

INVESTIGATION REGARDING RIFLE SLING

NO 100-16601
RMW/cay

On December 13, 1963, the persons named below were contacted at their respective places of employment by SA ROBERT M. WHOMSLEY. They were shown photographs of the leather contrivance utilized as a sling on the rifle of LEE HARVEY OSWALD. They were unanimous in their opinions that it appeared similar to the device used to carry gadget bags but that it is unlike anything they have seen, both on gadget bags and any other item used in the photography field. It was the consensus of all that the general construction of the contrivance would serve no known useful purpose, either to the professional or amateur photographer. These individuals pointed out that all photographic supplies carried in retail outlets in New Orleans are ordered through jobbing houses in Dallas, Texas, or through the company manufacturing a particular item being sought. There are no wholesale houses for photographic supplies in the New Orleans locale:

P. G. DOUGHTY, JR., Manager, Bellamore Camera Shop, Inc., 128 Baronne Street

GERALD A. JENNY, Alfrado Olivari Camera, Inc., 229 St. Charles Avenue

M. N. BENNETT, Manager, R. E. BLANCHARD, and R. COKE, Bennett's Photography, Inc., 320 Baronne Street

GEORGE E. ANNIS, Liberty Camera Center, 605 Common Street

Mr. M. N. BENNETT, Bennett's Photography, Inc., advised that his store does order leather straps made to specifications of various customers through Rapp Trunk, 604 Canal Street.

On December 13, 1963, W. E. THRAIN and HAROLD BETANCORT, employees, Rapp Trunk, advised they make leather straps to order for certain photographic retail outlets. They said the straps they utilize are generally ready made and are merely cut and/or lengthened according to specifications of various customers. They stated they make no elaborate straps of the type indicated in the photograph and do not recall seeing any leather item constructed in a

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like manner. They said they utilize United Car snap fasteners on the various leather products they make. They indicated this firm is well known throughout the United States for the manufacture of fasteners used on leather products.

Mr. GEORGE E. ANNIS, Liberty Camera Center, theorized that perhaps the contrivance shown in the photograph could possibly have been used in connection with aerial photography. He suggested contact with JOHN HERMANN, 511 Royal Street, who does aerial photography.

On December 16, 1963, Mr. JOHN HERRMANN was contacted and shown instant photographs. He stated it is unlike anything seen by him and that no device used in aerial photography resembles the item as photographed.

On December 16, 1963, the persons named below were contacted at their respective places of employment by SA ROBERT M. WHOMSLEY. They were shown photographs of the leather contrivance utilized as a sling on the rifle of LEE HARVEY OSWALD. They were unanimous in their opinions that it appeared similar to guitar straps but it, none the less, is unlike anything they have actually seen. It was the consensus of all that the general construction of the contrivance would be such as to eliminate it as having been intended for any other use in the field of musical instruments:

Mr. E. P. GOGARTY, Assistant manager, HAROLD STUBBS, Stock manager, and ALVIN DORIA, Werlein's For Music, 605 Canal Street

JIM STUBBAN, Manager, ROGER FILIBERTO, Guitar instructor, Grunewald's Music Company, 325 Baronne Street

JAMES TIPPITS, Manager, James Tippits Music, 305 North Carrollton Avenue

ROBERT CAMPO, Owner, and R. SURCOUF, Campo Brothers Music Company, 1452 North Broad Street

The above individuals informed there is only one jobber in the New Orleans locale for musical supplies. It was identified as New Orleans Music Supply, 315 Decatur Street.

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On December 17, 1963, E. P. GOGARTY, Werlein's For Music, stated the contrivance photographed was definitely not intended for use on an accordion.

