

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

1007

Commission No. 354

ORIGIN Field (Dallas)	OFFICE Dallas, Texas	FILE NO. OO-2-34,030
TYPE OF CASE Protective Research	STATUS Continued	TITLE OR CAPTION Assassination of President Kennedy
INVESTIGATION MADE AT Dallas, Texas	PERIOD COVERED 11-24-63	Jack Leon Ruby - slayer of Lee Harvey Oswald, charged with murder of President Kennedy
INVESTIGATION MADE BY SAIC Forrest V. Sorrels		

SYNOPSIS

Jack Ruby questioned by SAIC Forrest V. Sorrels shortly after Ruby shot Lee Harvey Oswald in basement of police station, Dallas, Texas, about 11:20 A.M., Nov. 24, 1963.

Deposition of Forrest V. Sorrels, Washington, D.C., Nov. 6, 1964
F.V. Sorrels

DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

On the morning of November 24, 1963, Inspector Tom Kelley and I were in the office of Assistant Chief of Police Charles Batchelor on the third floor of the City Hall, Dallas, Texas, shortly after 11 A.M. We observed the crowd across the street on Commerce Street south of the City Hall. Some twenty or thirty minutes later we heard that Lee Harvey Oswald had been shot by Jack Ruby, night club operator. Inspector Kelley and I went to the basement of the city hall where we heard that Oswald had been shot and I observed Oswald on the floor of the jail office and someone appeared to be administering artificial respiration. I then went to a nearby phone and called Deputy Chief Paul Paterni in Washington and informed him in re to the above.

I then went to office of Capt. Will Frits, Homicide Bureau, but found that he was not there. I made inquiries as to whereabouts of Jack Ruby and was informed that he had been taken to the city jail. I then went to the jail elevator and after identifying myself was taken to the fifth floor of the jail and to a cell where Jack Ruby was standing with two uniformed officers, one on each side of him. Ruby only had on his shorts as his clothes had apparently been taken from him. I identified myself to Ruby and informed him that I would like to ask him some questions. He wanted to know if it was for newspapers or magazines and I told him it was not. He seemed to hesitate and I told him that I had seen Honest Joe (Robin Goldstein, a well known Jewish pawn broker and used tools dealer on Elm Street) across the street just a short time before and that I know a number of the Jewish

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(CONTINUE ON PLAIN PAPER)

F. V. Sorrels

Ex.No. 1 SORRELS, F.V. Deposition
Washington, D.C. 5-6-64

SORRELS EXHIBIT No. 1

business men in the city and he stated that that was good enough for him and what was it I wanted to know.

Ruby, in answer to my questions, stated that his name is Jack Ruby and that his last name was originally Rubenstein; that he was in the entertainment business, operating the Carousel Club (1312 1/2 Commerce Street) and the Vegas Club, (3508 Oak Lawn), and that he lived at 223 S. Ewing St., Apt. 207, Dallas, Texas.

Ruby was then asked the question: "Jack, why?" To this question he replied that on the morning that President Kennedy was assassinated that he had been to the newspaper office (Dallas Morning News) and put an advertisement for his business and that when he heard that the President had been shot that he had cancelled the ad and that his business had been closed for three days; that when he read an article about Mrs. Kennedy having to come to Dallas for the trial he thought why should she be brought down here and have to go through the ordeal on account of that no good ----- (Oswald); that he had seen about a letter to little Caroline (Kennedy); that he had been to the Synagogue on Friday night (Nov. 22, 1963) and heard an eulogy on President Kennedy; that his sister, who had recently had an operation, had been hysterical, and that he guessed he had worked himself up to a state of insanity to where he just had to do what he had done, and that he guessed he felt that he had "to show the world that a Jew had guts". He also stated that he was afraid that he (Oswald) might not get just punishment as he had known instances where just punishment had not been given.

Ruby stated that he had been a labor organizer years ago. When asked if he had ever been convicted of a felony he replied that he had not. He stated that he had been arrested and taken before a Justice of the Peace in 1954 and was released (investigation of violation of State Liquor Laws).

When Ruby was asked why he had the gun (with which he shot Oswald) he stated that he usually carried a gun as he often carried large amount of money taken in his business.

In answer to questions concerning his parents, he stated that his father is Joseph Rubenstein, born in Russia and that his mother is deceased and that she was born in Poland. He stated that his civil attorney is Stanley Kaufman.

