

From Earl Goly ^{id} 8/9/77

Oswald camera disappeared during FBI investigation

JUN 15 1978

By EARL GOLZ

A small German-made spy camera found among Lee Harvey Oswald's possessions by Dallas police disappeared when the FBI obtained the Oswald property less than a week after the assassination. The Dallas News has learned.

Detective Gus Rose has told investigators with the House Assassinations Committee that he found the Minox camera, loaded with film, in Oswald's seabag at the Irving home of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Paine on either Nov. 22 or Nov. 23, 1963. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated here Nov. 22.

After unsuccessfully trying to pressure Rose into reporting he had found a Minox light meter and not a Minox camera, the FBI two months later placed into their records a Minox camera which they said was not Oswald's.

AN FBI REPORT said the Minox III camera was obtained Jan. 31, 1964, from Mrs. Ruth Paine of Irving and that it belonged to her husband. Mrs. Paine's home was where Oswald's wife was staying at the time of the assassination and was where Rose said he found a Minox camera among Oswald's personal effects more than two months earlier.

Mrs. Paine told The News she does not recall being asked to turn over a Minox camera to the FBI, although "I'm sure they (FBI) talked about it and what they did or what we did I just don't remember." Her husband owned a Minox bed in need of repair in 1964, but she could not recall the FBI or any other law authorities searching her house or garage for it after the Dallas police search of Nov. 22-23.

The serial number of the Minox camera reportedly obtained from Mrs. Paine by the FBI was listed as 27259, which did not exist among any of the Minox cameras distributed for com-

mercial sale in this country, according to Kurt Lohn, then in charge of distribution for Minox Corp. in New York City.

All Minox cameras distributed in this country had six digits starting with serial number 135000, Lohn said, so 27259 "is not a registered number... not a valid number."

Lohn said the "unobtrusive" camera is about three inches long and an inch wide and was used as a "spy camera" by both sides during World War II to photograph documents and other espionage work.

OSWALD WORKED at the Dallas typesetting firm of Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall in 1962, which did classified work for the Army Map Service. There he learned to operate specialized photographic equipment at a job he took several months after returning to this country from Russia, where he defected in 1959.

While Oswald was in Russia he photographed a number of military installations and other sensitive scenes of more interest to an espionage agent than a sightseer. The photos, all taken in the Minsk area where Oswald lived, showed the airport, an army office building, a polytechnical institute and a radio-television factory assembly line.

For 14 years the FBI did not even reveal the Oswald photos in Russia existed until references to them were declassified with other assassination documents last January. Neither the photos themselves nor the location where the FBI found them was revealed.

Rose, a 24-year veteran of the Dallas police force, said the camera he found "was real small, about like a half-pack of cigarettes in size" and was loaded with a cassette of film. He said he didn't know whether any of the film had been exposed.

Rose's detective partner, who helped in the search of the Paine house and garage, made an inventory of the property taken. Dallas police records show that Stovall itemized a "small German camera and black case on chain and film."

Rose's detective partner, R. S. Stovall, who helped in the search of the Paine house and garage, made an inventory of the property taken. Dallas police records show that Stovall itemized a "small German camera and black case on chain and film."

STOVALL SAID cameras and camera equipment were found both in the house and in Oswald's seabag in the garage Nov. 22-23, but he could not recall where the German camera was found. He also said he remembers someone — "I think it was somebody from the FBI later on, asking about that deal" involving the camera and light meter.

"They (FBI) were (later) calling it a light meter, I know that," Rose said. "But I know a camera when I see it... The thing we got at Irving out of Oswald's seabag was a Minox miniature camera. No question about it."

"They tried to get me to change the records because it wasn't a light meter. I don't know why they wanted it changed, but they must have had some motive for it."

The FBI's reported acquisition of a Minox camera from Mrs. Paine two months later occurred after newsmen started asking questions about reports the FBI was trying to pressure Dallas police into altering their inventory of Oswald's property.

ROBERT GEMBERLING, now retired FBI agent who wrote the first report submitted to the Warren Commission referring to the camera Mrs. Paine reportedly supplied to the FBI, said "if that's what the report says, I feel sure that's true."

"It would stand to reason that if we found a light meter that would be used with a Minox camera then naturally we would want to know where the camera is," Gemberling told The News. "Now Mr. Rose, I can't vouch — If he says he thought it was a camera and it was or whether he thought it wasn't, I just can't say, I don't know."

