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INVESTIGATION OF KILLING
OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD
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I. THE KILLING OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Oswald's Arrest

Lee Harvey Oswald was taken into custody by the Dallas, Texas, Police Department on November 22, 1963. He was confined in the Dallas City Jail and held pending investigation of his alleged connection with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the shooting of Texas Governor John B. Connally, and the murder of Dallas policeman J. D. Tippitt in Dallas that day.

Removal Plans Publicized

News media, on the basis of information furnished by the Dallas Police Department, reported that Oswald would be removed to the Dallas County Jail on Sunday morning, November 24, 1963. The Sunday morning newspaper, "The Dallas Times-Herald," reported the planned removal, and the second and third editions of that newspaper, both of which were put out shortly after midnight Saturday night, quoted Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry as having told reporters, asking when the transfer would occur, "you better be around here about 10 a. m." It is the established procedure, after charges have been filed against a prisoner, to transfer him, within a reasonable time, from the City Jail to the Dallas County Jail.

Removal Steps Initiated

On the following morning, Sunday, November 24, 1963, Oswald was moved from the City Jail to the third-floor office of the Homicide and Robbery Bureau of the Police Department. From there, at 11:15 a. m., he was escorted to an elevator leading to the basement of the City Hall. With his right wrist handcuffed to the left wrist of one officer and with a second officer holding his left arm, Oswald was escorted to the ramp of the underground parking area. Arrangements had been made to transport him to the County Jail in an armored car.

Oswald Killed

Oswald and his police escort reached the ramp area at approximately 11:24 a. m. A large group of law enforcement officers, newsmen, and cameramen had gathered in the basement area. Suddenly, a man darted forward from among the group, clutching a gun in his hand. It was a .38 caliber revolver, and he fired it at close range at Oswald. The bullet penetrated the left side of his abdomen (Exhibit 1), and Oswald dropped to the floor. His assailant was apprehended immediately and Oswald was taken by ambulance to Parkland Memorial Hospital. Surgery began at 11:32 a. m., but he never regained consciousness and was pronounced dead at 1:07 p. m.

Assailant Identified

Oswald's assailant was identified as Jack Ruby and he was charged on November 24, 1963, with Oswald's murder. On the following day, Ruby was transferred to the Dallas County Jail to await further court action. On November 26, 1963, the Dallas County Grand Jury indicted Ruby for Oswald's murder. He is now in custody, awaiting trial.

II. INFORMATION CONCERNING RUBY

Early Years

Jack Ruby was born Jack Rubenstein to Polish immigrant parents at Chicago, Illinois, March 25, 1911. He legally changed his name to Jack Ruby at Dallas, Texas, on December 30, 1947. One of eight children, Ruby grew up in Chicago's west side and did not complete his high school education.

He "scalped" tickets and worked as a vendor at sports events and conventions in Chicago. While still in his late teens or early twenties, Ruby moved to the West Coast, where he was engaged in such activities as soliciting subscriptions to periodicals and selling tip sheets at race tracks. He returned to Chicago about 1937.

Friend Murdered

When Leon Cook, a friend of Ruby's, organized a local of the Scrap Iron and Junk Handlers Union in Chicago in 1937, Ruby became secretary-treasurer. His employment with the local terminated when Cook was shot and killed by another union organizer following a dispute at a union meeting in 1939. Ruby was jailed overnight, questioned, and released. As a tribute to his deceased friend, Ruby adopted the middle name Leon. From 1940 to 1943, he traveled in the New England area, where he distributed punchboards at manufacturing plants. Associates during that early period of his life have described him as a "hustler" who could sell almost anything.

Military Service

According to United States Army Air Corps records, Jack Ruby served honorably from May 23, 1943, to February 21, 1946, when he was discharged as a Private First Class. Ruby qualified as a sharpshooter with the rifle. He saw no foreign service.

Chicago to Dallas

After his discharge from military service, Ruby returned to Chicago, where he was engaged primarily in the novelty business with two of his brothers until 1947. He then sold his interest in the business

and moved to Dallas, Texas, where a sister, Eva, was operating a supper club. He went to Chicago for a short time in 1947, but returned to Dallas when his sister indicated she needed help in operating the supper club.