Ruby was asked the specific question as to whether or not anyone else was involved in this case and he stated that there was not and that he acted alone and that he had not known Oswald before.

Ruby stated that he had very high regard for the Dallas Police Department and that they all knew him (or some similar remark). There were some detectives standing in back of me when I was questioning Ruby. I do not recall that I asked him how he got down in the basement where he shot Oswald. That question may have been asked by one of the detectives and he may have stated that he came down the ramp. This I do not recall for sure as my main interest at the time was to get to Ruby as soon as possible for the purpose of determining if he was involved with others and if he knew or had any connection with Oswald.

Later on, at about 3:15 PM, on Nov. 24, 1963, I was in Capt. Fritz's office where Ruby was being questioned by Capt. Fritz at which time, in answer to questions, he stated he might get attorneys Tom Howard, Fred Bruner, Stanley Kaufman, civil attorney, Jim Arnton or C. A. Droy to represent him; that he had his name

legally changed in Dallas from Rubenstein to Ruby; that the revolver (Colt 2 inch barrel, .38 Cal., serial #2744-LW) had been purchased by him from Ray on Singleton (Ray's Hardware & Sporting Goods, 730 Singleton, Dallas, Texas) about three years ago. (NOTE: the above described revolver is equipped with a hammer guard). He stated that his room-mate is George Senator. He stated that he had come into the basement of the police station from the Main Street ramp; that he felt that Oswald was a "red" and that he was alone; that he saw him (Oswald) in show-up room and that he knew who he was going for.

Ruby stated that he didn't want to be a martyr and that it was a build-up of grievance. (Ruby told me when I talked to him in the jail cell that he had been grieving ever since the President had been shot). He stated that he had closed both of his clubs, the Vegas at 3508 Oak Lawn and the Carousel at 1312 1/2 Commerce Street; that he had never seen Oswald before; that he, Ruby, had at one time been in the mail order business, that he had been a labor organizer in Chicago; that he has a fondness for the police department and that when officer Slick had gotten killed sometime ago that he grieved about it; that Saturday night he had driven around and that people were in clubs laughing and no one seemed to be in mourning; that he saw eulogies of President Kennedy on TV and that he has seen President Kennedy's brother Bobby on TV; that he felt that all this had created a moment of insanity; that he had read about the letter someone sent to "little Carolyn"; that he knows the Police Department is wonderful and that his heart is with the Police Department and that he had hopes that if ever there was an opportunity for participation in police battle that he could be a part of it with them.

Ruby further stated that his mother and dad were separated for 25 years; that he owes "Uncle Sam" a big piece of money (income tax); that he loves the city (Dallas); that his sister was operated on recently and she was hysterical about the President being killed; that he went to the Synagogue Friday night (Nov. 22nd); that he went over where the wreaths were where President was shot; and that he wants Captain Fritz to not hate him.

He further stated that in Chicago when he was with the union that one of his dear friends was killed and that he had come to place where it happened; that Leon Cook was the man; that he, Ruby, was so upset about this that his mother told him to leave; that man named Martin is one that killed Cook and that Martin was political and had affiliations and got out of it.

When questioned as to what union he, Ruby, was with he stated that it was the Scrap Iron & Junk Dealers Association. Ruby stated that his politics are Democratic but that he votes for the man. He stated that he has brothers Samuel Ruby, who services washeries in Dallas, Earl Ruby, who operates a cleaning plant in Detroit, Michigan, and Hyman Rubenstein, a salesman, in Chicago.

Ruby stated that he would not think of committing a felony; that he has a high regard for the police and that he had called Detective Sims and wanted to bring them sandwiches as he knew they were having a tough time but was informed that they were all right and didn't need them; that he was trying to locate some of the TV people to give them to and that was when he went to the show-up room and that when he went there he saw Oswald and that was first time he had ever seen anyone like that; that there was no one else but him (Ruby) involved in this case. He refused to answer some of the questions asked him by Capt. Fritz and at one time asked Capt. Fritz if he didn't think he (Ruby) would make a good actor.

Ruby stated that after his friend Leon Cook was killed that he took Cook's middle name "Leon" for his own middle name.

When Ruby was questioned by me in the jail cell he appeared to be somewhat emotionally upset but gave prompt answers to the questions asked him. He seemed more composed when he was questioned in Captain Fritz's office and gave quick answers to questions put to him. In response to some questions he would very quickly reply "I will not answer that".

DISPOSITION

This case remains pending in the Dallas District.