

"Credible" Witnesses

Marina Oswald, Helen Markham, Howard Brennan

"In a memorandum...Norman Redlich alleged that 'Marina Oswald has lied to the Secret Service, the FBI, and this Commission repeatedly on matters which are of vital concern to the people of this country and the world.' " (Inquest pp.96-97)

"...Ball had rejected as 'utterly unreliable' the testimony of Helen Louise Markham, who was the only witness who claimed to have seen Oswald shoot Dallas policeman J. D. Tippit. Ball found Mrs. Markham's testimony to be 'full of mistakes.' "
(Inquest pp. 134-135)

"Ball was also extremely dubious of the testimony of Howard I. Brennan, the only eyewitness who claimed he could identify the assassin as Oswald...Ball had several reasons to doubt Brennan's testimony....as far as Ball was concerned, the fact that Brennan had lied at the police lineup reflected on his general credibility." (Inquest pp. 135-136)

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NOTES FOR A NEW INVESTIGATION

by Sylvia Meagher

WITNESSES NOT CALLED BY THE WARREN COMMISSION

(Incomplete List)

Persons present during the
interrogation of Oswald

Although Dallas police Captain Fritz "kept no notes" or transcript of the interrogation of Oswald, and although the reports submitted by Fritz and federal agents (primarily from memory) were incomplete and in some important respects contradictory--i.e., the trip to Mexico, where Oswald was at the time of the shooting, and the alias Hidell--the following witnesses to the questioning of Oswald were not asked to submit reports nor to testify.

Jim Allen, former Assistant District Attorney

Secret Service agents Grant, Howard, Kunkel, Patterson, and Warner

FBI agent Joe Myers

U.S. Marshall Robert Nash

Chuck Webster, Professor of Law

Oswald's Activities and his Movements
on the day of the Assassination

Pierce Allman, television newsman: Oswald had said that some one had approached him outside the Depository after the shooting and had asked to be directed to the nearest phone. Oswald's account corresponds with the actual experience of Pierce Allman, and timewise conflicts with the Commission's reconstruction of Oswald's "escape."

Mary Dowling, waitress at Dobbs House: She told the FBI that Oswald and Tippit were in the restaurant at the same time, two days before the assassination, and that Tippit especially noticed Oswald when he complained about his food. The Warren Report says that the two men were not acquainted and had never even seen each other.

John Rene Heindel, ex-Marine acquaintance of Oswald's: Heindel was known by the nickname "Hidell," to Oswald as to other Marines. The Warren Report says that there is no real person "Hidell" and that it was only an alias invented by Oswald for his own purposes.

Alonzo Hudkins, reporter for the Houston Post: He gave the Secret Service information suggesting that Oswald was on the FBI payroll.

Milton Jones, bus-passenger: He told the FBI that the Dallas police had boarded the bus and searched the passengers just after Oswald had debarked, which was before anyone noticed Oswald's absence from the Depository.

Allan Sweatt, Chief of Criminal Division of Sheriff's Office: He allegedly expressed the opinion that Oswald was being paid \$200 a month by the FBI as an informant holding assigned number "S 172."

Sandra Styles, Depository office employee: With Victoria Adams, she ran down the back stairs of the Depository immediately after shots were fired but did not encounter Oswald—supposedly running down at that time—nor Roy Truly and policeman M. L. Baker, supposedly running up.

Witnesses to Oswald's
arrest at the Texas Theater

There is considerable confusion about who pointed Oswald out to the police, who drew a gun, whether Oswald tried to shoot an officer, and what was said by whom. The following witnesses present at the theater might have thrown light on those matters.

Bob Apple, insurance investigator.

Detective Paul Bentley: He allegedly found a forged "Hidell" card on Oswald.

Bob Barrett, FBI agent

Jim Ewell, reporter

Richardman

Detective E. E. Taylor: He stayed behind at the theater after the arrest to make a list of the names and addresses of the patrons. The list is missing.
Police officers Baggett, Bukk, Cunningham, Lyon, Stringer, and Toney

Witnesses to the autopsy
performed at the Bethesda
Naval Medical Center

In view of the conflicting descriptions of the wound in the President's back given by the FBI and the autopsy surgeons, witnesses who saw the body could have given crucial information about the wound.

Admiral George Burkley, presidential physician: He was in the motorcade, then at Parkland Hospital, and later at the autopsy, and he received the autopsy report submitted by the pathologists.

Francis X. O'Neill, Jr., FBI agent: He was present throughout the autopsy and his description of the wound in the President's back conflicts with the official autopsy report.

James W. Sibert, FBI agent: Same as O'Neill above.

John T. Stringer, Jr., medical photographer: He photographed the President's body.