J. Gordon Shanklin, agent-in-charge of the Dallas FBI office during the assassination investigation, said he could not recall the camera incident.

"I am sure it (camera or light meter) went up there (FBI lab in Washington), whatever it was," Shanklin said. "It's probably still in evidence, I don't know... But I am sure that if it had been a Minox camera and it was found, then it would have been reported as that."

An inventory of property taken from the Paine house and garage was made Nov. 26, 1963, in the FBI office here and listed "one Minox camera" under item number 375. The inventory was witnessed by FBI agent Warren De Bruys and Dallas Police Capt. J.M. English.

IN A SECOND published FBI inventory after De Bruys and another agent, Vincent Drain, delivered the property to the FBI laboratory in Washington on Nov. 27, no camera was listed under item 375 but the words "Minox light meter" appeared for the first time.

Item 377 on Nov. 26 listed 2 rolls of undeveloped Minox film and two rolls of "apparently exposed" Minox film. Under the same item on Nov. 27 the FBI inventory read two Minox cassettes or rolls "(one containing film)" and two containers with "unexposed" Minox film.

No description could be found in the Warren Commission volumes about whether the undeveloped film was developed to determine if any images were on the frames.

Memorandum

TO : MR. LENIHAN

FROM : MR. BRANIGAN

SUBJECT : LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

DATE: 1-28-64

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

On 1-27-64 I called SAC Shanklin making reference to DL tel this caption, 1-25-64, wherein DL listed a Stereo-Realist Camera and a Suera-Two Camera among the personal effects of Oswald.

I advised Shanklin that if it had not already been done, investigation should be immediately initiated to determine when, where and how Oswald came into possession of these cameras.

I further pointed out that the property clerk's invoice or receipt of the Police Department, City of Dallas, Number 1192G, lists a Minox Camera. I advised Shanklin that our Laboratory claims that they did not have a Minox Camera and that this item should be a Minox light meter.

I requested that DL resolve whether or not a Minox Camera was among the effects of Oswald.

On 1-28-64 Shanklin advised Inspector Moore that Oswald did not have a Minox Camera; that this was a Minox light meter.

ACTION:

None. DL will submit results of investigation in form suitable for dissemination.

WAB:hrt/
(3)

1 - Mr. Lenihan
1 - Mr. Branigan

EX-115

REC-40

FEB 5 1964

1643

5/10/64

79 FEB 6 1964

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 31 1964

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI DALLAS

449 PM CST URGENT 1-31-64 MH

TO DIRECTOR 105-82555

FROM DALLAS 100-10461 2 P

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AKA, IS-R-CUBA.

Handwritten notes and signatures:
D. White
B. ...
L. ...
S. ...

Routing slip with fields for 'To', 'File', and 'List'.

REBUTEL JAN THIRTY REQUESTING DALLAS TO IMMEDIATELY CONDUCT INVESTIGATION TO RESOLVE DISCREPANCY IN DALLAS PD INVENTORY REFLECTING MINOX CAMERA AND LABORATORY INVENTORY REFLECTING MINOX LIGHT METER.

JAN THIRTY, MRS. RUTH PAINE ADVISED HER HUSBAND OWNS A MINOX CAMERA WHICH BECAME RUSTY AND UNWORKABLE DUE TO BEING DROPPED IN SALT WATER. STATED OTHER PARAPHERNALIA PERTAINING TO THIS MINOX CAMERA WAS RETAINED BY HER HUSBAND. SHE STATED THERE WERE SOME CANS OF MINOX FILM BELONGING TO HER HUSBAND WHICH SHE PRESUMES WERE TAKEN IN THE SEARCH. SHE STATES HER HUSBAND HAD SOME BRAND OF LIGHT METER WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN SEARCH.

ON INSTANT DATE, MICHAEL PAINE MADE AVAILABLE THE ABOVE MENTIONED MINOX CAMERA, SN TWO SEVEN TWO FIVE NINE, WHICH HE STATES HAS NOT BEEN USED FOR ABOUT FIVE YEARS. HE CONSIDERS IT UNWORKABLE BECAUSE OF SHUTTER DAMAGE. STATES THERE MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED AND/OR UNEXPOSED FILM FOR THIS CAMERA IN THE MATERIAL SEIZED IN SEARCH OF HIS RESIDENCE. STATES ANY EXPOSED FILM WOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN NO MORE RECENTLY THAN FIVE YEARS AGO.