On December 16 and 17, 1963, the persons named below were contacted at their respective places of employment by SA ROBERT M. WHOMSLEY. They were also shown photographs of the leather contrivance utilized as a sling on the rifle of LEE HARVEY OSWALD. They were unanimous in their opinions that the contrivance was never manufactured for use as a rifle sling. They were all agreed that it is unlike anything they have ever seen in connection with the sale or subsequent use of firearms and it was definitely improvised for use as a rifle sling:

FRANK MORENO, Manager, WATKINS ESCHETE, Gunsmith,
Security Company, 3604 South Carrollton Avenue

LEE AGERTON, Manager, and ARTHUR D. TURNER, New
Orleans Arms Company, Inc., 240 Chartres Street

P. S. SPEDALE, Owner, Crescent Gun & Repair
Company, 2401 South Claiborne Avenue

G. M. ROULE, Manager, Roland's Sporting Goods,
300 South Rampart

As previously reported, there are no distributors in the New Orleans locale for leather products, i.e., holsters, slings, and so forth. All leather items are purchased by retail outlets directly from the manufacturer, per information received from the above individuals on the occasions of prior contacts in this matter.

On December 17, 1963, the persons named below were contacted at their respective places of employment by SA ROBERT M. WHOMSLEY. They were likewise shown photographs of the leather contrivance utilized as a sling on the rifle of LEE HARVEY OSWALD. These individuals reported the contrivance is unlike anything they have seen in the leather goods field, they have never made any item like it and they could suggest

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no practical use for which it was originally intended. These individuals consulted numerous catalogues available to them without locating a leather product like or similar to the item pictured:

WILLIAM NUNEZ, Charles P. Rayne Company, 721 Camp Street.

T. E. VINCI, Pioneer Saddlery, 300 Camp.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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NO T-1 advised on December 11, 1963, that earlier that date she happened to be in the office of the District Attorney, Orleans Parish, New Orleans, Louisiana, when she overheard BERNARD FOTO, Assistant District Attorney, state before approximately five or six other persons in this office that in approximately August or September, 1963, LEE HARVEY OSWALD was in the District Attorney's Office for Orleans Parish, Louisiana, contacting EDWARD GILLAN, Assistant District Attorney, regarding "bringing something into the country." NO T-1 stated that she did not understand what FOTO meant by this remark but that since the remark was made within the hearing of several people, his words must have had some basis in fact.

Date 12/13/63

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EDWARD GILLAN, Assistant District Attorney, Orleans Parish, Juvenile Court, Civic Center, New Orleans, Louisiana, stated that in June or July of 1963, an individual appeared at his office of the Juvenile Court Building and inquired if a certain alleged "narcotic" was illegal. Mr. GILLAN stated he did not recall the name of the narcotic and advised that it is his memory that he had never heard of this type of narcotic before.

Mr. GILLAN stated that the individual who came to his office told him that the narcotic was mentioned in a book written by a man named HUCKSLEY and that the narcotic would affect the social and economic history of the world for the next 200 years. Mr. GILLAN stated he has inquired among his friends and associates and determined that the book written by author HUCKSLEY, titled "This Great World" or "The Great World", mentioned a drug named Soma which is an ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~alkaloid~~ ^{alkaloid} drug. Mr. GILLAN stated that he now believes that this was the book that the individual who appeared in his office in June or July, mentioned.

Mr. GILLAN advised that he has extremely poor eye sight and is not able to recognize individuals by appearance. He stated that he has no idea of how LEE HARVEY OSWALD appears and could not identify a photograph of OSWALD. Mr. GILLAN stated that he has, because of his poor eye sight, acquired the ability to recognize voices, and he has heard LEE HARVEY OSWALD's voice on a recording played by a local television station which repeated a debate that was broadcasted by OSWALD on a local radio station, and it is his personal belief that the individual who came to his office in June or July, 1963, was LEE HARVEY OSWALD. Mr. GILLAN stated that his identity is based solely on his recollection of the type of voice and manner of speaking of OSWALD.

