

Rt. 7, Frederick, Md. 21701

2/21/68

Dear Miss Brunson,

I have just returned from a trip of several weeks and have quite a stack of mail, besides the things that normally keep me busy, so I must be brief.

Your letters of 2/6, 10, 14 arrived.

I can add nothing on Tippit.

The memo on Walker is very interesting. I'm going to give a copy of it to one of Garrison's staff and one to a west-coast friend for him to try and follow your analysis. It has been too long since I looked at that material.

If and when I hear from either, I'll let you know.

I have an artist friend who is working on the Altgens pictures. He knows much less about the case than you, much less than Spregue. Would you care to prepare for him a memo on the Alterations you think were made in the picture and let him and his photographer associates examine it? He has an original print of the Altgens shot. If you would, I'll forward it. He is an imaginative man who sees things I did not.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

AMERICAN INSURANCE AGENCY

109 WEST 12TH STREET      PHONE 856-3223

BAXTER SPRINGS, KANSAS 66713

2-6-68

Mr. Weisberg

I have finished paper on "Walker" letter and will send you a copy. Will mail it tomorrow.

*attached*

Here is something I intend to go into at greater length, but I wanted you to see a brief on it right away. Note that Couch's blood could not have been from the little piece of skull found on the south curb. Couch saw a pool of blood.

Mr. Geo. Thomson is not a nut; he is a fake, well financed. And among the things he has offered are a number which have turned out to be probable: silenced weapon, something happened to officer on right trunk of car, Couch's blood. Was he also hired or created to kill a rumor that Tippit was substituted for someone in the motorcade? Was he in fact created to be there waiting with all these theories in a ridiculous and unbelievable form when we finally got there? I think so.

Tippit is pretty, with pouting lips, underslung nose, long upper lip, deep inset in chin under the lips. -This speculation is for your eyes only. Its so far out I don't know as I want to be associated with it! Still -I will retain it as a possibility until it can be eliminated or that somehow staged shooting of Tippit otherwise explained. No pictures of Tippit. No autopsy information. Four bullets in the body. Two or three heard by most witnesses. Mrs. Markham's insistence that she talked to him for 20 minutes. And that small pool of blood beside the car; Kennedy also was instantly killed; he bled on the limosine, Mrs. Kennedy, the stretcher, and even the clean sheets the body was wrapped in were bloodied. Tippit shed less than I did when my foot was cut, much less. Sorry about this, chief: but you can't keep my imagination down.

BB *b.l.*

BLOOD ON THE GROUND  
(AND A BIG RUNAROUND?)

4-6-68

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Jean Hill testified that as she crossed the street and went up the hill by the steps she thought she saw blood on the ground. It turned out to be Koolaid. An FBI interview says a red snow cone. Mrs. Hill was about 30 years old, a substitute school teacher and the mother of two children. There is no chance that she would mistake blood for Koolaid. Besides Koolaid will not retain its red color if spilled on either the grass or the walk. A red snow cone will retain its color only if it is not melted and ice is not mistaken ~~byxxxx~~ for blood except in metaphor. There is, however, every chance that she was bullied and confused into saying she was wrong.

Mal Couch, Dallas TV newsreel cameraman testified that he saw a pool of blood "on the sidewalk near the steps". He did not retract that pool of blood nor was he encouraged to say it was Koolaid. However, confusion was introduced into his testimony in regard to the exact location. He is finally led to say that it was 60 to 75 feet from ~~xxxxxxx~~ Elm Street and 15 feet from the west end of the TSBD. This would put it in a different place than Mrs. Hill's blood. There are two possibilities: Couch's testimony was misrepresented in the transcript; or whoever bled on the ground near the steps where Mrs. Hill saw the blood then dragged on over to the west corner of the TSBD and bled some more. Couch's pool of blood was 8 to 10 inches.

Couch also says that a number of people were standing around pointing at this blood. There were in fact a number of people who saw this blood; but if any of them were called to testify, they did not get to mention this blood.

The blood then vanishes from the case. The Commission had no curiosity about it at all. I do.