79 FEB 11 1964

REC-12
FEB 2 15 1964
FBI WASH DC

1783

12 FEB 11 1964

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

PAGE 2

DL 100-10451

MR. PAINE STATED HE HAD A LIGHT METER WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN A
MINOX LIGHT METER, WHICH HE PRESUMES WAS TAKEN IN THE SEARCH.

DALLAS PD AWARE THAT NO MINOX CAMERA OBTAINED IN SEARCH.

MINOX CAMERA OBTAINED FROM MICHAEL PAINE TODAY WILL BE FORWARDED TO
BUREAU WITH OTHER EVIDENCE AFTER BEING PHOTOGRAPHED AT DALLS.

END

VA RL

FBI WASH DC

P

Date 2/1/64

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 Mr. MICHAEL PAINE, Arlington, Texas, employed by Bell Helicopter Research Laboratory, residence 2515 West 5th Street, furnished the following information:

He owns a Minox camera and that camera is at his home at Irving, Texas. Several years ago he dropped this camera in salt water off the coast of Cape Cod, Massachusetts and after retrieving it, soaking it in kerosene and cleaning same, it appeared to be in good working condition. Thereafter, someone bent the shutter by pulling the lens out too far and to the best of his knowledge it is not now in working condition.

He stated that he did have some cans of film and that some of them were probably exposed film but that the pictures made on this film would be at least five years old.

He stated that he had a case for the camera and other accessories including a light meter. He is not sure that this was a Minox light meter, but believes it was. He stated that when the Police came to his house on November 22, 1963, they took the entire contents of a drawer containing photographic equipment which included the items mentioned above with the exception of the camera. He stated that this camera was in his garage at that time and that although he mentioned the camera to the Police, they did not seem interested in it. He stated that he is sure that LEE HARVEY OSWALD never used this camera and he is of the opinion that it is not in working condition at the present time.

Mr. PAINE advised that he has no knowledge about a "no admittance" sign which was picked up by the Police at his residence. He stated this sign is not his and he has never seen it.

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on 1/31/64 at Irving, Texas File # DL 100-10461

by Special Agent BARRELL D. ODUM - gj Date dictated 1/31/64

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 2/1/64

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Mrs. RUTH PAINE, 2515 West 5th Street, Irving, Texas, made available a Minox III camera, serial number 27259, which she stated is the camera that belongs to her husband which she thought he had thrown away. She stated that she had located this camera in a coffee can in their garage after MICHAEL PAINE telephoned her and told her where to find same.

Mrs. PAINE reexamined her Hallmark 1963 Date Book (calendar), containing entries on certain dates and after examining each page and each date for notations made by her, advised that she could find no notations which recalled any activities or information of pertinence to the activities of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, which she had not previously furnished to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

on 1/31/64 at Irving, Texas File # DL 100-10461

by Special Agent BARNELL D. ODUM - gj - 51 - Date dictated 1/31/64

Date 3/2/64

Mrs. RUTH PAINE, 2515 W. 5th, was exhibited photographs of a number of items obtained by the Dallas Police Department from her residence and from the residence of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, 1026 N. Beckley Street, Dallas, Texas, November 22, 1963, and subsequently turned over to the FBI at Dallas.

Mrs. PAINE advised that the following items belonged to either her or her husband, MICHAEL PAINE:

<u>ITEM NO.</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
203	Note with name RUTH PAINE, 2515 5th St., Irving, Texas
353	Operators manual for Sears Tower Automatic Projector No. 9885
371	Boxes, Kodaslide, nine of which are stereo and one 35 mm. single slide
372	Box of Kodachrome transparencies and two Viewmaster reels entitled "Seven More Wonders of the World" - Contents 64 mounted transparencies plus 3 unmounted transparencies
374	Ten foreign coins in a Kodak film bag with address Corporal MICHAEL PAINE, U. S. 51169740, Hdqtrs Btry
375	Minox Lightmeter, pedometer; compass; self timer; sun shade (hood) with filter; one 15 power telescope; stereo viewer; pocketknife
376	Three rolls 35 mm. color film; three rolls 35 mm. B & W film; one roll 620 B & W film; two binoculars; one case with filters
377	Two Minox cassettes (one containing film); two containers with unexposed Minox film; one negative of baby in chair; one roll 35 mm. film