Career as Night Club Operator

This was the beginning of Ruby's career as a night club operator and at the time he killed Oswald he was operating two clubs, one of which was the Vegas Club. His sister, Eva Grant, advised on November 28, 1963, that she and Jack Ruby each own 50 per cent interest in the Vegas Club. This sister assists in the management of this club. The Carousel, formerly a private club, has been operated by Ruby since 1961 as the Carousel Club.

According to Eva Grant, the Carousel Club is owned by S. & R, Incorporated, of which Ralph Paul and Ruby each own 50 per cent interest. Ralph Paul advised on November 28, 1963, he received 500 shares of stock from Ruby as collateral for loans and does not consider he owns any of the Carousel Club. Ralph Paul claims he believes Ruby owns 500 shares pledged to Paul and Ruby's brother, Earl, owns the remaining 500 shares. Earl R. Ruby advised on November 28, 1963, he has no information concerning S & R, Incorporated, and owns no part of Carousel Club.

Records of the Special Services Bureau, Dallas Police Department contain an application for license which shows ... ownership of the Carousel Club as S & R, Incorporated, Ralph Paul, president; Jack Ruby, vice president; and Samuel D. Ruby (Jack's brother), secretary-treasurer.

Records of Secretary of State Office, Austin, Texas, reviewed on November 29, 1963, set forth that this corporation was chartered February 10, 1960, and its right to do business in Texas was forfeited July 17, 1961. The forfeiture was based on findings that the corporation had no assets from which judgment for franchise, tax penalties and court cost could be satisfied.

Personal Characteristics

Acquaintances of Ruby have described him as hot-tempered. They stated he would resort to violent action with slight provocation but also described him as the type of person who would not hold a

grudge. He is known to have carried a gun and, on at least two occasions, was arrested for carrying a concealed weapon. He also has been described as a very emotional person and was nearly inconsolable following the death of his mother.

Relations with Dallas Police

Investigation disclosed that Ruby has had friendly relations with law enforcement officers in Dallas. A former associate stated the relationship apparently was established following the shooting of a police officer, when Ruby held a benefit in behalf of the deceased officer's family. Ruby encouraged various police officers to visit his clubs and, on occasion, gave them part-time jobs and free meals.

Travel

Investigation established that Ruby has traveled to various cities seeking entertainers for his Dallas night clubs. An associate, who was manager of the Tropicana Gambling Casino, Havana, Cuba, in 1958 and 1959, advised that he recalled that sometime in 1959 Ruby spent a one-week vacation in Havana, Cuba, and he had seen Ruby there at that time. Another individual advised that he and two companions visited Havana, Cuba, over the Labor Day weekend in 1959. He said they were at the Tropicana Gambling Casino one evening during this visit when a man approached and introduced himself by a name which this person

believes was Jack Ruby. The person who introduced himself as Jack Ruby stated he was from the west side of Chicago, Illinois, but had moved to Dallas, Texas, some years ago and indicated he owned night clubs.

Political Interests

Ruby has been described by associates and acquaintances as strongly anticommunist. Ruby reportedly has no particular interest in politics but has strong feelings of affection and admiration for people in the public eye.

No Relationship with Oswald

Investigation has not established that Jack Ruby ever knew or associated with Oswald.

FBI Interview with Ruby

Jack Ruby was interviewed by the FBI on November 24 and 25, 1963, at the Dallas City Jail. Ruby advised that after he heard that President Kennedy had been assassinated on Friday, November 22, 1963, he closed his clubs and had not planned on opening them again until after the President's funeral. He stated he was ashamed that anyone would want to participate in dancing or any entertainment after the assassination. He related that on Friday night he went to his house of worship for prayer.

