

OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING SA WARREN C. DEBRUEYS

SYNOPSIS: SA DeBrueys apparently went to Dallas from N.O. after the assassination, and aided in the investigation. He may have attended interrogations of Oswald. His report of October 25, 1963, on Oswald's FPCC activities, seems to have been omitted from the 26 volumes.

(1) Allegation that DeBrueys followed Oswald to Dallas:

Jim Garrison has said that "when Oswald moved to Dallas, DeBrueys followed him" (Playboy interview, p. 172). Harold Weisberg wrote that "he moved to Dallas after Oswald did" (Whitewash, p. 267). The evidence cited there (3H414) only indicates DeBrueys' presence in Dallas after the assassination. I have seen no evidence that he was in Dallas before the assassination.

(2) Chronology of DeBrueys' movements:

Although I have not made a systematic check of the 26 volumes, I have noted the following items:

Sept. 25, 1963: Oswald allegedly left N.O. for Mexico and Dallas. (R731)

Oct. 25: DeBrueys apparently was in N.O., since a report by him "at New Orleans" bears this date. (See section (5) below.)

Nov. 23: DeBrueys accompanied SA Clements in an interview of Albert Bogard in Dallas. (CE 3071)

Nov. 26: The DPD turned certain evidence over to DeBrueys, who took it to Washington on Nov. 27. (CE 2973; 3H414; 3H474; 24H332-344)

Dec. 2: CD 75 is identified in the "List of Basic Source Materials" as "DeBrueys ... 12/2/63 Dallas." Judging from those portions published in Vols. 22-26, this CD consists mainly of reports from N.O. on Oswald's background, etc. I have found no part of this report in which DeBrueys is listed as an interviewing agent.

Dec. 8: CD 6 is "DeBrueys ... 12/8/63 Dallas." It contains many reports from both Louisiana and Texas.

Dec. 12: DeBrueys and SA Carlson interviewed Mayor Cabell of Dallas. (7H476)

Feb. 29 and March 25, 1964: CD's 536 and 777i (on DeMohrenschildt), with these dates, are labeled "DeBrueys ... New Orleans."

June 9: DeBrueys interviewed Orest Pena in New Orleans. (11H353)

July 17, July 21, Sept. 18: CD's 1349, 1351, and 1539c, with these dates, are labeled "DeBrueys ... New Orleans."

(3) Meaning of DeBrueys' movements:

In view of the intensive FBI investigation immediately after the assassination, I feel that DeBrueys' temporary move to Dallas does not necessarily have any significance. I would assume that many agents went there to help in the investigation; it might be interesting to check this out. On the other hand, the following section suggests a possible reason for DeBrueys' trip to Dallas that might be important.

(4) Possibility that DeBrueys attended interrogations of Oswald in Dallas:

The Dallas Police Department assassination file includes a list of "FBI and Secret Service Men at Interrogations of Oswald." (24H284; list otherwise unidentified.) DeBrueys is first on this list (which is not in alphabetical order). Some footnotes may indicate which sessions DeBrueys allegedly attended, but I cannot figure them out.

It is, of course, quite possible that this list is in error. In the index (24H197), it is described as a list of FBI and SS men "Assisting in Investigation of Oswald." (Emphasis added.) It does include agents Hosty and Bookhout (apparently the chief FBI interviewers), who are the only FBI agents mentioned by name in Appendix XI of the Warren Report. SA Clements, who is not on this list, did question Oswald, but with no other Federal agents present (7H348-322). I have not been able to find any further indication that DeBrueys or the other FBI men named (Myers, Carlson, Pinkston) attended any interrogation sessions.

It might be worthwhile to check the Archives for reports of sessions with Oswald by any of these four men, and to find out whether Myers, Carlson and Pinkston were with the Dallas office before the assassination, and what their special fields were. I strongly suspect, however, that the heading of the list (24H284) is a typographical error.

(5) DeBrueys' knowledge of Oswald before the assassination:

As Epstein has noted, there is no affidavit from DeBrueys in CE 825 (Inquest, p. 209). (Affidavits from SA Quigley and SAIC Maynor of N.O. do appear.) This presumably means that in Hoover's opinion DeBrueys was not among the FBI personnel "who, because of their assignments, would have been responsible for or cognizant of any attempt to develop Lee Harvey Oswald as an informant of the FBI" (17H741).

