

Oswald Carefully Planned Attack on Gen. Walker

Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—The attempted assassination of former Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker on April 10, 1963, was planned by Lee Harvey Oswald for one and possibly two months in advance, the Warren Commission reported.

Oswald also left behind a clear trail of evidence including photographs of the rear of Walker's home, a map of the area, and a note to his wife telling her what to do in the event he was captured.

Testimony by Mrs. Oswald that President Kennedy's assassin also attacked Walker — made public earlier — was confirmed by ballistics tests, the Warren Commission said.

Circumstances surrounding the attempt on Walker's life were investigated in an effort to help explain Oswald's motives in assassinating Kennedy.

PLANS OUTLINED

Details turned up in the investigation showed that Oswald carefully outlined his plans concerning Walker in the notebook which he later destroyed "and studied them at considerable length" before the April 10 attack.

It was during the planning of the attempt on Walker's life that Oswald ordered the rifle eventually used to kill President Kennedy and seriously wound Gov. John B. Connally.

"The Walker incident indicates that in spite of the belief among those who knew him that he was apparently not dangerous, Oswald did not lack the determination and other traits required to carry out a carefully planned killing of another human being and was willing to consummate such a purpose if he thought there was sufficient reason to do so," the commission said in its report.

MARINA'S TESTIMONY

Marina Oswald first told the commission last December about her husband's effort to kill Walker and turned over the note he had written her, giving instructions on what she should do if he were caught.

It was not until release of the commission report Sunday night that details of the assassination attempt were made public. Investigators made it clear that Oswald left a trail of evidence in the wake of his attack and apparently expected to be caught.

"If he had been successful and had been apprehended even for routine questioning, his apartment would undoubtedly have been searched and his role would have been made clear by the evidence which he had left behind," the report said.

NOTEBOOK DESTROYED

Although Oswald, at his wife's insistence, destroyed the notebook in which he had outlined his plans some one or two months prior to the April 10 shooting, he did so only after removing a map of the area in which Walker lived and photographs of the rear of the Walker home. One picture, taken from the alley, showed the fence on which Oswald rested his rifle.

Examination of construction work in the background of the photograph showed that the picture was taken between March 8 and March 12, 1963, about a month before the shot was fired into Walker's window.

It was on March 12 that Oswald purchased the money order for his rifle. The rifle was shipped on March 20 and the shooting at Walker occurred on April 10.

BALLISTICS TESTS

Photography, experts proved that the picture of Walker's home was taken with Oswald's camera,

and ballistics tests proved that the bullet recovered from the yard in Walker's home was fired from Oswald's rifle, the commission reported.

Prior to April 10, according to the commission, Oswald had been attending typing classes at night. According to Marina Oswald, her husband left home immediately after dinner on the night of April 10. She discovered the note he had left her when he did not return at the usual time.

The note instructed her to contact the Soviet Embassy and send to them any information—including newspaper clippings—"as to what has happened to me."

Marina Oswald told the Warren Commission that her husband was very pale when he returned home that night.

TOLD OF SHOOTING

"I don't remember the exact time, but it was very late," she testified. And he told me not to ask him any questions. He only told me he had shot at Gen. Walker."

Oswald, his wife testified, said he had been planning the attack for two months, and three days afterward showed her the notebook in which he had detailed his plans.

At least three photographs of Walker's home and another of some railroad tracks near the residence were removed from the notebook before it was destroyed. They were found by investigators.

Oswald, according to his wife, said he had hidden his rifle in some bushes near the railroad after the shooting. Mrs. Oswald testified that several days later her husband recovered the rifle and brought it back to their apartment.