Ruby stated that later in the evening he went to a delicatessen and had some sandwiches made up after which he drove downtown and called a detective at the Homicide and Robbery Bureau at the Police Department to see if anyone wanted the sandwiches. Ruby stated the detective told him they had eaten and the sandwiches were not needed. Ruby explained that, after talking with the detective, he decided to call radio station KLIF, Dallas to see if anyone there wanted the sandwiches. When he received no answer, he walked over to the Police Department to find someone from the radio station who could tell him how to contact the personnel still on duty at KLIF. Ruby continued that while in the hallway at the Police Department he saw the officers escorting Oswald down the hall to an assembly room.

Ruby advised he had never seen Oswald before and did not know him.

Ruby stated he personally knew many officers of the Dallas Police Department because since 1947 he had become acquainted with them while operating night clubs in the Dallas area. He commented he felt ashamed that officers of the Dallas Police Department were helpless to do anything to Oswald.

Emotional Pressure Grew

Ruby related that, after reading newspapers and watching television regarding events following the assassination, he found himself grieving and crying a great deal stating that President Kennedy was his idol. On Saturday morning, November 23, 1963, he spent an hour at the scene of the President's assassination and, after returning home, read newspapers and watched television. He thought that Mrs. Kennedy would have to return to Dallas for the trial of Oswald and he did not want her to have to undergo such an ordeal.

Ruby recalled an incident when an officer of the Dallas Police Department was killed by a hotel man who was freed. For this reason, Ruby said he was afraid that somehow Oswald might escape punishment for President Kennedy's death. Ruby continued that he

knew that Attorney General Robert Kennedy loved his brother very much, yet was helpless to do anything personally to Oswald for this killing. He further commented that newspaper accounts concerning the activities of President Kennedy's children also upset him.

He said he was proud of the way the City of Dallas had handled racial problems and thought it was the greatest city in the world so he wanted to be something better than anyone else.

Ruby continued that he thought about these things and had become very emotional.

Took Gun with Him

Ruby advised that at about 10:00 a.m., on November 24, 1963, he left his apartment in Dallas and drove to a parking lot located across the street from the central Western Union office in Dallas, which is one block from the Dallas Police Headquarters. He said that, before leaving home, he put his .38 caliber revolver in his coat pocket.

Concealed Means of Entry

Ruby stated that, after parking his car, he went to the Western Union office and sent a $25 money order to one of his

employees at Fort Worth, Texas. He then went to Police Department headquarters and entered the basement from the Main Street side. Ruby refused to explain how he got into the basement or what time he entered.

Claims Reasoning Beclouded

He advised that he was standing in the basement when he saw police officers bring Oswald out the door. When they came near him he lunged for Oswald and shot him in the stomach. Ruby claimed that his grief over President Kennedy's death had built up to the point that he committed this act during a moment of insanity that overcame his rationality.

Ruby stated that he had not planned to shoot Oswald, that no one knew he was going to the basement of the Police Department, and that no one assisted him in any way whatsoever. He said that he made no telephone calls to any persons telling them that he intended to shoot Oswald, and he declined to say why he had his revolver with him when he left his home to go to the Western Union office.

Investigation of Ruby

Investigation by the FBI established that on Friday evening November 22, 1963, and Saturday morning November 23, 1963, Ruby attended his house of worship. A motorcycle patrolman of the

Dallas Police Department reported that, while on duty at the site of the assassination on the afternoon of November 23, 1963, Ruby, who is known to him, was present and discussed the shooting with him. The officer said Ruby appeared solemn as did everyone else.

On the night of November 22, 1963, two witnesses observed Ruby at a delicatessen. An officer of the Police Department stated that at about midnight, November 22, 1963, he observed Ruby in the basement of Police Headquarters in the vicinity of a police assembly room where District Attorney Henry Wade was holding a press conference. This officer observed Ruby again several minutes later in a basement corridor near the Police Department Records Bureau.

Ruby in Police Building

Lieutenant James R. Gilmore stated that he had known Jack Ruby for a dozen years through frequent contact with him on official business. Gilmore recalls seeing Ruby in the Police building on the evening of November 22, during which he chatted briefly with Ruby. Ruby told Lieutenant Gilmore that he had distributed sandwiches to KLIF Radio Station employees in the Police building and, in Lieutenant Gilmore's opinion, Ruby did not appear to be unduly upset over the assassination of the President.

