

Witnesses Not Called to Testify
by the Warren Commission

Persons present during the
Dallas Police Interrogation
of Lee Harvey Oswald

Jim Allen (former Assistant District Attorney, was in consultation with Captain Frits on Friday in the Homicide Office and reviewed the evidence against Oswald—5H 218-219 (Henry Wade)

David Grant (Secret Service agent—CE 2003 (p.161)

Mike Howard (Secret Service agent—CE 2003 (p.161)

Charles Hunkel (Secret Service agent—CE 2003 (p.161)

Joe Myers (FBI agent—CE 2003 (p.161)

Robert Nash (U.S. Marshall—7H 133 (Elmer Boyd)

William Patterson (Secret Service agent—CE 2003 (p.161)

Chuck Webster (Professor of Law, encountered by Dallas ACLU representatives Friday night in the Homicide Office, who stated that he had been there a good part of the time since the assassination—(7H 323 (Greg Olds)

Roger Warner (Secret Service agent—CE 2003 (p.161)

The Warren Report states that Captain Frits kept no notes or transcript of the interrogation of Oswald. Reports from some of the witnesses who were present were based mainly upon their recollections. There are no reports whatever for some portions of the interrogations. The reports which have been published in some instances conflict with each other on what was asked, and what Oswald answered. These witnesses, had they been called to testify, might have provided valuable additional information on the interrogations.

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

Pierce Allman (television newsmen; Oswald told Secret Service Inspector Thomas Kelley that a Secret Service agent had approached him outside the Depository after the shooting of the President and had asked to be directed to the nearest telephone. Oswald's account corresponds with the actual experience of Pierce Allman, as told in personal conversation with a researcher on the assassination. (Source:—private information.)

John Carter (fellow-roomer at Beckley Street and acquaintance of Oswald; interviewed by FBI as possible link between Oswald and Ruby, through Carter's friendship with Hank Killam, husband of a Carousel Club stripper; Killam was found dead on the street in Pensacola, Florida, with his throat cut, on March 17, 1964 (Source:—CE 288); Middleton (Texas) Mirror, November 11, 1965)

- Mary Dowling (waitress, Dobbs House; told the FBI that Both Oswald and J.D. Tippit were in the restaurant at the same time, two days before the assassination. (Source:--CE 3001)
- John Rene Heindel (ex-Marine acquaintance of Oswald's; Heindel was known by the nickname "Hidell" and lived in New Orleans (Source:--8H 319 and CE 3119)
- Alonso Hudkins (reporter, Houston Post, contacted the Secret Service to report information suggesting that Oswald was on the FBI payroll (Source:--Commission Document 320 National Archives)
- Milton Jones (bus-passenger; told the FBI that the Dallas Police boarded and searched passengers in bus just after Oswald debarked, which was before Oswald's absence from the Depository had been noticed (Source:--CE 2641)
- Allan Sweatt (Chief of Criminal Division, Dallas Sheriff's Office; alleged to have expressed the opinion that Oswald was being paid \$200 a month by the FBI as an informant holding assigned number "S172" (Source:--Commission Document 320 National Archives)
- Sandra Styles (Depository office employee; with Victoria Adams, ran down back stairs of the Depository immediately after shots were fired but did not encounter Oswald--supposedly running down at the same time--nor Roy Truly and motorcycle officer M.L. Baker, supposedly running up (Source:--6H 388 Victoria Adams and CE 1381)
- Georgia Tarrants (cashier, A & P, Irving; told the FBI that Oswald had cashed a check at the store after 3 p.m. on Thursday, October 31, 1963, which suggests that his visit to Irving on the eve of the assassination was not unprecedented nor necessarily incriminating (Source:--CE 1165)

Witnesses to Oswald's Arrest
at the Texas Theater

- Bob Apple (insurance investigator; accompanied Sgt. Gerald Hill to theater on a tip that suspect was seen entering (Source:--7H 49 Gerald Hill)
- Paul Bentley (Dallas Police detective; assisted in taking Oswald into custody in the theater and en route to City Hall allegedly found a forged "Hidell" card in the suspects wallet (Source:--7H 49-58 G. Hill)
- Bob Barrett (FBI agent; accompanied Captain Westbrook of the Dallas Police to the Texas Theater and witnessed the arrest (Source:--7H 51 G. Hill)
- Jim Ewell (Dallas newspaper reporter; was present during the search of the Depository and accompanied Sgt. Hill to the Tippit scene (7H 47 G. Hill)
- E.E. Taylor (Dallas Police detective; was present at the arrest and stayed behind afterwards to take names and addresses of the patrons (CE 2003 pages 96-97)

