

WALTHERS, B. B. (Buddy)

SCREENED
on 1/15/76

K.P.
Frazier, Buell
Walters, Eddie H.

MR:el
7/22/64

July 22, 1964

W

Mr. Wesley J. Liebeler
c/o United States Attorney's Office
Dallas, Texas

Dear Jim:

I understand that you will be deposing Buell Wesley Frazier and Deputy Sheriff Eddie Raymond "Buddy" Walters.

1. With regard to Walters I am enclosing a recent FBI report. He should be questioned about the following matters:

a. He purports to have heard Oswald state "It's all over" when he was arrested in the theatre. This remark was heard only by Officer McDonald, who was the officer hit by Oswald in the struggle. All the other testimony merely quotes McDonald. No one other than McDonald actually heard Oswald.

b. Walters alleges that a set of metal filing cabinets were found in Irving containing records that appear to be names of Cuban sympathizers. He states that this evidence was turned over to Captain Fritz and the Secret Service. This allegation appeared in the Nation magazine quite sometime ago but we have had no confirmation thus far. He should be questioned as to exactly what he saw which led him to the belief that the cabinets contained the names of Cuban sympathizers. Specifically he should also be asked to describe the cabinets so that we can relate it to the physical evidence in our possession.

c. He should be questioned as to exactly what he saw on the day of the assassination with reference to the bullet which he claims splattered on the edge of the curb on Main Street. This might be the same spot which is referred to in the photograph which you took with you. One time Walters was quoted as having found a bullet, but he seems to have looked away from this position.

cc: Mr. Rankin
Mr. Redlich
Mr. Willens

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2. With regard to Duell Wesley Frasier we notice that our record is not complete in that for some reason Frasier was never asked whether, prior to the morning of November 22, he had seen Oswald carrying a package which might have contained an object similar to the rifle. He should be asked whether he ever saw a package similar to the one he saw on the 22d or whether he ever saw a bulky package of any kind being carried by Oswald. He has already testified that he never saw a package being carried by Oswald from the Depository Building back to Irving, but he was never asked about a package being carried from Irving to the Depository.

Sincerely,

Norman Redlich

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Date 6/18/64

J. E. "BILL" DECKER, Sheriff, Sheriff's Department, County of Dallas, furnished a copy of an investigative report prepared by Deputy Sheriff "BUDDY" WALTHERS concerning investigation conducted by WALTHERS in regard to the assassination of President KENNEDY on November 22, 1963. This report is as follows:

"COUNTY OF DALLAS

"SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

"SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

"Name of Complainant

"Serial No.

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

"Offense

"Officer Buddy Walthers, Deputy Sheriff, Dallas County Sheriff's Office

"DETAILS OF OFFENSE, PROGRESS OF INVESTIGATION, ETC.:

"(Investigating Officer must sign)

"Date Nov 22, 1963 19 _____

"I was standing at the front entrance of the Dallas Sheriff's Office when the motorcade with President Kennedy passed. I was watching the remainder of the President's party when within a few seconds I heard a retort and I immediately recognized it to be a rifle shot. I immediately started running west across Houston Street and ran across Elm Street and up into the Railroad yards. At this time, it was not determined if, in fact, this first retort and 2 succeeding retorts were of a rifle, however, in my own mind, I knew. Upon reaching the railroad yard and seeing other officers coming, I immediately went to the triple underpass on Elm street in an effort to locate possible marks left by stray bullets. While I was looking for possible marks, some unknown person stated to me that something had hit his face while he was parked on Main Street, the next lane south from Elm, as the traffic had been stopped for the parade. Upon examining the curb and pavement in this vicinity I found where a bullet had splattered on the top edge of the curb on

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on 6/18/64 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 100-10461by Special Agent A. RAYMOND SWITZER/eah Date dictated 6/18/64

CR 1245

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"Main Street which would place the direction of firing, high and behind the position the President's car was in when he was shot. Due to the fact that the projectile struck so near the underpass, it was, in my opinion, probably the last shot that was fired and had apparently went high and above the President's car. At about this time word was passed through the crowd that the President had been shot, as well as Governor Connolly. The only building that was likely to have a shot fired from in this area was the Texas School Book Depository Building on the northwest corner of Elm and Houston streets, which, by this time, was fast becoming surrounded by police officers. Upon returning to the front of this building, I met Allan Sweatt, Chief Criminal Deputy of the Dallas Sheriff's Office and immediately escorted 5 witnesses to the shooting which he turned over to me and took them to Sheriff Bill Dacker's office and placed them in the custody of Deputy Harold Elkins until they could be questioned. At this time Deputy Allan Sweatt told me that a police officer had been killed in Oak Cliff area somewhere on Jefferson Street. I immediately left the office with Deputies J. F. Ramsey and Deputy Frank Vrla and ran Code 3 to Oak Cliff. I received information by radio that there was a suspect in the Dallas Public Library located at Marsalis and Jefferson. Upon arriving at this location, we were met by a number of other police officers and we surrounded the library. It was then determined that the person inside the library was the wrong person. Upon getting back into our automobile, we started towards 10th Street, where the police officer had been killed in an effort to obtain further information and then received radio information from Deputy Sheriff Bill Courson, who was also in the Oak Cliff area, that the suspect was in the balcony of the Texas Theatre on West Jefferson. We arrived at this location within a few seconds and were met by many other officers. Upon proceeding to the balcony of the theatre, I ordered the manager to turn on the house lights. Some unknown officer was holding a white man at the steps of the balcony and I proceeded on into the balcony. I looked over the balcony and saw a commotion in the center section, near the back, in the downstairs of the theatre, and I hollered to other officers, 'He's downstairs', and we all ran down the steps and to the area of the commotion. When I reached the area of commotion, it was hard to tell 'Who had Who' as there were so many officers into a melee on the floor between the seats, but I saw Officer Carroll of the Dallas Police Department standing on the other side

