

Simple Enciphering System Used To Encode Oswald Notebook--DA

By HOKE MAY

The telephone number code which Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison says he has discovered in Lee Harvey Oswald's notebook is a simple enciphering system based on standard encoding principles.

Garrison said Oswald used the cryptograms to mask telephone number notations while he was working as a U.S. intelligence agent in New Orleans during 1963.

He told Criminal District Court yesterday that his office has discovered identical, fictitious post office box numbers in the notebooks of Oswald and accused assassination conspirator Clay L. Shaw.

WHEN DECIPHERED, he added, the numbers yield the private, unlisted Dallas telephone number of Jack Ruby — the man who gunned down Oswald in Dallas' police station.

Shaw's attorneys immediately scoffed that Garrison's disclosed code is "nothing but the old shell game."

The DA reportedly became interested in the possibility of an Oswald code as he studied the 26-volume Warren Report.

Oswald's diary, filled with cryptic notes, Russian addresses, laundry numbers and blurred squiggles, is spread across the pages of the report's Volume XVI.

THE PHOTOGRAPHED pages reveal an oddment of scribbles, including references to guns and microdots, a method of microscopic photographic reproduction favored by spies in transporting secret information.

The post office box number which Garrison contends was

Ruby's private, unpublished telephone number in 1963 appears on Page 58 of the report's Volume XVI.

Shaw's notebook, seized in a search of his French Quarter home on the day he was arrested, contains the same box number, "P. O. Box 19106."

Garrison says this number, when deciphered, translates into Whitehall 1-5601, which the DA has identified as the Ruby number in Dallas.

HOW DOES THE OSWALD code work? The principle, according to the Garrison revelation, is very simple.

First, there is the matter of the telephone number exchange prefix "Whitehall." The DA says Oswald used a standard telephone dial to translate the prefix "WH" into "PO," the abbreviation for Post Office.

On the telephone dial, the "W" is in the 9 slot, the "H" in the 4 finger hole. Together, the numbers add up to 13. So do the letters "PO" when translated into dial numbers.

Furthermore, the DA says the only 1963 Dallas exchange which added up to 13 was Whitehall.

The numerical portion of the cipher is even easier.

Ruby's reputed number was 1-5601.

TO ENCIPHER THIS, Garri-

son says Oswald first used one of two standard deception or masking numbers, a process common to simple codes. Since they are not written down, masking numbers must be easy for the encoder to remember and are usually related to his daily life.

Garrison contends Oswald consistently used 4900 and 1300 as an initial mask. He points out that 4900 was the block of Magazine st. on which Oswald lived here, and 1300 is the block of Dauphine on which Shaw lives.

In the Ruby number instance, Garrison says the masking number was 1300. So to encode, first add 1300 to 1-5601. The result is 1-6901.

NOW USE A SIMPLE method to scramble the digits, one which is easily unscrambled.

Write down the numbers this way:

A B C D E
1 6 9 0 1

Scramble them by changing the position of the alphabetical designations like this:

A C E D B
1 9 1 0 6

The result is the post office box number, P.O. 19106, noted in both the Oswald and Shaw notebooks.

Now unscramble, which is very simple.

Take the nearest number (1), then the farthest number (6), then the next nearest number (9), then the next farthest number (0), then the next nearest number (1). And what do you have?

1-6901.

Subtract 1300, and you're back to 1-5601, the Ruby telephone number.

Garrison concedes the test of the validity of any suspected code is its uniform application to other cryptograms in the same diary.

The DA says many other numbers have been deciphered in Oswald's notes by using the simple decoding procedure he described.

One of them reportedly is the local number of a government intelligence agency.

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NEW ORLEANS STATES-ITEM

Number Found in Notebooks	P.O. 19106
Translate P. O. Exchange to Number;	13ACEDB
Translate P. O. Box Numbers to Letters	
Translate Number 13 to Whitehall Exchange;	WH A B C D E
Unscramble Numbers	1 6 9 0 1
Substract Standard Masking Number	- 1 3 0 0
Ruby's Number	WH 1 - 5 6 0 1

SIMPLE GUIDE TO OSWALD'S REPORTED DECODING SYSTEM