An individual who had known Ruby for over 20 years said that on the evening of November 22 he had seen Ruby in an elevator at the Police building. Ruby greeted him and jokingly asked if he had been arrested.

Henry Wade, Dallas County District Attorney, stated that numerous photographers and reporters were in the Police building on November 22, some of whom complained that Oswald was being held incommunicado. To prove that this was not the case, Wade arranged for some of them to view Oswald. During this period, Wade observed Ruby among this group.

An employee of radio station KLIF advised that when he returned to the radio station at approximately 1:45 a.m., on November 23, 1963, Ruby was at the station and had brought sandwiches and soft drinks for station personnel. This employee recalled Ruby was grieving for the Kennedy family.

At 8:00 a.m., November 24, 1963, Ruby arranged for the woman who usually cleans his apartment on Sunday to come to the apartment that afternoon. He said he would return at 2:00 p.m.

A Dallas police officer on November 24, 1963, pursuant to instructions, located Ruby's 1960 Oldsmobile at the parking lot across the street from the Western Union office.

Records of the Dallas Police Department concerning the arrest of Ruby following his shooting of Oswald indicate that Ruby had in his possession $2,015.33 cents in cash. Also located among Ruby's personal effects was a receipt for a $25 money order which had been time-stamped 11:16 a.m., November 24, 1963.

On November 27, 1963, investigation revealed that the .38 caliber Colt Cobra revolver, Serial Number 2744LW (light weight) used by Ruby to shoot Oswald was purchased in Ruby's name from Ray's Hardware Store, Dallas, Texas, on January 9, 1960. At the time of this purchase, Ruby gave his address as 3508 Oaklawn, the address of the Vegas Club.

Arrest Record

Records of the Dallas Police Department set forth nine separate instances wherein Jack Ruby, under Dallas Police Department Number 36398, was arrested on a variety of charges between February 4, 1949, and March 14, 1963. These charges and the dispositions are as follows:

Date	Offense	Disposition
2-4-49	Disturbing Peace	Paid $10 fine same date.
7-26-53	Investigation of carrying concealed weapon	Released 7-26-53. No charges filed.

5-1-54	Investigation of carrying concealed weapon	Released 5-1-54. No charges filed.
5-1-54	Investigation of violation of peace bond	Released 5-1-54. No charges filed.
12-5-54	Investigation of violation state liquor law	Complaint dismissed 2-8-55.
6-21-59	Permitting dancing after hours	Complaint dismissed 7-8-59.
8-21-60	Permitting dancing after hours	Posted $25 bond and released same date. No further disposition shown.
2-12-63	Simple Assault	Found "not guilty" 2-27-63.
3-14-63	"Alias Ticket" (This arrest resulted from ignoring a traffic summons)	Posted $35 bond 3-14-63. No further disposition shown.

The Dallas County Sheriff's Office advised on November 25, 1963, that Jack Ruby has no previous record with that office.

Records of the Texas Department of Public Safety, Driver and Vehicle Records, Austin, Texas, set forth that Jack Ruby had been issued twenty traffic tickets from April 21, 1950, through February 28, 1963, for negligent collision, running red lights, speeding, illegal turn, running stop signs, and accidents.

Records of the Identification Division of the FBI, Washington, D. C., contain one arrest for Jack Leon Ruby under FBI Number 693 083 E:

Contributor of Fingerprints	Name and Number	Arrested or Received	Charge	Disposition
Police Department, Dallas, Texas	Jack Leon Ruby #36398	12-5-54	Investigation violation State Liquor Law	Not submitted by Dallas Police Department

III. INVESTIGATION UNDER CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES

Basis for Investigation

If Oswald's death was the result of a conspiracy to deprive him of a constitutional right, for example, the right to furnish information to the Federal Government, or if any law enforcement officer was part of such a conspiracy or otherwise willfully permitted Oswald to be killed, there would be a violation of Federal Civil Rights Statutes.

