

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Oswald, Lee H. Pre-Russian Period 8

1Other Individuals and Organizations Involved or Interviewed Date 4/3/64

FRED O'SULLIVAN, 413 Heritage, was recontacted and reiterated that he had formerly attended Beuregard Junior High School in New Orleans, Louisiana, during the school year 1954-1955.

He informed that since he was last interviewed by the FBI in November, 1963, he had been unable to recall any additional information regarding LEE HARVEY OSWALD's personality, interests or abilities during the time they both attended Beuregard Junior High School.

He informed that he does not know ROBERT LEE OSWALD, JR. or JOHN EDWARD PIC.

On 4/1/64 at Gretna, Louisiana File # NO 100-16601
 by SA STEPHEN M. CALLENDER/gml Date dictated 4/1/64

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PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION

ON THE

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Deposition of

FREDERICK S. O'SULLIVAN

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By authority of
Archivist of United States

By *gjh* NWDC

Date *3-26-69*

PAGES 1 - 15

New Orleans, Louisiana

Tuesday & Wednesday
April 7 & 8, 1964

[Redacted area]

COMMISSION TO REPORT UPON THE ASSASSINATION
OF
PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

P R O C E E D I N G S

Room 415-B, Old Civil Courts Building
Royal and Conti Streets
New Orleans, Louisiana
April 7-8, 1964

THERE WERE PRESENT:

WESLEY J. LIEBELER, Esq.,
Staff Counsel;

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MRS. HELEN R. DIETRICH
Reporter.

By *gjh* *WVDC*

Date *3-26-69*

FREDERICK S. O'SULLIVAN Date 3-26-69

1
2 having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as
3 follows:

4 BY MR. LIEBELER:

5 Q. My name is Wesley J. Liebeler. I am a
6 member of the legal staff of the President's Commission
7 investigating the assassination of President Kennedy. Staff
8 members have been authorized to take the testimony of
9 witnesses by the Commission pursuant to authority granted
10 to the Commission by Executive Order No. 11130, dated
11 November 29, 1963, and Joint Resolution of Congress No. 137.

12 I understand that Mr. Rankin wrote to you last
13 week telling you that I would be in touch with you concerning
14 the taking of your testimony, and that he enclosed with his
15 letter a copy of the Executive Order and the Joint
16 Resolution just referred to, as well as a copy of the Rules
17 of Procedure of the Commission relating to the taking of
18 testimony of witnesses.

19 Did you receive the letter?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. And the documents I referred to were
22 enclosed with it, were they not?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. One of the things the Commission is
25 interested in is the background of Lee Harvey Oswald, the

1 alleged assassin, to the extent that knowledge of his back-
2 ground can assist the Commission in evaluating Mr. Oswald's
3 possible motive, if it is true, as it was alleged, that he
4 was the assassin. Before we get into the knowledge that you
5 may have of Oswald, would you state your full name for the
6 record.

7 A. Frederick Stephen Patrick O'Sullivan.

8 Q. What is your address, Mr. O'Sullivan?

9 A. 413 Heritage Avenue, Gretna, Louisiana.

10 Q. You are a member of the New Orleans Police
11 Department, as I understand. Is that correct?

12 A. I am.

13 Q. And you are a detective on the Vice Squad?

14 A. Right.

15 Q. How long have you been with the New Orleans
16 Police Department?

17 A. Six years.

18 Q. You were born here in New Orleans? Is that
19 correct?

20 A. I was.

21 Q. And how old are you now?

22 A. Twenty-six.

23 Q. I understand that you knew Lee Oswald when
24 he attended a Junior High School here in New Orleans. Is
25 that correct?

