

Telephone conversations with Dave Lifton and Ed Epstein midnight 7/14/66

Dave called in response to my letter asking about a chart of the assassination scene on which each witness was identified by name and location, such a chart having been requested by Ed Epstein for the preparation of the article which Esquire had commissioned from him.

Dave said that such a chart had been prepared by Ray Marcus and that Ray was willing to make it available, through me, to the researcher in question--provided that it was not Ed Epstein. Ray's reaction to Inquest, and to Ed's interview with Mike Wallace, was so hostile that he was not willing to cooperate in any way with Epstein.

Dave also asked me a long series of questions about "Hidell" because in just an hour or so he was to have a telephone interview on the case on a local radio station. He told me that he had obtained a significant new piece of information on Heindel (pronounced "Hindle") from Kerry Thornley. Thornley told Dave that when he was deposed by Jenner, he was trying to pin down an elusive recollection about Heindel but Jenner interrupted him and broke his chain of thought. When they adjourned, he and Jenner had lunch together and Jenner told him that Heindel spoke Russian, and that Heindel and Oswald used to have many conversations together in the Russian language while they were both in the Marine Corps.

As a result of Dave's message about Ray Marcus, I immediately placed a call to Epstein in Cambridge, to tell him that the chart would not be made available to him, and to warn him not to phone Marcus, as he had intended to do (having obtained Ray's number from me the previous evening). Ed was glad that he had not yet made the call to Ray and said of course that he would not do so now; however, he told me, he had called Salandria the preceding night and "made his peace with him." He said that Salandria had been terribly nice and was a very sweet and nice person. In the course of their conversation that evening, and the phonecall Ed received from Salandria in the afternoon the next day (7/14/66), he learned that Salandria had obtained from the Archives (1) the SS document bearing the control number 767, on Hudkins and Sweatt; and (2) the reports of FBI agents Sibert and O'Neill, who had been present at the autopsy, in which they indicated that the wound in the back was below the shoulder and that the path of the bullet came to an end at the depth of about a finger, and that they had seen the ending of the path when Humes probed it; it was Humes, not the FBI, ~~him~~ who had put forward the suggestion that the bullet in the head might have produced the wound at the Adam's apple. Salandria had told Ed that he would despatch copies of the two documents--the SS no. 767, and the reports of Sibert/O'Neill, to Ed immediately. He said that he had given copies to Jones Harris a few days ago. Ed was stupefied to learn that Jones had those documents for some days and had kept them a dead secret from Ed. He is disgusted and furious with Jones. But Jones had sent them to Bob Silvers of the NY Review of Books; Silvers, being a decent person, was sending the documents to Viking. They were to arrive at Viking on Friday morning 7/15/66 and Ed asked me to call Jane Goldstone first thing Friday and ask her to send me copies by messenger as soon as they arrived.

Ed told me also that LBJ had told someone that day that he regarded Inquest as a "personal attack" on him.

I am no less incredulous and angry with Salandria than Ed is with Jones Harris. Salandria had agreed to order from the Archives a copy for me of anything that he ordered for himself--in fact he had volunteered to do so. I had received thus far only four documents on microfilm, of which two duplicated published exhibits; but not the SS 767 nor the Sibert/O'Neill reports. In view of Salandria's campaign against Epstein, the fact that he gave those documents to Harris and then to Ed without even informing me of their existence seems to me a two-faced and thoroughly unprincipled act on Salandria's part.