

# Oswald threat

## Note to FBI destroyed;

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Staff Writer

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Lee Harvey Oswald personally carried a "threatening" letter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation office here several days prior to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, The Dallas Times Herald has learned.

The letter, which apparently did not mention President Kennedy, was destroyed by FBI personnel shortly after the assassination and its existence never was revealed during intensive investigation by the Warren Commission, according to sources within the FBI.

The FBI has launched a full internal inquiry into the Oswald visit and possible criminal violations in

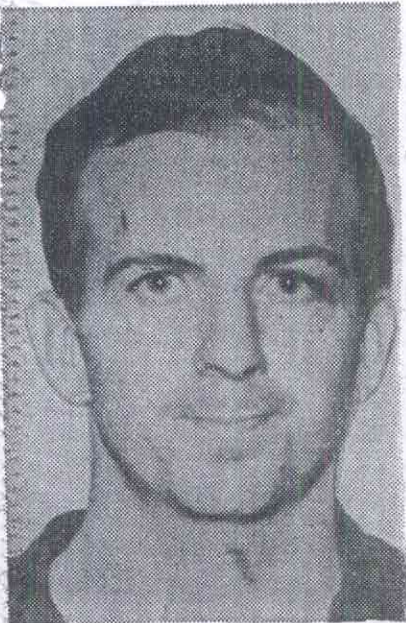
connection with destruction of the note and failure to report its existence.

In response to inquiries by The Times Herald, FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley said Saturday that an investigation "tends to substantiate that Lee Harvey Oswald visited the Dallas FBI office several days prior to the assassination of President Kennedy."

### FBI statement, Page 18-A

Kelley said Oswald visited the office "apparently as the result of an interview by an FBI agent of his (Oswald's) wife Marina, in connection with the FBI investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald prior to the assassination."

FBI agents had made contact with



Lee Harvey Oswald ...  
... warned FBI agent

# THE DALLAS

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★★★ DALLAS, TEXAS, SU.

# revealed

## Kennedy not named

Oswald's wife on Nov. 1, 1963, only 21 days before the assassination. Another visit to her Irving home was made on Nov. 5, but it was not successful.

The FBI probe into Oswald's visit was launched as a result of questions asked by The Times Herald during a July 6, 1975, meeting with Kelley in Washington FBI headquarters. The Times Herald has been checking the previously unreported incident for more than two months.

In a statement prepared for The Times Herald Saturday, Kelley said: "Oswald left a note addressed to this agent, and, although recollections vary as to the wording of the note, it was for the purpose of warning the agent to desist from further interviews with his wife."

"Prior to the current FBI inquiries,

there had been no information concerning this visit and note recorded in FBI records, and inquiries tend to corroborate that shortly after the assassination, the note in question was destroyed," he said.

Kelley said Saturday that "inquiries are continuing to determine the full facts concerning the handling of this matter." Kelley said Attorney General Edward Levi is being kept informed on the progress of the investigation.

Apparently those personnel in Dallas FBI offices at the time who knew of Oswald's visit and his letter have kept the incident secret for almost 12 years, sources told The Times Herald.

A person assigned to the FBI office at the time of the assassination said of the visit: "Oswald left a threatening

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### Times Herald query prompted FBI probe

The FBI internal investigation was initiated as a result of a July 6 meeting between The Times Herald and FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley and Associate Director James Adams.

The Times Herald had uncovered information concerning the reported Oswald visit to the Dallas FBI offices prior to the assassination, as well as information on a "threatening letter" and the reported destruction of that letter.

Because the newspaper has received hundreds of unsubstantiated reports challenging the findings of The Warren Commission Report, a decision was made to delay publication until the story could be verified both independently and at the highest level of the FBI.

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## **Statement from the FBI**

Statement by Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Clarence M. Kelly, issued to The Dallas Times Herald Saturday by Associate Director James B. Adams:

"FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley confirmed today (Saturday) that inquiries conducted in response to questions asked by The Dallas Times Herald tend to substantiate that Lee Harvey Oswald visited the Dallas FBI office several days prior to the assassination of President Kennedy, apparently as the result of an interview by an FBI agent of his wife Marina in connection with the FBI investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald prior to the assassination which was documented in the Warren Commission report. Oswald left a note addressed to this agent and although recollections vary as to the wording of the note, it was for the purpose of warning the agent to desist from further interviews of his wife.

