

CD-87

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Other Individuals and Organizations Involved or Interviewed

FIELD OFFICE New Orleans FILE NO. 60-7-34,039

INVESTIGATION MADE AT
New Orleans, La. November 24-29, 1963
INVESTIGATION MADE BY
Special Agent Anthony E. Gerrets
Special Agent In Charge John W. Rice

Lee Harvey Oswald
Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

SYNOPSIS

Investigation disclosed that information furnished by Jack S. Martin to the effect that David William Ferris associated with Lee Harvey Oswald at New Orleans and trained Oswald in the use of a rifle with a telescopic lens, also that Ferris had visited Dallas several weeks prior to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, is without foundation. Jack S. Martin, who has the appearance of being an alcoholic, has the reputation locally of furnishing incorrect information to law enforcement officers, attorneys, etc.

DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

At 5:00 p.m. on 11-24-63 Donald Mitchell, 1501 1/2 General Taylor St., New Orleans (rear basement apartment), called at the office and was interviewed by reporting agent. Mr. Mitchell stated that he shares this apartment with one J. Philip Stein, a/k/a "Jerry". Mr. Mitchell advised also that the telephone in this apartment is in the name of Herman S. Kohlman, Assistant District Attorney, Parish of Orleans, New Orleans, La., for the reason that Mr. Kohlman formerly shared the apartment with J. Philip Stein but that Kohlman recently married and moved from the apartment. The telephone number in question is Twinbrook 1-6703.

During the interview with Mr. Mitchell he stated that some

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(CONTINUE ON PLAIN PAPER)

time during the afternoon of Sunday 11-24-63 Jerry Stein answered the telephone in their apartment; that the person calling was endeavoring to contact Herman S. Kohlman, explaining to Stein that the reason he was trying to get in touch with Kohlman was that Kohlman had written a story about an individual known as "FARRY"; that "FARRY" was a hypnotist and had either taught or had something to do with Oswald being taught how to use rifles with telescopic lenses, also indicating that "FARRY" had a collection of rifles. The caller also informed Stein that "FARRY" had been in Dallas about two weeks prior to 11-24-63 and that "FARRY" had been corresponding with Oswald. According to Mr. Mitchell, the person making this telephone call said his name was "JACK" - no last name given.

Subsequent to the interview with Donald Mitchell, several attempts were made to contact Herman S. Kohlman.

At 11:00 p.m. on 11-24-63 a telephone call was received from J. Philip Stein. He said he did not know "Jack's" last name. He stated that the FBI had been investigating "FARRY" several weeks prior to 11-24-63; that "FARRY" is said to be an airplane pilot and allegedly has flown supplies to Cuba. Stein stated that "Jack" told him that "FARRY" was said to have been in Dallas several weeks previously; further, that "FARRY" is allegedly a homosexual. Stein stated that he was told by "Jack" that "FARRY" has been training some Civil Air Patrol boys in the use of foreign made arms and allegedly trained Oswald in the use of a rifle.

Stein stated that "FARRY" is said to be rather intelligent; that he allegedly has a PHD degree and is a hypnotist. He said that Herman S. Kohlman, a former newspaper reporter, had written a story about "FARRY" about two years ago and that the story had appeared in "The Times-Picayune", a New Orleans morning newspaper. Stein stated that, according to "Jack", "FARRY" is alleged to have been communicating with Oswald and that both were allegedly engaged in the same type of work. He said that "FARRY" was believed to be living in the Louisiana Avenue Parkway area, New Orleans.

At 11:10 p.m. on 11-24-63 reporting agent received a telephone call from Herman S. Kohlman. He said that he was an Assistant District Attorney for the Parish of Orleans and that he was calling from the District Attorney's office. It was apparent that Mr. Kohlman was reluctant to talk about "FARRY". He finally stated, however, that the District Attorney's office was conducting an investigation on their own with regard to "FARRY"; that "FARRY" is actually David Ferrie (W; M; 42; 195; 5-11; wears a wig, having suffered loss of hair in blotches). He said that Ferrie has a record at the New Orleans Police Dept. - Bureau of Identification;

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9/3/70

Dear Tom,

Having just completed some writing that has occupied most of my time recently, I began to do some filing. I found copies of some of the things for which I recently asked you, so I write to eliminate any work possible for you and to correct a possible misapprehension.

You will recall my interest in your first knowledge of Ferris as "Farris", also as "Farry", the way it appears in the Marina transcript, CD 544:45. From the documents at which you glanced it appeared that Agents Corrats and Rice did not interview Ferris until ~~11/23/63~~ 12:35 a.m. 11/23/63 and that J. Philip Stein phoned at 11 p.m. 11/24. Neither of these would have made your knowledge in time to have Marina questioned possible. However, the first page of your Control 620, of which I found a relatively clear copy in what had been sent me by the Archives, reports that one Donald Mitchell did phone your New Orleans office at 5 p.m. 11/24. I believe that, if you have no other recollection, this could have been relayed to and from you in time to account for the question asked of Marina.

Rereading this report also answers the question, did the FBI interview Ferris before you did. It did not but reported to your agents afterward.

This mailing also included the last two pages of your Control 61. The last sentence on the penultimate page interests me, if you can provide any further information. It reads, "The landlady at 4907 Magazine said that Oswald had very few visitors and the only regular visitor he had was a Latin American male". It would seem that this was covered in reports from New Orleans as well as phone calls (indicated at top of page). I am interested in this man's identification and the absence of reference to Ferris's having gone to that address to make inquiries. I understand the latter was testified to in the Clay Shaw trial. I have no transcript of that testimony.

Page 12 of your Control 457 was also included. It gives no reason for the interview with Voebel. I suggested this may have been because of his broadcast and asked you if you have the tape. The last line reminds me that you have never responded to my question, why was it necessary to get an additional print of the WGSU footage? The records date the first copy in the Archives, from both you and FBI. This says you got a print 11/26/63. Have these two rolls ever been checked for editing, especially of the appearance of the other Oswald helper?

Page 4 of your control 442, also included, says "a separate report will be submitted" on Ferris. Can this be identified at the Archives or in your files? Can it be one of those missing?

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg