



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

July 27, 1964

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

I have received your letter of July 23, 1964. As you know, the Dallas Police Department lifted a latent impression off the underside of the gun barrel near the end of the foregrip of the rifle recovered on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository Building. The Identification Division of the FBI determined this was a palm print which was identical with the right palm of Lee Harvey Oswald.

With respect to your specific question, no representative of this Bureau has made statements of any type to the press concerning the existence or nonexistence of this print.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2584



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WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

June 3, 1964

"WHO KILLED KENNEDY?"
By Thomas G. Buchanan

CLAIMS AND RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

1. **CLAIM:** The railway overpass toward which the President's motorcade was heading when the assassination shots were fired was left unguarded on November 22, 1963, "contrary to the most elementary security provisions." Page 81.

INVESTIGATION: Our inquiry shows that the railway overpass was guarded by a patrolman of the Dallas Police Department on November 22, 1963, at the time the President's motorcade approached that point. In addition, there were several individuals who were on the overpass at the time the President was killed. None of the above individuals has furnished any evidence that an assassin fired at the President from the overpass.

2. **CLAIM:** The doctors who attended President Kennedy at Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas, reportedly told reporters that the first shot struck the President in the throat from the front and that the second shot struck the right side of his head, apparently coming from behind the President's car. According to Buchanan, several weeks after the assassination doctors at Parkland Memorial Hospital, following a visit by Secret Service Agents showing them a document described as the autopsy report at Bethesda Naval Hospital, retracted their original statement concerning the nature of the throat wound. These doctors also stated that a new wound discovered at the autopsy had not been noticed in Dallas inasmuch as President Kennedy was lying on his back during efforts made to sustain his life and a back wound consequently would have been hidden from them. Pages 82-86.

INVESTIGATION: Doctors at Parkland Memorial Hospital did not retract previous statements made by them but did state that their efforts had been directed at keeping the President alive and not at performing an autopsy. The autopsy report prepared at

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the Bethesda Naval Hospital concludes that the throat wound was an exit-type wound and that all the bullets striking President Kennedy were fired from a point behind him.

3. CLAIM: Oswald was one of the worst shots in the Marines or for that matter in any other military service. Page 81.

INVESTIGATION: Buchanan himself has stated that Oswald was in the "sharpshooter" class in his shooting in the Marine Corps. In addition, Buchanan has admitted that the "sharpshooter" class is an intermediate class between "expert" on the top and "marksman" on the bottom.

4. CLAIM: The FBI denied reports that Oswald had been seen repeatedly driving a car into a Dallas rifle range for target practice. Page 91.

INVESTIGATION: The FBI has made no such public denial. However, our investigation has shown that Oswald was lacking in ability to drive a car.

5. CLAIM: The FBI in an off-the-record briefing denied that palmprints were found on the rifle associated with the assassination of President Kennedy. Page 93.

INVESTIGATION: The FBI made no such denial. As a matter of fact, the FBI Identification Division identified a latent impression taken by the Dallas Police Department from the barrel of the rifle as the right palmprint of Oswald. It is noted that Mark Lane, in the "National Guardian" of December 19, 1963, alleged that the FBI in off-the-record briefings had announced that "no palm prints were found on the rifle."

6. CLAIM: The paraffin test made of Oswald's hands and right cheek following his arrest by the Dallas Police Department showed a residue of gunpowder on his hands but none on his cheek. Therefore, according to Buchanan, the test proves that Oswald could not have fired a rifle inasmuch as the rifle would have deposited residue of gunpowder on his right cheek. Pages 93-96.

INVESTIGATION: The paraffin test has been found by the FBI Laboratory to be extremely unreliable and inconclusive as to whether or not a person has fired a weapon.

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7. CLAIM: A photographer filmed the sixth-floor window of the Texas School Book Depository building at 12:30 the day of the assassination. This photograph shows two silhouettes in the stockroom and a clock on top of the building indicating the time as 12:30. Pages 96-97.

INVESTIGATION: Such a photograph is not known to the FBI. However, the FBI has a copy of a photographic print made from a movie film reportedly taken at the assassination scene. In the print an object appears in the window from which the assassination shots were fired. This photograph has been examined by the FBI Laboratory and the U.S. Navy Photographic Interpretation Center, Suitland, Maryland, and the conclusion was reached that the image seen in the window does not depict the form of a person or persons and is probably a stack of boxes later determined to have been in the room. No clock on top of the building appears in this photograph.

8. CLAIM: No employee who had access to the lunchroom at the Texas School Book Depository would have eaten his lunch on the sixth floor - "especially not Oswald, since it risked additional incrimination." However, an "outsider," hiding for a period of time prior to the assassination in the room on the sixth floor, would have required food. Pages 96-98.

INVESTIGATION: An employee of the Texas School Book Depository has advised that he ate lunch near the third double window on the southeast corner of the building on the sixth floor, sometime between 11:30 a.m. and 12 noon on November 22, 1963. The employee has stated that he left the remnants of his lunch, including bones of fried chicken, near the window after he had finished eating. He has also stated that he left the sixth floor a few minutes after noon to join two fellow employees who were eating their lunch on the fifth floor of the building. He has stated that he did not see Oswald or anyone else at the windows on the south side of the building during the time he was on the sixth floor for lunch.

9. CLAIM: Oswald would have had to have been "the fastest runner since the great Olympic title holder, Jesse Owens," to have fired the assassination shots, hidden the rifle on the sixth floor, descended to the second floor lunchroom, and obtained a soft drink from a dispensing machine before the building superintendent, Roy S. Truly, and a Dallas policeman confronted Oswald at the second floor lunchroom. Pages 98-100.

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INVESTIGATION: A survey was conducted by FBI Agents to determine the time taken by various routes and speeds to follow Oswald's actions immediately after the assassination shots. It is noted that the survey was conducted at a fast walk except in areas where an individual would have walked at a normal pace so as not to arouse suspicion. The survey showed that, walking from the window on the sixth floor via stairways, it would have taken Oswald about one minute and forty-five seconds to reach the front door of the Texas School Book Depository. The longest period of time to make the same journey, allowing 30 seconds in the lunchroom and involving the use of a passenger elevator for part of the descent to the second floor, was found to be three minutes and forty-nine seconds. It is noted that Truly has advised that he and the police officer arrived at the lunchroom on the second floor of the building in about two or three minutes after the assassination took place.

10. **CLAIM:** The assassin who fired at President Kennedy from the railway overpass fled the scene and left the murder weapon on that bridge behind him. Page 107.

INVESTIGATION: Our investigation has failed to develop any indication that a second rifle used in the assassination was found near the railway overpass and that a second assassin was involved in the killing of President Kennedy.

11. **CLAIM:** The name of the rifle used in the assassination appeared on the rifle. Page 108.

INVESTIGATION: Examination of the rifle used in the assassination does not reveal the name of the manufacturer of the weapon. However, it is noted that there is an inscription thereon that the rifle was made in Italy.

12. **CLAIM:** The Post Office Box in Dallas to which Oswald had the rifle mailed was kept under both his name and that of "A. Hidell." Page 111.

INVESTIGATION: Our investigation has revealed that Oswald did not indicate on his application that others, including an "A. Hidell," would receive mail through the box in question, which was Post Office Box 2915 in Dallas. This box was obtained by Oswald on October 9, 1962, and relinquished by him on May 14, 1963.

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13. **CLAIM:** A detailed and "remarkably correct description" of Oswald was sent out over the police radio in Dallas at 12:36 p.m., November 22, 1963. Pages 114-116.