"FBI inquiries to date establish that the note contained no references to President Kennedy or in any way would have forewarned of the subsequent assassination. Prior to the current FBI inquiries, there had been no information concerning this visit and note recorded in FBI records, and inquiries tend to corroborate that shortly after the assassination, the note in question was destroyed.

"Inquiries are continuing to determine the full facts concerning the handling of this matter.

"The Attorney General has from the inception been kept informed of the progress of FBI inquiries to date. Director Kelley has indicated that there will be no further comment for publication until all inquiries have been concluded and the matter considered by the department."

# Oswald note revealed

Continued from Page 1

note ... he wanted the agent in charge of his wife's case to quit harassing Marina."

"I didn't actually see the note myself, but I know it existed. There were no more than a very few, at most five or six, who saw the letter. One of these was a secretary I understand has been transferred."

"I honestly don't believe that Mr. (J. Edgar) Hoover or Mr. (J. Gordon) Shanklin ever knew of the existence of the letter. They would have gone through the roof," the source said.

Shanklin was special agent in charge of the Dallas FBI offices during the Kennedy assassination until retirement from that position this past June.

Contacted by The Times Herald Saturday, Shanklin said: "I am cooperating with the FBI internal investigation on this. I never knew of it. If Oswald came by (the Dallas FBI office), I didn't know."

The Times Herald has interviewed Shanklin twice on this report, first after preliminary information was uncovered by the newspaper and again on Saturday following Director Kelley's statement to The Times Herald. During both interviews, Shanklin maintained he had no prior knowledge of Oswald's visit or a threatening letter.

The Times Herald was told by a source within the FBI that following the assassination the note was destroyed. "After the assassination, they destroyed it," he said.

Asked to identify who "they" were, the FBI source only would state: "other personnel in the Dallas offices ... you'll have to ask Hosty or Howe about that. I've told you all I'm going to say on that."

James P. Hosty Jr., who is now assigned to the Kansas City FBI offices, was agent in charge of the Marina Oswald security-check investigation in Dallas. Agent Ken Howe was Hosty's supervisor. Howe was transferred to the Seattle FBI offices approximately one year after the assassination, an FBI source said.

Contacted by telephone Saturday in Kansas City, Hosty was asked if he knew of the letter's existence.

"I don't know anything about that," Hosty said. "Not that I ... I'm sorry, I'm afraid I can't make any comment on this. I don't know what you're talking about."

Hosty repeatedly declined to discuss



Marina Oswald ...  
... investigated by FBI

anything about the Oswald letter, referring all questions to Kelley.

"Well, like I say, you can see my position, I'm not in a position to say anything on that. I think I'm right, so, I'll just go along and take orders. I sure hope so."

Howe now is assigned to the FBI office in San Diego, Calif. Attempts to reach Howe by telephone late Saturday were not successful. He had not returned messages left with the FBI there.

Marina and her two small children had been living with Mrs. Ruth Paine at 1525 W. Fifth St., in Irving since their return from New Orleans the last week of September, 1963. Mrs. Paine was separated from her husband, Michael, and she befriended the Oswalds a year earlier when they were becoming active socially with several other Russian-speaking persons in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

A source said: "Prior to Lee Harvey Oswald's visit to the FBI offices, FBI agents had visited the Paine home in Dallas where Marina Oswald was living."

"Marina became frightened during routine questioning, partly because of her inability to understand English well. Lee was not there at the time, and the agent left."

"I understand Marina took down Hosty's license plate as he was leaving ... and that license number did turn

up in Warren Commission exhibits," the source said.

"Apparently, Oswald became upset when Marina told him about the FBI visit ... I believe that's what prompted his coming by the offices ... and the threatening letter."

Shanklin confirmed the Paine home visit by Dallas office FBI agents prior to the assassination. He said they went by looking for Oswald on a routine security check. "Hosty did go by Mrs. Paine's house looking for Oswald. He wasn't there," Shanklin said.

Shanklin said he had "heard reports" that Oswald had been in a garage adjacent to the downtown FBI offices prior to the assassination, but that he had been unable to verify that report.

"I never could check that report out," he said. At the time, FBI offices were in the Santa Fe Building in downtown Dallas.

