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Dear JFK researcher,

Enclosed is a copy of the Prouty (Lansdale/Conein) article which I had on display at the ASK symposium. I still think the Fourth Decade should have printed it, don't you? Maybe if you sent a note to Jerry Rose, he'd reconsider. More than 100 researchers told me they thought he should have accepted it. His excuse was that it was only Prouty's opinion, not research. But considering the position Prouty held, his opinion may be better than research!

So many persons asked for copies that it became a considerable burden to xerox and mail copies to all who requested them. If you would send me several postage stamps, it would help defray copying and mailing costs.

I hope you had a chance to see my poster display of "The Many Faces (60) of Lee Harvey Oswald". I think it is extremely important for everyone to see this photo comparison of Oswald pictures, since it is obvious that not all of the "Oswalds" are Oswald. I will attempt to figure how inexpensive copies can be made of the poster so they can be available to researchers at a reasonable cost.

It was a pleasure to associate with you in Dallas at the symposium. Keep seeking the truth!

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack White". The signature is stylized, with the "J" and "W" being particularly prominent and connected.

Jack White

Can anyone verify Fletcher Prouty's ID of Lansdale and Conein in Dealey Plaza?

By Jack White*

I have always had the utmost admiration and respect for Col. L. Fletcher Prouty when it comes to integrity, patriotism, and his insider's personal knowledge of the personnel and workings of the "Secret Team" based on years of first-hand participation.

Therefore I take very seriously his identification of two persons photographed in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963, as being Ed Lansdale and Lou Conein. He knew both these men personally and worked closely with them over a period of years.

As a researcher of JFK photos extremely interested in identifying persons in the pictures, I have corresponded with Col. Prouty in an attempt to develop definite proof of his allegations, and herein I will quote directly from some of his letters with his kind permission.

I sent Fletch xeroxes of the photos in question (details reproduced at right) for his comments. He identified them as Lansdale and Conein, but could offer no proof except his own personal acquaintance with the two.

The photos are (1) the George Smith photo of the 3 Tramps, which shows a man Fletch identifies as Lansdale, in a suit and wearing eyeglasses, strolling westward by the TSBD as the tramps are loosely escorted eastward by Officers Wise and Bass; (2) the James Altgens photo, which shows a stocky man wearing a construction helmet who Fletch says is Conein, standing on Elm Street with arms folded across his chest, looking not at the motorcade, but more toward the Dal-Tex Building; (3) the same individual as seen in Phil Willis slide number 5; and (4&5) the same man strolling westward on Elm past the Umbrella Man, as seen in two slides by Wilma Bond.

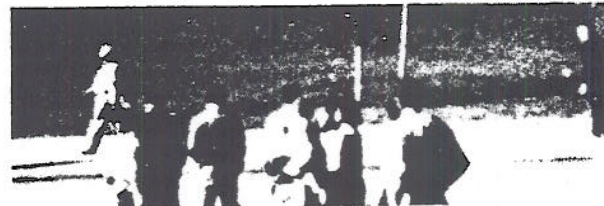
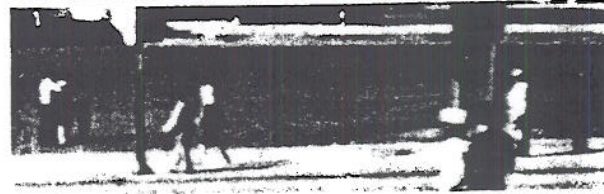
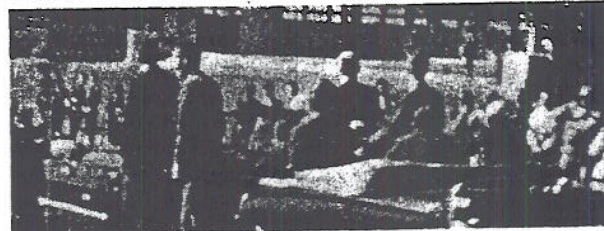
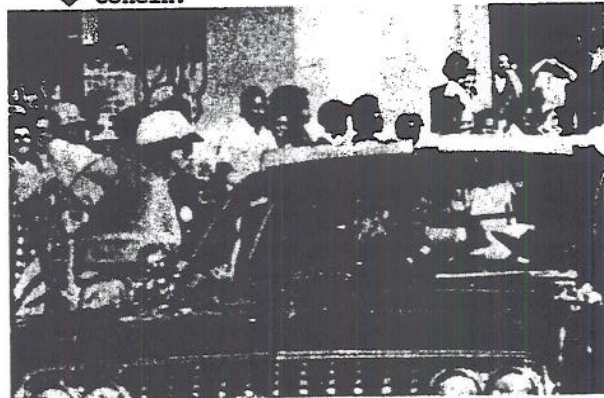
Here are direct quotations from some of Prouty's letters about his identification of these persons. (All are direct quotes, but in some cases paragraphs have been rearranged or combined with other paragraphs from a different letter for clarity or continuity, as indicated by ellipsis.)