INVESTIGATION: The radio logs of the Dallas Police Department and the Dallas County Sheriff's Office show that no description of Oswald or any suspect in the assassination was broadcast at 12:36 p.m., November 22, 1963. Beginning at 12:43 p.m. and 12:49 p.m., respectively, and continuing until Oswald was taken into custody, the Dallas Police Department and the Dallas County Sheriff's Office broadcast descriptions of an unnamed suspect described as a slender white male, 30 years old, five feet ten inches tall, 155 or 165 pounds, who was possibly carrying a rifle. This suspect was reportedly seen running from the Texas School Book Depository after the assassination. A description of Oswald taken from background information and the autopsy report on him indicates he was 24 years old, five feet nine inches tall, weighed an estimated 150 pounds and had brown hair and blue-gray eyes. Although the descriptions broadcast approximated Oswald's height and weight, those descriptions were not accurate as to his age and lacked specific details regarding the colors of his hair and eyes. No broadcasts were made before Oswald's arrest that named Oswald as a suspect or gave a description of him. It is also noted that inquiry has shown that Oswald did not become a suspect until he was reported missing from the book building at approximately 12:50 p.m.

14. **CLAIM:** Police knew Oswald's boardinghouse address, 1026 North Beckley Street. The sources of his address were the records of the Texas School Book Depository, the "Red Squad" of the Dallas Police Department, and the FBI, which had been given that address by Mrs. Ruth Paine, with whom Oswald's wife was living at the time. Page 119.

INVESTIGATION: The records of the Texas School Book Depository did not show his address as 1026 North Beckley Street, but did contain Mrs. Paine's residence in Irving, Texas, as his address. The Dallas Police Department has denied that it had any record of Oswald prior to the time of the assassination. Also, Mrs. Paine had not advised the FBI of Oswald's boardinghouse address prior to the assassination.

15. **CLAIM:** Dallas Police Officer J. D. Tippit was not in favor with his superiors in the Dallas Police Department and had gone ten years without a promotion. Page 120.

INVESTIGATION: A copy of the Dallas Police Department file on Police Officer J. D. Tippit furnished by that Department has been reviewed by this Bureau. While the file shows that

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disciplinary action was taken against Tippit on several occasions, it contains no information that he was "out of favor." The file, however, shows that Tippit had received several commendations for his performance of duty both from civilian sources and from the Dallas Police Department. Superiors and associates have advised that he was an average officer who was well liked and was not overly ambitious. Several associates have stated that Tippit had taken promotional examinations but they had no information as to the results. A review of the file fails to disclose any reference to promotional examinations offered or taken by Tippit. While he was not promoted to a grade higher than patrolman, Tippit did receive so-called "service" raises in salary on a periodic basis.

16. **CLAIM:** Police Officer Tippit, Jack Ruby and Oswald all lived within a few blocks of each other. Page 121.

INVESTIGATION: A survey by the Dallas Office of this Bureau has indicated that by the most direct routes available, Tippit's residence was seven miles from Ruby's residence and from Oswald's boardinghouse and that the distance between Ruby's residence and Oswald's boardinghouse was one and three-tenths miles.

17. **CLAIM:** Jack Ruby and Dallas Police Officer Tippit were described by Ruby's sister, Mrs. Eva Grant, to reporters as "like two brothers." Page 121.

INVESTIGATION: Mrs. Grant has stated that at no time before or after the assassination has she made such a statement to any reporter or group of reporters. She has also advised that she would not make such a statement under any circumstances, since it would be completely untrue and without foundation.

18. **CLAIM:** There are standing orders for police in Dallas as in other cities that radio cars of the type Tippit was driving must have two policemen in them. Page 121.

INVESTIGATION: It is true that Tippit was alone in his police car; however, it has been determined from officials of the Dallas Police Department that their policy requires about 80 percent of the patrolmen working the day shift, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., as Tippit was on the day of the assassination, to work alone and that Tippit was one of the patrolmen assigned to work alone on that day.

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19. **CLAIM:** Tippit was violating another order not to drive out of the sector of the city to which he had been assigned. Tippit was meant to be in downtown Dallas at the time he intercepted Oswald, shortly after Oswald had left his boardinghouse at 1026 North Beckley Street. Page 122.