- 1 A. Yes, Beauregard Junior High.
- 2 Q. Beauregard Junior High?
- 3 A. On Canal Street.
- 4 Q. Your own education included attendance at
- 5 Beauregard Junior High School?
- 6 A. It did.
- 7 Q. How long did you go to Beauregard?
- 8 A. One year.
- 9 Q. And where did you go prior to that time?
- 10 A. St. Dominic's.
- 11 Q. St. Dominic's?
- 12 A. -- Elementary School.
- 13 Q. Here in New Orleans?
- 14 A. In Lakeview in New Orleans.
- 15 Q. And after you left Beauregard, where did
- 16 you go?
- 17 A. I went to Warren Easton Senior High School.
- 18 Q. And that is here in New Orleans also? Is
- 19 that correct?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And did you graduate from Warren Easton
- 22 High School?
- 23 A. I did.
- 24 Q. Did you attend college at any place?
- 25 A. Yes, I am in college in Loyola right now

1 through a Police Department scholarship.

2 Q. Tell us everything that you can remember
3 about Oswald when you knew him at Beauregard Junior High
4 School, how you met him, what contacts you had with him,
5 just the whole story.

6 A. All right. I was a cadet in Civil Air
7 Patrol, and while I was in Beauregard we were having a
8 recruiting drive to get more cadet members in the New Orleans
9 Squadron, and there were three fellows at the school that I
10 talked to in particular about joining that. One was Joseph
11 Thompson, one was Edward Voebel -- I am not sure how that
12 name is spelled -- and Lee Harvey Oswald. My reason for
13 asking Oswald to join was I noticed -- we had a drill team,
14 we were real proud of our drill team.

15 Q. This was a marching team?

16 A. A marching unit, yes, sir, and Oswald
17 carried himself always erect, always gave the impression
18 that he could be marching, that he may be marching, eyes
19 straight ahead, head straight, shoulders back, so he
20 impressed me as the sort of a fellow that would really fit
21 well on the drill team. He seemed like he could -- well,
22 he even gave the impression that he would make a pretty
23 good leader if he ever got into the squadron, so with this
24 recruiting drive I asked the three of them to come out to the
25 airport. I explained what we did out there, marching and

1 flying on the weekends and so forth to them at school.
2 Joseph Thompson and Oswald and Voebel all three came out to
3 the airport. Joe Thompson stayed in the squadron, and Oswald
4 came to one or two meetings, possibly three, along with
5 Voebel. However, Voebel then joined the Civil Air Patrol
6 at Moisant Airport, and because he was a closer friend of
7 Oswald, he evidently talked Oswald into coming out to the
8 squadron he had joined.

9 Q. At Moisant Field?

10 A. At Moisant Airport.

11 Q. Right.

12 A. Yes. Incidentally, Oswald -- I didn't know
13 this until I read it in the paper -- lived only a half a
14 block from me for a short time. I lived in Lakeview at 800
15 French Street, I believe, and he lived either in the 800 or
16 the 700 block of French Street.

17 Q. That would have been in 1963 when he came
18 here to New Orleans? Is that correct?

19 A. Oh, I didn't live there at that time. No,
20 I moved from French Street around 1957.

21 Q. Can you remember anything else about Oswald
22 at the time he was in Beauregard Junior High School with you,
23 about his friendships? Did he have many friends at that time,
24 or do you recall?

25 A. No. I believe he and I, because of the

1 spelling of our last names, were possibly in the same home
2 room in the morning, but I really don't recall anything. I
3 don't recall much about any of the students at Beauregard or
4 at Warren Easton. I sort of -- I was an athlete, and we
5 stayed away from the rest of the students. They had a thing
6 that they kept us away from the rest of the students pretty
7 much.

8 Q. You say you were an athlete at Beauregard?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. What particular sport were you involved in?

11 A. Football and track, and the same at Warren
12 Easton.

13 Q. Did Oswald, as far as you know, ever have
14 anything to do with sports activities?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Do you remember whether Oswald and Voebel
17 were close acquaintances at that time, or do you know?

18 A. Only in that Voebel left the New Orleans
19 Squadron and went out to Moisant and evidently -- or I believe
20 he talked Oswald into coming out there with him.

