

POLICE RADIO LOGS - ADDITIONAL MEMORANDUM

Although previously given Exhibit 705 (17 H 362-ff), under date of March 16, 1964, by the FBI, in which the broadcasts by the state police relating to the Kennedy assassination are listed; under date of March 23, 1964, (368 ff) made available by Sheriff Decker and represented as "all radio transmissions" relating to the assassination of the President coming from the Sheriff's radio station; under date of March 23, 1964 (390 ff) in which Inspector Sawyer of the Dallas police dept. is represented as having "made available the following transcript of all radio transmissions on Channel¹ and Channel 2 of Dallas police radio station KKB-364, covering the period 12:20 p.m. November 22, 1963, to 6 p.m. November 24, 1963, as they relate to the assassination of President Kennedy, the murder of Dallas police officer J. D. Tippit, investigations of said assassination and murder, and the security and movement of Lee Harvey Oswald ..."

During the appearance of Insp. Sawyer, it became obvious the Dallas police had been neither complete nor accurate in the information they supplied.

But not until July 16, 1964, did the Commission do anything ~~about~~ about it. Under Date of August 11, 1964, the FBI finally provided what it described as "a transcript of the radio transmissions ... of the Dallas police radio station ... 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on November 22, 1963, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on November 24, 1963 ..."

Of course, the Commission had made up its mind well in advance of this. By August, its work was close to done. Obtaining a complete radio log at that time could have done not very much good and, in fact, had the log been complete to begin with, there is no reason to believe the Commission would have conducted any kind of a thoroughgoing investi-

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gation because all the evidence is that they didn't with respect to anything. They had others do their investigating for them.

The August 11 memorandum from the FBI is Exhibit 1974 (23 H 832-940). This Exhibit actually has four pages of type script per page of the book because the photocopies are produced at right angles to the normal running of the page, two on each side.

Cursory examination shows the names of the callers seem to appear in all cases, sometimes with a number.

If the Commission had any resentment toward the police for this imposition upon the Commission, or if it felt such conduct was at all reprehensible, it no where in the Report or anywhere else I have seen has even made comment upon this misrepresentation by the police.

To the police, this was a clear indication that they could get away with anything before the Commission, and they certainly did.

This note relates to timing on Brennan. Both logs indicate that prior to 12:19 there was a call for an ambulance to care for an epileptic at 100 North Houston.

Prior to 12:19 and after 11:51 there are a number of calls to 289 which is marked as "(not assigned)". The log also indicates it is believed to be 260 - Harkness - who does not answer, either in his own name or that of 289. These calls to 289 continued until after 12:20.

260 was called right after 12:40 and didn't answer. Harkness was known to have been at the Book Depository before this time, outside.

In response to a call from the dispatcher after 12:45, Tippit reported, "I'm at Kiest and Bonnieview". Immediately following in the log is an entry of a call by 87, Patrolman R. C. Nelson, saying,

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"I'm going north on Marsalis on R. L. Thornton." 87 was called in a broadcast by the dispatcher in the same call as Tippit was. So, there was another policeman available to ride for awhile in Tippit's car. And Tippit knew it.

Note, Larry, this may indicate two police cars on duty in Oak Cliff. Tippit may not have been the only one. We don't know whether Nelson was in the car or had a walkie-talkie, but it would seem the chances are better that he was in a car.

87, Nelson, was called after 12:48 and didn't respond.

A call after 12:49 says Deputy Chief George L. Lumpkin was in charge. Presumably at the Depository.

When 87, Nelson, was called again right after 12:52, he responded, "Out down here." I don't know what this means because I recall no instruction to him, only the calls he didn't answer.

A call from Patrolman Brooks, 174, after 12:53, said he would "be out along the tracks just west of the building." So as of that time the search was still going on outside.

As of 12:55 plus, there was still no clothing description.

Harkness checked in after 12:55.

A short while later, the dispatcher called Tippit asking his location. He did not respond. If he was in the car, he should have.