on 2/28/64at Irving, Texas

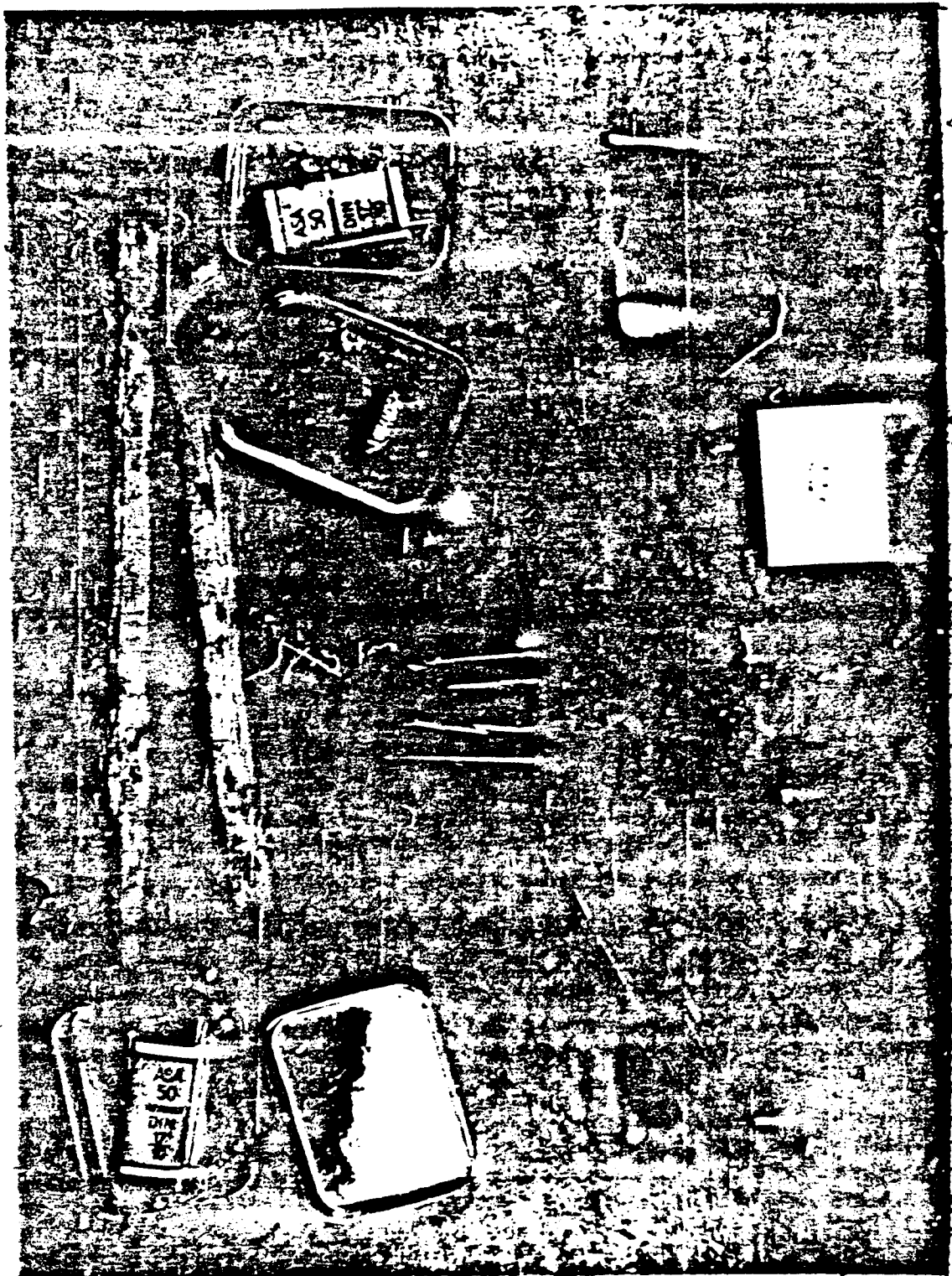