As set forth in Part II, an extensive inquiry was conducted into Jack Ruby's background. All phases of his life were explored, including his movements from the time of Oswald's arrest until his death.

The FBI investigation also intensively pursued every other logical avenue of approach. Insofar as possible, interviews were conducted with officers of the Dallas Police Department on duty in the basement of the police building at the time of the murder and with a large number of news-media representatives who also were present.

Anonymous Telephone Warnings

At 2:30 a. m., Sunday, November 24, 1963, an anonymous male, speaking in a calm, mature voice, informed an employee of the Dallas FBI Office by telephone, "I represent a committee that is neither right nor left wing, and tonight, tomorrow morning, or tomorrow night, we are going to kill the man that killed the President. There will be no excitement, and we will be there, and we will kill him."

This information was relayed to Deputy Sheriff C. C. McCoy, of the Sheriff's Office, at 3 a. m., November 24, 1963, and to Captain W. B. Frazier, of the Dallas Police Department at 3:20 a. m., on the same date.

When Deputy Sheriff McCoy was notified, he stated that he had received a similar call from a man who said, "I represent a committee of around one hundred people who have voted to kill the man who killed the President." McCoy said that the Sheriff had been notified and that security precautions were being taken to protect Oswald.

Captain Frazier, when told of the call, stated that plans to transfer Oswald to the County Jail might be changed in view of this threat. He said he would furnish this information immediately to Dallas Chief of Police Jesse Curry. He was also advised that the Sheriff's Office had received a similar call.

At 8:15 a.m., November 24, the Special Agent in Charge of the Dallas FBI Office personally followed this incident by informing Chief of Police Curry of the facts concerning the anonymous call. Curry remarked that he had already received this information and was taking all necessary precautions. He stated that he had changed the schedule for moving Oswald and had two armored cars available. Oswald was to be in one, while the other car could be used as a decoy.

Transfer Plans

According to Chief Curry, plans for the removal of Oswald from the City Jail to the Dallas County Jail were in the hands of Captain Will Fritz, who was in charge of investigating the assassination of President Kennedy, the murder of officer J. D. Tippitt, and the shooting of Governor Connally. Fritz, according to Curry, told him he planned to remove Oswald sometime on November 24. Curry did not designate any time, but left it to Fritz' discretion. Curry said that he did not indicate to the press the specific time when Oswald would be transferred, but that when asked, he suggested that reporters return by 10 a.m. on November 24.

Henry [illegible], Dallas County District Attorney, said he asked Captain Fritz to see to it that Oswald was moved from the City Jail to the County Jail on the evening of November 22. [illegible], however, felt that Sheriff Decker did not like to have prisoners moved at night and that Oswald should be moved at a later hour.

Sheriff J. E. Decker stated that it was rumored among press representatives that Oswald would be transferred to the County Jail that day. Someone at the police department, perhaps Captain Fritz, called Sheriff Decker and indicated that Oswald might be moved that day although preparations of Oswald had not quite been completed.

At about 10:00 A.M., November 22, Sheriff Decker heard from an unidentified source that Oswald would be removed at 10:30 A.M., that day. His office confirmed this with the police but he does not recall how this was done.

Sheriff Decker also advised that on the morning of November 24, Chief of Police Curry called to advise that Oswald would be transferred by armored truck and solicited the Sheriff's opinion. The Sheriff told Chief Curry that it was up to him to make the decision and the

Sheriff's office had no plans for participating in the removal until Oswald was delivered to the County Jail.

Armored Truck a Decoy

Captain Will Fritz, head of the Homicide and Robbery Bureau, stated that he was interviewing Oswald in his office at 11:00 A.M., on

November 24 in the presence of two Secret Service Agents, a Postal Inspector, and two detectives, when he was informed by Chief Curry that Oswald was to be transferred to the County Jail at that time. Fritz said he had no prior knowledge of the time of removal. He and Curry agreed that an armored truck would be used as a decoy, but that Oswald would actually be transported in an unmarked police car.

