

Rose

MEMO ON JIM ROSE/JIM RHODES/VINCE ROSE/E. CARL MCNABE

WITH SIDELIGHTS ON TURNER/JAFFE/CRISSMAN/SPRAGUE

Early last year, approximately February or March, Steve Jaffe came over to get something, and brought along a friend he introduced as Jim Rose or Jim Rhodes. As we talked, "Jim Rose" said that he had been with the CIA as a pilot and had been in Florida in 1963.

At that time, we had acquired all of the training camp pictures in Larry Howard's scrapbook from Steve Burton and had them in a photo book. Jim Rose scanned through the book and said that he knew all of the people in the photos and that he had many more training pictures that he would let us copy. We said great, and he and Steve left. *OH YES, ROSE ALSO TOLD ME THAT THE "HAD THEIR OWN PHOTOGRAPHER IN THE PLATA THAT DAY.* After he left, I asked my wife if she had recognized Jim Rose. She replied no, so I had her look through the scrapbook, and she picked out "Wilson", one of the instructors training Cuban exiles in Florida in March of 1963. He was also featured in an issue of Guns and Ammo magazine.

The next time I spoke with Jaffe, I said "thanks for bringing Wilson over - " and he kinda laughed and without a pause said that some people thought that he was Wilson, but they had checked it out and he wasn't. Jaffe was ready for my allegation, it seemed.

I made up sets of the training pictures and sent them out to several people (including Penn Jones, who we had just met, and Harold Weisberg). Following is a letter we received back from Harold:

"Your 3/7 mailing of five arrest and six training-camp pictures arrived while I was in N.O., whence I returned last night. Glad to have them. Your earlier work was much appreciated. Your name and address is recorded there and you may be hearing directly.

In the paste-up of Howard's pictures the one in the upper left-hand corner looks much like a man who says he is on our side. Steve can tell you the story. I'd like a good reproduction of that and an enlargement if it is available, for these should be studied further. Jaffe was to try and get a contemporaneous picture but hasn't. The man says he cannot disprove it."

date: 3/19/68

The next letter we received from Harold said:

"Thanks for the Steve Wilson blowup, which arrived today.

What makes you sure of the identity of Wilson and the guy Jaffe brought by? I suspected he might be; you are positive. Can you explain it. Did you notice any manerisms in the live example that can be used for identification?

Take all the training-camp pictures you can get, and please rush me prints as soon thereafter as possible. Strange he should have such pix if he had no such connection, seems to me."

date 3/23/68

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Next month, we had begun to develop the 133A and 133B stuff, and sent a rough copy, via Steve Jaffe (because the mail is unsafe, he was to hand carry it) to Jim Garrison in New Orleans. We then received the following letter from Harold Weisberg:

"Recall I asked you to forward all stuff to Garrison through me? I learned from a man who had no business knowing it what had been sent through Rose. Either Jim or Louis Ivon were totally unaware of it, but Jack Martin was and told me in detail. Please take my advice. There are, I learned from dependable outside sources, not fewer than three leaks in the office. I have arranged it so that none of my stuff goes in the regular files, which are like on TV.

Ask Steve to lean on Jaffe again. I've still not gotten anything and I've been working in that field in N.O. without knowledge of the contents of his memo. If he hasn't written it yet, there can be no excuse."

4/16/68

We continued to work and meet the people involved in the case, go to lectures and learn of other people's work, and work on some of the questions we had from published pictures.

Harold advised he had turned all of his photographic work over to Dick Sprague at that time. We wrote a letter to Sprague introducing ourselves and asked questions we had on the published pictures.

In the middle of June, we were invited over to Ray Marcus's house to meet Dick Sprague, and the next morning he came out to breakfast. He said that one of his main aims was to knock down some early research I had done and sent to Jim, where I thought that there was a "train" immediately behind the knoll pergola (on the spur) during the assassination and that this train vanishes shortly after the shooting. (W. Bond photos compared with later photos). Dick showed me photos I had never seen and convinced me I was wrong about this. He could not answer some of my arguments, but on the whole I agreed with him. He agreed with me, re doctering on Willis #5.

