

Trapnell Familiar to FBI

By EARL GOLZ

The former mental patient who was shot and captured in New York City while hijacking a transcontinental jetliner Saturday was given 29 pages in the National Archives in connection with his stories about an alleged plot to assassinate former Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Garrett B. Trapnell told agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on Aug. 19, 1963—three months before President John F. Kennedy was assassinated—that he had met with three Cuban refugees who were planning to kidnap and kill Robert Kennedy.

Trapnell, whose 34th birthday was Monday, got another audience from the FBI on Nov. 23, 1963—the day after President Kennedy was killed—and substituted the name of "Oswaldo" for one of the Cuban refugees with whom he allegedly met in May, 1963, in Miami, Fla., according to the archives.

When FBI agents pressed him for an explanation of why he changed his story, Trapnell finally admitted the plot to kidnap and kill Robert Kennedy was a "fabrication," the archives document stated.

The records related that Trapnell said he invented the

story "to confuse and complicate the facts surrounding the local criminal charges" against him for issuing a fraudulent check at Chestertown, Md.

The copy of a letter, describing Trapnell's mental state on Nov. 23, 1963, was included in the archives records.

The letter, by Dr. William G. Cushard, superintendent of Clifton T. Perkins State Hospital at Jessups, Md., states that Trapnell was admitted to the hospital by order of the judge at Chestertown for a pre-trial mental examination.

Dr. Cushard said Trapnell had previously been hospitalized for mental examinations and had been given a diagnosis of "schizophrenic reaction, paranoid type."

However, he wrote that Trapnell at that time appeared to be "functioning on a sociopathic level. His schizophrenia seems certainly to be in remission."

Another psychiatrist who had reviewed Trapnell's file at the Maryland hospital, Dr. Oscar G. Prado, wrote an opinion for the court which was contrary to Dr. Cushard's.

The archives included a copy of Dr. Prado's opinion

which stated that Trapnell "is a menace to society by virtue of his psychotic-insane mental illness whose prognosis for full recovery is very poor."

Trapnell told FBI agents he had been in Cuba for less than six months, and while there, joined Fidel Castro's Revolutionary forces and met Miguel Amados Fuentes, one of the trio he alleged were plotting to kill Robert Kennedy "to sabotage any relationship between the Cuban revolutionary movement and the United States."

He termed the three "loyal Castroites," although all had come to the United States as refugees from Castro's Cuba, according to the archives documents.

Trapnell said the group gave him a Russian-made 7.62 millimeter rifle, which his wife turned over to the Quincy, Mass., police department when he was arrested on a fugitive warrant on June 19, 1963.

At first Trapnell's German-born wife told FBI agents the rifle was a "museum piece" and had been in the Trapnell family for years. She was later reinterviewed and said she had "no idea where the Russian gun came from" but "assumed" it had been in the Trapnell family for years because it was so old.

Trapnell's file at the Spring Grove Mental Hospital in Baltimore, Md., was closed in April, 1961, after several stays there because he "was not considered to be dangerous to himself or others," according to the archives report.

One month later, Trapnell's uncle, a general in the U.S. Airborne Corps, told an FBI agent that Trapnell is a "con artist" and acts like a "big shot," archives documents state.

The uncle told federal agents that Trapnell had been cashing worthless checks at military installations throughout the United States, using the general as a reference.

At about the same time, in April, 1961, another uncle told the FBI that his nephew has been "mentally insane for many years," archives reports state.



—Associated Press Wirephoto

Garrett B. Trapnell . . . Uncle calls him a "con artist" who acts like a "big shot."

Trapnell To Undergo Mental Test

NEW YORK (UPI)—Accused hijacker Garrett Brock Trapnell, who was shot last Saturday by an FBI agent at Kennedy Airport, was ordered to undergo psychiatric observation Monday by a federal judge.

U.S. District Judge Edward R. Neahr ordered psychiatric tests for 30 days to determine if Trapnell is mentally competent to stand trial on charges of air piracy. Trapnell, a native of Waltham, Mass., residing in Miami, Fla., has a history of mental disturbances, according to authorities.

Trapnell skyjacked a Los Angeles-to-New York plane, ripping a gun out of a cast on his arm and demanding cash, asylum in a foreign country, clemency for black militants and a talk with President Nixon. He was wounded in the arm and shoulder by an FBI agent during his capture.

Canadian authorities say Trapnell, 34, is a suspect in six Canadian bank robberies.