After 1:07 there was ~~still~~ still no clothing description.

Note the dispatcher telling an "unknown" that the suspect in the Tippit shooting had just passed "401 East Jefferson". Isn't that the wrong way to the movie?

At about 1:43 p.m., 410, identified as criminal investigation division, reported enroute to Trade Mart with 3 detectives unless otherwise directed. They sure were sitting out the war.

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Between the 1:45 and 1:46 time checks, the dispatcher broadcast the information that the suspect "just went in the Texas Theater on West Jefferson. Supposed to be hiding in the balcony."

A little over 20 minutes earlier, he had been reported 6 blocks away. This rate of progress is hardly the walking pace the Commission has insisted Oswald could maintain. Part of the time he was reported running!

Before the 1:47 time check, about halfway between the two, 492, still unidentified except as "Special Service Bureau", reported, "At out at re Texas Theater." I would suggest this could more accurately have been "Out, at Texas Theatre."

Now, Larry, these are quotes from Exhibit 1974, as I give it to you the first time. It certainly is mysterious how this always unidentified number, which I believe likely was Carroll, turns up within a half-minute of the report of the suspect at the theatre. It is incomprehensible that 492 could not have been identified.

At the 1:51 time check, Car 550/2 (Sgt. Hill) reported, "Suspect on shooting of police officer is apprehended and en route to the station."

In 4 minutes or less after the arrival of 492, Oswald was not only apprehended, but on his way to the police station.

Although 305, a homicide car, ordered, "Tell that squad to stand by there for me with that man", when the dispatcher called Sgt. Hill, Hill replied with the message that C. T. Walker, 223, was in the car with them and someone should pick up his car in the rear of the theatre.

At this point, between 1:53 and 1:55, 509 of the crime lab sent word to No. 221, Summers, at the scene of the Tippit killing, that he

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would be out there in a few minutes. That was o sure slow movement.

Still before the 1:55 time check, Sgt. Hill reported they were in 492 Special Service car. And still before the time check, Hill reported his location at Zangs and Colorado. This is about 15 blocks from the theatre.

After the 1:55 time check, Capt. Westbrook asked for a photographer at the Texas Theatre and was told by the dispatcher that 509, previously reported en route to the scene of the Tippit killing, was on his way. 221 radioed the correction that 509 was at the Tippit scene.

Immediately following the 1:59 time check, the dispatcher ordered car 505 of the crime lab to go to the theatre for photography. At that time 505 was at the scene of the Tippit killing and said he would be finished and would go there immediately. The obvious question is why did they want a photographer after the suspect had been taken away?

Larry, note there are pictures showing Capt. Westbrook (550) with Oswald, but I thought were taken at o the theatre.

~~Agf~~ After the 2 p.m. time check and before the 2.04; McDonald was called by the dispatcher and in reply said, "I'm en route downtown to make a statement." In view of the fact that Carroll had the prisoner, Carroll and McDonald should have been downtown and free at approximatély the same time. This addresses itself to the question of the markings on both the pistol and the bullets. It should also address itself to the conflict in their statements about who actually seized and took possession of the pistol.

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A note on the Markham part of the Tippit investigation: At 1:51 NO. 26, Patrolman Hammer, said "we remained out to homicide bureau with a witness to this officer's shooting." About a dozen messages after the 1:59 time check, 26 radioed the dispatcher, "see if you can raise somebody over there at Tippit's car". 221 (Summers) responded he had just left there and "what do you want to know?" 26 then said, "Go back and get this witness's shoes she left on the hood of the car and we'll be in Homicide Bureau." 221 replied that Captain Doughty had the shoes. And after the 2:01 time check, Hammer, when asked where he was by Homicide, 305, (Detective Leavelle, Beck and Boyce), said "I'm at the city hall fixing to go in the basement." Homicide said he'd meet Hammer there.

I note this, first, to show the length of time Mrs. Markham remained at the scene of the crime and second, ^{to note} the time it took a police car, with all of its prerogatives, to go from the scene of the Tippit shooting to the downtown area, in the event it is possible to make a comparison of this trip with that attributed to Oswald.