#### READY'S RUN

Jack Franzen who was standing near the President's car when the shots were fired said in an FBI interview that the agents in the follow up car unloaded and these plainclothesmen ran up the knoll. James Altgens and Mrs. Gayle Newman said that "secret service men" ran up the knoll with the officers. The point here is that both Altgens and Mrs. Newman were referring to the moment right after the fatal hit to the President's head: one of the officers was Hargis, the other probably "Jackson". Altgens and Mrs. Newman were also in a position to tell who was a secret service agent and who was a civilian standing around. Besides pictures show no men standing around in plain clothes who could have been mistaken for secret service men at that moment.

Agent Ready admits he left the car but says it was to go to the President's car. Agent Roberts says he called Ready back and took him into the front seat of the car. Seth Kantor said the rumor that died hardest in Dallas was one started by a postman who claimed to be at the scene and saw a secret service man wounded and whisked back into the car and away. Photos show that the follow up car fell two or three car lengths behind the President's car right after the shots were fired. Marrion Baker said that when he stopped at the curb in front of the TSBD he saw a man leave the motorcade near the President's car, run to the curb and back to the car. (Might be Lem Johns but Johns wasn't near the limosine.)

I do not think Ready was wounded because he seems to be accounted for at Parkland. However, the rumor was also going around Parkland that a secret service man was wounded. (Kantor) But Parkland had not received a wounded agent obviously. If Ready ran for the curb and stumbled, which is likely since Hill fumbled and stumbled around, and was then taken back into the follow up car, it could give rise to the rumor that he was wounded and "whisked away".

The interesting thing about this rumor is that Kantor gives someone from Jaggars Chiles Stovall part of the credit for spreading the rumor. I have long thought, because of the "Walker" letter, which denotes a time when Oswald had to be working for Jaggars-Chiles Stovall, and was yet engaging in some mysterious activity, (which Jaggars must have covered at least when they turned over work reports that indicated Oswald was regularly employed from Oct. 13 to April 6th) -I have long suspected that all is not right with that firm. Ofstein their employee thought so too. If Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall was interested in spreading a rumor that a secret service man was wounded (Kantor also says that the rumor incorporated that the secret service man was in on the plot to kill Kennedy), then it could only have been to explain that spot of blood which so many saw that day, and to scotch the rumor that it was ~~not~~ the motorcycle officer who was wounded.

You will recall that witnesses saw this officer tip over, fall off his cycle, etc.

Bowers states that this officer got back on his cycle and rode off "in a moment". I still think there is a chance he was wounded. I think he may have been seriously wounded. He might have ridden the cycle off. He might have bled internally. Someone else might have ridden the cycle off, while he dragged on up by the Texas building where Couch saw the blood (if in fact Couch didn't see it in the same place Jean Hill saw it. It now makes more sense that Mrs. Hill and other witnesses were under the impression that the secret service fired back. Jean Hill says in one interview that she "thought she saw" the secret service fire back.

This also accounts for the fourth shot so many heard after the fatal hit to the President's head. Take Emmet Hudson for instance. He was on the steps. He heard a shot after he hit the ground, he made that very clear. Yet the photos make it apparent that he did not hit the ground until several seconds after the headsmasher to the President. Holland also heard this fourth shot. Jean Hill heard shots after the hit to the President's head. The interesting thing is that none of the secret service agents admit hearing this fourth shot. (Altgens who would be susceptible to official suggestions did not admit hearing it.) Witnesses on the overpass tend to have heard this fourth shot. Mrs. Newman thinks a shot may have been fired after they hit the ground causing them to fall back. They did not hit the ground, Newman makes clear, and Hargis, until the officers and secret service men ran in their direction, or up the knoll. They are still standing after the hit to the head. (A fourth shot hitting the President in a frame after 313, say 314 or 315, would not have been heard as this later shot.)

In short it seems to me that the secret service in the person of Ready may have gone for the curb and fired a shot and hit the motorcycle officer.

b.b.

2-10-68

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Here is a copy of the paper on the "Walker" letter.

