OSWALD, and he had the opportunity of observing this shooting and of taking a photograph of it. His assignment was to obtain photographs of the transfer of OSWALD from the Dallas Police Jail to the Dallas County Jail. He arrived in the basement of the Police and Courts Building at approximately 9:00 a.m. and stationed himself on a railing in the east side of the drive-through ramp which would place him directly across this ramp from the entrance to the book-in desk of the Dallas City Jail. He was still in this position as the officers came out of the door to the book-in office bringing OSWALD with them to transfer him. He had been looking over the crowd present which he estimated as consisting of approximately fifteen officers and 30-35 members of the press. He was aiming his camera and snapping a picture just as JACK RUBY moved in from his right and stuck his gun against OSWALD to kill him. This is the photograph that was used as a full front page picture in the Dallas News on Monday morning, November 25, 1963.

He was not required to show identification to get into the basement of the Police and Courts Building; however, he was carrying his camera and is personally acquainted with practically all police officials in Dallas, having been associated with Dallas newspapers for at least the last 18 years, and he is sure the officers who saw him in the basement knew who he was and were acquainted with him. He also observed the officers searching the cars parked in the parking area. He saw uniformed officers set up as guards in the parking area and observed uniformed guards at the Main Street entrance to the drive-through ramp and in the vicinity of the armored car which was at the Commerce Street exit to the drive-through ramp.

He is acquainted with RUBY both by name and by sight since about 18 months ago he was assigned as a cameraman

Ex.No.5350	BEERS, Ira J.	Deposition
	Dallas	4-14-64
on <u>11/30/63</u>	at <u>Dallas, Texas</u>	File # <u>DL 44-1639</u>
by Special Agent	<u>NAT A. PINKSTON and</u> <u>W. HARLAN BROWN/gm</u>	Date dictated <u>12/2/63</u>

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with DALE BAYSE, a reporter for the Dallas News, on a story BAYSE was doing on a stripper school being run by JACK RUBY. This was a story for a magazine, and he and BAYSE spent all day at JACK RUBY's Carousel Club for the purpose of obtaining material for this story. That was his only connection with RUBY, and he does not know whether RUBY would remember him or not.

At the time of the shooting, he could observe only the back of JACK RUBY and did not even recognize the person as RUBY until he was told by an officer the identity of the person shooting OSWALD. He thought at the time that RUBY was a detective who had gone berserk.

Mr. BEERS stated that he is sure JACK RUBY was not in the basement of the Police and Courts Building during the greater part of the morning and is sure that he was not there prior to the time a large group of press personnel came out of the building into the drive-through ramp area a few minutes prior to the shooting. He feels sure that had RUBY been there prior to the time of the arrival of the crowd he would have seen and recognized RUBY.

He did not talk to RUBY any time between November 22 and 24, 1963.

He feels that the police officers were taken completely by surprise by RUBY's actions and saw nothing whatever to indicate to him that there was any conspiracy on the part of anyone to permit RUBY to infiltrate the crowd and kill OSWALD.

Mr. BEERS stated he observed the following persons present at the time of the shooting representing press media:

BOB JACKSON, Times Herald; IRE PAPPAS, WNEW, New York City; MIKE SMITH, Associated Press, Los Angeles; JIM ENGLISH, WBAP, Fort Worth; and (FNU) JOHNSON, United Press International.

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