The Crime Lab car (509) left the scene of the Tippit shooting for the Texas Theatre at 2:04.

After the 2:04 and before the 2:08 time check, No. 75 (Sebastian) reported, "I'm still in front of the theatre if anybody wants anybody over here."

After 2:10 and before 2:13, Lt. Wallace was reported to be at the theatre, and then was reported by 384 to be at the sheriff's office.

Previously, 447, identified as only as Special Service Bureau, had asked if Deputy Chief Stevenson was back on the air. Getting no affirmative response, then they asked for Lt. Wallace. They have not

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yet identified where they are, nor, of course, why they wanted these officials.

A person leaving a car with a rifle was reported at 5818 Belmont at 2:09. Two patrol cars went to the scene.

After the 2:19 check, 474A, Special Service Bureau, was still in the vicinity of the railroad tracks and Cobb Stadium.

Secret Service Agent Sorrels was taken to "the Dallas Morning News" by 113 (C. R. Osburn) with third platoon officer Joe B. Jones at about 2:21. They report they were to "remain out on special assignment" .

At 2:23 No. 22 (L. L. Hill) was ordered to join 474A in the search for a white man carrying a rifle.

Two of the cartridge cases located at the scene of the Tippit murder had been recovered by 105 (Pod and Jez) who turned them over to Crime Lab, Pete Barnes. (508)

52, identified as "unknown", asks about the suspect ~~at~~at Cobb Stadium, which of 3 overpasses it could have been? The dispatcher's response was partly undecipherable on the tape but not on the air. He replied only, "he is walking on the ..."

After the 2:28 time check, 474A reported "the car we want picked up is on the parking lot in front of this Merchandise Mart, just north of Cobb Stadium." Asked if it was a 1964 Falcon, he replied, "No, it is a red panel truck with writing on the side." License No. 3E9087.

After the 2:33 time check, 75 (Sebastian) was ordered to "report back to the Texas Theatre and call operator 10 on a mark out."

The log of Channel 1 for the 22nd in Exhibit 1974 ends with a note "No other pertinent transmissions through 3:00 p.m."

Instead of Channel 1 for Saturday following, Channel 1 for 10 a. m.

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to 2 p.m. Sunday follows.

Just as Channel 1, the main frequency, was, to all practical purposes, out of service because of garbling at the time of the Kennedy shooting, so exactly is the situation at the time of Oswald's killing. Following the 10:2⁹ time check, there are only 2 notations of traffic of a specific nature, plus a note that various units were checking in and out with routine messages. Then the end of the belt on which the transcription was made is noted at 10:36. At 11:19, the dispatcher called 602, the ambulance, and the ambulance reported it was clear. The transcript then read, "(garbled transmission) report to the basement Code 3 (emergency, red lights and sirens). 108 (Patrolman R. J. Ross) is en route."

When, after the 11:22 time check, "Unknown" asked the nature of the emergency, the dispatcher reported simply, "It's a shooting." This is followed immediately by the 11:24 time check.

Also note that broadcasts related to the assassination appear in Exhibit 705 that do not appear in 1974, which presumably is complete and total. For example, after the 3:13 check and before the 3:14, 280 reports, "I am not able to find Mr. Sorrels at Parkland Hospital." He had been asked to locate Sorrels by 4, Fisher. The dispatcher told 280 ~~he~~ he last heard of Sorrels en route to the newspaper. There is also traffic relating to the car Tippit was driving and its presence at that time (prior to 3:26) on the lot. Information about the sighting of an armed person at the airfield also is eliminated, as are instructions to 47 (after 3:40) for him and 45 to "remain out with the prisoner." Likewise, ^{and}Probably is of some significance, is the report

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from 509 (Crime Lab) that he was "clear from Patton and 10th" at 4:22 p.m.