In regard to my wild idea about Tippit, that this was staged because maybe the man was already dead, I don't want to harp on that. However, I did find the two pictures of him, Carlin Exhibits 1 and 2, and the officer portrait is a phony: the man's nose has been interfered with, for whatever reason. You can see that the face is shadowed above the middle of the nose. The tip end of the nose is missing entirely and an effort has been made to ~~give~~ give this man a great swollen hooked nose. Now you can look at the portrait above in flowered shirt made in about 1952, and see that he does not have that kind of nose. In addition to this the picture below in uniform show that it has been cut out, or I think it does. That picture's faked somehow. I am sorry to be reduced to talking about noses but that's the kind of case this is. It may be that the uniform picture was messed with so that witnesses wouldn't recognize Tippit as an associate of Ruby. But here is another of those instances where in order to check out a wild theory I find that someone has tampered with just the ~~evidence~~ evidence that would prove me right or wrong. If Tippit really had a big fat hooked nose, then I could drop this wild idea. Instead I find that he has been given a big fat hooked nose and that the only other picture of the man shows that he has an underslung nose. This is very sloppy work on the picture in the uniform to give this man a different nose. And the work is so sloppy that the end of the nose is missing entirely; that's plain to see. I just handed it someone else and she saw it immediately (not my wild idea, she just said where's the end of his nose?).

Did you know that the Tippit gunman lived next door to the Davis women at 404 East 10th Street? I have read the Tippit evidence in the past, of course, but I have never studied it systematically until lately. Virginia Davis (6H 454ff) was asked where the police car was parked and she said that it was parked near the hedge "between the apartment house where he lives in and the house next door."

No wonder she was so terrified counsel had to give her three minutes of silence to come up with the story he wanted. The "he" in her statement refers back to the gunman whom she was just talking about. This explains a lot of things which I won't go into now. And it opens up a whole can of ~~worms~~ worms to me: fishing worms, though. -And no wonder Reynolds was shot: it was a warning to all the neighbors.

There is also the fact that Henry Wade said the shooting occurred as the gunman left his rooming house, then he said a couple of blocks away and finally it was a mile. And it explains why the police put out the story that the cop was shot in the Texas theatre, both UPI and Chicago Tribune press Service carried this story all day Friday. It looks to me like they had a body and they didn't know where the hell to put it. -However, I reserve judgement. I know there is a lot I don't know about the Tippit shooting. Whatever you can tell me I will appreciate. And I understand if you can't.

*B*  
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THE "WALKER" LETTER

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The first step in unravelling the mystery of the undated letter is to divide it into two parts. Paragraphs 1,3,4,5,10, 11, and to a lesser extent 6,7, and 8, offer information as to the date on which the letter was written. Paragraphs 2,6,9,10, and 11 offer information as to the nature of the adventure in which Oswald expected to engage, and which occasioned the writing of the letter.

DATING THE LETTER

Paragraph 1. "This is the key to the mailbox which is located in the main post office in the city on Ervay Street. This is the same street where the drugstore, in which you always waited is located. You will find the mailbox in the post office which is located 4 blocks from the drugstore on that street. I paid for the box last month so don't worry about it."

The last sentence of the paragraph limits the possible dates of the letter to three: November, 1962, January, 1963 when the Oswalds lived at 604 Elsbeth Street in Dallas, and April, 1963, when they lived at 214 West Neely Street in Dallas. Oswald paid for post office box #2915 at the Dallas main post office on October 9, 1963 (Holmes H7,295). He paid rent on the box in December, 1962, and in March, 1963 (WR661).

(Post office boxes #6225 which Oswald purchased at the Dallas Terminal Annex post office on November 1, 1963, and #30061 which he purchased in June, 1963, in New Orleans are eliminated by Oswald's reference in the first sentence to "the main post office on Ervay Street".)

The first, second and third sentences of this paragraph denote a time when Marina Oswald did not have a key to Oswald's mailbox, did not know in which post office it was, and did not even know the location of the main post office in Dallas. By January, 1963, Marina by her own testimony was using the post office box for her personal mail. She testified that she sent a letter to a boyfriend in Russia and that the letter was returned to Oswald's post office box for insufficient postage since, unknown to her, postal rates had gone up one cent. Postal rates on first class mail raised one cent in early January 1963.