INVESTIGATION: A review of Tippit's file in the Dallas Police Department and the radio log of that Department does not show that Tippit should have been in downtown Dallas at the time he confronted Oswald. The radio log shows that at 12:54 p.m. he advised the police radio dispatcher he was in the Oak Cliff area and that he was told to remain available for any emergency coming in. The Dallas Police file on Tippit shows that Tippit was moved from his regular area to cover an area closer to the assassination scene.

20. **CLAIM:** There are witnesses - "anonymous, it seems" - who saw Oswald run into a vacant lot, eject the spent shells from his revolver after shooting, and reload that revolver. Page 126.

INVESTIGATION: Our inquiry has developed witnesses and these witnesses, not anonymous as claimed by Buchanan, have advised that they saw Oswald apparently trying to unload his revolver near the location where Tippit was shot.

21. **CLAIM:** Oswald was arrested in the Texas Theater at 1:36 p.m. on November 22, 1963. Page 126.

INVESTIGATION: The radio log of the Dallas Police Department shows that Oswald was reported in the Texas Theater at 1:45 p.m., by a squad car. The same radio log shows that shortly after 1:51 p.m., the radio dispatcher received a report of the arrest of Oswald. The radio log of the Dallas County Sheriff's Office shows that at 1:53 p.m., the report was given that Oswald had been taken into custody.

22. **CLAIM:** The Dallas Police officers who arrested Oswald "beat him up" after they had disarmed him. Page 126.

INVESTIGATION: A Special Agent of this Bureau on the scene at the time of the arrest of Oswald has advised that Oswald was not mistreated and that no force was used to subdue him other than that necessary to overcome his armed resistance.

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23. **CLAIM:** Oswald was first questioned "exclusively about the Tippit murder." Police, as long as they were able to maintain the prisoner in isolation, permitted him to think that he was just a suspect in that murder. Page 127.

INVESTIGATION: Special Agents of this Bureau were present during the early hours of questioning of Oswald at Dallas Police Headquarters, at which time Oswald vigorously denied having shot President Kennedy and Tippit.

24. **CLAIM:** Oswald insisted on his right to see a lawyer, making this demand before reporters, yet for two days of "persistent questioning" this right was "relentlessly denied him." Page 127.

INVESTIGATION: Oswald was advised following his arrest of his right to counsel by both a Dallas police officer and by FBI Agents present during the early interrogation of Oswald. Oswald, when arraigned at about 7 p.m., November 22, 1963, was advised by Justice of the Peace David Johnston of his right to an attorney's services. Late that night representatives of the Dallas Civil Liberties Union went to the Dallas Police Department and later departed satisfied that Oswald had been advised of this right. There is no indication Oswald made any attempt to contact an attorney on November 22, 1963. Again on November 23, 1963, Oswald was advised by a Dallas police official of his right to have an attorney. At that time Oswald indicated he wished to call attorney John J. Abt of New York City. He was taken from his cell on three separate occasions on that date to place collect calls via public telephones in the Dallas Police Headquarters, but on each occasion he was unable to make contact with Abt in New York City. Abt is an attorney who has represented the Communist Party, USA, in its litigation on several occasions with the Government of the U. S.

25. **CLAIM:** The Texas School Book Depository is owned and operated by the city government of Dallas and, therefore, Oswald was a municipal employee. Pages 131, 143, 151 and 155.

INVESTIGATION: The Texas School Book Depository is not a government agency of any municipality, county, state or Federal jurisdiction. It is a private concern which receives and distributes books to its various customers, including educational institutions. Therefore, Oswald, in his employment at the Texas School Book Depository, was not a municipal employee.

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26. **CLAIM:** Among the papers found on Oswald by the Dallas Police Department was the name of Joseph Hosty of the Dallas Office of the FBI. In addition, information on papers found on Oswald recorded Hosty's home telephone number, office telephone number and car license number. This information appeared in the "Houston Post" and the source was reported to be Assistant District Attorney William Alexander. Page 149.