Fourteen other armed forces or federal officials, and four funeral home workers who prepared the body for burial, were also present at the autopsy.

Stretcher-Bullet Witnesses
(See Planted Bullet Theory)

Richard E. Johnsen, Secret Service agent: He was handed the stretcher bullet by O. P. Wright, chief of personnel, at Parkland Hospital, before the Presidential party departed. Wright was not called either.

The Shots and
Related Circumstances

James Chaney, motorcycle policeman: He rode in the motorcade and reportedly saw Governor Connally hit by a second bullet after the President was first shot. That conflicts with the single-bullet theory.

Jim Featherston, reporter for the Dallas Times Herald: He allegedly urged eyewitness Jean Lollis Hill not to say that she had seen a man fleeing the assassination scene.

Ruby Goldstein ("Honest Joe"), pawnbroker: He was seen circling in his station wagon at the assassination scene shortly before the motorcade arrived. Two days later he was seen outside the police building when Oswald was shot.

Julia Mercer: About 75 minutes before the assassination, while driving toward the triple underpass, she saw a man walk up the grassy knoll carrying what appeared to be a rifle-case.

Approximately 196 people known to have witnessed the assassination at the scene were never questioned by the Commission. (Named in Appendix to Mark Lane's Rush to Judgment.)

Witnesses with information
concerning Jack Ruby

Lt. George Butler: He was present when Ruby murdered Oswald and was reported as behaving strangely before the shooting. He also gave contradictory information to the FBI and to the press about Ruby's past criminal associations or activities.

Wanda Joyce Killam, dancer at Ruby's Carousel Club: Her husband, Hank Killam, was a friend of Oswald's fellow-roomer on Beckley Street, John Carter. Killam was found dead on a Pensacola street, his throat cut, in March 1964.

Ray Rushing, evangelist: He attempted to see Oswald on Sunday morning and says that he rode up in the police elevator with Jack Ruby at 9:30 a.m. when, according to the Commission, Ruby was at home.

Witnesses with information
on the Walker shooting

In addition to the Kennedy-Tippit killings, the Warren Commission also "convicted" Oswald of attempting to murder General Edwin A. Walker in April, 1963. But they neglected to take testimony from:

Walter Kirk Coleman, a teen-age neighbor of General Walker, who saw two men flee the scene by car after the shot was heard. Oswald could not drive, and the Commission said he was alone.

Detective Ira Van Cleave, who participated in the original investigation of the Walker shooting and who told the press at that time that the bullet had been "identified as a 30.06," which could not have come from Oswald's rifle.

Witnesses at the
Tippit scene

There is considerable confusion and contradiction about the time that Tippit was shot, the description of the killer, the movements of the suspect, and the actions of the eyewitnesses. The following people could have given crucial information.

T. F. Bowley, the only witness at the Tippit scene who looked at his watch to check the time when he saw Tippit's body. Bowley said in an affidavit taken by the Dallas police that Tippit was already dead at 1:10 p.m., while the Commission says that he was shot at 1:15 p.m. If Bowley was correct about the time, Oswald could not have walked from his rooming-house to East 10th Street in time to kill Tippit.

Ann McCravey (phonetic spelling), resident on East 10th Street, who witnessed the shooting of Tippit from her window.

Radio car patrolman R. C. Nelson: Tippit went to central Oak Cliff, supposedly on a simultaneous instruction to him and Nelson. But Nelson went to the Depository, as though he had never received the instruction, casting doubt on whether either of them were really ordered to Oak Cliff.

Radio car patrolman H. W. Summers: He obtained a description of the Tippit suspect from an unknown by-stander—who said that the suspect had "black wavy hair," was 5'11" tall, and carried a .32 automatic pistol.

Marie Tippit, widow of J. D. Tippit: She probably saw her husband about an hour before he was killed, when he came home for lunch. Also, she could have given information on such things as their unlisted phone and on Tippit's "work at home" in the evenings.

Frank Wright and his wife: They lived across the street half a block from the spot where Tippit was killed. Mr. Wright heard the shots, saw a man standing right at Tippit's care who "ran as fast as he could go," got into a small old grey 1950-1951 coupe, and "drove away as quick as you could see." Mrs. Wright phoned the police to report the shooting; it was her call that resulted in the despatch of the ambulance.

Ambulance drivers Clayton Butler and Eddie Kinsley were never questioned either.

Witnesses with information
relevant to possible
conspiratorial activities

Patrolman W. E. Barker: He saw workers in the Depository pointing to a man wearing horn-rimmed glasses. Barker immediately arrested the man for questioning, and as of December 6, 1963, he was still in jail "but no longer as a suspect in the killing." Odd.