Marina offers the further information that when Oswald found this returned letter in the post office box he brought it home and read it to her and was very angry. We must assume that since Marina used the post office box as a return address she had some hope of retrieving a possible answer from the Russian boyfriend without Oswald's knowledge, that in fact she had a key to the box and might have gone to it during the day when Oswald was at work.

A further suggestion that the dates of April and January 1963 may be eliminated as possible dates for this letter is that the main post office in a city is one of the first landmarks noted by a stranger. By April 1963 Marina had lived in Dallas for five months. She had lived there for two months by January 1963. She was therefore no stranger to the city and should have known where the main post office was.

Paragraph 1 of this letter almost certainly eliminates April, 1963, as a possible date; and it makes a date of January, 1963, doubtful.

Paragraph 3. "I paid the house rent on the 2nd so don't worry about it."

This sentence could fit any of the three possible dates since Oswald paid the rent on the Elsbeth Street apartment for the first time on November 3, 1962 (10H257), which would cause it to fall due on January 2nd or 3rd, 1963. Rent was due on the Neely Street apartment on either April 3 or 2nd and Oswald paid it on one of those two dates. (WR172).

Thus, though the Commission pretends (WR 172) that this sentence indicates a date of April, 1963, it really throws it wide open: either of the other dates are possible too.

Paragraph #4. "Recently I also paid for water and gas."

This sentence eliminates a date of April, 1963, according to evidence in the Commission's own files. Oswald never paid a gas bill on the Neely Street apartment.

FBI agents Will Hayden Griffin and James C. Kennedy signed a report dated December 5, 1963, in which they state that they have been advised by the Lone Star Gas Company that gas service was turned on at 214 West Neely on receipt of a request made by Lee H. Oswald. The agents further state:

"On this date service was connected, March 4, 1963, a letter was addressed to Lee H. Oswald, 214 West Neely Street, requesting a deposit of \$10.00. This \$10.00 deposit was received by the Lone Star Gas Company on March 6, 1963, and credited under deposit No. B91455.

"No payments were ever made by Oswald following his posting of this \$10.00 deposit." (CE 1133, 22H112)

Oswald did pay a water bill of \$2.97 on about April 4, 1963. (Same reference.) However, Marina Oswald testified that they did not pay a water bill at the Elsbeth Street apartment which, if true, would also eliminate the dates of November, 1962, and January, 1963. (1H8) It might be well to keep in mind that Marina may have been encouraged to volunteer this information in order to prevent an identification of the undated letter with the Elsbeth Street apartment and a time prior to the Walker incident.

Paragraph 5. "The money from work will possibly be coming. The money will be sent to our post office box. Go to the bank and cash the check."

The word "possibly" suggests doubt, a time when Oswald had quit or been fired from a job and was in doubt as to whether he would receive his final pay. Oswald was allegedly fired from his job at Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall on April 6, 1963 and his final check from the firm was issued on April 10 and paid on April 12. Oswald, however, could have been in no doubt that he would receive his pay for work that he

It is impossible, however, to assign this paragraph to the other two possible dates. On neither of them was Oswald out of work or in doubt about receiving his pay. According to the records of Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall, he was regularly employed and regularly received his pay. (22H, 278-290).

(This paragraph actually points to a fourth date for the letter. I will discuss that point later.)

Paragraphs 6,7,8.

- "6. You can either throw out or give my clothing, etc., away. Do not keep these. However, I prefer that you hold on to my personal papers (military, civil, etc.).
- "7. Certain of my documents are in the small blue valise.
- "8. The address book can be found on my table in the study should need same."

These three paragraphs strongly indicate that Oswald was not at the apartment in question when he wrote this letter, that he was in fact not seated at his "table in the study". Had he been, he would most likely have put the address book with the key and the letter. And he would probably also have sorted out the military and civil papers from the small blue valise and left them for Marina.

Taken together these three paragraphs indicate a date when Oswald and Marina were separated, when Marina was at the apartment in question and ~~Marina~~ Oswald was elsewhere. They suggest that the letter was in fact mailed to her. This speculation is strengthened by the fact that Oswald nowhere in the letter mentions the number of the post office box, suggesting that he had put it on the envelope as a return address.