The following officers were present also at Oswald's arrest at the Texas Theater but were not asked to testify before the Commission:

Patrolman E. R. Baggett
 Detective M. A. Buhk
 Lt. E. L. Cunningham
 Patrolman K. E. Lyon
 Sgt. H. H. Stringer
 Detective John B. Toney

(Source:--Dallas Police report, CE 2003 p.75)

Witnesses at the autopsy or
in possession of related
medical or ballistics information

Admiral George Burkley (Presidential physician; was present in the motorcade and at Parkland Hospital; received complete autopsy protocol submitted by the Bethesda Naval Medical Center pathologists (Sources:--CEs 768, 772, 1024 1126; Price Exhibit No. 2; Journal of the American Medical Association, April 5, 1965)

Francis X. O'Neill, Jr. (FBI agent, present throughout the autopsy, whose description of the wound in the President's back conflicts with the Warren Report autopsy (Source:--Commission Document No. 7, pp. 280-285, National Archives)

James W. Sibert (FBI agent, same description as for agent O'Neill, above)

John T. Stringer, Jr. (Medical photographer, photographed the body of the President (Source:--Commission Document No. 7, p. 282, National Archives)

O.P. Wright (chief of personnel at Parkland Hospital; took custody of the "stretcher bullet" and gave it to the Secret Service (Sources:--CE 2011; reports of Secret Service agent Richard Johnson in CE 1024)

The report of FBI agents Sibert and O'Neill (Commission Document No. 7) states that the following individuals "attended the autopsy":

Admiral C. B. Holloway, U.S. Navy
Capt. James H. Stoner, Jr., U.S. Naval Medical School
James H. Ebersole
Lloyd E. Raihs
J. G. Rudnicki
Paul K. O'Connor
J.C. Jenkins
Jerrol F. Crester
Edward F. Reed
James Metzler
Major-General Wehle, Commanding Officer, U.S. Military
District, Washington, D.C.
AMC Chester H. Boyers, U.S. Navy

Personnel from Gawler's Funeral Home entered the autopsy room to prepare the body for burial:--

John Van Haesen
Edwin Stroble
Thomas Robinson
Mr. Hagen

Also present:

Brigadier General Godfrey McHugh, Air Force Military Aide
to the President
Dr. George Bakeman, U.S. Navy

Witnesses with information
on the assassination shots
and related circumstances

- James Chaney (Dallas Police motorcycle officer; rode in motorcade; alleged to have seen Governor Connally hit by a second bullet after the President was first shot (Sources:—2H 43-45 Mark Lane; 3H 266 M.L. Baker)
- Richard Dudman (reporter, St. Louis Post-Dispatch; according to Dudman's article in The New Republic of December 21, 1963, he saw a bullet hole in the windshield of the Presidential car, at Parkland Hospital; he reported Parkland doctors as saying that there was an entrance wound in the President's throat at the Adam's apple (2H 39-41 M.Lane)
- Jim Featherston (reporter, Dallas Times-Herald; alleged to have urged witness Jean Lollis Hill not to say that she had seen a man fleeing the assassination scene (6H 220-222 J.L.Hill)
- Ruby Goldstein ("Honest Joe")—(Dallas pawnbroker, seen circling in his station wagon at the assassination scene shortly before the motorcade arrived (GE 2582 J.L.Hill); seen outside the Dallas Police building when Oswald was shot (7H 357-358 F. Scirells; 12H 432 P.T. Dean)
- Julia Mercer (about 75 minutes before the assassination was driving toward triple underpass, was blocked by a stalled truck, saw man walk up grassy knoll carrying what appeared to be rifle-case (GE 2003 pp. 216, 327)
- Willie Mitchell (inmate, County Jail building; said, with other inmates, to have observed motorcade from vantage point which permitted good view of the sixth floor window of the Depository (15H 525-526 S. Kaufman)
- Marilyn Sitzman (secretary to Abraham Zapruder; stood next to Zapruder as the motorcade passed and shots were fired (Decker Exhibit No. 5323, p.535)