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"of the melee of people and I could see a gun on the floor with 2 or 3 hands on it and I reached into this melee and pulled up on the people and I believe it was Officer Carroll who reached down and got this gun. I am not positive it was Officer Carroll, but I believe it was, however, there was such a swarm of officers at this time, it was hard to determine. 4 or 5 officers then began carrying subject towards the front of the theatre and I picked up my shotgun which I had laid down in some seats away from the melee and me, along with several other officers who had shotguns, proceeded outside and held the crowds back so the officers could put the suspect in a car. The crowds were pushing and yelling, 'Kill the SOB,' and 'Let us kill the SOB'. The only thing I ever heard the suspect say was, 'It's all over'. After they left the area with the suspect, me and the officers who were with me got in our car and reported back to Sheriff Decker at his office. Sheriff Decker then ordered me, together with Deputy Harry Weatherford and Deputy J. L. Oxford to go to a house at 2515 West 5th Street in Irving, Texas and meet some officers from Capt. Will Frits' office. We arrived at location and met Detectives Rose and Adamcik from the Homicide division of the Dallas Police Department. Upon getting to this residence, we were met by a Mrs. Michael Payne and upon showing our credentials and advising her who we were, she stated, 'It's about the President being shot. We've been expecting it. Come on in'. She informed us that the lady standing beside her was Mrs. Oswald. Mrs. Payne went on to explain that Mrs. Oswald spoke only Russian, however, he would help interpret as she spoke both English and Russian. Upon asking if suspect Oswald lived at this location, she advised that his wife and children lived there, but that Lee Oswald and his wife had been separated and he did not live there. Mrs. Payne gave us permission to search the house or do anything we wanted to and she also, through interpretation, gave us Mrs. Oswald's permission to do the same. Mrs. Payne then gave us a telephone number and stated that was the phone number of Lee Oswald, however, she advised she did not know an address where he was staying. At this time, I called Sheriff Decker and advised him of this and he criss-crossed this telephone number and gave us an address of 1026 North Beckley. He advised he would dispatch other officers to cover this address. About this time, Mr. Michael Payne came to this location. Mr. Payne works at Bell Helicopter

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"Plant. When told of the incident, Mr. Payne did not seem at all surprised, and merely stated that he had just taken off and had come home, when he had heard that the President had been shot. It was then learned that Mr. Payne had also been separated from Mrs. Payne and that he has been living in Grand Prairie. Mr. Payne gave no explanation for coming to this house in Irving, Texas.

"Upon searching this house we found stacks of hand bills concerning 'Cuba for Freedom' advertising, seeking publicity and support for Cuba. Also found was a set of metal file cabinets containing records that appeared to be names and activities of Cuban sympathizers. All of this evidence was confiscated and turned over to Captain Fritz of the Dallas Police Department and Secret Service Officers at the City Hall. A blanket was found at location that had a string tied around one end of it and still bore an imprint of a rifle. It was then determined that suspect, LEE OSWALD, had spent the previous night at this house. It was also determined from Mrs. Oswald that the day before, a rifle was in this blanket. Further interrogation of Mrs. Payne and Mrs. Oswald was carried on at the office of Captain Will Fritz, Dallas Police Department, at which I was not present."

Sheriff DECKER stated the above report, as well as all ~~investigative~~ reports reflecting investigation conducted by the Sheriff's Department, County of Dallas, has been furnished to the President's Commission.

Date 6/18/64

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EDDIE RAYMOND "BUDDY" WALTHERS, Deputy Sheriff, Sheriff's Department, County of Texas, advised he has been with the Sheriff's Department for nine years. He said he resides at 2527 Boyd Street, Dallas, Texas.

WALTHERS was exhibited a copy of an investigative report which he prepared on November 22, 1963, concerning investigation conducted by him of the assassination of President KENNEDY. WALTHERS read this report and stated he had no additions, deletions, nor would he make any change in this report. He stated this investigative report accurately reflects investigation conducted by him in regard to the assassination of President KENNEDY on November 22, 1963.