Marina Oswald had met Lee Harvey in her native Russia. The routine check on her and her husband was a result of their having lived in the Soviet Union. During the 1960s, the FBI kept regular checks on persons having lived in Communist-bloc countries.

A Times Herald source said neither Oswald's visit to the Dallas FBI offices nor the "threatening letter" resulted in placing Oswald under active surveillance prior to President Kennedy's Nov. 22 visit to Dallas.

"That was the real screwup, I guess," the source said. "We did not tell police or other protective agencies about it ... it seemed routine at the time of his visit. Nuts and threatening mail come in all the time. The letter didn't threaten Kennedy. It said Hosty should quit harassing Marina, I believe."

"It wasn't until after the assassination that the full impact of this thing hit ... Those who knew about it (Oswald's letter and visit) never told about it ... I guess because they never were asked about it ... they never disclosed it."

"In my judgment, this information coming out will blow the lid off the whole damn case. I worry about it very much ... since it looks like, you know, another government coverup."

"I am worried it will further damage the FBI. It was a bureaucratic screwup. Nobody did the followup on it, and the letter was destroyed. They didn't want anybody to know that Oswald had come by the offices, that he had left a threat, that we had failed to put him under surveillance."

Deputy Director James B. Adams of the Washington offices of the FBI said Saturday that other than Kelley's statement they would have no further comment on the investigation until "all inquiries have been concluded and the matter considered by the department."

# FBI interview triggered

By HUGH AYNESWORTH and  
ROBERT DUDNEY  
Staff Writers

An FBI agent's interview of Marina Oswald apparently triggered an angry response from her husband, accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

Oswald, soon after the interview, delivered a threatening letter to FBI headquarters in Dallas. It has now been revealed that the letter was destroyed shortly after the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination of President John F. Kennedy and was not revealed to the Warren Commission.

## angry Oswald note



FORMER SPECIAL AGENT in charge of the Dallas FBI offices, J. Gordon Shanklin, left, reviews statement issued by FBI director Clarence Kelley during visit to The Times Herald Saturday night. Executive editor Kenneth P. Johnson is in background.

The entire sequence of events leading Oswald to that act has been described in Warren Commission testimony, official FBI reports and interviews published since Nov. 22, 1963. Here is a summary of the FBI involvement with Lee Harvey Oswald and his wife before the assassination.

FBI agent James P. Hosty took over the Oswald case March 4, 1963. It had been closed by FBI Agent John W. Fain. Fain had two routine interviews with the Russian defector in 1962 when Oswald had returned to Fort Worth.

Hosty explained to the Warren Commission investigators in 1964 how he got into the case:

"When Agent Fain retired directly from the Bureau he had closed the case. He had a case which we call a pending inactive case on Mrs. Marina Oswald. This case I did take over. It was in what we call a pending inactive status, that is, nothing was to be done for a period of six months. Then at the end of the six-month period it was then turned into a pending case and I went out and attempted to locate Mrs. Marina Oswald for the purpose of interviewing her."

Was it unusual that the focus of the bureau interest was on Marina, not her defector husband?

"It is the practice of the FBI," Hosty told the Warren Commission May 5, 1964, "to interview immigrants from behind the Iron Curtain on a selective basis, and she was so selected to be one of these persons to be interviewed."

Hosty said his work papers and reports indicated this was March 4, 1963, and that day he learned, through

the Immigration and Naturalization Service, that Marina had moved from Fort Worth to an apartment on Elsbeth street in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas.

Hosty said that on March 11, 1963, he visited the Elsbeth apartment and found that the Oswalds had just been evicted "because of their alleged fighting and his alleged drinking."

The trail led to 214 Neely, where Hosty found the Oswalds three days later.

Hosty said he didn't approach the Oswalds at that time "because of the alleged marital difficulties they were having." He said "in my judgment this was not the time to interview Mrs. Oswald, but to allow a certain cooling-off period."

"So I checked Lee Oswald's file, at which time I determined that he had a contact with the New York Daily Worker." (This was noted in a letter from the New York FBI bureau to the Dallas bureau and placed in Oswald's closed file.)

At this time Hosty requested that Oswald's file be reopened — in a routine request to Washington headquarters. The request was granted and Hosty decided to wait 45 days before making another move to talk to the Oswalds.

