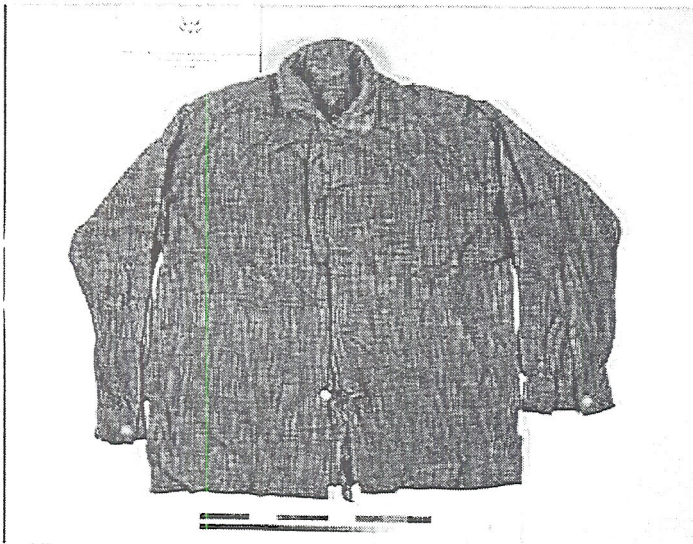


# Threads of Evidence

*Handwritten notes:*  
Oswald  
Suspect  
Oswald  
the  
Dorsey



The early report described the shirt Oswald was wearing when arrested as "rust brown" or "multi-colored." Was it because there were no brown fibers found on the rifle? Was it because the man who saw the suspect on the sixth floor believed he'd be wearing light colored clothing? Or be

Above: CE 150, the shirt Oswald was wearing when arrested

five feet ten inches, weight one hundred sixty-five pounds, reported to be armed with what is thought to be .30 caliber rifle. Attention all squads. The suspect from Elm and Houston is reported to be an unknown white male about thirty, slender build, five feet ten inches tall, one hundred sixty-five pounds, armed with what is thought to be a 30-30 rifle."

Here is how this suspect was described in that day's eyewitness statements..

Howard Brennan (11-22-63 statement to the Sheriff's Department, 19H470): "He was a white man in his early 30's, slender, nice looking, slender and would weigh about 165 to 175 pounds. He had on light colored clothing but definitely not a suit."

Amos Euins (11-22-63 statement to the Sheriff's Department, 19H474): "This was a white man, he did not have on a hat. I just saw this man for a few seconds."

Robert Edwards (11-22-63 statement to the Sheriff's Department, 19H473): "I noticed that he had on a sport shirt, it was light colored, it was yellow or white, something to that effect, and his hair was rather short. I thought he might be something around twenty-six, as near as I could tell."

Ronald Fischer (11-22-63 statement to the Sheriff's Department, 19H475): "all I could see was his head. I noticed that he was light-headed and that he had on an open-necked shirt, and that was before the



motorcade rounded the corner. I noticed his complexion seemed to be clear, and that he was in his twenty's, appeared to be in his twenty's."

Arnold Rowland (11-22-63 statement to the Sheriff's Department, 24H224): "This man appeared to be a white man and appeared to have a light colored shirt on, open at the neck. He appeared to be of slender build and appeared to have dark hair." (11-22-63 interview reported in an 11-23-63 FBI report, 26H126) "He advised this person was a white male of slender build and appeared to have dark hair. He appeared to have on a light colored shirt, open at the neck." On the 24th, in a second interview with the FBI, Rowland confirmed (16H954): "He appeared to be slender in proportion to his height, was wearing a white or light colored shirt, either collarless or open at the neck. He appeared to have dark hair."

Oswald is  
the  
slender  
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So far they all seem to be talking about the same man. Fischer says the man was light-headed and Rowland says he had dark hair, but they're almost unanimous that the man was slender and wore a light-colored shirt.

A problem was brewing. Motorcycle Officer Marrion Baker, who'd encountered Oswald in a stairway within a minute and a half of the shooting, described Oswald's dress as different than the man seen in the window (11-22-63 Affidavit, 24H199): "The man I saw was a white man approximately 30 years old, 5'9", 165 pounds, dark hair and wearing a light brown jacket." Had Oswald put a jacket on as he ran downstairs?

An 11-22 FBI interview with Mrs. Earlene Roberts, the housekeeper at Oswald's rooming house, suggests he did not. It reports "While she was watching the TV, Lee came in, went to his room, got a coat, and left again...he proceeded to a bus stop which is near the house." (CD5 p353). So maybe Baker had got it wrong. Perhaps Oswald had been wearing a light brown shirt, not a jacket.

This possibility is supported by the 11-22 statement of Linnie Mae Randle, who'd spotted Oswald as he left for work. She swore "Lee was bareheaded, wearing a light brown or tan shirt. I don't remember what kind of trousers he had on." (CD87 p277)

Still another signed statement from 11-22 suggests Baker was wrong entirely. Mrs. Robert A. Reid, who saw Oswald just after his encounter with Baker, asserted "When I saw him he was dressed in a white T-shirt and I don't recall what his trousers were like." (24H223)

That afternoon, Oswald was arrested while wearing a dark brown, long-sleeved shirt. No coat or jacket. A gray jacket had been found near the Tippit killing. Dallas Chief of Detectives Captain Will Fritz interrogates Oswald at 3:15. Fritz's notes on this meeting reflect that Oswald told him at this time that he went "home by bus changed britches." No mention of taking a cab part of the way home nor of changing his shirt.

No  
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An itemized list with an 11-22-63 date in the Dallas Police Archives (Box 5, folder 5, document 88) reflects that among the items confiscated by officers Moore, Potts, Turner, and Senkel from Oswald's rooming house on this date are "1 brown shirt with button-down collar" and "1 pair gray trousers and other miscellaneous men's clothing."

Throughout that day and evening, Oswald was dragged repeatedly before the television cameras. The available footage shows he was still wearing the brown shirt he was wearing when arrested, torn from his fight with the Dallas Police. Later that night, the shirt, along with the purported assassination weapon