

Oswald pictures released by FBI

Photographs from small spy camera revealed after almost 15 years

By EARL GOLZ

Photographs developed from Minox spy camera film found among Lee Harvey Oswald's personal possessions have been released by the FBI after being suppressed almost 15 years.

About 25 images shot in foreign countries on two rolls from the miniature German-made camera were made available by the FBI under a Freedom of Information Act request by Alan Webberman, an independent assassination researcher in New York City.

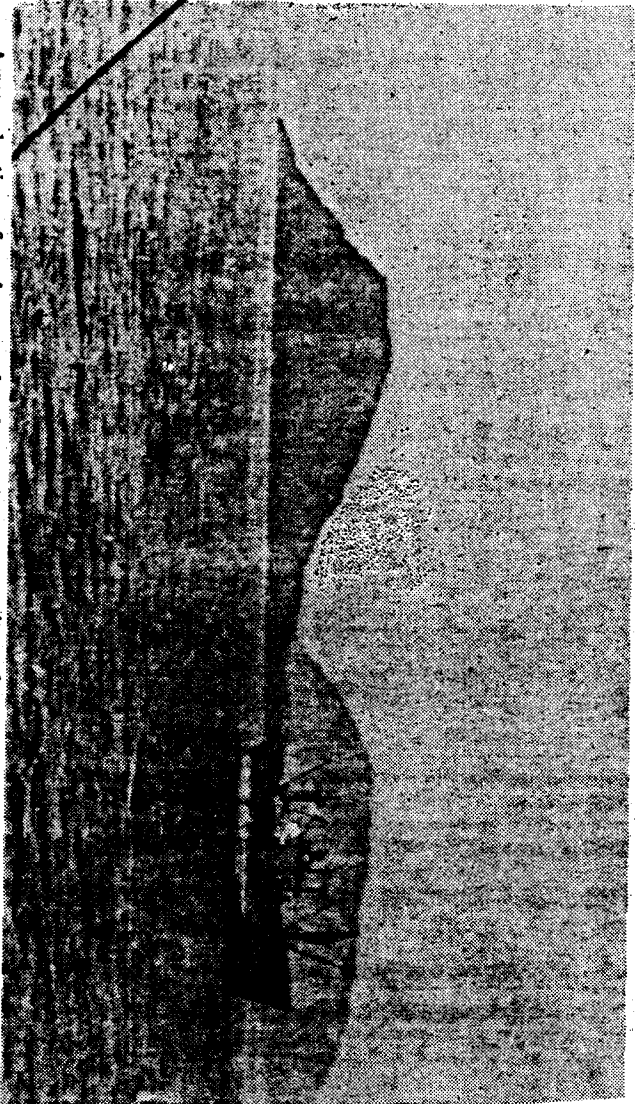
More than 20 prints developed from one roll show civilian scenes apparently in Europe. Five shots from the other roll were military scenes either in the Far East or Central America.

A MINOX CAMERA with a cassette film roll inside disappeared from Oswald's possessions after the FBI took custody of the property in 1963 from Dallas police. The News earlier had disclosed.

The bureau later tried unsuccessfully to pressure police into changing their inventory list to read a Minox light meter, not a camera, according to detective Gus Rose who said he found the camera in Oswald's seabag at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Palme in Irving.

The FBI had indicated the two rolls it developed were found separately in thin containers with ribbon tied around them.

House Assassinations Committee investigators recently interviewed a former FBI agent who had custody of the Oswald property when the camera with film inside disappeared. The News



A reproduction of a photograph taken with a Minox spy camera in Lee Harvey Oswald's possession shows a tanker anchored offshore in mountainous terrain.

has learned.

THE FORMER agent, Warren de Brueys, monitored Oswald's activities during the five months he was in New Orleans in the summer of 1963. He came to Dallas for two months to assist the Warren Commission investigation of the assassination.

"Monitoring is a word I would be reluctant to use," de Brueys told The News. "I never personally met him (Oswald), never knowingly personally talked to him. And I say that advisedly

because — who knows? — I don't think it happened. He may have called on the phone and made an inquiry one time without identifying himself."

The House Assassinations Committee has spent considerable time investigating recurring rumors that Oswald may have been an informant for the FBI or CIA. Committee investigators recently took the deposition of an acquaintance of Oswald in New Orleans who said he saw an unidentified FBI agent give Oswald a large envelope

from a passing government car in the summer of 1963.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover became so disturbed by the informant rumor that during the Warren Commission investigation in 1964 he ordered agents close to the Oswald case to sign affidavits denying Oswald was an FBI informant. De Brueys was not one of the agents who signed such an affidavit.

"I can state without any reservation that there was no collusion, no effort not to disclose anything," de Brueys said. "Nothing purposely, to my knowledge, was done to conceal anything. That would be the furthest thing from our minds at that time."

De Brueys, however, said he has "my limitations as to what I can say . . . I have signed the secrecy agreement before leaving the bureau."

He said he could not remember whether a Minox camera was in Oswald's possessions.

"There were quite a number of articles," de Brueys said. "I guess I spent all night cataloging those things and I at the moment can't remember that particular item, frankly."

A second inventory of Oswald's property was taken Nov. 27 after de Brueys and another FBI agent, Vincent Drain, personally delivered the two boxes of items to the FBI laboratory in Washington. No camera was listed

under item 375 but the words "Minox light meter" appeared in its place.

