



TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
FISCAL SERVICE  
WASHINGTON 25

OFFICE OF  
TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES  
— RETURN PLEASE SHOW EQD-454-AC

December 12, 1963

To: Chief, U. S. Secret Service  
Attention: Mr. Robert I. Bouck, P.R.S.

From: Office of Examiner of Questioned Documents

Re: Lee H. Oswald  
alias Alek J. Hidell

Reference is made to the report from this office dated December 11, 1958. There are transmitted herewith several photographs of the photographic selective service card and of the photographic certificate of service which were the subjects of that report. Three different techniques were used in making these photographs: (1) To show the subjects about as they appear to the eye but by use of a red filter with panchromatic film to improve the contrast of the green and blue inks against the background; (2) The same as 1 but with a very low angle of light to show indentations made by typewriter and by ball point pen; (3) With the same lighting as 2 but on infrared film in an effort to achieve higher contrast of the marks of indentation by typewriter and pens. Please note that on the photograph of the selective service card a capital letter "O" is shown about two spaces to the left of the typewritten name "ALEX".

The photograph of the reverse of the photographic certificate of service shows some slight evidence of indentations on the line below signature of individual. Just below the printed word "OF" there is a suggestion of a handwritten capital "H" and other indented vertical lines following could be parts of d's.

The photographs are enlarged about 1.8x diameters of the size of the subjects.

  
ALLYN COLE,  
Examiner of Questioned Documents.

580

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2555



TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
FISCAL SERVICE

OFFICE OF  
TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES  
— RETURN PLEASE SHOW EQD-454-AC

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

DEC 11 1963

From: Office of Examiner of Questioned Documents

To: Chief, U. S. Secret Service,  
Attention: Mr. Robert I. Bouck, P.R.S.

The material described below has been submitted for examination and report. The enclosures transmitted with your reference are returned herewith. Photographs have not been made. If this matter requires further attention, return all documents promptly. Your reference: Form 1600, 12-6-63, CO-2-34030.

Questioned: (1) A card, 3.7" X 2.4", purporting to be a "Selective Service System Notice of Classification, GPO: 1956-0-381688," issued to one Alek James Hidell, No. 42 224 39 5321, Class IV, Feb. 5 62, bearing an illegible signature over the line for member or clerk of local board, which may be "Good Hoffer", and bearing the signature "Alek J. Hidell" in green ink over the registrant line. On the reverse of this card, the following information (not that in parentheses) has been inserted by faint typewriting or indentations by typewriter: (Color of Eyes) GREY; (Color of Hair) BROWN; (Complexion) FAIR; (Height) 5 (Ft.) 9 (In); Weight 155, and in the frame for local board stamp "TEXAS LOCAL BOARD I, SELECTIVE SERVICE, RN 2226 400 W. VICKERY ST., FORT WORTH, TEX." The face of the card bears a photograph approximately 3/4" square which corresponds to those recently published in newspapers and magazines as being of Lee H. Oswald.

(2) A card 3.15" X 2.05" purporting to be a Certificate of Service, Armed Forces of the United States, United States Marine Corps, DD Form 217MC 1 Jan 51, issued to Alek James Hidell (typewritten insertion), bearing the following information on the reverse by faint typewriting under the heading "Period of Active Duty": (From) Oct. 13, 1958 (To) Oct. 12, 1961, bearing the signature A. G. Ayers, Jr., Lt. USMCR, over a rubber stamp showing that name and title.

REPORT:

580

These cards are not original documents with respect to the printed

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2556

form but each is made up of photographs of the face and reverse of some original card, which photographs are now glued together to simulate an original card. In my opinion, the original card bore a name and other information, which insertions were selectively removed or prevented from showing in the photographs either by retouching or by masking, which operations would be performed either on the photographic negative or on the print therefrom or on both negative and print in order to achieve a final print which simulated an original blank form. This form was then further processed by insertion of the information which now appears thereon.

On the photographic Selective Service card the inserted information by typewriter or by indents from a typewriter are as follows, here shown in the approximate relative positions occupied on the card:

ALEK	JAMES	HIDELL
	42 224	39 3321
	x (Local Board)	
FEB 5 62	Good Hoffer (Illegible signature by ball point pen, blue ink)	

Photograph (Corresponding to published photographs of Lee H. Oswald)--and at the left end the signature "Alek J. Hidell" in green ink.--on the reverse:

GREY		BROWN
FAIR		
5	9	I55
TEXAS LOCAL BOARD I		
SELECTIVE SERVICE		
RN 2226 400 W VICKERY ST.		
FORT WORTH, TEX.		