He let us copy approximately 20 pictures he brought with him, along with his plat map, and we returned them to him at the airport before he caught his plane.

We then left on vacation, so did not even see the developed pictures until we returned. We left in late June and returned in late July. We had planned to camp up the coasts into Canada, so Steve Burton gave us a list of people to meet along the way, and to see if we could find a farmer in Oregon by the name of White that held "right-wing sado-masochistic" parties on his farm. That was all the information he had, and we thought it was ridiculous to try to find "White" based on this information.

We stopped in Klamath Falls and met Larry Haapanen: an Air Force Lieutenant, who took us out to the former Wheat residence, and we talked for quite a while. The next person we met was George Rennar in Seattle, and then when we returned to Washington we met Edd Jeffords and Harold Porter.

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Edd is a reporter on the Tacoma paper, and chairman of the Citizen's Committee of Inquiry of Washington. He talked about one Fred Lee Crissman, who he had been doing a series of stories on locally - when Steve Burton wrote and told him that he might be tied in with the Garrison investigation and to check him out.

During the course of the two days we spent in the Tacoma area, we learned that the farmer by the name of White was involved with Crissman and that it was actually Crissman's ranch. Plus many other interesting facts - and all about the Universal Life Church.

We also learned that there had been a fellow up in Tacoma trying to get information from the Better Business Bureau and the Tacoma paper on Fred Lee Crissman, saying that he (Crissman) had been known to transport large sums of money to several cities in the country and that he had no visible means of support.

This fellow said he was ex-CIA and his boss was ex-FBI and that he worked for a dective agency and they were now working for <sup>the</sup> Department of the State, but never mentioned which department. He asked them to send any information on Crissman to a post office box in Goleta (a small town outside of Santa Barbara).

The Tacoma people he contacted were suspicious of him, especially since he was a stranger, so they gave all the information they had to Edd instead of him.

Since Hal Porter (CCI-Washington) worked in the Tacoma post office and can get things mailed without post marks, we decided to make a mailing of "junk" mail the following week to the post office box given in Goleta, and we would have the kids we were to meet in Goleta cover the mail box and see who picked up the mail.

We were convinced that it was one of Crissman's friends trying to siphon off and destroy information on Crissman. Oh, forgot to mention the name this fellow used, which we thought was funny because of what he was doing - E. Carl McNabb, which meant nothing to us.

We also advised Edd to contact the New Orleans office direct, and not to send the stuff down through Steve Burton - which they did.

We met Bonnie and Perry Adams in Goleta, and they arranged a cover on the mail box.

When we returned home, Steve Burton hadn't returned from Europe, but the book Farewell America was making the rounds as a manuscript and we read it. We had several discussions at Ray Marcus's home about it, and on one, Steve Jaffe, who had just returned from Paris, filled us in on all the pertinent information and to convince us it was "real". He had six critics there that night, and did his best to convince us.

When Steve Burton returned from his vacation, we meet at his home and told him everything we had done on our vacation. We brought up the E. Carl McNabb thing, and he said that that was Rose's alias - and to tell the kids in Goleta to lay off because he was one of us.

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He also said that Rose/McNabb was lucky to get out of Tacoma with his life, that he had been shot at while in Tacoma. We wrote this to Edd Jeffords, and on a hunch, sent a cropped picture of "Wilson" to see if it could look like E. Carl McNabb. He replied:

"I got a positive ID on the picture you sent via George. McNabb is Rose, or vice-versa. However, I talked to Lou Ivon yesterday and he said the office had sent no one to this area and that he had never heard of Rose or McNabb.

In view of my present investigations, I would like to find out exactly what Rose meant when he said he almost got killed in Tacoma. That could prove useful."

date: August 7, 1968

We were really upset about Rose at that point, mainly because he was a terrible investigator, if nothing else, and we went to Maggie Field and told her exactly everything we had done and found out in Washington, to see if she could have any influence over Steve Jaffe to get rid of Rose.

