

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Field

New Orleans

CO-2-34,030

ORIGIN

OFFICE

FILE NO.

TYPE OF CASE Assassination of President	STATUS Continued	TITLE OR CAPTION Lee Harvey Oswald
INVESTIGATION MADE AT New Orleans, Louisiana	PERIOD COVERED 12-6-63	Assassination of President Kennedy
INVESTIGATION MADE BY SAIC John W. Rice		

DETAILS

SYNOPSIS

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, New Orleans, was contacted relative to their interview with Miss Marilyn Murrett, cousin of Lee Harvey Oswald, and she denied having seen Oswald at any time outside the United States. FBI reported negative results in connection with their inquiries relative to possession of rifle in New Orleans by Oswald, or the use of gun club for practice purposes, also travel from New Orleans to Mexico. Western Union records in New Orleans failed to reflect money orders sent to Oswald. The Fair Play For Cuba Committee pamphlets were printed in New Orleans at two different plants. Oswald reportedly was identified at one place as the person who placed the order, but was not identified at the other.

DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

Reference is made to various reports submitted in this case.

On 12/6/63, at approximately 12:30 PM (CST), telephone call was received from Deputy Chief Paul J. Paterni, relative to information contained on page 10 of SA A. G. Vial's report dated 12/3/63, detailing results of interview with Miss Marilyn Murrett, 757 French Street, New Orleans, cousin of Lee Harvey Oswald, who said she returned to New Orleans in January, 1963, after having travelled extensively in the Far East and elsewhere. It was requested that this matter be discussed with SA Vial to determine if Miss Murrett had mentioned having been in contact with Oswald at any time during her travels in the Far East while he was in the

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Marine Corps, not overlooking the possibility that she could have recruited him for the Communist cause, and could have instructed him in connection with the assassination while they were both in New Orleans the early part of 1963.

It was also suggested that we ascertain from the FBI if there was any information developed by them to indicate that Oswald had the rifle while in New Orleans or if he used a local practice range, and whether inquiries had been made to determine if Oswald travelled by bus from New Orleans to Mexico.

ASAC Joseph Sylvester and SA Paul Alker, Federal Bureau of Investigation, New Orleans, were interviewed by telephone following my conversation with Deputy Chief Paterni.

Mr. Alker advised that Oswald obtained a permit on September 17, 1963, from the Mexican Consul in New Orleans to visit Mexico for 15 days, and that he entered Mexico at Laredo, Texas, on or about September 26, 1963.

Mr. Sylvester said that his office had made every possible effort to determine the mode of transportation. He said the airlines had been checked, with negative results, and that inquiries of the bus and railroad stations had also been negative to date due to the fact that the tickets do not bear the name of the traveler.

He further advised that they had interviewed - or had attempted to do so - all persons who had applied for permits to travel in Mexico at about the time Oswald applied, and that no information of value had been developed to date.

Mr. Alker advised that all persons interviewed in New Orleans had been questioned as to whether or not Oswald was in possession of a rifle while in New Orleans, and no information had been developed to indicate that he had a rifle at that time. He said that all gun clubs in the area had been checked, and there was no record of Oswald having used them for practice purposes. He said that it is necessary for all persons visiting Mexico for hunting purposes to register firearms with the local Consul, and that there is no record of a gun or rifle made with reference to Oswald's tourist permit.

Mr. Alker stated that Miss Marilyn Murrett had also been questioned by FBI Agents, and that she alleged that she had not seen Oswald at any time during her travels outside the United States. He stated that there is nothing to indicate that Miss Murrett is a Communist.

Mr. Alker also stated that since the Murrett's denied having seen a rifle in the possession of Oswald when he was in their home for a few days the latter part of April or first part of May, 1963, and since he reportedly had only two suitcases when he departed 4907 Magazine Street, according to a witness, it is unlikely that he had the rifle while in New Orleans, unless it was included among the household goods which Mrs. Ruth Paine brought to New Orleans when she drove Mrs.

Oswald here after Oswald's arrival, and was taken back to the Dallas area when Mrs. Paine moved Mrs. Oswald back there, prior to Oswald's departure.

Another FBI Agent had previously informed me that the Western Union office in New Orleans had been requested to make a careful check for money orders for Oswald; and also that the local printing shops were being canvassed to determine if any of the Fair Play For Cuba Committee literature had been printed in New Orleans.

During the conversation with FBI Agent Paul Alker, I inquired of him as to the results of these investigations. He stated that the inquiries at Western Union were negative; but that it had been ascertained that the pamphlets, etc., were printed at two different shops in New Orleans; that Oswald had been identified at one shop, and that he was not identified at the other. Mr. Alker was requested to furnish the names of the printing shops for our information, and he said it would be necessary to check their reports as he did not have the information at that time. He was informed that we were desirous of ascertaining if Oswald had placed both orders for the literature, or whether someone else - possibly A. J. Hidell - had placed one of the orders.

At approximately 3:15 PM (CST) on 12/6/63 I telephonically contacted Deputy Chief Paul J. Paterni, furnishing him the pertinent information received from the FBI relative to Miss Marilyn Kurrott, the rifle, gun club check and inquiries regarding mode of travel from New Orleans to Mexico.

At approximately 4:30 PM on 12/6/63 I received telephone call from SAIC Harry G. Maynor, FBI, New Orleans, who advised that his headquarters office had issued instructions that liaison should be maintained at headquarters level in Washington, D. C. He specifically mentioned that the request which I had made of SA Alker concerning the printing plants involved had been brought to his attention, and that he felt he should communicate with his headquarters office before furnishing this information. He pointed out that the President had directed the FBI to conduct investigation relative to the assassination of President Kennedy and the murder of Oswald, and that presumably all information would be coordinated at headquarters level to avoid duplication, misunderstanding, etc. Mr. Maynor was informed that our interest was primarily in the security area, and that we were desirous of identifying anyone connected with Oswald who might possibly pose a threat to the security of President Johnson.

At approximately 5:00 PM on 12/6/63 I received telephone call from SAIC Robert I. Bouck, Protective Research Section, who advised that he had been contacted by a representative of the FBI in Washington, and that a question had been raised about the printing of the literature in question and duplication of efforts. SAIC Bouck advised that no further inquiries be made relative to the printing shops, and that our investigation should be confined to the gathering of information pertinent to the protection of President Johnson.

At approximately 5:30 PM this same date SAIC Maynor, FBI, informed me that he had been in touch with FBI headquarters, and that he was told that this office

would be advised by our headquarters office not to pursue further the matter of the Fair Play For Cuba Committee literature. During this conversation Mr. Maynor indicated that the name A. J. Hidell, or Alck James Hidell, probably is fictitious and was used as an alias by Oswald since their investigation had failed to indicate that such a person exists.

On 12/9/63 I discussed with SA Vial the matter of his interview with Miss Marilyn Murrett. He said that while she was not specifically questioned as to whether or not she encountered Oswald while traveling in the Far East, she was given every opportunity to comment on this point, and she failed to do so.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

Additional reports will be submitted covering other phases of this investigation.