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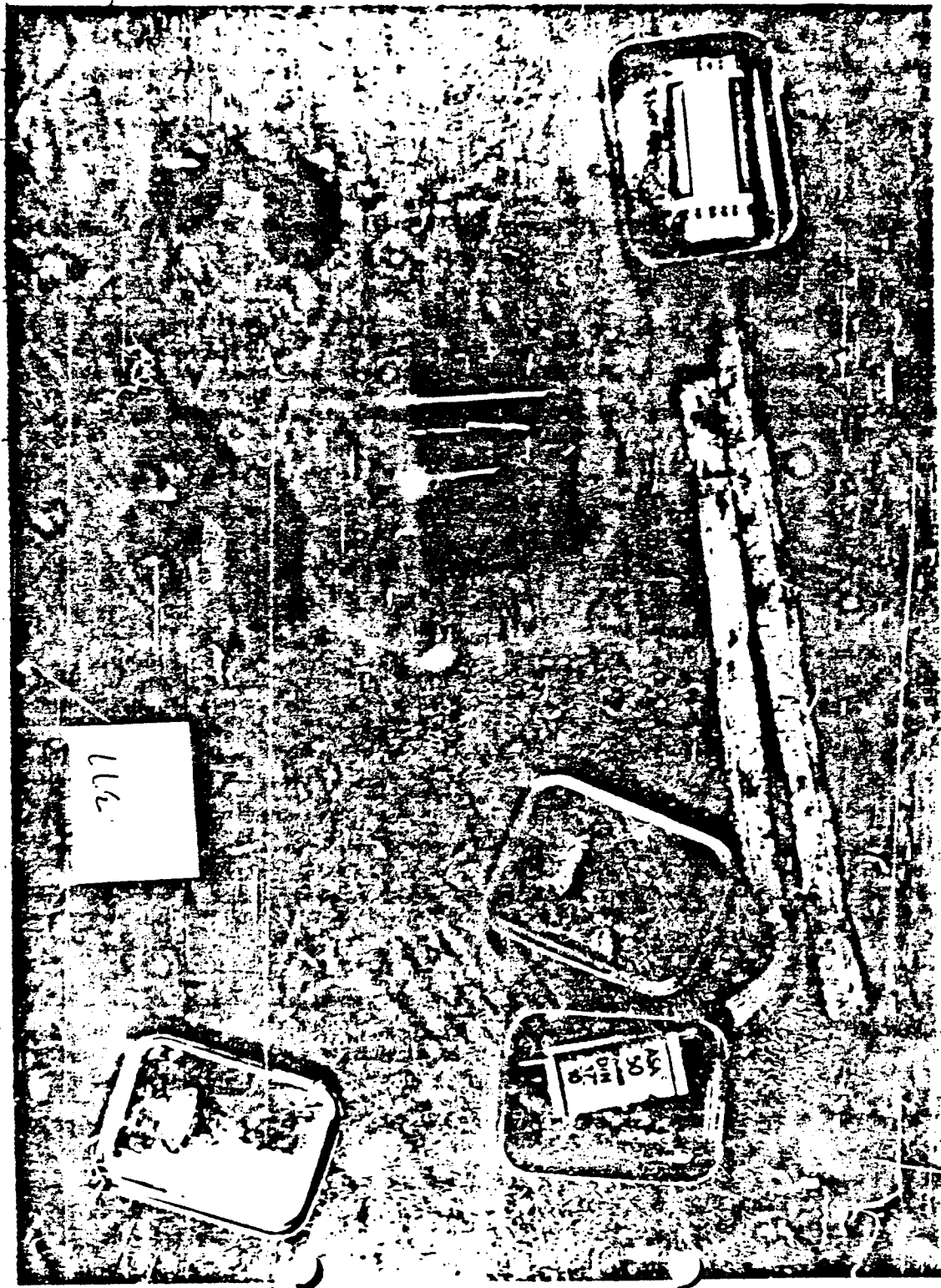
File #