INVESTIGATION: The Hosty referred to by Buchanan is undoubtedly Special Agent James P. Hosty, Jr., of our Dallas Office. Oswald's address directory, which was found by the Dallas Police Department in Oswald's boardinghouse room, did not contain Special Agent Hosty's home telephone number. The directory did contain, however, his correct name, the telephone number and street address of the Dallas FBI Office, and the entry "MU 8605" or "MV 8605." Special Agent Hosty gave his name and the Dallas Office telephone number and street address to Mrs. Ruth Paine in contacting her on November 1, 1963, regarding Oswald's residence. Mrs. Paine stated that she gave that data to Oswald. Marina Oswald has stated that she recorded Special Agent Hosty's license number on an occasion when he was at the Paine residence and gave it to Oswald. The 1962 license number of the automobile assigned to Special Agent Hosty on November 1, 1963, was MU 8605.

27. **CLAIM:** The "Philadelphia Inquirer" of December 8, 1963, contained an article stating that Hosty had seen Oswald shortly after he had left New Orleans in September, 1963. Page 149.

INVESTIGATION: Special Agent Hosty has furnished an affidavit stating that at no time prior to the assassination of President Kennedy had he ever seen or talked to Oswald. In addition, Hosty stated that he had never made any attempt to develop him as an informant or source of information.

28. **CLAIM:** Oswald was a double agent. Page 149.

INVESTIGATION: The Director of the FBI, John Edgar Hoover, has furnished the Commission with an affidavit categorically denying that Oswald was ever an informant of the FBI, was ever assigned a symbol number in that capacity, and was ever paid any amount of money by the FBI in any regard. It is noted that the Central Intelligence Agency has denied that Oswald was ever associated with it in any capacity.

29. **CLAIM:** The Walter-McCarran Act specifically calls for anyone who has attempted to renounce his U.S. citizenship to file an affidavit stating why he believes he should receive a U.S. passport. Page 151.

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INVESTIGATION: The Internal Security Act of 1950 (Walter McCarran Act) contains no reference to an affidavit required by a U.S. citizen who has attempted to expatriate himself.

30. **CLAIM:** It appears that the FBI knew Oswald possessed the alleged assassination rifle prior to the assassination of President Kennedy because it would seem unlikely that within one day the FBI could trace the rifle as coming from a mail order house in Chicago. Page 153.

INVESTIGATION: The FBI had no knowledge that Oswald possessed the assassination rifle prior to the assassination of President Kennedy. The tracing of the rifle purchased by Oswald under an assumed name from the mail order house in Chicago was completed by the FBI on November 23, 1963, regardless of Buchanan's claim.

31. **CLAIM:** Oswald's rifle was not taken away from him even though on April 10, 1963, there was good reason to suspect he had already used it to attempt to kill General Edwin A. Walker. Page 153.

INVESTIGATION: The FBI did not investigate the attempted assassination of General Walker on April 10, 1963, and had no reason to regard Oswald as a suspect in that attempted murder until December 3, 1963, when Marina Oswald furnished information that Oswald had, on the night in question, attempted to kill General Walker. The Dallas Police Department has also indicated that it had no record of Oswald prior to the assassination and had never developed or considered Oswald as a suspect in the attempted shooting of General Walker.

32. **CLAIM:** It can be inferred from the fact that General Walker's name and telephone number were in Oswald's notebook that Oswald and General Walker were known to each other. Page 154.

INVESTIGATION: Our investigation has developed no indication that Oswald and General Walker were known to each other. General Walker has been publicly quoted as saying he did not know anything about Oswald until Oswald was arrested for the assassination of the President.

17 0001
22 MAY 1958

FIFTH ENDORSEMENT on letLt MILLER's ltr JRM/rdd A17-6 of 31Mar58

From: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
To: Judge Advocate General, Navy Department, Washington 25, D. C.

Subj: Investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Private Martin D. SCHRAND 1639694/6711 USMC at about 1900 hours on 5 January 1958

1. Forwarded.
2. The proceedings, findings, opinions and recommendations of the investigation, as approved by the convening and reviewing authorities, are approved.

Reviewed
AMC

ase

Clinton M. Jones
CLIN M. JONES
By direction



*5 Jan 58
gunshot wound*

UB

*Bnd #
5919-58*