In an appendix to his book Rush to Judgment Mark Lane provides a comprehensive list of 266 witnesses present at the assassination scene. Eleven of the witnesses were mentioned in newspaper stories but never questioned by federal agents or the Commission. Of the remaining 255 witnesses, only 68 were examined by the Warren Commission or deposed by Commission counsel. The remaining witnesses (about 185) were interviewed by local authorities or federal investigators.

Witnesses with information
concerning Jack Ruby

- George Butler (Dallas Police lieutenant; was present when Ruby murdered Oswald and was reported as behaving strangely before the shooting (15H 593-594, Thayer Waldo); gave self-contradictory information about Ruby's past criminal associations or activities (Warren Report page 793 and CE 2887).
- Wanda Joyce Killam (dancer at Ruby's Carousel Club; her husband was a friend of Oswald's fellow-roomer on Backley Street, John Carter; Hank Killam was found dead, his throat cut, on a street in Pensacola, March 1964 (CEs 2882 and 2883; Midlothian Mirror, November 11, 1965)
- Ray Rushing (evangelist; attempted to see Oswald on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. and alleged that he rode up in the Police elevator with Jack Ruby at that time (12H 75-79 Lt. J. Revill)

Witnesses with information
on the Walker shooting

- Walter Kirk Coleman (teen-age neighbor of General Walker; saw two men flee scene by car after shot was fired (CE 2001; 11H 416-417 Walker)
- Ira Van Cleave (Dallas Police detective, participated in the original investigation of the Walker shooting, told the press that the bullet had been "identified as a 30.06" (Dallas Morning News, April 11-12, 1963; New York Times, April 12, 1963)

Witnesses at the Tippit scene

- William Alexander (Assistant District-Attorney, was at Depository, proceeded to scene of Tippit shooting with police officers and reporters (7H 47-48 G.Hill)
- 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 it was 1:10 p.m., not 1:15 p.m. If Bowley was correct, even greater doubt would arise about Oswald's ability to walk from his rooming-house to East 10th Street and Patton Avenue in time to shoot Tippit (CE 2003, pages 202, 254)
- Ann McGravey (phonetic spelling) (resident, East 10th Street, who witnessed the shooting of Tippit from her window, according to a BBC broadcast "The Day the President Died," narrated by Tim Matthews, heard on WBAI New York on November 24, 1964)
- R. C. Nelson (Dallas Police radio car patrolman, supposedly ordered to move into central Oak Cliff simultaneously with Tippit, but who proceeded to the Depository as though he had never been ordered to Oak Cliff (CEs 705 and 1974--Dallas Police radio logs--12:45 and 1:30 messages to "No. 87 (Nelson)" and CE 2645)

- H. W. ~~Walters~~ (radio car patrolman who actually obtained a description of the Tippit suspect from an unknown by-stander and called in the description at 1:22 p.m. to the dispatcher which the Warren Report attributes erroneously to officer J. M. Poe (radio log CE 1974 page 59)
- H. W. Summers (radio car patrolman who 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—and called in the description to the dispatcher between 1:33 and 1:40 p.m. (CE 1974, page 74)
- Marie Tippit (widow of J. D. Tippit, who probably saw her husband about an hour before he was killed, when he came home for lunch (CE 2985)
- Frank Wright and his wife (their home is across the street from the spot where Tippit was killed; Mr. Wright heard the shots, saw a man standing right at Tippit's car 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 ("The Other Witnesses," by George and Patricia Nash, The New Leader October 12, 1964); ambulance drivers Clayton Butler and Eddie Kinsley were never questioned either (Ibid.)

