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Lee Harvey Oswald: Was He Just a Patsy?

By RON JAVERS

Lee Harvey Oswald, the man the Warren Commission said acted alone in killing President John Kennedy, went to his grave insisting that he never shot anyone.

He was never tried and convicted on the evidence. And many lawyers say that he would not have been convicted since the evidence against him was largely circumstantial.

Even Jesse Curry, Dallas police chief at the time of the assassination, testified there was no credible evidence to prove Oswald was where the Warren Commission said he was — on the sixth floor of the Dallas Book Depository Building with a rifle at 12:30 p.m. Nov. 22, 1963.

Oswald wasn't tried because Dal-

las nightclub owner Jack Ruby, just two days after the assassination, shot and killed him in the Dallas jail while millions of horrified Americans watched on television.

BUT WHO WAS Lee Harvey Oswald? Who was Jack Ruby? These are questions that have fascinated assassination researchers for nearly a dozen years.

In the view of the Warren Commission, Oswald was unbalanced, a Communist sympathizer, supporter of Fidel Castro who had visited the Soviet Union, tried to visit Cuba, and spent his time involved in vaguely subversive activities. He was, the commission indicated, an angry, sexually frustrated, unstable young man who one day exploded and killed a President.

Looked at another way, Lee Harvey Oswald was the perfect patsy, a natural setup to take the rap for the crime of the century. He said as much before he was killed. "I'm just a patsy," Oswald told reporters in Dallas.

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Researchers have uncovered some strange facts about Lee Oswald — facts that they say cannot be dismissed in any thorough investigation of the assassination. Consider these items:

- Could there have been more than one Lee Harvey Oswald?

A common practice in intelligence work is to create an identity and then have that identity used by more than one person. The practice confuses pursuers.

Oswald made his last trip outside the country less than two months before the assassination, visiting Mexico City from Sept. 27 to Oct. 2, 1963.

On that trip he applied for visas to

Continued from preceding page

travel to both Cuba and Russia, but was refused, according to the FBI, which received a report of his visit to the Cuban Embassy. The report included photos taken by a CIA hidden camera across the street of the man who identified himself as Oswald.

But the man in the photos is not Oswald. The CIA now says the wrong man was photographed in a "mixup."

- Thirteen days before the assassination, a man who gave his name as Lee Oswald took a test drive with a Dallas auto salesman named Albert Guy Bogard. Bogard remembered the man because he drove the car at speeds approaching 100 mph, scaring the salesman, then said he was broke but expected to have enough money to buy a car soon.

The Warren Commission determined that the Lee Oswald they were investigating did not have a driver's license or know how to drive. On Feb. 14, 1966, Bogard, at age 41, committed suicide.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Philadelphia Daily News, Philadelphia, Pa., Page 6 * 7

Bogard
tel

Date: August 20, 1975
Edition: Four Star
Author: Ron Javers
Editor: Rolfe Neill
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: PH
Submitting Office:
 Being Investigated

File
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• Previously top-secret transcripts, recently released after assassination researchers sued under the amended Freedom of Information Act, indicate that the commission was worried that Oswald had been either a CIA or FBI operative.

In one meeting, Lee Rankin, the commission's chief counsel, referred to a possible Oswald-CIA-FBI tie as "a dirty little rumor that is very bad for the commission, very bad for the agencies that are involved in it, and it must be wiped out."

THE "RUMOR" was that Oswald was possibly a part-time CIA employe or even more possibly, as authorities in Dallas had reported, a \$200-a-month FBI informant. Allen Dulles, former head of the CIA and a commission member, even admitted during the meeting that if he, as director of the CIA, were under oath and asked whether so-and-so was an employe of the CIA he would lie and deny it.

The commission thought J. Edgar Hoover would certainly deny Oswald's FBI connection if there was one. They thought the CIA would deny it if that agency had employed Oswald. Finally, they brought Hoover in and in testimony later made public, he did deny that Oswald was an FBI employe. The CIA also denied employing Oswald. The commission never checked further.

• Oswald, though not a wealthy man, had traveled widely. He renounced his citizenship while in Russia in 1960, but got it back when he returned to the U.S. in 1962 with his Russian-born wife whose father was involved in Soviet intelligence operations.

The CIA, which in 1962 was questioning ordinary tourists returning from Russia on what they had seen, apparently never bothered to talk to Oswald, the former defector, upon his return home.

• While in New Orleans in 1963, at the time a hotbed for CIA activity in the Caribbean, Oswald was arrested after a street altercation with an anti-Castro Cuban. Oswald, who was handing out pro-Castro leaflets, said he was the local secretary of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. The committee actually had no official offices in New Orleans. The address stamped on some of Oswald's leaflets was "544 Camp St." Oswald, according to the commission, never had an office there.

"But an anti-Castro group supported by the CIA did. The man who ran it was E. Howard Hunt, later to surface as one of the Watergate burglars. Hunt, an early advocate of assassinating Fidel Castro, was also the CIA acting station chief in Mexico City when the Oswald photo "mixup" occurred there.

• As early as 1960, J. Edgar Hoover sent a secret memo to the State Department suggesting that an impostor might be posing as Oswald, then living in Russia. The Warren Commission was never informed of Hoover's suspicion.

THERE ARE other strange facts, but let's leave Oswald for the moment and take a look at his killer, Jack Ruby, whom the Warren Commission painted as a grief-stricken hothead who, again acting alone, just happened to silence Lee Oswald.

Ruby's life remains far more in the shadows than the life of the man he killed — this is despite lengthy descriptions of his activities before the assassination contained in the Warren Commission report. Though the commission in its attempt to appear thorough included such trivia as comments from a Ruby elementary school teacher to the effect that he was short tempered, it failed to mention far more important later events in the man's life.

On July 23, 1975, the Daily News first reported the existence of a 1963 letter from J. Edgar Hoover to the commission. The letter said that Ruby met with FBI agents in Dallas nine times as early as 1959.

Hoover said the FBI contacted Ruby to gain information on "the criminal element" in Dallas. He said, despite the nine meetings, no information was obtained by the FBI.

NONE OF THE Ruby-FBI contacts was mentioned in the 888-page Warren Commission report or the 26 volumes of supporting data. Nor did the commission attempt to read the individual FBI agents' reports of exactly what went on in their meetings with the man who was to kill Oswald.

The commission said Ruby was a small timer who liked to hang around police stations and who knew mobsters, yet wasn't really one of them.

Commission investigators never were able to pinpoint exactly how Jack Ruby got into the Dallas jail the day he shot Oswald, yet they said he did it unaided.

Mark Lane, the Washington attorney and Warren Commission critic who has been pursuing the problem of Ruby's presence in the jail, now says, "Ruby did not enter unaided, or by the Main St. ramp, the way the commission theorized he did."

Tomorrow: Critics of the Warren Commission take the battle to Capitol Hill.

Wallace Favors Shooting Probes

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Alabama Gov. George Wallace says he does not think the man who shot him four years ago was acting alone.

Wallace also said he supports a resolution by Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D., Tex.) to reopen investigations into the attempt on his life and the shootings of President John Kennedy, Sen. Robert Kennedy and civil rights leader Martin Luther King.

The governor, a potential Presidential candidate, was shot and partially paralyzed in an attempt on his life in 1972 by Arthur Bremer in Silver Spring, Md.



Jack Ruby meets Oswald in the Dallas jail on Nov. 24, 1963.



The man at the Cuban Embassy: was it a "mixup"?



Ruby after arrest