FBI agent Warren De Brueys: Before the assassination he reported on Oswald's activities in New Orleans; he was present at Oswald's interrogation; and he investigated allegations suggesting that Oswald expected to receive a large sum of money.

William Seymour: He was said to resemble Oswald and thought to be involved in one of the "two-Oswald" incidents. The Warren Report went to press before the investigation into this matter was completed.

Robert Adrian Taylor, service station attendant: He claimed that Oswald had given him a rifle in lieu of payment for car repairs in the spring of 1963. The Warren Report asserts that Taylor retracted his identification of Oswald. He did not.

R. W. Westphal and other Dallas policemen, prepared reports immediately after the assassination in which Oswald's old Elsbeth Street address was specified when the police had no known access to that address and although they claim they had no record of Oswald before November 22, 1963.

Colonel J. D. Wilmeth: mysterious visitor of Marina Oswald a week or less before the assassination.

Names Unknown

About 10 or more witnesses present at the Texas Theater when Oswald was arrested, apparently named on a list of patrons compiled by detective J. L. Taylor.

Caterer at the Depository, who sold lunches to employees and might have sold lunch to Oswald on the day of the assassination or on other occasions.

"No. 179 (Unknown)" who, according to the Dallas Police radio log, actually found the jacket discarded near the Tippit scene, although the Warren Report credits Captain Westbrook with the discovery.

Post office employees at the main office, where Oswald maintained ~~Box~~ Box 2915, who were not questioned about specific records or recollections of the delivery of packages addressed to "A. Hidell" containing the rifle and the revolver.

Inmates, County Jail, who were permitted to watch the motorcade from a window and may have observed significant happenings at the sixth floor window or other Depository windows.

Police radio dispatchers, who supposedly ordered Tippit and Nelson to central Oak Cliff at 12:45 p.m. and subsequently exchanged messages with them.

Gunsmiths, Aberdeen Proving Ground and Klein's Sporting Goods, Inc., concerning the opinion by the Aberdeen gunsmith that the scope on the assassination rifle "was installed as if for a left-handed man" (Oswald was right-handed).

Scientific investigations and other inquiries which should be carried out by a new independent investigatory body (such as suggested by Richard Goodwin) utilizing the adversary procedure

- (1) Tracing and examination of the unseen autopsy photographs and x-rays.
- (2) Rifle and marksmanship tests on the basis of a reenactment of the shots from the Depository, using dragged car and dummies, and riflemen whose capability corresponds with Oswald's level of skill as recorded during his Marine Corps service.
- (3) Tracing of the rifle obtained by Robert Adrian Taylor (see above) to determine whether the weapon was ever in the possession of Oswald or persons associated with him.
- (4) Tracing of laundry tag on the jacket discarded near the Tippit scene (number "B 9738") to determine whether Oswald or someone else had it cleaned.
- (5) Reenactment of Oswald's taxi ride, in a metered vehicle, to determine the actual time. In reenactments performed for the Warren Commission the estimate was progressively reduced from 11 to 9 to 6 minutes.
- (6) Re-auditing of the police radio log to make an authoritative transcript which would resolve the conflicts among the three transcripts made for the Warren Commission.
- (7) Auditing of tapes of statements to the press by Parkland Hospital doctors, describing the President's wounds (tape of the first press conference is said to be "lost").
- (8) Tracing of Tippit's clipboard, never requested by the Warren Commission although it is visible in a photograph of his car before it was removed from the scene of the shooting.
- (9) Scrutiny of all test bullets fired in the wound ballistics experiments with human cadavers, goats, and gelatin blocks (260 rounds of ammunition were obtained for use in those tests but only two of the test bullets are shown by the Warren Commission for comparison with the stretcher bullet).

(10) Examination of all unpublished films and photographs of the assassination (i.e., the missing Zapruder frames; the Moorman photograph encompassing the Depository; the Betzner photos showing the fence area on the grassy knoll; the Robert Hughes film showing the sixth floor window; the Ralph Simpson film; and photographs which Tom Howard (Ruby's lawyer) tried to sell to a large popular magazine).

(11) Investigation of the repositioning and ultimate disappearance of the Stemmons Freeway sign which obscured the President from Zapruder's camera for some 15 frames of the film—of vital importance to the "Traffic Sign Theory."

(12) Tests of authenticity (including "Mercader effect" test) of the palmprint lifted from the rifle barrel.

(13) Examination of all withheld FBI and Secret Service reports of interviews with witnesses, including Parkland Hospital personnel (some 30 interviews with the doctors and others, none of which are published in the Exhibits).

(14) Examination of all transcripts of off-the-record passages of testimony.