21 Q. Now you don't know of your own knowledge
22 whether or not Oswald ever did join the Civil Air Patrol, do
23 you?

24 A. No, I don't know that he signed any papers
25 or had uniforms or anything. I know that he came out to

1 New Orleans Airport and attended some of the meetings, but
2 whether he just -- you see, a lot of time people would come
3 out and sit in the classes to decide whether they wanted to
4 join or not. We will allow this, hoping to get more cadets.
5 I don't know that he ever signed any papers or joined. You
6 can check with the Louisiana Wing Headquarters and they can
7 give it to you.

8 Q. You don't know whether Oswald ever did
9 actually go out to Moisant Field to Civil Air Patrol Meetings
10 at that place?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Did you have rifles as a part of your
13 Civil Air Patrol program? Did you have rifle practice and
14 drill with rifles?

15 A. We didn't drill with rifles, but we did
16 belong to the N.R.A. and we did fire rifles on the range, and
17 also when we went to summer camp we would fire on the range.

18 Q. N.R.A. is the National Rifle Association?
19 Is that correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. What kind of rifles did you fire when you
22 went to summer camp?

23 A. Now I am getting summer camp mixed up with
24 the National Guard. I believe we fired 22's in the C.A.P.

25 Q. Did you ever observe Oswald engage in rifle

1 practice of any kind in connection with C.A.P. activities?

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. Do you know whether or not Oswald ever did
4 engage in any rifle practice in connection with the C.A.P.?

5 A. No, sir.

6 Q. Now did you know David Ferrie, F-e-r-r-i-e?

7 A. Yes, sir, I know him.

8 Q. Do you know of any connection between Oswald
9 and David Ferrie?

10 A. No. I have no personal knowledge of anything.

11 Q. Ferrie was involved with the C.A.P. Squadron
12 at New Orleans Airport at the time Voebel and Oswald came out
13 to join it? Is that correct?

14 A: Ferrie was in charge of the squadron, and
15 then there was a Captain Hinton. Now I was in the squadron
16 for six years, so I am not sure who was in charge at what
17 particular time. I am not sure. He could have been. He
18 may have been, but I am not sure. I know that when he left
19 the New Orleans Squadron Ferrie did have something to do with
20 the Moisant Squadron, so he may have. If he wasn't in charge
21 when Oswald was out at New Orleans Airport, he may have been
22 in charge when he went to Moisant Airport.

23 Q. But you don't know of any time that Oswald
24 associated with or knew Ferrie through the Civil Air Patrol?

25 A. No, I am not sure of any.

1 Q. Now you said that you had no personal know-
2 ledge or no direct knowledge of any relationship between
3 Oswald and Ferrie?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Do you have any information that would lead
6 you to believe that there was a relationship between these
7 two men?

8 A. Only that when all of this broke with Oswald,
9 I went through all of the old C.A.P. files that were avail-
10 able, trying to get some information for the Secret Service,
11 the people who had called me up at home, and --

12 Q. Where were these files located?

13 A. These files are in the possession of one
14 Robert Boylston.

15 Q. And who was he?

16 A. He was also a member of the C.A.P. at the
17 time we all were, at New Orleans.

18 Q. And how did the records come to be in his
19 possession?

20 A. He is a senior member now. He has maybe
21 recently dropped out, but he was a senior member and these
22 records were just turned over to him in the whole filing
23 cabinet. They are all old records. I am trying to get the
24 thing straight in my mind. Of course, I have been trying to
25 get it straight in my mind, just what I know and what I have

1 heard. It gets kind of confusing when you read so much.
2 Sometimes you remember things that you don't really remember,
3 you know.

4 Q. Did you find anything in these files that
5 related to Ferrie or Oswald?

6 A. Well, we found papers signed by Ferrie but
7 nothing in relation to Oswald. His name wasn't mentioned in
8 anything at all that we could find, so we assumed at that
9 time that Oswald was in the Moisant Squadron. I believe they
10 even had in the paper the dates, and we checked those par-
11 ticular dates and it turned out that Ferrie was in a
12 transition between the New Orleans Squadron and the Moisant
13 Squadron in these dates, so he could have been involved
14 either way with Oswald. I don't know if he was involved,
15 he could have been.