"...the first time I saw the "tramps" photo series, I recognized Ed Lansdale in #1, for sure. So, because I knew Ed so well and what his type of work was, and what he was best at, I knew right then, for sure, what he was there to do and how he would have done it. He was a true professional. Do you recall that he had "retired" as an



↑ Lansdale?

↓ Conein?



Air Force Major General on Oct. 23, 1963? Of course that was an entirely "notional" retirement. He was never in the Air Force. He was always an agent of the CIA.

"Furthermore, this leads to the source of the decision. Ed's role would have been the script-writer and leader of the band; but he would only have been working on the orders of someone above him. Ed had many deep and important links to big business. It is easy to visualize that within his circle, which would have included Allen Dulles, among others, word was received that a decision to get rid of JFK had been made. That fact, the decision, would trigger a chain of events that would assure the death of JFK, or anyone else, anywhere in the world. These are not "terrorists" on the streets. They are superior professionals who are on salary, highly skilled and trained, and thoroughly covered. They are never arrested. The certainly are not "lone gunmen." The lone gunman is always a selected "patsy."

"I had known Ed since 1952 in the Philippines...and throughout my service in the Far East, 1952-1954, I kept meeting him frequently in Manila and Saigon. My Air Squadron flew there on regular schedules out of Tokyo and we supported his Saigon Military Mission (a 100% CIA unit).

"When he returned from Vietnam he was assigned to the Air Force Directorate of Plans where he worked for a very good friend of mine in that shop...in the Pentagon in 1957...His office was in a parallel hall just opposite mine. He was a fish out of water there, and I was a very handy old friend for him...In other words I saw him frequently...and I was one of the few persons in Plans that he could speak to easily.

"Then in about 1959 he got reassigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense in the Office of Special Operations. That is the office that takes care of CIA matters and manages the NSA. The Air Force transferred me to that office in 1960, so Ed and I were together again in the same office...I worked with him daily...in 1960-1961...I knew him well...In 1961, I was transferred, this time to the Joint Staff. I did the same work there that I had done in the Secretary's Office. In fact, because they had eliminated the Office of Special Operations, I was now head of that work for all services all over the world. Ed stayed with the Secretary doing CIA work. We still saw a lot of each other.

"I say all this to tell you I knew the guy very well. I worked with him, have visited with our wives in each others homes, have traveled with him when I was the pilot of Air Force planes, etc.

"Then one day someone showed me the "Tramps" pictures. I think it was (Richard E.) Sprague. I recognized Lansdale immediately in the first photo. Being trained never to "uncover" a CIA man, I didn't say a word; but as soon as I could, I got a set of the pictures. I had no doubt whatsoever about his identity...the "tramps" photo is unquestionably Lansdale...Then I got a letter from a man who was quite senior in the Pentagon and who knew Ed and me very well. In responding to the letter, which had nothing to do with the assassination, I slipped that single "Tramps" photo in the envelope and asked if he had seen it. I told him about the "Tramps" and then said do you see anything you can tell me about in the picture. I gave him no names at all.

"Immediately he replied and much to my surprise began by saying, "That is Ed. I could tell him anywhere. What the hell was he doing there?" He went on with more and described the strange costumes of the "police", the weapons and the rest...his details were more complete than mine... That was all I needed. That senior person is unimpeachable. I had not suggested the name. He and I knew!

"I have carefully put that letter away and never revealed its source...I made Mae B. (Brussel) and Charles S. (Spears) aware of all this years ago, and asked them to keep it confidential...

"Because I knew that was Lansdale I then knew why I had been sent to the South Pole and what his role in the whole thing was. He was an absolute genius. He could plan such things well. Now, I mean plan the Cover Story, such as Oswald, such as Ruby, such as the Tramps, etc. That was his specialty.

