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Source - CA 78-1108

Found in 78-1108

Folder HW Davis
Ms. Trajies

Mr. Conrad

February 27, 1964

Mr. E. J. Jovan

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
W - 2

Dr. Vincent P. Quinn, head of the Neutron Activation Analysis Section of General Atomic Division, General Dynamics Corporation, San Diego, California, and his associates have been studying methods of detection of powder residues by neutron activation analysis for the past few years. They have received contracts from the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to conduct research on this matter. Until the assassination of President Kennedy all their research work was conducted on residues left from the firing of lead weapons.

Today Dr. Vincent P. Quinn called the FBI Laboratory and spoke to SA John F. Callahan. His call was concerning iron filings, Illinois. He advised that since the assassination a large part of their efforts have been directed to the determination of powder residues on paraffin casts taken from the hands and cheeks of individuals who have shot a rifle similar to the one reportedly owned by Lee Harvey Oswald. He advised that there appears that triple firing of this rifle will have unambiguous positive tests every time on the paraffin casts. It further appears that washing the casts with ethylenediamine does remove all of the characteristic elements (barium) but such washings do not remove all of the other characteristic elements in powder residues (arsenic).

Further he advised that the tests to date indicate that powder residues are deposited on both sides of the shooter after the rifle is fired either one time or three times.

It appears, he added, that these results can be obtained even if the paraffin casts are made at least after shooting the rifle providing that the sides of the shooter are not washed in the meantime.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Bishop
- Mr. Casper
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Conrad
- Mr. Felt
- Mr. Gale
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sullivan
- Mr. Tavel
- Mr. Trotter
- Mr. Tele. Room
- Miss Holmes
- Miss Gandy

Memorandum to Mr. Conrad
Re: LIZ MARSHALL OSWALD
IS - W
~~103-32365~~

He inquired if any information could be furnished him
relative to the actual casts from Oswald. He stated he read about
these casts in the newspapers but has no way to obtain the originals.
Mr. Callaghan advised he was not at liberty to discuss this matter.
Mr. Callaghan asked who in Dallas might be knowledgeable on this subject.
He was advised that he could not be given any information relative
to these casts at this time.

ATTN: None. For information.

Appendix D

Ms. Trajies

Dr. Conrad

February 27, 1964

R. E. Stevens

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - 2

Dr. Vincent P. Quinn, head of the Neutron Activation Analysis Section of General Atomic Division, General Dynamics Corporation, San Diego, California, and his associates have been studying methods of detection of powder residues by neutron activation analysis for the past few years. They have received contracts from the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to conduct research on this matter. Until the assassination of President Kennedy all their research work was conducted on residues left from the firing of hand weapons.

Today Dr. Vincent P. Quinn called the FBI Laboratory and spoke to SA John F. Gallagher. His call was incoming from Chicago, Illinois. He advised that since the assassination a large part of their efforts have been directed to the determination of powder residues on paraffin casts taken from the hands and cheeks of individuals who have shot a rifle similar to the one reportedly owned by Lee Harvey Oswald. He advised that it now appears that triple firing of this rifle will leave unmistakable positive tests every time on the paraffin casts. It further appears that washing the casts with ethanolic benzidine does remove one of the characteristic elements (barium) but such washings do not remove all of the other characteristic elements in powder residues (antimony).

Further he advised that the tests so far indicate that powder residues are deposited on both cheeks of the shooter after the rifle is fired either one time or three times.

It appears, he added, that these results can be obtained even if the paraffin casts are made 24 hours after shooting the rifle providing that the skin of the shooter had not been washed in the meantime.

~~100-12333~~

- 1 - Dr. Belmont
- 1 - Dr. Rosen
- 1 - Dr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Tolley

200:200
(11)

Memorandum to Mr. Conrad
Re: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - R
~~TOP SECRET~~

He inquired if any information could be furnished him
relating to the actual casts from Oswald. He stated he read about
these casts in the newspapers but has no way to obtain the originals.
Mr. Callaghan advised he was not at liberty to discuss this matter.
Mr. Callaghan asked who in Dallas might be knowledgeable on this subject.
He was advised that he could not be given any information relative
to these casts at this time.

ATTN: None. For information.