Between 11:15 and 11:16 in Exhibit 705, 24 was reported en route to Parkland and said his assignment was "we are going to guard the Governor and also investigate a prisoner." Is this an investigative prisoner in need of hospitalization in connection with the assassination?

And in this connection, note the lack of calls back by various officers assigned to investigate other suspicious circumstances and persons believed by the police to have been connected with the assassination.

There is no time check between 11:26 p.m. Nov. 23, 1963, and 1:08 a.m. Between the two, 367 asks the dispatcher, "Is the crowd out of the halls up there now?" The dispatcher replied, "Biggest part of them. They are still some of them up here."

This is all from Exhibit 705 which does not identify any of the numbers. I have not yet identified this number, but according to the appended data to 705, it is that of a detective. By inference, this detective was inside the building and I believe this inquiry should be considered in connection with the first entry after 1:08 a.m., the dispatcher saying, "113, on mark out report to Homicide Bureau at 1:17." 113 affirmed. Could this be a time when Oswald was brought up, to Homicide, from jail?

In 705 I have seen no indication prior to the change from p.m. to a.m. of transition from the 22nd to the 23rd, and hence, I believe the entry at 11:26 dated as of the ~~24~~ 23rd is in error. If not, I will indicate it later.

Regardless of whether or not any of these items in 705 are of

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great interest at the moment, at the time of the investigation every-
thing was of importance and great interest. There can be no reasonable
excuse for this information to have been edited out of Exhibit 1974.

But the unsigned memorandum from the Dallas office of the FBI
(23 H 832-3) quotes the Commission's letter of July 16 as requesting
of the FBI "new transcript ... for the period 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on
Friday, November 22, 1963, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov-
ember 24, 1963."

So it was the Commission which decided that it didn't want all
the information!

This FBI memorandum refers to Exhibit 705 as containing "all the
radio transmissions from Chanel 1 and Channel 2 ... from 10:00 A.M.,
November 22, 1963, to 6:00 P.M., November 24, ~~1963~~ ^{as} they relate to
the assassination ~~of~~ and the Tippit murder.

Returning to Sunday morning on Exhibit 1974, prior to the killing
of Oswald there is no reflection of any traffic having to do with
Oswald's security.

The orders from the dispatcher at about 11:25 a.m. to 108, 118
and 95, "the first squad to arrive - stand by your radio so we will
have radio contact with the basement," is a very clear indication that
even the simple precaution of having radio contact with the basement
was not taken in advance of the movement. I recall no reference to
this in the Report itself.

63 (Officer Bentley) may have been there first because he was told
"remain by your radio so we will have radio contact." Just before
11:26, the dispatcher didn't know ^{if} they had a suspect or a description!

It is by no means certain, but on p.123 of the original, or 893
of Vol. XXIII, Bentley asks of the ambulance presumably taking Oswald

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to Parkland Hos_pital, "Is that one man squad with that ambulance?" and the dispatcher says, "Yes." So Bentley goes out there.

Is it possible that only a single policeman in a squad car accompanied the ambulance?

After 11:28, the dispatcher still didn't know if the suspect in the basement shooting had been apprehended!

The killing of Oswald apparently completely denuded the Elm St. area of police for three times between 11:36 and 11:39 the dispatcher ordered all of these officers ~~to~~ Code 2 (Urgent - red lights and siren as needed) to Parkland Hospital. Just what they were going to do for the dead Oswald I cannot figure.

At 11:55, 108 (Patrolman R. J. Ross) asked the dispatcher if he was needed any further in the basement, and he was told to return to service. So, in the absence of any evidence of a search of the basement area, there is also an absence of anyone to protect it in the event anyone ultimately thought it would be a good idea to search the area. But at a point between 12:05 and 12:15, 101 (Patrolman N. P. Doran) left the basement for Parkland and inquired, "Any ^{Any} ~~Any~~ code on this transfer?" and he was told, "Code 2 - Urgent."