There is, however, no evidence that Oswald and Marina were separated in January or April 1963. They were separated in November 1962, separated in fact off and on from ~~the~~ October 9, 1962 to about Nov. 17, 1962.

These paragraphs seem to eliminate all three dates: April 1963, January 1963 and November 1962: I will suggest a fourth possible date, at a later point.

Paragraph 10. "I left you as much money as I could, \$60 on the second of the month. You and the baby can live for another two months using \$10.00 per week."

The first sentence of this paragraph lends itself to no other interpretation than that Oswald and Marina were separated at the time it was written. Paraphrased, it means quite simply, "When I saw you last on the second of the month, I left you \$60.00."

In so far as can be ascertained from the evidence the Oswalds were not separated in January or early April 1963. The only one of the three possible dates to which this paragraph could be assigned is November 1962, or an alternate fourth date which will be suggested later.



Paragraph 11. "If I am alive and taken prisoner, the city jail is located at the end of the bridge through which we always passed on going to the city (right in the beginning of the city after crossing the bridge)."

Since it is the county jail rather than the city jail which is located at the end of the bridge or viaduct leading to downtown Dallas, this paragraph suggests a time when Oswald himself was unfamiliar with Dallas. In January 1963 Oswald had lived and worked in Dallas almost three months. By April 1963 he had lived and worked there for more than five months.

November 1962, or earlier, is the most probable date for this paragraph.

#### CONCLUSIONS:

Paragraphs 1 and 11 suggest a time when both Oswald and Marina were unfamiliar with Dallas. This indicates Nov. 1962. Paragraph #4 eliminates April 1963. Paragraphs 6,7,8, and 10 specify a time when the Oswald's were separated. They are not known to have been separated in January or early April 1963. They are known to have been separated in November 1962, and earlier.

November 1962 would seem far and away the most likely date for this letter of the three possible dates. But there is enough doubt case on the November date by internal evidence of the letter to make me suggest a fourth date, which I will do later.

#### DETERMINING THE ADVENTURE

##### Paragraphs 2,9,6,10, and 11.

- "2. Send the information as to what has happened to me to the Embassy and include newspaper clippings (should there be anything about me in the newspapers). I believe the Embassy will quickly come to your assistance on learning everything.
- " 9. We have friends here. The Red Cross also will help you.
- "6. You can either throw out or give my clothing, etc., away. Do not Keep these...
- "10. ...You and the baby can live for another two months using \$10.00 per week.
- "11. If I am alive and taken prisoner..."

Paragraph 2 notes that the adventure if it comes off will be newsworthy. The Russian Embassy would jump "quickly" to Marina's aid. Thus we may assume that the adventure will have an international flavor not displeasing to the Russians.

Paragraph 9 in its reference to the Red Cross also connotes an adventure with an international aspect, since it would almost certainly be the

International Red Cross which Oswald refers his Russian wife to.

Paragraphs 6 and 10 suggest that Oswald plans to be gone for some time. He will not need his clothes and he envisions that friends, the Embassy, the Red Cross will have to come to the aid of his wife and child when her money runs out. While Oswald suggests in the last paragraph that he may be killed or jailed, he does not expect to be jailed since in that case he would need his clothes.

Paragraph 11. This offers an alternative, death or imprisonment in the event the adventure fails. The adventure is therefore both illegal and dangerous.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

The adventure described would seem to be some sort of spectacular defection. Marina testified that it was in New Orleans that Oswald concocted a scheme to hijack an airplane. He may have had a similar scheme in Dallas. Or Marina, since she displaced this undated letter forward to the date of the Walker incident may have also displaced the New Orleans hijack scheme forward-in time from November 1962. I would suspect some activity in regard to the fall missile crisis.

A FOURTH POSSIBLE DATE FOR THE LETTER October, 1962.

In spite of the fact that Oswald's statement that he paid the box rent "last month" would seem to eliminate October 1962 as a date for the letter, the rest of the letter suggests this date so strongly that I want to present the evidence on it. (On the chance that Oswald, not entirely at home in the Russian language may have inadvertently written "last month" when he meant "last week" or some other time.)