There is no doubt that DeBrueys was familiar with Oswald's activities before the assassination. In fact, he wrote a report on Oswald, although it is not so titled. CE 833 contains several references to the report of SA DeBrueys dated October 25, 1963, at N.O., entitled "Fair Play for Cuba Committee -- New Orleans Division; RA - Cuba; IS - Cuba" (17H795-7).

The Oct. 25 report duplicates some of the residence and employment data on Oswald that is in other FBI reports (17H795). The FBI advised that in N.O. "the only activities in behalf of the FPCC appeared to be those efforts made by Oswald" (17H799). Thus this report (which is at least 12 pages long - 17H796) is primarily, if not entirely, about Oswald.

It should be noted that "RA" and "IS" mean "Registration Act" and "Internal Security" respectively. (Cf. CD 1085k-o.)

(6) Dissemination of the October 25, 1963 report:

If this report is in the 26 volumes or listed as a separate CD, it has escaped my attention. I have asked the Archives to try to get me a copy.

The Crowley affidavit (11H482) indicates that the report was received in the Intelligence Processing Section of the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research on Nov. 8. Frances Knight testified that it was "logged into the Passport Office" on Nov. 22 (5H382).

CE 834 lists "the contents of the FBI headquarters file concerning Lee Harvey Oswald up to the time of the assassination" (17H804). It is conceivable, but unlikely, that Item 59 (described as an airtel from N.O. indicating a change of address) includes the FBI report of the same date. If not, it seems that DeBrueys' report was not in the FBI headquarters Oswald file - at least before November 22.

Note that the last-quoted statement may be read in two ways: "everything we have at headquarters which relates to Oswald," or "everything in our 'Oswald file'." Is it possible that this report was placed, say, in the "FPCC file" and at most referred to in the Oswald file? (Bill Turner might know what the standard procedure is.)

Bill Turner has advised that not all material in Field Office files is sent to headquarters. For example, Fain's first report, CE 821, is not listed in CE 834, although a related airtel is item 13. In CE 3153, Hoover carefully pointed out that the FBI investigation into Oswald's possible subversive connections involved "a complete review of our files, both at Headquarters and in each of our offices." The phrasing in CE 834 may have been very carefully chosen. Did the Commission ever examine the N.O. and Dallas files on Oswald? I know of no evidence on this matter.

(7) DeBrueys' knowledge of contacts with anti-Castro informants after Nov. 22:

CE 2973 states that "sources acquainted with some phases of Cuban activities in the New Orleans area advised on November 25 and November 26, 1963, that they have no information regarding" Oswald or Ruby. It is not indicated who was so advised. (DeBrueys was apparently in Dallas on those dates.) This CE bears the initials "WCD"; it is p. 463 of CD 6, which, as noted above, is apparently a compilation by DeBrueys of many reports. It would be interesting to find out who these informants were. (Other sections of CD 6 may be relevant.) It is noted that the report of SA Kaack, 10/31/63, indicates that two people familiar with Cuban activities were asked about Oswald on Sept. 9-10: "NC T-7" and Frank Bartes of the N.O. Cuban Revolutionary Council (17H754).

Paul L. Hoch
Sept. 24, 1967

APPENDIX TO NOTES OF 9/24/67 CONCERNING SA WARREN C. DEBRUEYS

(1) Possibility that DeBrueys attended interrogations of Oswald in Dallas:

By letter of 9/28/67, Robert H. Bahmer, Archivist of the U.S., advised: "No DeBrueys report concerning the interrogation of Lee Harvey Oswald or any information that he was present is in the relevant files of the Commission."

(2) Contents of DeBrueys' report of October 25, 1963, on the FPCC:

The Archives has sent me a copy of this 18-page report from the State Department files. (CD 1114, folder VI, # 29, pp. 24-41) The first page is stamped "Department of State, Nov 8 1963, Office of Security, Intelligence Processing Sect." and bears the handwritten notation "11/18/63, INR/DDC, PPT, SY Files." The report is titled "Fair Play for Cuba Committee - New Orleans Division; Registration Act - Cuba; Internal Security - Cuba." The Field Office and Bureau file numbers are 97-74 and 97-4196-33 respectively. A copy was sent to the I&NS in N.O.