Regarding the book, "The Red Roses of Dallas," by NERIN E. GUN, WALTHERS stated he has never heard of the book and does not know anyone by the name of NERIN E. GUN, has never been interviewed by him and, to his knowledge, has never had any contact with GUN.

WALTHERS stated that on November 22, 1963, he was standing on the northeast corner of Main and Houston Streets as the Presidential motorcade passed. He said that, after the car bearing President KENNEDY had turned west on Elm and proceeded down Elm Street, he heard three shots, which he believed to be rifle shots. He stated he ran in the direction of the railroad yard. Concerning the claim made by GUN in his book, "The Red Roses of Dallas," that WALTHERS stated that the shots, or at least one of the shots, fired in the assassination of President KENNEDY were fired from the railroad overpass in front of the President's motorcade, WALTHERS stated he never made any such statement. WALTHERS advised he had concluded at that time that all shots had come from the Texas School Book Depository Building.

WALTHERS stated he never worked with any Secret Service Agent in the investigation of the assassination of President KENNEDY and informed the only contact he had with any Secret Service Agent was in the Sheriff's Office in Dallas, Texas. Further,

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on 6/18/64 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 100-10461
by Special Agent A. RAYMOND SWITZER/eah Date dictated 6/18/64

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WALTHERS stated since he heard only three shots he would have no reason to look for a fourth bullet or empty cartridge case. He stated he never looked for a fourth bullet, nor did he find a fourth bullet. He stated he did not participate in a search with any Secret Service Agents.

WALTHERS advised he was in the Texas Theatre, West Jefferson Street, Dallas, Texas, as set out in his investigative report at the time LEE HARVEY OSWALD was apprehended.

WALTHERS stated he has no idea where GUN got the information which is attributed to him.

Filer

*KF Walthers
Eddie P.
Deputy Sheriff KF*

MEMORANDUM

July 22, 1964

TO: Norman Redlich
FROM: Arthur Marmor *(AM)*
SUBJECT: Deputy Sheriff Eddie Raymond "Buddy" Walthers

The data supplied by Deputy Sheriff Eddie Raymond "Buddy" Walthers does not appear to have been used in the drafts of Chapters 3 and 4 of the Report.

There is a discrepancy between his investigative report of November 22, 1963 and his statement to the FBI on June 18, 1964 (See CR 1245, pp 36-41). In the report, he said he went to the triple underpass to look for possible marks left by stray bullets. An unknown person told him he had been hit in the face while parked on Main Street. (Officer Clyde A. Haygood reported that a person near the underpass was hit by an object during the shooting - Ch 3, p 65). Walthers said he then found where a bullet had splattered on the top edge of the curb on Main Street. He thought it was the last shot fired which had missed. In his statement to the FBI, however, he merely said he heard three shots and never looked for or found a fourth bullet.

Walthers confirmed Patrolman McDonald's testimony that Oswald said at the time of his arrest, "It's all over." (Ch. 4, p 56) He also alleged that a set of metal file cabinets were found at Irving containing records that appeared to be names and activities of Cuban sympathizers. He said this evidence was turned over to Captain Fritz and Secret Service officers.

"THE RED ROSES OF DALLAS"

4. CLAIM: Oswald was treated at Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas, Texas, at the age of seven after an automobile accident. Pages 124 and 199.

INVESTIGATION: Records of the hospital do not substantiate Gun's claim. Those records do show, however, that Oswald, at age five, was treated as an emergency case on April 18, 1945, for an injury sustained when hit in the left eye by a rock. He was treated with ice packs and discharged on April 19, 1945.

5. CLAIM: A doctor examining President Kennedy at Parkland Memorial Hospital found on his stretcher a bullet that, without doubt, had fallen from one of the President's wounds in the course of surgical measures. Page 133.

INVESTIGATION: The Secret Service has advised this Bureau that the intact bullet found in the hospital in connection with the assassination was reportedly found as it fell from a stretcher used in the handling and treatment of Texas Governor John B. Connally. This bullet was examined by the FBI Laboratory and was found to have been fired from the rifle owned by Oswald.

6. CLAIM: A "Buddy Walthers" of the Dallas County Sheriff's Office affirms that the shots, or at least one of the shots, fired in the assassination had come from the overpass in front of the Presidential motorcade. In addition, Walthers ran in that direction and with a Secret Service Agent found a bullet, "the fourth bullet," in the grass near the overpass. Pages 152 and 211.

INVESTIGATION: Walthers is undoubtedly Eddie Raymond Walthers of the Dallas County Sheriff's Office who has denied making the above statement regarding the origin of the bullet, has denied looking for a bullet with any Secret Service Agent, and has denied finding "the fourth bullet." In addition, the Secret Service has advised that it has no knowledge of any of its Agents finding a "fourth bullet."

7. CLAIM: The number of employees in the Texas School Book Depository Building is referred to as 91 and more than 250. Pages 153 and 206.

INVESTIGATION: In connection with this Bureau's inquiry, signed statements were taken from 72 individuals reportedly working in this building on the day of the assassination and it was determined that two individuals in the building on the day in question were on sick leave on the day when the signed statements were taken.