Paragraph 1 and 11 suggest a period when Oswald and Marina were unfamiliar with Dallas and Marina so unfamiliar with the city that she did not even know where the main post office was located. It suggests a time before Marina started using the post office box. Since Oswald purchased the box on October 9, we might assume that this letter was written right after that time and that Marina then started using it and the key which was sent her with the letter. We know from the episode of the letter to the Russian boyfriend that she was using the box in January 1963.

Oswald worked at Leslie Welding Co. in Fort Worth through Monday October 8, 1962. He did not show up for work the next day and instead suddenly appeared in Dallas where he rented post office box #2915. It is uncertain where Oswald lived during all of this time. He was registered at the YMCA from the 15th to the 19th. Some of this time was spent at the Gary Taylors at 3519 Fairmount, which address Oswald used in cashing his first two paychecks from Jagers Chiles Stovall.

Paragraph 3 with its reference to Oswald's having paid the house rent on the 2nd could refer to the rent on the Mercedes Street apartment which was overdue on the weekend of Sept. 29 or 30th (WR \$32) or the weekend of October 6 and 7, 1962. This would explain Oswald's admonition, "so don't worry about it".

Paragraph 4 eliminates April 1963 as a date for the letter, since Oswald never paid a gas bill on Neely Street according to the Commission's own files. However, Marina's statement that "water was free" on Elsbeth Street also eliminates the dates of January 1963 and November 1962 when they lived on Elsbeth Street. If true Marina's statement means that this letter could not have been written after the move from the Mercedes Street apartment in Fort Worth. The date of the letter would then be October 1962.

Paragraph 5 seems to belong to October 1962 to the exclusion of any other date; The Warren Report itself states:

"Oswald worked at the Leslie Welding Co. on Monday, October 8, but failed to appear on the following date. He was already in Dallas. He falsely told his wife that he had been discharged and told George Bouhe that the job had been a temporary one. Sometime later the company received a letter from him stating that he had "moved permanently to Dallas", and asking that the wages due him be forwarded to him at box 2915 in Dallas." (WR 639)

If this paragraph of the undated letter does in fact refer to Oswald's last check from Leslie Welding, it would explain the doubt Oswald expresses as to whether the money from work will come. It would also mean that the letter falsely attributed by the Commission to the Walker incident with a date of early April 1963 was actually written after Oswald paid for the box on October 9, 1962, and before he received his check from Leslie Welding. The check from Leslie Welding was ~~sent~~ paid through the bank on October 25, 1962. (22H277). This was a short check. That Oswald and not Marina cashed it may have meant that the adventure did not come off as expected.

###

2-14-68

Mr. Weisberg:

I have found a place to look for the motorcycle officer on the knoll. Or rather Penn Jones long ago pointed out one but I missed it, maybe you have too. Jones says that one of the Nix or Muchmore frames, he isn't sure which, in "Four Days" shows the white helmet and goggles of a motorcycle officer at the corner of the wooden fence about 15 feet from where the "jeep" was at one time thought to be. Jones thinks the man is behind the fence, apparently because the rest of his cycle doesn't appear. I would guess that this would be a case where the helmet and goggles of the officer who rode his cycle up the knoll were left in while the cycle was painted out.

I don't have a copy of "Four Days" and can't find one.

I wrote you some time ago that I thought this officer was painted off the side of the limosine in the vicinity of Z255, which corresponds to Altgens' picture. Z193 shows the inside rider is inside the same traffic lane as the President's car and moving steadily up. Willis #5 shows him still moving up. At that rate he would be where he appears in Altgens right next to the car and far enough up on it to have to look back or square to the left to see the President. Thereafter he falls back. Thus in Z255 he ought to be pictured up against the trunk of the limosine.

Zapruder couldn't have shot over him since he didn't shoot over the arm and head of the waving man who disappears in Z243. This officer would appear in any picture above the waving man. And he can't be too far in the rear for Zapruder to have caught him in the picture since he has had to turn his head to look back at the President. He is next to the car and up on it. Yet he does not appear in Z255 at all, and I think possibly this is a paint job. This would explain all the blue paint. And it would explain the sudden cessation of reflections on the body of the limosine after the waving man disappears. Up until then this officer had reflected brightly on the trunk of the limosine. Other reflections show too. Suddenly no more reflections.

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