

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-109060)

DATE: 7/9/64

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (62-6115)

ATTENTION: Assistant
Director
IVAN W. CONRAD

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

6/25/64. Referente is made to Bureau letter to Chicago dated

Referenced communication requested the Chicago Division secure two additional rifles having the same physical characteristics and markings as that utilized by LEE HARVEY OSWALD in the assassination of President KENNEDY.

Extensive examination has been made of similar rifles at Klein's Sporting Goods, Inc., 4540 West Madison, and it has been found that numerous discrepancies exist on a given rifle. While a complete examination of all such rifles has not been made, it is requested that the Laboratory advise if certain discrepancies can be allowed or if such differences such as the variance in location of certain markings would be significant enough to preclude the purchase of these rifles.

The following are discrepancies noted thus far in examination of rifles and are set forth to exemplify the problem in securing identical rifles to that used by OSWALD:

1. Certain bolts on the various rifles have been found not to have the word "Rocca" stamped on the bolt. In this regard would the interchange of bolts from one rifle to another be permitted. Further, it is noted that should such interchange be made a variance in the headspace on the bolt may be found. (See photograph number 1.)

2. Certain rifles have been found not to have the stamp "RC" on the bolt. (See photograph number 2.)

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3. Certain rifles have been determined not to have all markings as shown on the rifle in question, and where all markings are contained thereon, in certain instances, it has been found that these markings are not contained in the specific location as on the rifle used by OSWALD. (See photographs 3, 4 and 5.)
4. It is requested the Laboratory advise if the stamp number 40 is required on the underside of the receiver. (See photograph number 6.) It is noted that in this regard the receiver group of each rifle would have to be dismantled to ascertain if the marking was properly made.
5. Certain rifles have been found to contain not only the markings as shown in available photographs of the rifle in question, but also to have additional markings contained thereon. To exemplify, one such rifle was located which contained the model year 1940, but following this date was found several additional figures, the significance of which is not known.
6. Most of the rifles examined to date have been determined to have different color stocks than those previously furnished the Bureau. In all cases thus far the stocks of these rifles have been found to be lighter in color.
7. Should the interchanging of parts of a rifle be permitted if the appropriate parts can be located, the operation of the weapon may be impaired such as in the case of the interchange of bolts.

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8. Personnel at Klein's Sporting Goods have thus far been unable to locate number 3 Japanese side mounts for use in mounting the telescopic riflesight. The possibility has been suggested that such mounts may be secured elsewhere in the country should Klein's not locate them, and mounting done at a later date.

It is requested that the Laboratory advise if it is absolutely necessary that all points shown on the rifle in question be exactly duplicated in detail. If variances are allowed, it is requested that Chicago be so advised, and that such variances be specifically detailed for Chicago's use. It is noted that as the Bureau has been previously advised, Klein's Sporting Goods has removed from sale all similar rifles subsequent to the assassination of President KENNEDY. Since that time, these rifles have been packed individually and then collectively in cartons, all of which have been banded and are stored. It is therefore requested that before these cartons be removed from storage and unpacked, the Laboratory advise regarding above.

Returned herewith are nine photographs as furnished to Chicago by the Bureau with referenced communication. Chicago has duplicated these photographs and such are maintained in Chicago file.