"...In keeping with our work, Lansdale's and mine, I have a good idea of what he was doing in Dallas. It is a most professional and demanding type of work. He was using certain of his highly trained MONGOOSE people to perform roles in Dallas and he was orchestrating the whole thing. In such a capacity he may or may not have had a thing to do with the shooting team. They are always "faceless", highly professional and from out of the country. He simply created the "smoke screen" under which the professionals worked. In fact the actual smoke screen on the Grassy Knoll, the Umbrella

Man, the Tramps and other such events are among the things he would have been directing. The phoney police and Secret Service men would have been his actors. Ed was very good at such things and had a world-wide reputation for it. Note: people have noted that Ed had eyeglasses on in the photo. They are more likely his ear-pieces for radio transmission. The cops are wearing normal (hearing) devices.

"After the job in Dallas, Ed would have had to work with the perpetual "Cover Story" people so that they could keep it alive and vibrant as it is today, nearly 30 years later. That is the most difficult part of any "assassination."

"...Oswald had been in the Philippines when the CIA was supporting the Indonesian rebellion against Sukarno. Ed and I were deeply involved in that. I would not be surprised to learn that he had met Oswald there. It was all CIA, not military, and Oswald was one of the selected Marines from the Atsugi unit. Perfectly normal. He might have been the only Marine Ed ever knew that well. So he "created" a role for him. Oswald would trust Ed because he had known him before, knew that he worked for the Secretary of Defense and all that. So when asked to go to Russia for a good cause, to go to Dallas for a good cause, and to sit in that theater after Tippit and the President had been killed, for a good cause, he did so. He had no idea the President's death had been pinned on him, or Tippit's. He just fell into that as a "patsy", just as he said. He did it all for his good friend "Major General Lansdale."

"...It is my belief (unverified to date with other associates) that the fellow in the white hard-hat who is shown in the Altgens photo, the man almost in line with a pole and to the left of the Depository door area, with his arms folded over his chest and staring, not at the President, but at the shooter in the Dal-Tex building, is Lou Conein. He, (E. Howard) Hunt and Lansdale frequently worked together on major projects and we know they were in Dallas.

"...Quite obviously there are few good pictures of Lou Conein...look in a copy of the Cecil B. Curry biography of "Edward Lansdale, the Unquiet American" by Houghton Mifflin 1988.

"Now I'll reveal something strange for you. Turn to the set of pictures that follow page 206. On the top of the tenth photo page you'll see a picture of a house in

Saigon. On the bottom half you'll see two guys and the inscription, "Lucien Conein and Joseph Baker, Lansdale teammates on Vietnam, relaxing."

"So now you know who Conein is and what he looks like. Not at all! The CIA put out this book and it is full of untruths. They very cleverly found the worst picture of both of these men they could find and then REVERSED the names. Conein, not a good picture, is the guy on the right holding the drink in his left hand. He's not the guy on the left of the photo.

"That's the way the CIA works. They take advantage of every detail, to their own interest. That is a poor picture of Lou. I'm going to see if I have a better one. (I should have put one in my own book). Here, I found one. In the Karnow book, "Vietnam" go the set of photos after page 269. Then go to the fourth photo page. You'll see Conein, again not specifically located, but he is the guy right in the middle and up one step. All the others are Vietnamese. That is a much more typical shot of Conein. Now see if you can agree with me that this man is the same one as the one in the Altgens photo.

"You'll see in this bit of work how the CIA plays the game. Both books are contrived trash...so that no one will know the truth about Lansdale and Vietnam...This is the CIA and its allies in their efforts to teach all of us history."

There you have Col. Prouty's amazing allegations. He says that two high-ranking CIA officials were photographed in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963. He speculates that Lansdale and Conein were there as planners and supervisors of the "cover story" aspects of the assassination. Does he have proof beyond his own personal observations? No. Should these allegations be investigated? Yes.

If it can be shown that either or both of these men was in Dealey Plaza on that Friday noon 30 years ago, who in the entire world would believe it to be just another harmless coincidence?

I do not have access to the books Fletcher mentions which have photos of Lansdale and Conein. But I'm sure that in the vast research community there are many who would like to pursue this challenge:

Can we prove or disprove Prouty's claim that two of the planners of the assassination were on hand in Dallas on 11-22-63?

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