"This was not highly urgent at the time," he said to the Commission. "We had waited a period of time and it wouldn't hurt to wait another 45 days. When I went back to check again in May, the middle of May, I found out that they had moved from their Neely street address and had left no forwarding address."

The next contact Hosty had on the case was in June 1963 when the New Orleans FBI office reported Oswald and his wife were in that city and they requested information on him.

Hosty sent a formal request that the New Orleans FBI definitely verify their presence in that city. In August the verification came, with word that Oswald was living there and was employer.

At this point, Hosty passed along the case to the responsibility of the New Orleans office, with Dallas becoming the "auxiliary" office and New Orleans the "office of origin." Along with this routine transfer of responsibility goes copies of any material in the file the new "office of origin" does not have on the individual.

Hosty had nothing else to do with the case until Oct. 3, 1963, when New Orleans wired him that the Oswalds had left New Orleans a short time before. Information included that Marina was 8 months pregnant, had left with a woman and her 2-year-old

child in a station wagon with Texas license plates. Lee Harvey, the message said, had stayed behind one day and then "disappeared the next day." New Orleans asked Dallas to locate them. Since Hosty had worked the case before, he was assigned it at this time.

He told the Commission he made the usual inquiries among known friends and former neighbors and contacted Robert Oswald, Lee's brother, then in Arkansas. He said he felt the inquiry was routine with "no particular note of urgency."

Then on Oct. 25, the New Orleans office advised Hosty that through another agency they had determined that Oswald had made contact with the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City a few days earlier.

The Warren Commission asked Hosty if this increased his efforts to find Oswald. He replied: "Very much so, yes. I became curious then." He said that on Oct. 29, New Orleans advised him that they had a Dallas-area address for the Oswalds, 2515 W. 5th St., Irving.

On that same date, Hosty made a "pretext" visit to a neighbor and found out rather substantial information about Ruth and Michael Paine and their houseguest, "a Russian woman with a new baby." The neighbor, Mrs.

Dorothy Roberts, told Hosty that the Russian woman's husband visited her but did not live there.

Two days later, Oct. 31, Hosty spent considerable time interviewing people who knew the Paines and checked to see if they had any sort of police or subversive records. He found none.

Asked why he spent so much time on the Paines, he replied: "I wanted to make sure before I approached Mrs. Paine that she was not involved in any way with Lee Harvey Oswald, in any type of activities which were against the best interests of the United States."

Then came the initial interview, Nov. 1. Mrs. Paine cordially ushered him in and told him the Oswalds were staying with her. She told Hosty she didn't know the Oak Cliff address where Lee Harvey lived. She told him he had found employment at The Texas School Book Depository and together they looked up the address of that facility.

Hosty recalled that the interview lasted no more than 25 minutes, ending at about 2:30 p.m.

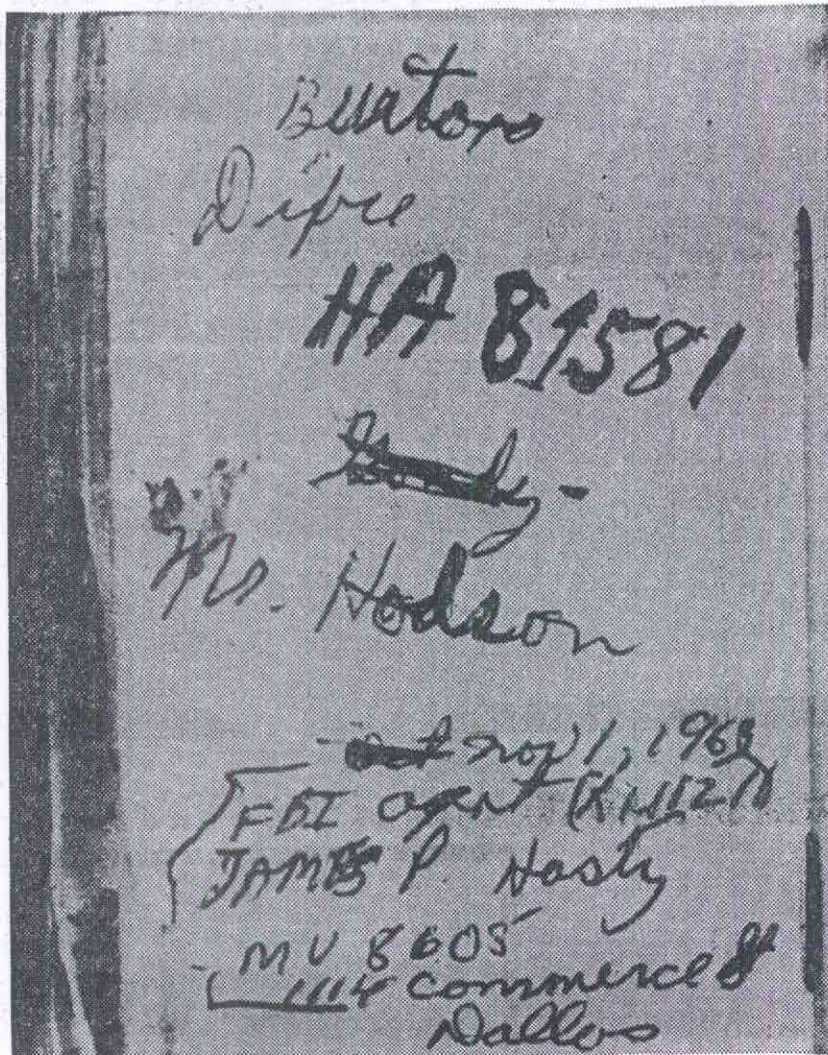
Near the conclusion, Marina came into the Paine living room. Said Hosty, "As Mrs. Paine had told me, she did not speak any English, so Mrs. Paine then told her in the Russian language who I was, that I was an agent with the FBI.