Witnesses with information relevant to
apparent conspiratorial activities

- deleted*
W. E. Barker (patrolman quoted in the Dallas Times Herald of December 8, 1963; Barker said that he saw workers in the Depository pecking on a window from the third floor and pointing to a man wearing horn-rimmed glasses, a plaid coat, and rain coat; Barker immediately arrested the man for questioning; as of December 6, the "early suspect in the assassination" was still in jail "but no longer as a suspect in the killing" (Joachim Joesten, Oswald: Assassin or Fall-Guy? (Marzani & Munsell, New York, 1964), pages 72-73)
- Abraham Bolden (Secret Service agent, charged that he had been framed by the Secret Service on a bribery charge after criticizing laxness of Presidential protection and covering of agents responsible for Kennedy's safety (SH 454-457 J.J. Rowley; Newsweek, June 1, 1964)
- Colonel Caster (associate of General Walker, said to have acted in an intelligence role in contacts with Cuban exiles in Dallas (CE 2943 Father W. McChann); the Colonel and General Walker were reported a week after the assassination as having tried "to arouse the feelings of the Cuban refugees in Dallas against the Kennedy administration "in recent months" (CE 3108 G.L. Connell)
- Mrs. Lee Dannelly (Selective Service employess who reported that Oswald had come to her for assistance, in Austin, Texas, on September 25, 1963, with a view to rectifying his unsatisfactory Marine discharge; the Warren Commission rejected her story as "derived...consciously or unconsciously" from news media (WR 732; GEs 2137-2138) /Note: Mrs. Dannelly's story was inconsistent with the official reconstruction of Oswald's trip from New Orleans to Mexico City, supposedly unaccompanied, by inter-state bus./

Warren De Brueys (FBI agent, active in New Orleans and Dallas; investigated Oswald's activities in New Orleans before the assassination and submitted a report thereon on October 25, 1963 (CE 833 question 13); was present at interrogation of Oswald (CE 2003 page 161); investigated allegations suggesting that Oswald expected to receive a large sum of money but failed to take necessary action (CEs 3071 and 3093)

Deleted
Captain Dave Ferris (acquaintance of Oswald, New Orleans, who was arrested immediately after the assassination, apparently on suspicion of complicity with Oswald and others (8H 14, 29-31 F.S. O'Sullivan)

Loran Eugene Hall (thought to be involved, with Lawrence Howard and William Seymour, in an incident suggesting that Oswald (or a man impersonating Oswald) ~~was~~ was a crack rifleman, hostile to JFK, active in Cuban underground (WR 324); later, ruled out by the FBI as being involved in the incident (Commission Document 1553 National Archives)

Mr. January (manager of Red Bird Air Field, told private researcher Jones Harris that Oswald, accompanying a heavy-set man and a woman, had come to the airport two days before the assassination; they had inquired about hiring a plane to take them to Mexico on November 22 but had not returned to complete the charter transaction (New York Review of Books, July 28, 1966, article by Professor Richard H. Popkin, "The Second Oswald")

Carroll Jarnegan (Dallas lawyer who told the FBI and District Attorney Henry Wade that he had heard Oswald and Jack Ruby conspiring at the Carousel Club to get rid of Governor Connally (5H 232-234; CE 2821)

Cecil Sitz and his wife (managers of a Fort Worth motel who identified Oswald as the young man who had stayed at the motel overnight on November 20-21, 1963; he was seen holding a gun, told Mrs. Sitz to call the FBI if anything happened to him, showed particular interest in time and place of the President's arrival, drove off at high speed in a car which did not match the information on his registration card; the registration card was taken by the FBI after the assassination and as of October 1964 had not been returned to the motel-keepers (Source:—interview by independent researcher Jones Harris)

Robert Adrian Taylor (service station attendant who claimed that Oswald had given him a rifle in lieu of payment for car repairs in the spring of 1963 and who did not, as the Warren Report asserts, retract his identification (WR 318 and CE 2977)

R. W. Westphal and other Dallas Policemen (prepared reports immediately after the assassination—one, a list of Depository employees—in which the address of Oswald's former apartment on Elsbeth Street was specified at a time when the police had no known access to that address and although the Chief of Police and other officials testified that they had no record of Oswald before November 22, 1963 (Sources:—4H 182 Curry; 4H 248 Fritz; 5H 41-42 Revill; CE 705; CE 2003 page 127)

Colonel J. D. Wilmeth (mysterious visitor of Marina Oswald a week or less before the assassination (9H 392-393, 452-453, Paine)

Names Unknown

About 10 or more witnesses present at the Texas Theater when Oswald was arrested, apparently named with addresses on list of patrons compiled by police officer E. E. Taylor.