Mr. GILLAN stated that his discussion with the individual he believed was OSWALD, was very brief as he recalled he formed a mental image of OSWALD as being a psychopathic personality. He recalls that he advised the individual to consult his personal physician before utilizing any type of narcotic. GILLAN recalled he told this individual that the City of New Orleans Chemist is the authority on narcotics used by the New Orleans Police Department.

On 12/13/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 100-16601
by SA REGIS L. KENNEDY /mrk Date dictated 12/13/63

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Date December 14, 19631

Mrs. R. L. FORD, 218 Vernon Street, Monroe, Louisiana, telephone number 323-6530, advised she made a series of telephone calls to her son, JOHN L. FORD, at Dallas, Texas, during September, October and November, 1963. The calls she initiated were made to JOHN at Whitehall 6-4446 at Duncan's Service Station, where JOHN was employed. Her telephone bill shows a collect call from Whitehall 6-4446 on November 8, 1963 and a collect call from Dallas on November 9, 1963. The Dallas telephone number is not shown. She believes JOHN made these two calls to her. All of these telephone calls were made regarding efforts of local welfare authorities to assume custody of JOHN's children, then in her care. JOHN returned to Maringouin, Louisiana on November 12, 1963.

Mrs. FORD said that on September 19, 1963, her son CARL FORD made a collect call to her from Dallas from a pay telephone. CARL and JOHN were both in Dallas staying with their sister, Mrs. SARAH JEAN ALLEN, 323 Elston Drive, Dallas, Texas.

On 12/14/63 at Monroe, Louisiana File # NO 100-16601
BL 100-10461
 by SA JOHN V. HANLON /lyc Date dictated 12/14/63

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Date December 14, 19631

CARL JORD, 218 Vernon Street, Monroe, Louisiana, advised he called his Monroe residence telephone, 323-6530, from a pay telephone located on Beckley Avenue near the city limits of Dallas and near where a new freeway is under construction. He never made any telephone calls to Monroe from a pay telephone located in the area of Duncan's Service Station, where his brother, JOHN FORD, worked in Dallas, Texas.

On 12/14/63 at Monroe, Louisiana File # NO 100-16601
DL 100-10461
by SA JOHN V. HANLON /lyc Date dictated 12/14/63

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A P P E N D I X

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

The April 6, 1960 edition of "The New York Times" newspaper contained a full-page advertisement captioned "What Is Really Happening in Cuba", placed by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC). This advertisement announced the formation of the FPCC in New York City and declared the FPCC intended to promulgate "the truth about revolutionary Cuba" to neutralize the distorted American press.

"The New York Times" edition of January 11, 1961, reported that at a hearing conducted before the United States Senate Internal Security Subcommittee on January 10, 1961, Dr. Charles A. Santos-Buch identified himself and Robert Taber as organizers of the FPCC. He also testified he and Taber obtained funds from the Cuban Government which were applied toward the cost of the aforementioned advertisement.

On May 16, 1963, a source advised that during the first two years of the FPCC's existence there was a struggle between Communist Party (CP) and Socialist Workers Party (SWP) elements to exert their power within the FPCC and thereby influence FPCC policy. However, during the past year this source observed there has been a successful effort by FPCC leadership to minimize the role of these and other organizations in the FPCC so that today their influence is negligible.

On May 20, 1963, a second source advised that the National Headquarters of the FPCC is located in Room 329 at 799 Broadway, New York City. According to this source, the position of National Office Director was created in the Fall of 1962 and was filled by Vincent "Ted" Lee, who now formulates FPCC policy. This source observed Lee has followed a course of entertaining and accepting the cooperation of many other organizations including the CP and the SWP when he has felt it would be to his personal benefit as well as the FPCC's. However, Lee has indicated to this source he has no intention of permitting FPCC policy to be determined by any other organization. Lee feels the FPCC should advocate resumption of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States and support the right of Cubans to manage their revolution without interference from other nations, but not support the Cuban revolution per se.

The CP and the SWP have been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

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