

sorry to be so tardy responding to your 12/31, which came promptly. It is a combination of the phlebitis slowing me down, a trip I had to make and matters I could not postpone. Since the short but rather intense trip I find myself not coming back as fast as in the past and am pretty tired by suppertime. Or, right now, after eating.

I am in the awkward position of wanting to be informed and not being able to ink take time for responses....Thanks for what you said about PK. ...On editing, when I can't get any kind of help except occasional transportation when I shouldn't drive, no chance. I've been trying intermittently for eight years. Two commercial editing jobs were not helpful to these books. There is also the utter impossibility of my wife doing any more. The impossible is that and worrying about it does no more than generate frustrations. If there can be commercial interest in a book, that is different. The publisher supplies it. But my immediate problem is getting time to do any writing at all. So, while it is true that the writing tends to assume a certain amount of knowledge on the part of the reader, a large mail is singularly without complaint about it. Were such a book published commercially there would be a different reactions. Particularly from reviewers.

Alba: Garrison's office saw him. I know no more and expect no more despite Garrison's belief that with federal cars parked in his place he had to be on the in.

I agree that if true Alba's statement that he helped affix rivets to the sling would be important. However, I don't see any reason why Oswald would have taken a rifle all that far when he could have rivetted at how with virtually no expense and with rivets Alba could have given him. I also find it hard to believe he would not have told this to the FBI and more, desperate as they were for any confirmation of Marina in particular, why the FBI would not have reported it. No such documents and I've gone over them all, including what had been withheld that I forced out and gave to another, on the coupon and the fingerprinting of the magazines. My impression is that the FBI wanted nothing from Alba it could avoid and avoided much of what he may have said. But not this. They needed it too much.

Anyone who worked for Reilly and didn't switch to the NASA plants had rocks in his head. The difference in pat scale alone was enormous...Long ago I read Alba's testimony and I can't now. But of there are suggestion you would like me to have on file for when I can do it again, at that writing time, please send them....On Aynesworth and the media, agreed. And I'll take Hudkins' word over his any day. Golz is a good reporter with not good judgement. If it makes a story he has no further concern... Oswald's receipt of envelopes from the FBI could account for his hanging around in Alba's garage, but why run this risk when Oswald had a postal box across the street? That "the driver of the vehicle would necessarily have had his back to Mr. Alba" is true only if he were careless and didn't look. They it would have been his rights side until he turned to the driver's window....If you want me to go over what you do not say at the end of #12, I'll do it. But I do not believe it likely than any federal agent would have shared his suspicions with anyone, least of all one sure to be called as a witness...Assume that Oswald, like most young men, had some interest in weapons. In itself this means nothing. Assume he was goofing off at Alba's. What else could they talk about?... I don't pretend to know the answers and I can't prove any of this is wrong. I'm trying to think with you and to provide some devil's advocacy....On Aynesworth, why not do some rethinking based on two assumptions: he likes money and he had a federal connection of his own. Theorize on the latter and believe the former. Hudkins was the least of his competitors. Lonnie worked for a Houston paper, not Dallas. When Aynesworth moved to Houston, for Newsweek, Lonnie had left. Aynesworth had two Cadillacs, not par for reporters. A dependable reporter from Houston is my source.

There is something you might consider about false or cover stories: they are xxx more easily remember if they are connected with a reality that can stay in the mind. Would it do any good to review some of your observations with this in mind? Would it suggest anything to you? Do you think the federals, whether or not only the FBI, used Alba's garage without some security, including a check on him? When a car could be wired for a bomb in seconds, the explosive and two spring clips? Or a heat-sensitive one rigged to the exhaust pipe? Muffler?...Many questions to consider without visible answers does not make it easier but there are missing answers and there is no confirm-

ation of which I know. One of the keys to analysis and understanding is there was a disinvestigation rather than an investigation. This does not make it easier... However it is my recollection that the FBI was avoiding something with Alba. Maybe what I can't recall clearly had to do with magazines. I remember the story of the talk of buying a rifle, not including a pistol... Don't know if I've been helpful and can't take time to correct. Even typing not easy. Have to sit with legs up. To do this I had to do what is forbidden, used tools. I made a pedestal f'writer table what while not too steady permits straddling much less comfortably. But with a foam pad even the heels get to hurting. But I'm trying to do it by the book, by and large, and except for rare occasions obey the injunctions. But the legs now say "quit." So, again thanks for your good wishes and a fine year to you. Sincerely

1/20/76 Airgram to Ian MacFarlane. Alba and Aynsworth statements in their files.

IN THE MATTER of the assassination of
President John F Kennedy

- and -

The allegation by Mr Adrian T Alba, New Orleans, Louisiana, that on at least two occasions about four months prior to the assassination, Lee Harvey Oswald received 'white envelopes' delivered to him personally in cars Mr Alba knew belonged to the F.B.I.