Caterer at the Depository, who sold lunches to employees, was not asked whether or not Oswald had purchased lunch on November 22, 1963 or other occasions.

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

Post office employees, at main office, where Oswald maintained P.O. Box 2915, who were not questioned about specific records or recollections related to the delivery of the 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, concerning the allegation by the Aberdeen gunsmith that the scope on the assassination rifle "was installed as if for a left-handed man" (Oswald was right-handed).

Examples of a few of the many unresolved questions and contradictions found in the testimony

Charles Givens vs Lt. Revill vs Inspector Sawyer vs Captain Fritz, regarding way it was first learned that Givens had seen "Mr. Lee" (Oswald) on the sixth floor about noon.

J. B. Hicks of the police lab vs Curry, Fritz, and others about the time and place of Oswald's arraignment for the murder of the President.

Captain Fritz and Sgt. Hill vs Detective C.W. Brown and Sheriff Bill Decker about their conflicting versions of when it was that Fritz learned that the man missing from the Depository was under arrest for the Tippit shooting.

Billy Lovelady and William Shelley, whose testimony on their movements immediately after shots were fired at the motorcade does not correspond to their respective affidavits on the day of the assassination, and whose movements may have a crucial bearing in determining the validity of testimony from another witness, who suggests that Oswald did not run down the stairs from the sixth floor within two minutes after the shooting.

Commander J. J. Humes and Col. Pierre Finck, who were never asked to explain the contradictions between the autopsy diagrams of the wounds and their testimony or autopsy report narrative.

Marina Oswald, who was never asked to specify when and where she copied the license number from FBI agent Hosty's car, after investigation seemed to eliminate all possible opportunity to copy the number; nor confronted with

numerous other self-contradictions on crucial evidentiary questions.

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) Rifle and marksmanship tests on the basis of a reenactment of the shots from the Depository, utilizing dragged car and dummies and riflemen whose capability corresponds with Oswald's level of skill as recorded during his Marine Corps service.
- (2) Reenactment of Oswald's taxi ride from the Greyhound Bus Terminal to North Beckley street, in a metered vehicle, to determine the actual time span (which was progressively reduced from 11 to 9 to 6 minutes in reenactments performed for the Warren Commission).
- (3) Tracing of the rifle obtained by Robert Adrian Taylor (Springfield bolt-action .30-06 serial number 66091) in a barter with a customer identified as Oswald, to determine whether the weapon was ever in the possession of Oswald or persons associated with him.
- (4) Tracing of laundry tag on jacket discarded at Tippit scene (number "B 9738") to determine whether Oswald or someone else had it cleaned.
- (5) Re-auditing of police radio log to make an authoritative transcript which would resolve the conflicts among the three transcripts made for the Warren Commission.
- (6) Auditing of FBI, Secret Service, and CIA radio logs 11/22-24/1963, never requisitioned or audited by the Warren Commission.
- (7) Auditing of tapes of statements to the press by Parkland Hospital doctors, describing the President's wounds (tape of first press conference said to be "lost").
- (8) Tracing and study of Tippit's clipboard, never located and examined 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 utilized in the wound ballistics experiments with human cadavers and goats, blocks of gelatin (260 rounds of ammunition were obtained for purposes of those tests; only two of the test bullets are shown by the Warren Commission for comparison with the stretcher bullet).
- (10) Examination of all missing films and photographs, or parts of films (i.e., missing Zapruder frames; Moonman photograph encompassing the Depository; Betzner photos showing fence area, grassy knoll; Robert Hughes film; Ralph Simpson film; photographs in possession of Tom Howard—Ruby's lawyer—and offered by him to a large popular magazine; etc.)
- (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.
- (12) Tests of authenticity ("Mercader effect" test) of the palmprint lifted from the rifle barrel.

- (13) Tracing and examination of the unseen autopsy photographs and x-rays.
- (14) Examination of all withheld FBI and Secret Service reports of interviews with witnesses, including Parkland Hospital personnel (some 30 interviews, none of which are published in the Exhibits).
- (15) Examination of all transcripts of off-the-record passages of testimony.

Sylvia Meagher

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