Flanking Guards

Fritz instructed one detective to handcuff his left hand to Oswald's right hand and another detective to walk on Oswald's left side. Still another detective was assigned to walk behind the prisoner, while Fritz walked in front. They proceeded in this manner from Fritz' office on the third floor to the basement by way of a jail elevator. Upon reaching the basement, they used the door which would enable them to travel the minimum distance to the exit where the transfer vehicle was parked.

Basement Area Checked

Before passing through the door, Fritz went to the basement exit, where he was assured by a uniformed officer that the area was secure. He returned to the prisoner, and the group proceeded as before, with Fritz walking ahead through the exit door to the ramp where the transfer vehicle was located. As Fritz stepped forward

to open the car door, he heard a shot. Turning, he observed officers grappling with Ruby, who was unknown to him.

Pertinent Areas Secured

Assistant Chief M. W. Stevenson said that in preparation for Oswald's transfer, extensive security measures were put into effect. These called for all pertinent areas to be cleared and secured. This phase was under the supervision of Captain Cecil Talbert. After the area was secured, Captain O. A. Jones was to place additional detectives in the pertinent area. Stevenson issued specific orders regarding those who would be allowed at the loading site as well as in the adjacent area. According to Stevenson, some 60 to 80 officers were stationed throughout these areas.

Basement Security Plan

According to Chief Curry, Captain Cecil Talbert had been instructed to make certain that proper security existed in the basement of the Dallas Police building. Talbert stated that on November 24 he assigned 18 officers of the Dallas Police Department and 25 reserve officers to safeguard Oswald's removal from the City Jail to the County Jail. He said he made specific plans and gave detailed instructions regarding the route to be traveled by the transfer vehicle. He also issued specific orders to the officers responsible for the route and

the means by which Oswald was to be taken from the third floor of the Police building to the basement.

Orders to Check Identification Passes

Talbert also said he issued specific instructions that only police officers and accredited newsmen would be allowed in the parking area. He stated that a thorough search was made of the pertinent transfer area prior to the time Oswald was brought down to the basement. He estimated that, when unauthorized persons had been cleared from the building and conditions seemed suitable for placing Oswald in the transfer vehicle, there were approximately 150 reporters and television personnel in the pertinent area. He said he had given his men instructions to check the identification passes of all such individuals.

Captain O. A. Jones said that on November 24, he received instructions relative to Oswald's transfer. His job was to see that the armored truck, in which Oswald was to be transported, was placed in position in the basement. He was furnished additional orders to keep representatives of the press and news media away from the basement driveway. He passed along these instructions to the men under his command.

Ranking Dallas police officials who were interviewed stated there were no written instructions issued in connection with the transfer of Oswald from the City Jail to the County Jail.

Area Searches

Officials of the Dallas Police Department have stated that shortly prior to the shooting, the area was thoroughly searched and three city employees who were not authorized to be present were evicted. The area was actually searched on two separate occasions, approximately one hour and again one-half hour before the slaying.

Large Crowd Present

A Dallas Police Department detective, who was a member of the security detail in the basement at the time of Oswald's attempted removal, commented that a large number of news media personnel had been allowed to cover this activity, and the area was brilliantly illuminated by lights set up for television cameras.

At the time of the shooting, there were approximately 60 to 80 police officers on duty in the basement. The police do not have a record identifying the officers who were in the basement at the pertinent time, nor do they have any record as to the identity of some 150 other persons who were also present in the basement during the pertinent period. We are making intensive, widespread efforts to identify and interview all persons who were present when Oswald was killed

One detective on duty with the security detail in the basement said he had known Jack Ruby since about

1957 and that shortly after Oswald was shot, he had talked with Ruby. Ruby told him that he had walked down the ramp from Main Street into the basement on the east side and that he, Ruby, could not have timed his arrival better. When the detective asked Ruby if he had been challenged, Ruby answered that one policeman, whose name he did not know, had shouted at him, but that he merely ducked his head and continued on. Ruby told him that just as he reached the bottom of the ramp, Oswald appeared. When Ruby was asked how he knew Oswald, he replied he had been present at the press conference on Friday evening, November 22, at which Oswald had appeared.