DL 100-10461

by BARDWELL D. ODUM andSpecial Agent JAMES P. HOSTY, Jr.Date dictated 2/29/64

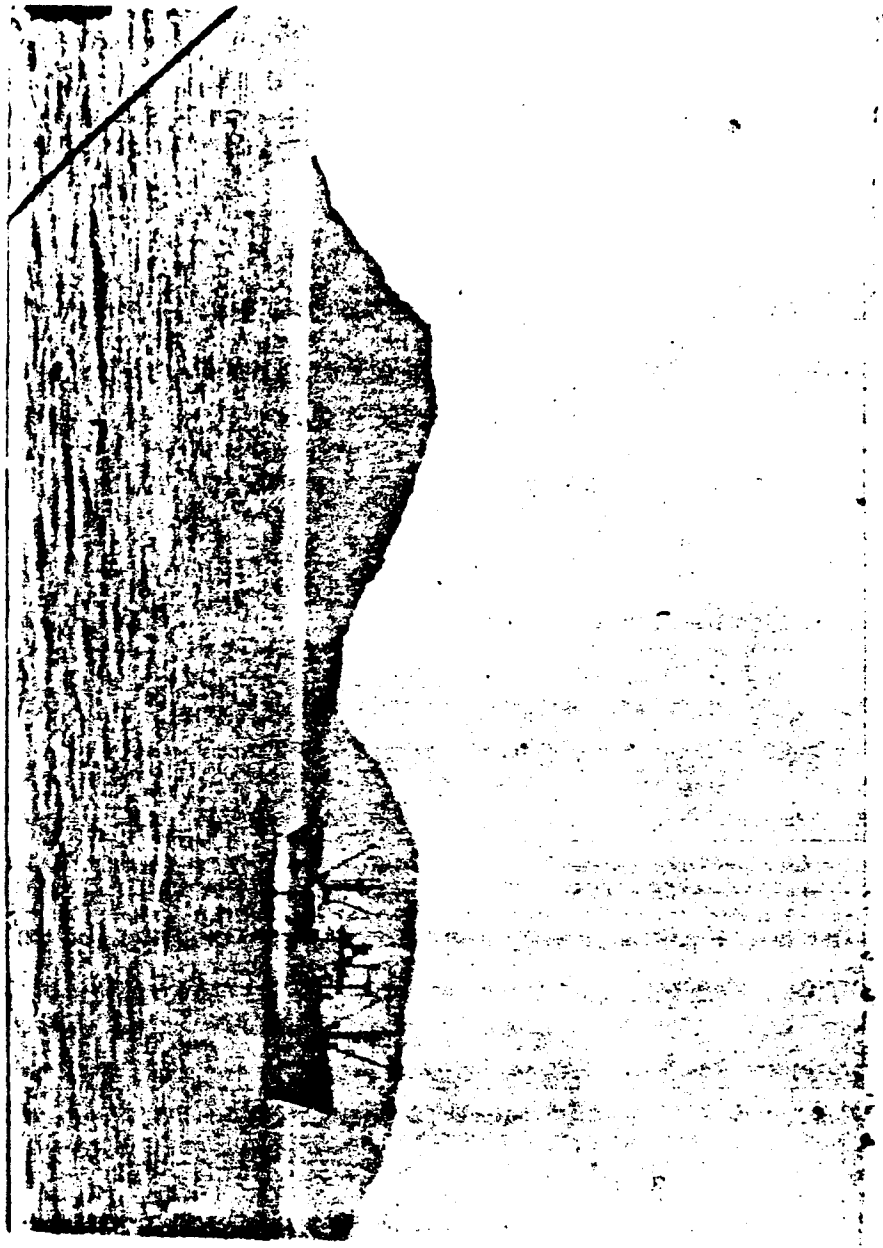
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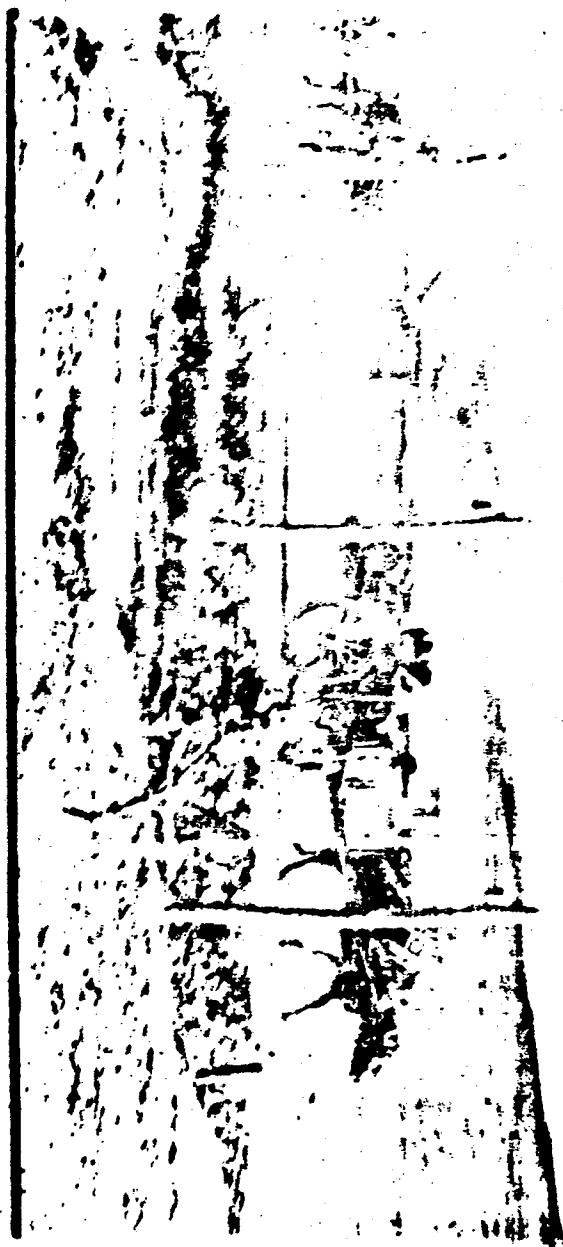


