



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

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May 15, 1975

To: Mr. Robert B. Olsen
Senior Counsel
Commission on CIA Activities
Within the United States
Washington, D. C. 20500

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Re: Commission on CIA Activities
Within the United States

Clarence M. Kelley
Clarence M. Kelley
Director

Examination requested by: Addressess

Reference: Two letters dated April 2, 1975, and April 9, 1975, directed to Mr. James A. Wilderotter
Examination request: Request for a photographic analysis of the Zapruder, Nix and Muchmore films covering the assassination of President John F. Kennedy

Result of examination:

Frame #413 of the Zapruder film and adjacent frames were studied for the presence of a rifleman concealed in the foliage shown in the lower portion of these frames. The series of frames show the highlight and shadow areas of the foliage changing from frame to frame to create the form described as an assassin holding a rifle. This study would suggest that this is merely an accidental pattern caused by highlights and shadows of the leaves and not an assassin.

This conclusion is verified by a study of the assassination film taken by Orville Nix on November 22, 1963, which shows Mr. Zapruder and the area adjacent to him. This film shows that the foliage in these Zapruder pictures is from a

Enclosures (10)

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Enclosures furnished to Com. report.

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small tree to the right of the abutment on which Zapruder is standing and over which he would have been filming for frame #413 and adjacent frames. This small tree is a topiary type tree of pyracantha, the trunk of which was measured to be seven and one-half feet from the abutment on which Zapruder was standing. This abutment is fifty inches above the ground and is thirty and one-half inches wide. The above measurements were made on May 8, 1975. On that date the trunk of the tree was approximately five inches in diameter.

From a comparison of these measurements with the photographs from the Nix film, it is estimated that the foliage of the tree starts about four to four and one-half feet from the ground. The foliage is oval in shape and appears to have been approximately two feet high by four feet wide. This would give an estimate of the height of the tree at approximately six to six and one-half feet.

The Nix film shows the trunk of the tree against the white abutment and adjoining wall and no human being can be observed in the area of the tree other than Mr. Zapruder, standing on the abutment as previously described. Further, it is doubtful that a man with a rifle could be concealed in the dense and angular foliage of this tree because of its small size. Further, a study of frame #413 and adjacent frames shows that Zapruder did not stop panning his camera at frame #413 as alleged. Four charts showing the above are attached.

A study was also made of frames 454 through 478 of this Zapruder film where it has been alleged that an assassin is in the vicinity of the stockade fence. An examination of these frames does not reveal any formation identifiable as a human being or an assassin with a rifle or other weapon. A set of these photographs is attached.

Regarding the allegation that a rifleman is standing along the wall in the film taken by Orville Nix, no figure of a human being could be found in the area described. The area along the wall that was pointed out as an assassin with a rifle in a standing military firing position was found to be approximately nineteen feet to the right of where Mr. Zapruder was standing and anyone along the wall at that point would have been clearly visible to Mr. Zapruder. It is pointed

out that the area behind this wall contains clump type shrubbery with the foliage removed from the lower trunks of the shrubbery. The configuration described as a rifleman is believed to be the trunk or trunks of this shrubbery. This is shown on one of the charts described above.

Studies were conducted in the vicinity of the Texas School Book Depository in Dallas, Texas, on May 7 and May 8, 1975, in an effort to determine the approximate height of two of the "derelicts" and determine how the heights compared with the heights of E. HOWARD HUNT and FRANK STURGIS. Some of the photographs were duplicated using height standards and these duplicated photographs were superimposed over the photographs of the "derelicts" and police officers to establish the approximate heights of these individuals. Other photographs were not duplicated because of alterations in streets, street lights, traffic signals and other objects appearing in these pictures. Based on the comparisons made, it was found that the tallest of the "derelicts", purported to be FRANK STURGIS, is in the height range from six feet one inch, to six feet three inches. The shortest of the three "derelicts" was found to be in the height range from five feet six inches, to five feet eight inches. This determination of height supports the conclusion previously given that these "derelicts" are not FRANK STURGIS and E. HOWARD HUNT, since FRANK STURGIS is five feet eleven inches tall, and E. HOWARD HUNT is five feet nine inches tall. Three charts showing these comparisons are attached.

The three police officers who removed the three "derelicts" from the railroad boxcar following the assassination of President Kennedy on November 22, 1963, were interviewed on May 7, 1975, regarding the location of the railroad boxcar from which the "derelicts" were removed. The officer leading the group in the majority of the pictures is Bill Bass of the Dallas Police Department. The other officer in the majority of these photographs is Marvin Wise. Officer Roy Vaughn does not appear in any of the photographs. Officers Bass and Wise both advised that the men were removed from a boxcar on the tracks in the vicinity of the Houston Street viaduct. This area is approximately one-half mile south of the School Book Depository. Mr. Vaughn did not recall the location of the

railroad car. All officers advised that they found the men standing in one end of the boxcar and took them from there to the sheriff's office for interrogation. They walked from the boxcar at the Houston Street viaduct along the railroad tracks to the parking lot, in back of the Texas School Book Depository, and then walked in front of the Texas School Book Depository diagonally across the intersection to the sheriff's office. Two photographs of the area where the boxcar was located and a map of this location showing the route to the Texas School Book Depository are attached.