On the photographic certificate of service the inserted information on the face is "ALEK JAMES HIDELL" by typewriter, and on the reverse: (From) Oct. 13 1958 (To) OCT. 12, 1961. On this card the signature of the certifying officer is a photographic reproduction along with the remainder of the card.

580

The probable reason for the faintness of the added typewriting on these glossy photographs is that the surface did not readily accept ink, and, in fact, there is, in addition to the typewriting that can be read with fair to poor legibility, evidence of other typewriting of two classes: (1) with a lighter ribbon, and (2) showing an indent only as though the machine lacked a ribbon or was set on stencil. In most instances the other fainter typewriting and the indents repeat the same information as that which has the moderate to poor legibility but there are differences of position and some differences of content. For example on the photographic certificate of service the "From" date is shown by indent "24 OCTOBER 1957" and the "To" date is shown by indent as "23 OCTOBER 1959". While not all of the indentations can be read with complete certainty it appears that none of the others give any information appreciably different from the typewriting that can be read with moderate to poor legibility.

The signature in the name of the member or clerk of local board on the purported Selective Service card was made with a ball point pen and it is recorded partly by a scanty deposit of ink and partly by a sharp indent in the photographic paper. The depth of the indentation from the pen may be the result of an effort to persuade it to deliver ink. It is also possible that some of the extra pressure might be the result of tracing from some other signature; however, the speed of writing is somewhat greater than would be expected in an ordinary tracing. On this card the signature in the name of Alek J. Hidell was made with a fountain pen delivering a green fluid ink and the flow of ink was considerably more than would be obtained from most ball-point pens.

A method for photographing an original document and the subsequent selective removal of information appearing on such original for the purpose of simulating a blank printed form is as follows: Information in certain colors can be prevented from recording on panchromatic photographic film by the use of colored filters over the taking lens, but if the information is in black the photographic negative may be retouched with opaque material (finely divided carbon in a liquid medium which will dry to a thin hard film). The technique is a familiar one in printing and photoengraving shops for the purpose of dropping out unwanted text and for spotting of pinholes in negatives.

Where information on the original document crosses a part of the printed form such as a ruled line, rule box, or lettering, the opaquing operation will often result in the removal of a section of a line or letters or parts of letters. A method for restoring such lines is to make a photographic print of the opaqued negative

580

(often this print will be enlarged more than actual size in preparation for the next operation to be described). On this print the lines or letters or sections of letters damaged by the opaque and showing impairment in the print are corrected thereon by hand work with pen and ink. The corrected print is then re-photographed and if the print was enlarged it may now be reduced to actual size on the negative. A print from this second negative will now simulate a blank form. A matte finish photographic paper will accept ink fairly well. A glossy paper such as that used for these documents takes ink poorly.

Evidence that the above described operation was performed on some original document is shown on these photographic prints as follows: On the Selective Service card the lower lines of the four boxes for "No." show evidence of hand retouching. The right side of the first box shows the same effect. Other small boxes for "Local Board, Appeal Board, and President" show a similar effect. The center and right of the dotted line following "Class" has been repaired. The right of the ruled line above "(Member or clerk of local board)" shows some evidence of retouching and the word "local" in the legend just given shows serious impairment as does the word "violation" below. This would indicate that some original writing extended through the word "local" and into the word "violation" but not lower than the latter word. On the reverse of this card short sections of the dotted lines after "Eyes, Hair, and Weight" show evidence of retouching.

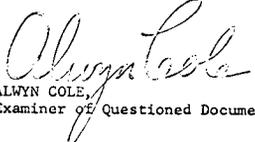
The face of the photographic certificate of service does not show evidence of retouching. If the original card contained a line of typewriting properly centered this could have been blocked out by opaque without touching any printing of the form proper. On the reverse of this photograph there is evidence of repair or retouching in the letters "U" and to a smaller extent in the "E" of the word "SIGNATURE" and on the ruled line below at the center and to the left of center there is further evidence of retouching. The impairment of the F's of "OFFICER" may also be due to retouching.

The absence of retouching on the line for signature of registrant on the Selective Service card means that there was no original signature cutting through this line or that if one was present it was in a colored ink that could be removed by filters.

There is no evidence of erasure on these photographic cards, although it appears that the original typewriting might have been worn away to some extent as it would not dry as well on this glossy paper as on paper intended to receive typewriting.

The photograph of Lee H. Oswald at the lower left of the Selective Service card is of a good photographic quality. It was separately mounted on the photographic card and is not a part of the original copying of the card. This photograph is readily identifiable as being of the same person shown in newspapers and magazines from November 22, 1963, to the present under the name of Lee H. Oswald.

Photographs of the photographic Selective Service and Certificate of Service cards have been made and they will be transmitted by a separate memorandum when completed.

  
 ALWYN COLE,  
 Examiner of Questioned Documents.