Item 377 in the Nov. 26 inventory listed two 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.

The photos made available to Weberman were identified by the FBI as coming from item 377. The bureau cover letter to Weberman stated that it had not withheld any of the photos "inasmuch as the material you requested is of great historical interest."

Three of the photos taken in a military environment in either the Far East or Central America were made from inside a barbed wire encampment showing civilians walking on the other side. Another shot was taken from a boat showing a tanker anchored offshore mountainous terrain.

Oswald was stationed in Japan as a Marine in 1957 and 1958 and during that time went on a tour of duty to Taiwan, the Philippines, Corregidor and Indonesia.

The Minox camera, invented in the late 1930s in Latvia and later manufactured at plants in Germany, is about 3 inches long and 1 inch wide. It was

used as a "spy camera" by both sides during World War II.

FBI REPORTS declassified earlier this year show the New York FBI office expressed an interest only three days after the assassination in the Minox film found in Oswald's possessions.

The New York office requested the FBI laboratory in Washington compare the Oswald film with other Minox film, but the laboratory determined they were not taken with the same camera.

The New York request was made one day before Dallas police had turned over the Oswald property to de Brueys.

Two months later, on Jan. 27, 1964, FBI agent Thomas W. Lenihan in Washington told J. Gordon Shanklin, agent in charge of the Dallas FBI office, that de Brueys' inventory of Nov. 26, 1963, showed a Minox camera among Oswald's possessions, according to a Lenihan memo.

"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," Lenihan's memo stated. "I requested that DL (Dallas FBI office) resolve whether or not a Minox camera was among the effects of Oswald."

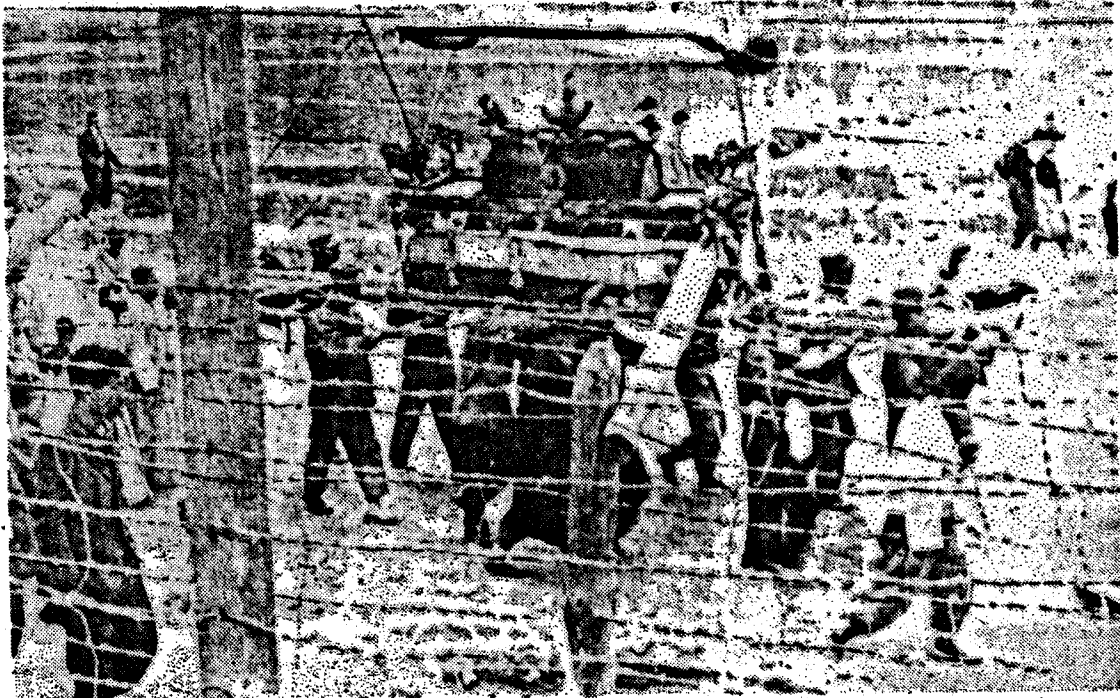
"On 1-28-64 Shanklin advised Inspector Moore (Dallas police detective H.M. Moore) that Oswald did not have a Minox camera; that this was a Minox light meter."

TWO DAYS AFTER Lenihan told Shanklin the camera was a light meter, FBI agents visited the Paine home in Irving where Oswald's personal possessions were found and located a Minox camera in a coffee can in the garage. Mrs. Ruth Paine identified the camera as her husband's.

The camera, which Michael Paine considered "unworkable" because of shutter damage, was forwarded to the Washington FBI office with "other evidence," according to an FBI teletype message dated Jan. 31, 1964. The message said Dallas police were "aware that no Minox camera (was) obtained in search" of the Paine residence and garage on Nov. 22-23, 1963.

Detective Rose, however, remains adamant he found a Minox camera with film in it in Oswald's seabag when he made the initial search at the Paine home.

Michael Paine told The News he recalled taking photos in Korea while he was in the army in the early 1950s and later on a trip to Europe, but not with a Minox camera. He couldn't remember taking a photo of a tanker anchored offshore mountainous terrain, he said.



One of three of the recently released Oswald photographs shows civilians walking outside a

military encampment in either the Far East or Central America.