

8/16/69

Meagher notes on CD 1546, FBI Gemberling report of 10/8/64, pages 38-64 dealing with attempts to identify prints found on four cartons (WR 249)

When Lt. Day dusted the four cartons, within 2 hours of the shooting, he found only one palmprint. A piece of the carton with this print on it was cut out of the carton and the print was identified as Oswald's.

On 11/25/69 and subsequently, the four cartons were handled by Dallas Police and FBI personnel. On an unknown date prior to 3/30/64 the FBI found 19 fingerprints and 6 palmprints on the four cartons. After investigation in August and September 1964, all the fingerprints and 5 of the palmprints were identified as those of Detective Studebaker and FBI clerk Lucy.

Studebaker's fingerprints and palmprints were left on the cartons on 11/25/63, when he transported them from the TSBD to the police laboratory and were raised by the FBI subsequently, after the passage of at least several days and perhaps as much as several months. The date when FBI clerk Lucy left his prints on the cartons is not known.

The significant fact is that two men who handled the four cartons on and after 11/25/63 left a total of 24 identifiable prints which were and remained identifiable for a period of days and possibly months. Before the assassination, the cartons might have been handled by many of the TSBD employees laying floor, but none of their prints were on the cartons.* The Warren Commission concluded that Oswald placed the cartons on the window as a gun-rest, and on the floor as a seat. He supposedly left only ~~one~~^{three} prints in the process, while Studebaker left 18 prints and Lucy left 6.

But Oswald's prints were found on only 2 of the 4 cartons. Lucy left prints on all 4 cartons, and Studebaker on 3 cartons. Although Day claimed that there were no prints other than the palmprint which he cut out of one carton, the FBI found a fingerprint and a palmprint identified as Oswald's on a second carton.

It is not known whether the unidentified identifiable palm print was placed on the carton before or after the assassination.

* The WR says that 2 of the 4 cartons were moved by the floor-laying crew (the two that weighed about 55 lbs. each).