

OBITUARIES

Edwin Walker, Oswald Target

REUTER

Dallas — Retired Maj. Gen. Edwin Walker, 84, a staunch anti-communist who once was the target of a sniper's bullet reportedly fired by Lee Harvey Oswald, died Sunday of pulmonary disease at his Dallas home.

In April, 1963, seven months before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Walker narrowly missed being hit by a sniper's bullet fired through the window of his home.

The Warren Commission, the official U.S. panel that concluded Oswald assassinated Kennedy, also identified Oswald as the man who fired at Walker.

A highly decorated World War II veteran, Walker ended his 30-year Army career in 1961 after being criticized for handing out right-wing literature to his troops in Germany.

The general first gained notoriety in 1957 when assigned to lead federal troops enforcing the integration of black students into a white high school in Little Rock, Ark.

Historians say Walker carried out the assignment reluctantly, only after President Dwight Eisenhower refused to accept his resignation.

Walker later was accused of taking part in protests against integration efforts at the University of Mississippi. He subsequently won several libel suits against news organizations that reported he had led the 1962 unrest.



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Walker in 1964