"I could tell from her eyes and her expression that she became quite alarmed, quite upset. I had had previous experience with people who come from Communist-controlled countries, that they get excited when they see the police. They must think that we are like the Gestapo or something like that."

"She became quite alarmed and, like I say, I knew that she just had a baby the week before. So, I didn't want to leave her in that state, so rather than just walking out and leaving her and not saying anything to her, I told Mrs. Paine to relate to her in the Russian language that I was not there for the purpose of harming her, harassing her, and that it wasn't the job of the FBI to harm people. It was our job to protect people."

Hosty said he felt Mrs. Paine

related the message to Marina properly because "she seemed to calm down a little bit and when I left she was smiling. I left her in a relaxed mood. I didn't want to leave her alarmed and upset, a woman with a new baby. It is not the thing to do. So she was apparently smiling, happy, and she shook hands with me as I left. I wanted to leave her in a good frame of mind. I then left."



OSWALD'S NOTEBOOK — Accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald's notebook included a reference to Dallas FBI Agent James P. Hosty and the license number of Hosty's car. Oswald delivered a letter to FBI offices here shortly after Hosty had interviewed his wife, Marina, and only days before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Hosty said he asked no specific questions of Marina, that his only conversation toward her was the effort to soothe her. He said as he left he gave Mrs. Paine his name and telephone number.

He said Mrs. Paine seemed concerned that an FBI inquiry about Lee Harvey at his place of employment might cost him that job. He assured her he would handle that inquiry in a manner as to not get Oswald fired.

That interview was Friday afternoon and so it was not until Monday, Nov. 4, that Hosty called the Texas School Book Depository building personnel office to determine if Oswald worked there and inquire as to his address. The depository's records had the Irving address of Mrs. Paine as his address.

Hosty at this point sent an airmail communication to the New Orleans FBI office assuming control of the case and advising them of his findings thus far.

Then on Nov. 5, Hosty returned to Irving and the Paine home.

On the second visit, Hosty was met by Mrs. Paine on the front porch and they chatted for a minute or two. Hosty had Agent Gary S. Wilson with him.

Marina was inside the house and did not come outside to speak to the FBI agents.

Marina later told the Warren Commission:

But between the two visits to the Paine house by Hosty, Marina had told Oswald about the Nov. 1 session and he wrote down in his note book pertinent information about Hosty — his telephone number, name and auto license number, which Marina had supplied.

What she told Oswald about that brief encounter with Hosty may never be known, but apparently Oswald was more than a little angered. When he was pulled into Dallas Police Capt. Will Fritz's office for interrogation, Hosty was present, and Oswald made several sharp retorts to Hosty once the agent's name was mentioned.

It was the fact that Oswald had Agent Hosty's name and telephone number in his notebook that led to the widespread speculation that Oswald might have been an FBI informant.