She then told us of how she met Rose - that Bill Turner had written her telling that he was sending someone down, and could he stay with her as he had no money. When he arrived (with Steve Jaffe) ~~he~~ didn't "hit" her right, and he told stories of living in his truck and that "they" were after him, that he had been shot at while on the beach at Goleta, etc.

She didn't buy the story and said that he couldn't stay there. She also called Turner while he was there to double check the story. Turner backed Rose up.

Several days later, Rose sent Maggie's daughter a post card from Dallas - and later called her for a date, that he "had to talk to her". Maggie let her go, only if her regular boyfriend followed her. Rose told Maggie's daughter that he really admired her mother, and all that kind of stuff. That was their last contact with Rose. You can confirm this by contacting Maggie.

About a week later, Bill Turner was visiting Maggie, and she told him about us coming over, and our suspicions of Rose. He then called us to see what we knew about Rose, and to convince us that he was "okay." As we remember the conversation, he said that if Rose isn't "we are all in trouble." We said that since he was the expert, we would take his word for it.

Meanwhile, Steve Burton and the Washington people were having personality clashes, mainly over the development of some material, so Larry Haapanen and George Rennar went down to San Francisco and meet Turner, Verb and Hock.

George Rennar wrote to us:

"Dick Sprague was here for a short while. He's quite a guy. I am most impressed by him and his work. I hope he can get out here again for a general bull session with more than just me.

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"Talking to ~~William~~ Turner, I get the impression that our own Mr. Clam (our alias for Fred L. Crissman) and his entourage played a much bigger role than merely sending cash from point to point. Clam seems to have had something to do with the aftermath, providing some very central services.

Well, the Hepburn thing is out. I haven't seen it to compare with the ms., but I thought it was a good move to publish it in Canada. Turner, by the way, is convinced it is authentic and that he knows the real "Hepburn," a Frenchman with connections to their oil and intelligence interests.

Remember the guy who showed up here asking questions about Clam, the one who looked like the group leader in the photo? He is one of Turner's people, and the name he gave up here is really his own, says Turner. (note - E. Carl McNabb)

I feel a hell of a lot better about the investigation now that I met Turner. I was afraid that things were a little haphazard all up the line, but, despite the fact that Burton neglects to tell him a lot of things, Turner is a thorough, careful man.

It seems to us up here that Wunderkind Burton is playing ego games with the investigation. Edd, Larry and I were quite surprised to learn that Burton is not the West coast head of the investigation. Steve neglected to tell us that Turner is playing any role at all, much less that he is supposed to be running the show. Our conversation proved clearly that Turner and we know information of value to the other.

For example, Turner knew of Edd and myself, having received the newsletter, but he never heard of Larry, a fellow investigator."  
date: October 24, 1968

After the showing of Farewell America and the firing of Jaffe from the office, we were talking to Steve Jaffe, he told us that Jim Rose had a complete copy of the film Farewell America in San Francisco (the latest is that it is now in Goleta) - and jokingly we said "E. Carl McNabb?" and he looked shocked that we knew the name meant Rose, and said that he didn't know we knew his real name. This was in December, 1968.

Every time we brought up Rose and our doubts to either Jaffe or Burton, we were told that he was doing very important work, had done very important work and that he was "on our side". That Rose had been given many dangerous assignments and had proven his merit because of this work.

Incidentally, Steve Burton told me that he had shown Larry Howard (with Rose present) the Wilson photo and asked Howard if he thought that Wilson was Rose. This was done apparently because of my allegation that Rose was Wilson. Again, an unusual amount of time was spent knocking down my suspicions. Howard of course knew Wilson and said that Wilson was not Rose, according to Burton. Burton said Wilson was approximately 6'5" tall and 250 pounds while Rose was 6'3" tall and perhaps 190 pounds. Burton said that they did resemble each other but that this was a coincidence.

FRED T. NEWSOME