It would be interesting to know what required an urgent transfer from the basement of the police station to the hospital three-quarters of an hour after the shooting. He was also ^{urged to} used ~~to~~ caution because "there is other emergency equipment running in the area." After 12:15 and before 12:16, 101 reported he was leaving Parkland for the basement "to get another load", apparently of reserves, who also had earlier been order^{ed} ~~to~~ Parkland. He wanted the supervisors to round them up. And they continued to pour into Parkland. After 12:18 p.m., 262,

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Patrolman T. W. Yetts, reported himself and five other threewheelers en route. The problem seemed to be with the crowd. It seemed as though the fire department left the ropes at the Trade Mart two days earlier! Sgt. Richcreek asked the dispatcher to have someone pick up the ropes and transport it to Parkland. However, shortly thereafter, Richcreek inquired about ~~reported~~ the crowd situation at Parkland. "Code 1 (routine)" was the dispatcher's reply.

The Channel 2 log begins on p.905. Its original page number in the typed version is 148.

In the main log, log 1, where, for example, 303 was indicated as only "homicide", in channel 2 the names are known. It is Sims and Boyd. This may be sloppiness, but I have noticed there is almost no case in which the homicide, CID or special service calls are associated with names. It may be coincidence, but since just about all of the other numbers are identified with names, the coincidence is just too unusual.

Fritz went to the hospital instead of to the scene of the crime. This appears in a log entry following the time of 12:40. What was the chief of homicide doing going away from the scene of the crime?

In the original copy of the log given the Commission, Exhibit 705, on p.464 immediately following the time check of 12:40⁴, the statement "the type of weapon looked like a 30-30 rifle or some type of Winchester" is attributed to "Unknown". In Exhibit 1974, original page 170, exactly these same words at exactly the same point in the log are attributed to No. 9, Insp. J. H. Sawyer, who was then in charge at the Depository Building.

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Note that this precedes any broadcast description of the suspect.

Sgt. Harkness, No. 260, who I am certain was seen to interview Euins, less than 5 minutes before the assassination, at 12:48 tells the dispatcher of having sent an epileptic to the hospital and asks the dispatcher to send a squad to the hospital to get the information. Is it not strange that he is concerned about information about the epileptic, whereas he wasn't about the description of the President's possible assassin?

In Exhibit 705 (17 H 465) Harkness's broadcast is attributed to "Unknown". Is that not also strange?

This may be a repetitious note, but both logs agree that it wasn't until after a 1:35 broadcast that Insp. Sawyer, saying he had been out of his car, told the dispatcher the building was "being secured now". But less than 5 minutes earlier - after 1:30 and before 1:33,- he told the dispatcher to have the escort cut their sirens. Among a number of items missing from the original ^{version} ~~version~~ of the log, Exhibit 705, and included in Exhibit 1974, is a report to 257, Officer Whitman, from the dispatcher, immediately after the 1:44 time check, asking him to tell Insp. Sawyer "they are holding up a northbound freight train there in the ^{yards} ~~yards~~ and they want to shake it down before they let it go. Do you want to send some officers over there to shake it down?"

While this message was addressed to 257, 297, described as a three-wheeled motorcycle, operator unknown, affirmed receipt of the message.

Other items are omitted on 705, such as the splitting of the crew to whom the radio number of 39 had been assigned.

Immediately after the 2:01 time check, the dispatcher ordered 253, Patrolman Huggins, to go to Elm and Houston and "contact Capt.

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Fritz. Tell him to contact his office." At this point, "Unknown" in both versions of this log interrupted to say, "Captain Fritz just left about a minute ago. He's in his car."

There is no effort made by the dispatcher to raise Capt. Fritz in his car, which strikes me as a strange, very strange, circumstance.

On the finding of the rifle: Both logs agree that after 2:41, or about an hour and 20 minutes after the rifle was found, the dispatcher didn't know about it, and the dispatcher at this time didn't know where Capt. Fritz was. He said he had no phone he could call "out there" on.

