

# RIFLE IDENTIFIED BY MRS. OSWALD

She Says Husband Owned  
Assassination Weapon

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 — A rifle that authorities believe was used to kill President Kennedy was identified today by Mrs. Marina Oswald as the one that her husband had kept in their Texas home.

Chief Justice Earl Warren, chairman of the Presidential commission investigating the Nov. 22 assassination, disclosed the identification of the Italian-made weapon by the widow of Lee H. Oswald.

He also said that Mrs. Oswald, who was born in the Soviet Union, testified that her husband had used the fictitious name of "A. Hidell" in some activities when they lived in New Orleans last summer, before moving to Dallas.

That was the name under which the rifle had been purchased by mail from a Chicago sporting goods store.

He did not like to believe her husband killed President Kennedy, the facts presented to her since the assassination would not permit her to reach any other conclusion," the Chief Justice said in a statement.

He added that Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, mother of the accused assassin, would testify Monday at her request. She has challenged the widow's statement that Oswald shot Mr. Kennedy.

The Chief Justice said she had been invited to bring "with her such evidence as she has," and could have counsel.

In a Dallas radio interview Jan. 28, Oswald's mother said she felt sorry for the widow. She said she believed that the information on which Marina Oswald had concluded her husband was guilty had come from Secret Service agents guarding her.

"For a long time I have believed that a profound effort has been made to change her belief in Lee's innocence," Oswald's mother said then.

## Calls Her Brave

Chief Justice Warren read a statement after the commission had wound up four days of questioning the 22-year-old Mrs. Oswald.

He said she had also identified about 145 exhibits gathered by Federal authorities, including some of her husband's clothing, letters and memorandums.

Asked if she had been upset or had broken down during the long identification process, the Chief Justice replied:

"She was very composed to ward the whole investigation. She is very tired. She is a very brave little woman."

In answer to questions, he said the commission had finished with her testimony and had told her "she was free to go."

He said she had indicated she was "willing to come back" if the commission needed her.

He repeated that she had been "very cooperative" and had appeared voluntarily with her lawyer, John M. Thorne of Grand Prairie, a suburb of Dallas.

## Weapon Described

The rifle found on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository Building in Dallas after Mr. Kennedy had been shot was brought to the commission by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

It is a 6.5-millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano equipped with a telescopic sight. A rifle of that description was ordered by Oswald, under the name of "A. Hidell" from Kelin Sporting Goods of Chicago last March. The total cost was \$19.95. There was a shipping charge of \$1.50.

Mrs. Oswald previously had told authorities that a rifle matching a description of the alleged murder weapon had been kept by her husband in the garage of their suburban Irving home. It was there on Nov. 21, she said, but was gone the next morning.

Oswald was seen carrying a paper-wrapped package into the book warehouse, where he had been employed, the morning of Nov. 21. Authorities believe it contained the rifle.

Two days after Mr. Kennedy's assassination Oswald was shot to death in a Dallas jail house by Jack Ruby, a night-club operator now awaiting trial for murder.

Mrs. Oswald was questioned more than 20 hours by the commission's chief counsel, H. Lee Rankin of New York, former Solicitor General, Chief Justice Warren said today that her counsel, Mr. Thorne, had participated in the questioning.

She "told of her life with Lee Oswald from the time she met him (in Russia) through the assassination, and also the events up to the present time," the Chief Justice said.

"She told about her childhood and her schooling, and life in the Soviet Union up to the time she met Lee Oswald," he continued. "She has filled in and elaborated on many things which she had previously described in interviews."

Mrs. Oswald, who appeared worn yesterday, seemed refreshed today. She posed for photographers as she left the commission offices in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Building near the Capitol.

She may remain here with her daughter, June Lee, 2, over the weekend. Another daughter, Rachel, 3 months is in Texas.

Mrs. Oswald has been escorted constantly by Secret Service agents, who accompanied her from Dallas. Mr. Warren has said that she is free to travel as she wishes, is not in protective custody and that she and her lawyer have asked that she be guarded.

She arrived for this morning's session almost simultaneously with Mr. Warren. The tall Chief Justice smiled at the slender, brown-haired widow and asked as they entered the ele-

vator: "How is the baby this morning?"  
"Fine," she replied with a smile.

All but one of the seven members of the commission have been present at the interrogation of Mrs. Oswald. Senator Richard B. Russell, Democrat of Georgia, has been occupied with meetings of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees. He is chairman of the Senate panel.

The text of Chief Justice Warren's remarks follow:

Mrs. Marina Oswald has appeared and testified voluntarily for four days before the commission. Her attorney, Mr. John M. Thorne of Grand Prairie, Tex., has sat with her and been available to her for advice at all times. He was offered an opportunity to ask any questions he desired of Mrs. Oswald. On occasions he did participate in the questioning. He has fully cooperated with the commission.

Mrs. Oswald has fully co-

operated and told of her life with Lee Oswald from the time she met him through the assassination, and also the events up to the present time. She told about her childhood and her schooling, and life in the Soviet Union up to the time she met Lee Oswald. She has filled in and elaborated on many things which she had previously described in interviews.

Mrs. Oswald has identified the rifle that was found on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository Building in Dallas immediately after the assassination as the one which her husband kept at their home prior to the assassination. She also testified that while they lived in New Orleans, during the summer of 1963, in some of his activities he used the fictitious name of A. Hidell, which was the same as that under which the rifle was purchased from a mail-order house in Chicago.

She stated that while she did not like to believe her husband killed President Kennedy, the facts presented to her since the assassination would not permit her to reach any other conclusion.

The commission announces that Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, the mother of Lee Oswald, has requested that she be allowed to testify before the commission and produce evidence that she has.

She has been invited to appear here and testify on Monday Feb. 10, 1964, at 10 A.M., and bring with her such evidence as she has. She agreed to testify at that time. She has also been informed that she may have her counsel present and that he may interrogate her.

WC

7 FEB 1964