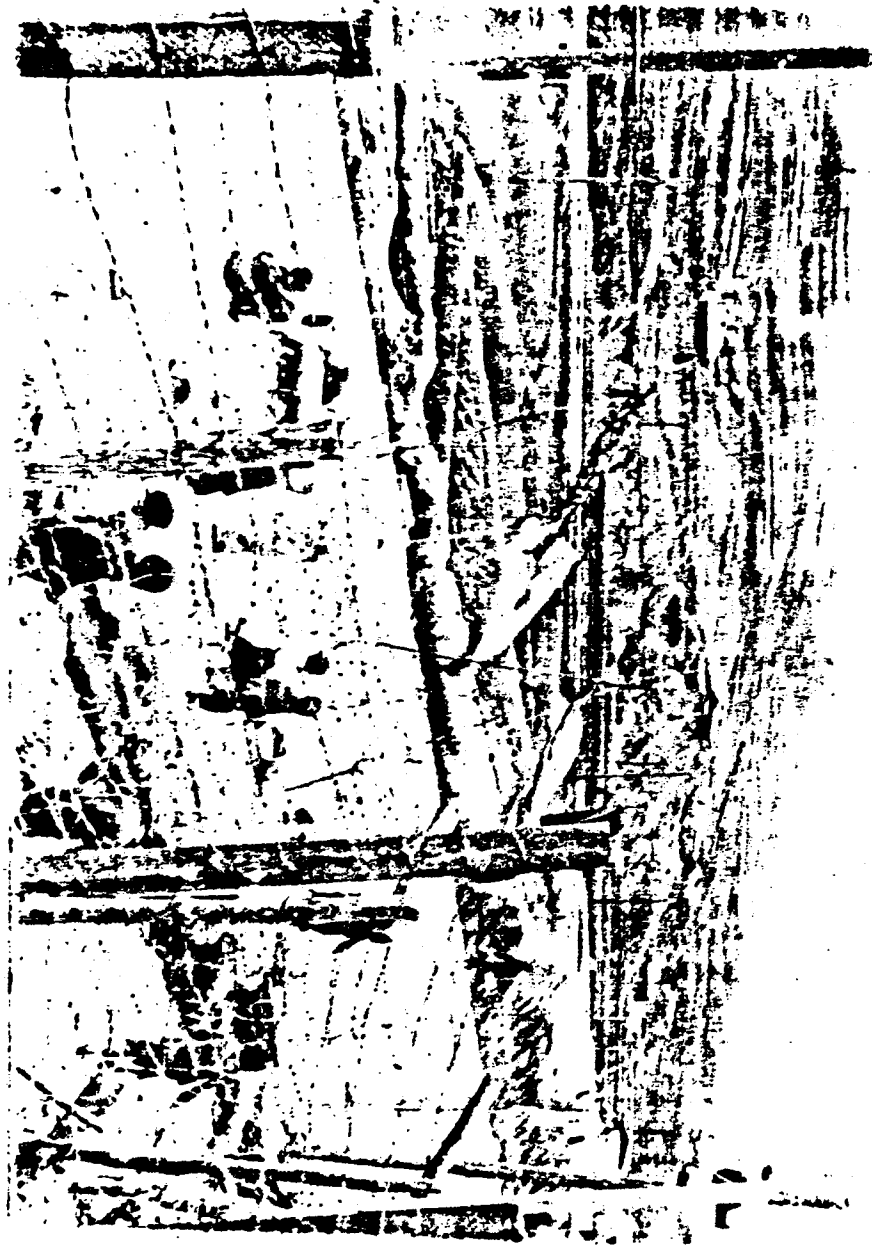
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G.P.
Hamming
added by Weberman



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