

Ed. A. Conroy + John J. O'Brien
+ Rankin
Celt

#4

Early Evidence Scratch Sheet (no particular order)

Paraffin tests on Oswald. . . were positive on the his hands (back or front) and negative on right cheek. I am assuming that the Dallas lab tested for the specific nitrate that indicates that the subject did discharge a firearm . . . Oswald's paraffin tests results were: from the Dallas Police Dept. Who ran these tests—Dallas City-County Criminal Investigation Laboratory.

Follow up with results of tests run by Oak Ridge National Laboratories(Oak Ridge) Results were available to FBI in March (6th) 1964. This was NAA testing was boasted as the most sophisticated available. Results were on a need to know basis. . . Results kept to a few and it was property of the FBI/total control

Tests run on Oswald's paraffin casts for (1) His hands (palm and back) of both hands. Right and left thumbs. And the thin slab from the right cheek.

Results reported: the deposits found on Oswald's hands and cheek could not be specifically associated with the rifle cartridges. (Source: RG 65 Box 110/Folder 33A , Inventory sheets. I.W. Conrad, Volume I. NARA

When the alleged assassination rifle (K1) was examined on 11/23 by FBI fingerprint expert Sebastian Latona he could find no prints on the weapon that were of any value for identification purposes. Photos of the weapon failed to develop any fingerprint impressions for identification. The rifle was sent back to Dallas on 11/24 after Oswald had been murdered. Good reason to believe that it was the task of Lt. D.C. Day and FBI to lift palm and finger prints off the corpse of Oswald as his remains were held the evening of 11/24 at Miller's Funeral Home.

No latent prints of value were developed on Oswald's on the "unfired cartridge" in the chamber of K1 (the alleged murder weapon), the clip in the rifle, or the inner parts of the rifle. . .

Exam of the bullets from Oswald's revolver: In March, 1964. Some four months after Dallas and Oswald's murder by Jack Ruby, J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel for the Commission, queried Hoover about the 3 bullets extracted from Tippit by Dr. Rose. The FBI had never asked for them. Rankin wanted to know if these bullets

also. In fact scratch for
No fingerprint found on the rifle
by window / see Conrad's on Clark
Castings found

Early Evidence Scratch Sheet

could be traced to Oswald's Special Smith & Weston revolver (C15)? Up until till this time these 3 bullets removed from Tippit by Dr. Rose had not attracted the interest of the FBI.

Rankin prompted Hoover to collect the shells (C251, C252, and C 253). When the FBI lab ran tests on these 3 bullets the Report could not conclude that these 3 bullets were fired from Oswald's C15 (his revolver).

Source: RG 65 , Box 110, Folder 33A, Inventory Sheets, I.W. Conrad NARA.

CE # 399. . . .the bullet that could have been fired from the alleged assassination weapon and alleged to have been found on Connally' stretcher was turned over to FBI agent Elmer L. Todd. The CE # 399 held at NARA does not have Todd's initials on it. Empirically tested by checking on the missile held at NARA (or pixs of CE 399).

Make point: Rankin (and staff) became taxed by the FBI's rather "casual" manner in which it treated critical evidence in the Kennedy assassination.

The failure to seek out the other three slugs in Tippit was only one example. The FBI never bothered to collect Gov. Connally's clothes (his shirt and coat) he was wearing when shot. When the Bureau was prompted by Rankin the FBI got around to locating them. They had been held by Mrs. Connally and by the time the FBI was prompted by Rankin the clothes it was April and the coat and shirt had been dry cleaned by Mrs. Connally because they were mildewed and the dry cleaning had compromised whatever evidence they may have held about the shooting.

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James Cadigan (FBI Laboratory supervisor) In Vol. IV of the WC Report he was asked about Exhibit 142 which was the alleged bag that Oswald used to smuggle in the rifle into TSBD on 11/22. When Cadigan was asked if he could find any markings that indicated that the rifle (K1) was held in this bag Cadigan said that he "couldn't find any such markings."

Chain of Custody violated. See Shanklin to File, 1/29/'64 100-10461-2949 He notes that the "material" (evidence) was so hastily sent to BuLab that Dallas FO had no time to review it (We are talking about thousands of pieces/I need to check w/ Armstrong on this). . . despite fact that Dallas was the office where the crime was committed. . . Dallas should have had access to the evidence in order to overturn leads in the case. . . . But since there was no real investigation this was muted... .DFO had to work w/ evidence from pixs that were "not too good." Early Evidence File, F. # 3)