Larry, I have now waded through all of it. I may be redundant in saying this, but the omissions, inconsistencies and disagreements, I think are not accidental. For example, 492 is never identified. I believe he, rather than 550/2, is Carroll. ~~550/2~~ is originally incorrectly identified as Capt. Westbrook. Actually, he is Sgt. G. L. Hill. Capt. Westbrook is 550.

Yet one of the dispatchers, Sgt. Henslee, identified 550/2 as Westbrook. It is inconceivable he didn't know otherwise. Henslee also found it convenient to avoid identifying 300, who is Capt. Fritz. The reluctance of the police, both in Henslee's version and in the final Exhibit 1974 version, to identify any of the homicide, ~~by~~ CID, Criminal investigation, and special service people, is in itself a highly suspicious thing. The misidentification as "unknown" in the original version, whereas the identity was known, is difficult to attribute to sloppiness.

Had the Commission ever intended to do an investigation, the original version of the log would have made it difficult and the final version would have required supplementation.

The Commission had nothing to say about this, including on those

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occasions when appropriate witnesses were on the stand. For example, in what became Sawyer Exhibit A, what ~~it~~^{is} represented as a "transcript of radio log~~s~~ shooting of President Kennedy November 22, 1963," by Henslee, is introduced in a politely evasive way by describing it as what "was recorded on channel 2". It doesn't say it is ~~all~~ that was recorded on channel 2. The question was never raised by anybody.

Henslee introduced his alleged transcript of the log for channel 1 as "a transcript of radio transmissions pertain~~ing~~^{ing} to the incident . . . and most routine transmissions were left out for reasons of brevity." As though anything could be routine in the assassination of a President! Again, neither the police nor ~~the~~ Commission, nor the Commission's staff, had any questions.

To anyone familiar with investigations at all, the acceptance by the Commission of these documents is a clear giveaway that the Commis~~s~~ⁱon never itself intended to conduct any investigation. And what the acceptance of these documents without a strong reaction by the Commission meant to these police is only too obvious.

The number of leads and clues not followed I cannot begin to estimate. It would take a study of more than ~~a~~^{the} day and a half I've spent on this in addition to the time on the original log, 705, to itemize them. But in addition to the initial question about this secrecy, ~~the~~ deceptions, omissions, etc., and the already indicated number of suspects and arrests of which nothing is ever heard again, there are many other items. As one example, Officer Price, 295, first told the dispatcher the top of the President's head had been blown off. Then he backed out on it and tried to tell the dispatcher to forget about it, he won't say anything further about it himself.

Now we know that as soon as the Presidential car got to the hos-

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pital, the President was covered from the waist up. So the question is: How did Price know? He saw something, and it isn't possible he wasn't interviewed by somebody, but he was not called as a witness; he did not give a deposition; and there is no affidavit from him.

I believe we discussed the description of the Tippit killer as having "curly hair" in one of the broadcasts. It can be no accident that the Commission doesn't - doesn't even attempt to - learn who gave this description to the police.

I recall nothing about the delivery of the two empty cartridge cases by the Davis women. Of course, it may be this happened under circumstances where a radio report would not have been in order. At this point, I just don't remember. But with, as I recall, two different identifications of cartridge cases, one ~~of~~ a .32 and one a .38, from automatics, and with the police having two pistol cartridge cases in their possession, why did they need two more? And even if they had only one automatic cartridge case, why did they need two more?

What happened to all the reports of people seen carrying rifles or with rifles in their cars? What happened to the red panel truck? What about Sorrels' great desire to have the sheriff get his people to locate the witness about the parked or stalled truck?

It is possible my recollection is faulty on some of these, but it cannot possibly be on all of them. There are many, many ignored leads and abandoned clues. These logs are restricted to what relates to the assassination of the President and the murder of Tippit. It is safe to presume that some information from the logs pertinent might not have been included. It is hardly possible the information that was included was not germane.

In all I have a list of about 235 radio numbers, in almost all

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cases with names. There may be a few duplications, and there are some cases where the same number is used by different people. I think for the most part the repetitions are probably honest and accurate and represent different personnel using the same equipment.