I, Ian Colin Archibald MacFarlane, of 59 Talbot Crescent, Kooyong, in the State of Victoria, Australia, make oath and say as follows:

- 1 _____ I have spent several years researching the assassination of President Kennedy. I am the author of a number of newspaper articles, a booklet and a book, which examine the matter.
- 2 _____ In November, 1975, I made a tour of the United States, during which I spent six days in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 3 _____ I interviewed, by telephone and in person, Mr Adrian T Alba, a former acquaintance of Lee Harvey Oswald, during the latter's sojourn in New Orleans in 1963.
- 4 _____ During my interview with him, in person, which took place on November 10, 1975, in the morning, at his place of business - The Crescent City Garage, 618 Magazine, New Orleans - Mr Alba told me that on "at least two occasions" he had personally witnessed Lee Harvey Oswald receiving white envelopes delivered in cars he (Mr Alba) knew to be part of the FBI car pool.
- 5 _____ Alba did not hazard an opinion as to what the envelopes might have contained. He did not mention whether he had ever discussed the incidents with Oswald. He told me he had never related this matter to anyone before except his close friends. He said he expected the delivery of the envelopes would be referred to in the Report of the Warren Commission, since the FBI conducted an investigation of the crime. He said that to the best of his knowledge no mention had in fact been made of the incidents in the Report.
- 6 _____ Mr Alba refused to be photographed, or to take part in a filmed interview with me. He said he was still concerned about the safety of his family, and that he had consistently declined interviews with the media - despite financial inducements - for this reason. I am, therefore, relying solely on notes I made during our interview for the preparation of this sworn statement.
- 7 _____ Mr Alba stated the following:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation parked its unmarked pool cars in his garage. The Federal building is opposite the Crescent City Garage, up a narrow lane. Agents parked up to six such vehicles in the garage, although the number varied constantly - perhaps due to assignments. The license plates of these cars were exchanged periodically, but the cars themselves were always recognisable (to Mr Alba).
- 8 _____ Mr Alba said he had been personally acquainted with Lee Harvey Oswald. The two men had a common interest in weapons and ballistics, although Alba belittled Oswald's knowledge of these subjects in our interview. During their acquaintanceship, Oswald was employed next door to Alba's garage, at the William B Reilly Coffee Co, 640 Magazine. Oswald was frequently absent from his job during working hours, and spent his time in the office of Alba's garage perusing gun magazines, discussing guns with Mr Alba, and sometimes borrowing gun magazines to take home overnight or longer.

9 Mr Alba said Oswald had shown interest in his gun collection, and had expressed interest in purchasing one. Oswald, said Alba, could not choose between the following weapons: A 30.06, an M1 or a .45 pistol. In the end, he did not buy any of them. Alba added that he had assisted Oswald in rivetting the sling for his 6.5 mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifle - and pointed out the actual table upon which this operation took place.

10 "On at least two occasions" during Oswald's employment at the Coffee Co, Mr Alba said he witnessed one of the FBI cars normally parked at his lot draw up outside the building. Oswald, apparently waiting just inside the front entrance, was seen to go directly to the window of the car where he was handed a "white envelope". Mr Alba likened the incidents to a "taxi delivery". To the best of his recollection, the car involved in both episodes was light green in color. Mr Alba was emphatic that it was in fact one of the unmarked FBI cars that parked at his lot.

11 Mr Alba said he was on extremely friendly terms with former Secret Service agent John Rice, and that they frequently dined together. He said he was also on speaking terms with a number of FBI personnel. However, he did not claim to know the identity of the driver of the 'light green' FBI car he says delivered the envelopes to Oswald. I estimate that the distance between where Alba said he was standing when he eye-witnessed the deliveries, to the doorway of the William B Reilly Coffee Co., is about 60 feet. The driver of the vehicle would necessarily have had his back to Alba.

12 Mr Alba also made reference to the following matters:
The last time that he saw Oswald, who had come to say good-bye, was in the garage. Oswald said: "I have found my pot of gold at the end of the rainbow". Oswald had amplified this remark by saying he had sought, and been accepted for, employment at the Michoud NASA plant in New Orleans (Alba referred to this situation in his testimony before the Warren Commission).

Oswald had only a scanty knowledge of ballistics and weaponry.

Oswald did not strike Alba as being homosexually inclined. Alba related an instance which he felt supported his view.

The gun allegedly used to murder President Kennedy was, in Alba's opinion, not capable of the feats required.

Oswald enquired about target practice facilities in New Orleans, but did not appear to take any interest in Alba's instructions on how to get to such places.

Alba has his own theories about who was responsible for the assassination. He does not believe that Oswald was implicated, and, from the gist of what he told me, I presume that some of the matters he alluded to may have been provided by agents of the FBI or Secret Service with whom he was acquainted.

SWORN at Melbourne in
the State of Victoria this
23rd day of December 1975

John C. Macfarlane
John C. Macfarlane

Before me:

"A Commissioner for taking declarations
and affidavits under the Evidence Act 1958"