

F.B.I. RECORDS TRACE ASSASSIN'S BULLETS

Newly Released Files Describe Inquiry Into Kennedy's Death and Surveillance of Oswald

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1 (AP)—Newly disclosed Federal Bureau of Investigation documents on the assassination of John F. Kennedy raise, but do not answer, questions about Lee Harvey Oswald's movements in the days before Dallas and about the source of the bullets that killed the President.

The 597 pages of documents are the first of more than 40,000 that the bureau will release Wednesday to comply with requests under the Freedom of Information Act for its material on the investigation of Mr. Kennedy's death in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

The first three volumes were provided to a private researcher several months ago and were made available to The Associated Press today. The documents, many heavily censored, show that the bureau attempted to trace the fatal bullets from the time they were manufactured until they were fired.

Perplexing Piece of Evidence

Agents initially were perplexed by a piece of evidence they found. The bullets were 6.5-millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano ammunition. Agents determined that the manufacturer was the Western Cartridge Corporation of East Alton, Ill.

Agents in Illinois examined the company's production records and found that the concern had produced four million rounds of this type of ammunition for the U.S. Marine Corps in 1954.

"The interesting thing about this order is that it is for ammunition which does not fit and cannot be fired in any of the USMC weapons," said an F.B.I.

memorandum dated Dec. 2, 1963.

"This gives rise to the obvious speculation that it is a contract for ammunition placed by C.I.A. with Western under a USMC cover for concealment purposes."

In other words, bureau officials speculated that the Central Intelligence Agency had used the Marine Corps as a cover to purchase ammunition in secret.

A memo written at bureau headquarters the next day noted that the George Zuckerman Sales Company of Chicago purchased about two million rounds for commercial resale in 1962.

In the first batch of files released, these were the only two documents dealing with the ammunition. The material said nothing more to explain or resolve the agents' speculation. Nor was it known whether the other files to be released would contain an explanation.

Ammunition 'Readily Available'

The Warren Commission investigation of the assassination concluded that Mr. Oswald, acting alone, killed Mr. Kennedy. The commission reported that the type of ammunition used "is readily available for purchase from mail-order houses as well as a few gun shops." It noted that "some two million rounds have been placed on sale in the United States."

The records showed that the F.B.I. kept close watch and a voluminous file on Mr. Oswald from his defection to the Soviet Union in October 1959 and after his return to the United States in June 1962.

But the bureau lost track of him for several weeks in September and October 1963, and agents in Dallas, Little Rock and New Orleans were put on alert to locate him and his Russian-born wife, Marina.

The Dallas office located Marina Oswald on Nov. 1, living with a Mrs. Michael R. Paine in Irving, Tex. Mrs. Paine told agents that Mr. Oswald was working at the Texas School Book Depository in Dallas.

There is no indication that the bureau tried to contact Mr. Oswald after that. The next entry in the report is a memo from the New Orleans bureau to F.B.I. headquarters that states that Oswald, "the subject of a security investigation by this office," was working at the school book depository.

The next entry is a Nov. 22 urgent message to the bureau director, J. Edgar Hoover, reporting that Mr. Oswald had been arrested in Dallas after shooting a police officer and "is a suspect in President Kennedy's death."