

January 8, 1964

Commission No. 102bb

Mr. J. E. Curry
Chief of Police

Subject: Crime Scene Search Investigation of
the Shooting of President John F.
Kennedy on Offense #F86056

Sir:

At 1:12 p.m., November 22, 1963, Lieutenant J. C. Day, #391 and Detective R. L. Studebaker, #966 arrived at 411 Elm Street in response to a call from the Police Dispatcher. Detectives J. B. Hicks, #441 and H. R. Williams, #757 arrived about 3:00 p.m. to assist in the investigation of the shooting of President John F. Kennedy on Offense #F86056.

Lieutenant Day and Detective Studebaker on arrival were directed to the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository Building. Three spent rifle shells had been found in the southeast corner of the building.

Photographs were taken of the three hulls as found. They were checked for prints, marked for identification and released to Detective R. M. Sims, #629 of the Homicide Bureau. The hulls were 6.5 caliber and no legible prints were found.

About 1:25 p.m., Captain J. W. Fritz, #9 directed Lieutenant Day to the northwest portion of the sixth floor where a rifle had been found between some cartons near the stairs. Photographs were taken of the rifle as found, then it was picked up by Lieutenant Day in such a way as to destroy no fingerprints that might be present. With Lieutenant Day holding the gun, Captain Fritz opened the bolt and a live shell fell from the barrel. This shell was in position to fire should the trigger be pulled. The live shell was checked for prints, marked for identification and released to Captain Fritz. No fingerprints were found.

The rifle, a 6.5 caliber, made in Italy in 1940, Serial #C2766, was taken by Lieutenant Day to the Identification Bureau about 2:00 p.m. and locked in an evidence box until further checking could be done. Agent Odum, Dallas office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, drove Lieutenant Day to the City Hall. The rifle had no manufacturer's name and had a telescope sight mounted on it which was marked as follows: 4 x 18 coated Ordinance Optics, Inc., Hollywood, California. There was a small cloverleaf design with "OSC" stamped inside the cloverleaf.

Lieutenant Day returned to 411 Elm Street about 2:45 p.m. and continued the investigation with other Crime Scene Search officers.

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About fifty (50) photographs were made of the area involved in the shooting and a scale drawing was made of the sixth floor by Detectives J. B. Hicks and R. L. Studebaker.

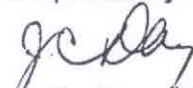
The cartons in the area where the rifle was found, and also the cartons near the window where the spent hulls were found, were dusted for prints. A palm print was found on the top northwest corner of a carton that appeared to have been used by the assassin to sit on while aiming the rifle. This palm print was collected and preserved, along with the carton it came off, and three cartons stacked by the window apparently to rest the rifle on. The palm print lifted off the carton Oswald apparently sat on by the sixth floor window was positively identified before being released to the Federal Bureau of Investigation as the right palm of Lee Harvey Oswald.

Lieutenant Day returned to the Identification Bureau about 7:00 p.m. and started checking the rifle for prints. Two fingerprints were found on the side of the rifle near the trigger and magazine housing and a palm print was found on the underside of the gun barrel near the end of the stock. It appeared probable these prints were from the right palm and fingers of Lee Harvey Oswald, but the rifle was released to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to be sent to Washington, D. C. before the examination was completed and positive identification of the prints could be made. The prints were not very good for comparison purposes.

Paraffin casts were made of Oswald's hands and the right side of his face about 9:00 p.m., November 22, 1963, in the Homicide Bureau office by Sergeant W. E. Barnes, #598 and Detective J. B. Hicks. These casts were sent to DCCGIL November 23, 1963 for nitrate tests.

All other evidence collected by the Crime Scene Search was released at 11:45 p.m., November 22, 1963 to Agent Vince Drain to be delivered to the Federal Bureau of Identification headquarters at Washington, D. C.

Respectfully submitted,


J. C. Day, #391
Lieutenant of Police
Identification Bureau

JCD:melsfb