16 Q. But you found nothing in the files?

17 A. Nothing concrete.

18 Q. -- that you investigated as to the relation
19 between Oswald and Ferrie?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Am I correct in understanding that there has
22 been publicity here in the New Orleans area concerning a
23 possible relationship between Oswald and Ferrie?

24 A. Yes, sir. I believe Captain Ferrie was
25 arrested. I am sure he was arrested, and I believe it was in

1 connection with this Oswald situation. He was booked at the
2 First District Station. I don't know just what he was
3 charged with, I believe just 107, under investigation of
4 whatever it was, I don't know.

5 Q. Now you go ahead.

6 A. Lieutenant Dwyer, Paul Dwyer, from the
7 New Orleans Police Department, Intelligence Division, I
8 accompanied him out to New Orleans Airport where we found
9 Dave Ferrie's airplane. We wanted to check it to see if it
10 was flyable, to see possibly whether he had been flying it
11 lately, with the thought that he may have transported
12 Oswald to Dallas. This isn't my thought, this was brought
13 up to me, and we found his plane, but his plane was not in
14 flyable condition. It had flat tires, instruments missing,
15 needed a paint job. We also checked to see if he had rented
16 an aircraft from any of the companies out there, and one
17 company in particular said that they wouldn't rent him an
18 airplane.

19 Q. Did they tell you why?

20 A. No.

21 Q. You are a detective on the Vice Squad? Is
22 that correct?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Are you assigned to a particular aspect of
25 vice activities here in New Orleans?

1 A. No, sir. There are only nine of us to cover
2 the whole city. Therefore, we handle any vice, gambling,
3 prostitution, homosexuals, handbooks. Anything that comes
4 under the vice laws, we handle.

5 Q. You have never had any contact with Ferrie
6 in connection with your activities on the Vice Squad? Is
7 that correct?

8 A. No. Ferrie lives or he did live in
9 Jefferson Parish. We have no authority in Jefferson Parish.
10 I know that Ferrie was arrested or was accused of some
11 vice -- well, violating some vice laws, I believe having to
12 do with homosexuals, about two or three years ago, but I'
13 don't have any personal knowledge of this.

14 Q. Now see if you can recall or think back to
15 your experiences in the Beauregard Junior High School, and
16 tell us if you can remember anything else or if there is
17 anything else that you want to add what you have already said
18 about your knowledge of Oswald and his activities at the time
19 he was at Beauregard Junior High School.

20 A. Well, I have put quite a bit of thought on
21 this ever since it all happened, especially since I have
22 gotten this correspondence relative to what I know about it,
23 and as much as I would like to help you as much as I can, I
24 just can't think of anything else. I don't want to say
25 something I am not sure of. Well, actually, even if I thought

1 of something, I would tell you and tell you I am not sure, but
2 there is nothing else I can think of.

3 Q. All right. I have no other questions at this
4 time, and if there is nothing else that you want to add to
5 the record, I want to thank you very much for coming here and
6 giving the testimony you have given. On behalf of the
7 Commission, I want to thank you very much for your
8 cooperation.

9 A. Yes, sir. Thank you.

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15Thereupon, the taking of the witness's
16 testimony was concluded....

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21 By AAA NWDC

22 Date 3-26-69

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I, Helen R. Dietrich, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing (14 pages of typewritten matter) is a true and correct transcription of the stenographic (Stenotypè) notes of the testimony of FREDERICK S. O'SULLIVAN, taken down by me, and transcribed under my supervision, on the 7th day of April, 1964, in New Orleans, Louisiana, in proceedings before the President's Commission investigating the assassination of President Kennedy.

Helen R. Dietrich
Reporter

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Date 3-26-69