This report is quite similar to that of SA Kaack, 10/31/63. The overlapping information is summarized here:

Synopsis on p. 1. Pp. 1-3: information on Oswald's arrest (essentially contained in 17H756-7,763). Pp. 3-4: Oswald's residence (see 1st paragraph of 17H755 and CE 834, #13) and employment (essentially 1st but not 2nd paragraph of related section at 17H754). Pp. 5-10 are a retyped copy of the Quigley interview report (17H758-63). It has file number 97-74 and stenographer's mark "/cv/dmk" rather than just "/cv." Pp. 11-12: 2nd and 3rd paragraphs of 17H755, in essence. P. 12: remarks on nonexistence of PO Box 30016 (see CE 833, #17) and on Hidell credit check (CE 833, # 17). Oswald unknown to CP informant (CE 833, #16). Pp. 12-13: Butler-Oswald debate (cf. 17H763-4; CE 833, #15). Pp. 14-17: appendices on FPCC, Corliss Lamont, and the ECLC, identical except for typographical errors to those at 17H765-8. P. 18: the standard form on sources (like 17H769), with no sources listed.

The following items are not duplicated in the Kaack report:

"On August 16, 1963, two persons, one of which (sic) is believed identical with OSWALD, who identified themselves as being connected with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC), distributed pamphlets in front of the International Trade Mart in New Orleans. They remained in that location for only a few moments and departed. On August 19, 1963, Mr. JESSE CORE, International Trade Mart, advised that the two parties who were distributing handbills for the FPCC as set forth above were described as follows: One was white male, 145 pounds, 5'9", age 32 or 33, pallid complexion, and black hair. The second one was described as age 22 or 23, 6", black hair, narrow shoulders and broad waist." (p. 3) It is noted that Charles Steele, Jr. claimed to have called the FBI office on August 16 in connection with this incident. (10H69-70)

Page 11 contains the text of the 8/13/63 Times-Picayune article on Oswald's sentencing.

"Confidential source (sic) familiar (sic) with Cuban activities in the New Orleans area were contacted during the month of September, 1963 and each advised he had no knowledge regarding OSWALD or any of the activities of subject organization in New Orleans, except the information regarding OSWALD's arrest and distribution of FPCC handbills." (p. 11) It is noted that none of these sources are here identified by number.

"Mrs. JESSIE JAMES GARNER, 4909 Magazine Street, advised on October 7, 1963 that LEE OSWALD and his wife did not have any meeting to her knowledge when he was residing at 4907 Magazine Street. She advised that they did have some friends, approximately three or four people, who used to visit them on occasions. She had no information as to the identity of these persons. She stated she had not learned where OSWALD had gone but presumed he had returned to Texas." (p. 12)

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D.C. 20408

September 28, 1967

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Paul L. Hoch
2537 Regent Street
Apartment 202
Berkeley, California 94704

Dear Mr. Hoch:

This is in reply to your letters of August 31 and September 12 and 21, 1967, concerning the records of the Warren Commission.

We are sending you a copy of the file classification manual of the Commission. As the available material in the Office of Naval Intelligence file concerning Lee Harvey Oswald is more than fifty pages, we are preparing a negative microfilm copy of it for you. Some of the material in the file that has not yet been made available is being reviewed by the agencies that originated it. When this is finished, we shall inform you of the amount of material in the file that is withheld from research.

Commission Document 1532 is withheld from research under Guideline 2 as a security classified document. CD 1085 is withheld from research in its entirety under Guidelines 2 and 3A-C.

The report dated October 25, 1963, by Special Agent DeBrueys (CD 1114) is available for research and we shall send you an electrostatic copy of it. No DeBrueys report concerning the interrogation of Lee Harvey Oswald or any information that he was present is in the relevant files of the Commission. The presence of FBI Special Agents Hosty and Bookhout is mentioned in some of the reports concerning the interrogation. Reports by these agents concerning the interrogation are in CD 5, p. 90-103.

The guidelines under which the records of the Commission are administered are believed to be consistent with the terms of the "Freedom of Information Act." Any requests you may wish to make for permission to use unclassified documents of the Commission that are withheld from research should be addressed to the agency concerned.

Sincerely yours,

Robert H. Bahmer
Archivist of the United States

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