

TRANSLATION FROM FRENCH

An article from "Le Nouveau Candide" of April 22 - 29, 1964.)

There Certainly Was One "Retouching"; Perhaps There Are Some Others ... WHO DOCTORED OSWALD'S RIFLE?

Translator's Note: the article starts with several photos accompanied by the following captions:

(Left half of the page, under a large photo of Oswald and a smaller photo of a man in an overcoat standing with his back to the camera):

"On this photo of Oswald, taken, according to police, in the Spring of 1963, he holds a rifle which resembles the weapon of the Dallas crime (on the left, in the hand of a policeman)":

(In bold type on the left of the large photo):

"This photo was published by a Detroit newspaper. The rifle carried only an ordinary sight."

(Right half of the page, under a large photo of Oswald and a smaller photo of a uniformed policeman holding a revolver in his hand):

"This is the same document. But a skilled retoucher added a telescopic sight. On the left: the revolver with which, according to police, Oswald killed policeman Tippit."

(In bold print on the left of the large photo):

"The same photo was sold to 'Life,' but the rifle has a telescopic sight."

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100-10461-6081

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(Three photos in the text, from left to right):

- (1) "'My son is innocent.' Oswald's mother knew that the photo was doctored."
- (2) "'My husband is guilty.' Marina Oswald's testimony ruined a former Marine."
- (3) "'Too many proofs.' The Chief of Dallas police, Jesse Curry, made one too many."

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Thus, the mother of Oswald was right, at least on one point. A photo representing her son holding up "the crime weapon," was indeed doctored.

In her exclusive story, which "Candide" published in its issues Nos. 153 and 154 under the title "My Son Did Not Assassinate Kennedy," Marguerite Oswald, recalling this photograph wrote: "I have doubts regarding the authenticity of this document. I have asked some experts: they told me that it seemed to be a composite picture ...."

#### Crushing Document

"My daughter-in-law never talked to me about this photo during the weeks we lived together after Lee's arrest, although we discussed the affair interminably, recalling the smallest details. She has never made an allusion to this photo. And then, three months later, she appeared to have sold this document which could be used against her husband ...."

The crushing document from the file collected against Oswald was indeed faked, but not in the way his mother suspected. She believed that the head of Lee Oswald was pasted upon the body of a man holding a rifle in his hand.

The faking was done elsewhere and it was a Frenchman who discovered it by chance. Mr. Claude Meillasoux, sociologist and professor at the Practical School of Higher Studies (l'Ecole pratique des Hautes Etudes) works for a publication "Analyses and Documents," edited by the Center for Socialist Studies.

### An Obscure Affair

Receiving all foreign periodicals, he got the idea to compare the photo of Oswald and his rifle, published by an American magazine "Life" (and reproduced by a French weekly), with the one which was printed by an American newspaper, the "Detroit Free Press," and magazine "Newsweek."

It was the same photo, taken from the same angle; in the same pose. The two documents were strictly identical, except for one detail: on the first photo, the rifle carried a telescopic sight and on the second it did not.

The first photo was sold to "Life" by the "agent" of Marina Oswald, the wife of the presumed assassin! This agent, James Martin, appears to have been assigned by the FBI to protect Marina Oswald and divide with her the profits she draws from her statements to the press.

The second photo, the one which did not have the (telescopic) sight, was purchased by the "Detroit Free Press" from a Dallas policeman.

The sale of these photographs constitutes in itself an obscure affair. A "Life" photographer received a telephone call from a person who was anxious to remain anonymous and offered some exclusive photos of Oswald, one of which was of him holding a rifle. It seemed that the photos had been collected by police in the course of the investigation and one could think that an official passed them on to a seller who would undertake their dissemination.

But "Life" refused to buy these documents, believing that they belonged by right to Marina Oswald and that she could bring an action if they were published without her authorization. The photographer from "Life" decided then to go to James Martin and ask him for the original copies of these photographs. He sold these for a tidy sum of 26,000 francs.

### Wishing To Prove Too Much

But the anonymous seller was not discouraged. He circulated sets of unpublished photos of Oswald and the "Detroit Free Press" bought one set of twenty for only 1,000 francs. In this lot was the photo of Oswald with his rifle, which the Detroit newspaper published.

Which one of the two photos of Oswald with his rifle was doctored? Most probably, the first one, which "Life" published. Claude Meillasoux noted in fact that, according to the police, the photo was taken in the Spring of 1963. Now, still according to the police, the telescopic sight was mounted on Oswald's rifle on November 6, 1963.

"It seems that, wishing to prove too much, the FBI has once more committed an error defeating its own ends," writes Claude Meillasoux. "It probably believed itself to be alone in possession of the negative and thus capable of falsifying it with impunity."

"As to the photo itself," adds the writer, "one may make the following hypothesis regarding its origin: Oswald appears on it much younger than (he was) in the winter of 1963; he holds up in front of himself, as if to show it well, a newspaper, the titles and headlines of which, have been effaced; it seems to be a publicity photo for an activist newspaper."

"Now, about a year ago, the John Birch Society formed armed volunteer groups for 'fighting against communists and Soviet spies.' Oswald, who had his hand in nearly everything, but whose ties with the extremist right were already noted (A & D - AME, 52, 58, 59), was possibly induced to pose for the newspaper of the Birch Society."

#### A Component of Poisoning

"No doubt, the police thought of using this photo to 'prove' the guilt of Oswald, but since the appearance of the rifle did not correspond with the weapon they found and the newspaper held (by Oswald) implicated the extremist right rather than communists; it would not be produced finally as proof but, after retouching, as a component of poisoning, through the intermediary of the press."

A new element of confusion, a new reason for doubt thus was injected into the Dallas affair. Undoubtedly, the assassination of Kennedy would appear less mysterious, if from the outset the police of Dallas and its Chief, Jesse Curry, had not thoughtlessly accumulated "proofs" of Oswald's culpability.

### Gaps in the Investigation

Thus, police revealed the discovery, in Oswald's room of a map of the city of Dallas upon which the route of his flight was traced. Later, we heard no more about this map. It mysteriously disappeared, no doubt, because it had never existed.

From the first days of the investigation, numerous observers had the impression that the police were trying to cover the gaps in the investigation behind a barrage of sometimes imaginary evidence.

The Warren Commission charged with the writing of a final report on the affair, should now clear up the case of the doctored photo.

But, according to some rumors, it will delay by several months the publication of its report. In fact, the report would possibly bring to light certain negligences in the security service and people in high places would prefer that it would not be published until after the presidential elections in November.