

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*Winniford*  
 Dallas, Texas  
 April 14, 1963  
 Mrs. J. E. ...  
 Ex 5351  
 Date December 4, 1963

(1)

IRA JEFFERSON "JACK" BEERS, 10913 Joaquin Drive, Dallas, Texas, advised he is a staff photographer for the Dallas Morning News and took the photograph of RUBY just prior to the instant when he fired the fatal shot into OSWALD's body, in the basement of the Dallas Police Department on the morning of November 24, 1963.

BEERS stated that he arrived in the basement of the Municipal Building at approximately 9 a.m., having been assigned this duty by his paper. At the time he arrived there were approximately ten to twelve people in the basement and NBC and CBS television cameras were already in place. These cameras were located directly opposite the double doors through which OSWALD would be brought for loading into the conveyance for transportation to the Dallas County Jail.

BEERS was not challenged by anyone on entering and came into the basement down the steps from Commerce Street. BEERS does not recall that the cameramen or newsmen there at the time had any identification badges or other means of identification which were visible.

BEERS located a spot just to the left of the NBC camera, sitting on the top of two railings. He stated that he had made arrangements with the NBC cameraman to tap him on the leg as OSWALD turned the corner from the corridor to the right toward the loading conveyance, which would permit BEERS to get out of the way of the TV camera which would be panning and following the route of OSWALD.

At approximately 20 minutes to 11 BEERS estimated the crowd had increased to approximately 40 or 50 people, consisting of newsmen, photographers, and cameramen, and he stated that he noticed just behind where the cameras were set up and where he was stationed, there was a line of uniformed Dallas Policemen.

The news reporters were standing in front of BEERS and from BEERS' position on the railing above them he had decided to shoot for one clear photograph of OSWALD's face as he came down the corridor, this shot to be made over the heads of the newsmen present.

Just prior to the time that OSWALD came out of the elevator a police car was backed down the ramp and BEERS noticed that a number of the newspaper reporters were practically pinned against the wall of the ramp by this police vehicle. He also stated that there were two armored

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 Dallas 4-14-64

on 12/3/63 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1639

by Special Agent JAMES C. KENNEDY and Date dictated 12/3/63  
WILL HAYDEN GRIFFIN:bmm

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vehicles, one in the basement, and one near the driveway from the Commerce side.

BEERS was in position and was training his 65 millimeter lens, 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 Mamayiflex (Japanese made) camera, looking into the view finder, and focusing on OSWALD as he came through the double doors from the elevator. Inasmuch as his view was limited and he was trying for one clear shot, BEERS did not notice anything until he first saw a hat, and did not know that he had obtained the photograph which was published throughout the nation until he had the shot that he made developed.

BEERS stated that he had not at any time observed JACK RUBY prior to the time that he observed the hat through his view finder and "supposed" that RUBY must have been standing in the second row of those present, which would have been along the wall to the front and right of the TV cameras.

Just prior to the time that RUBY stepped forth and fired the fatal shot, an individual wearing glasses standing on the same side of the basement from which RUBY appeared, extended a microphone in front of OSWALD and for an instant gained OSWALD's attention, inasmuch as he turned his head to the left just prior to returning his gaze to the front, at which time BEERS snapped his photograph as RUBY surged forward and fired.

BEERS recalled that the shot was a dull, muffled explosion, indicating that the gun was very close to OSWALD's body, and BEERS stated that immediately thereafter complete pandemonium existed, and that he rewound his camera and began snapping additional pictures, only to learn later that he had rewound past the next negative.

After the shooting BEERS went back up into the building and was forced to show his press photographer credentials to gain entrance to the building. *I did know Ruby prior to the shooting - AS  
S. 1067 to FBI in report dated Nov. 30, 1963 JAS APR 11, 1964*  
BEERS did not know RUBY prior to this shooting, nor did he know OSWALD, other than being present on the previous day, November 23, 1963, when OSWALD had been brought downstairs from the jail to appear before representatives of the press and television, at which time BEERS stated OSWALD had what he would consider a "smirk" on his face. BEERS said that while OSWALD was being brought down the hall for this appearance, he seemed to be searching for a microphone in which to make some statement, inasmuch as he looked at BEERS' camera and then turned and looked along the line of newsmen and photographers and stated "I want an attorney."

BEERS has no idea how RUBY gained access to the basement. *CR 85*

*3Pa*

BEERS EXHIBIT No. 5351—Continued

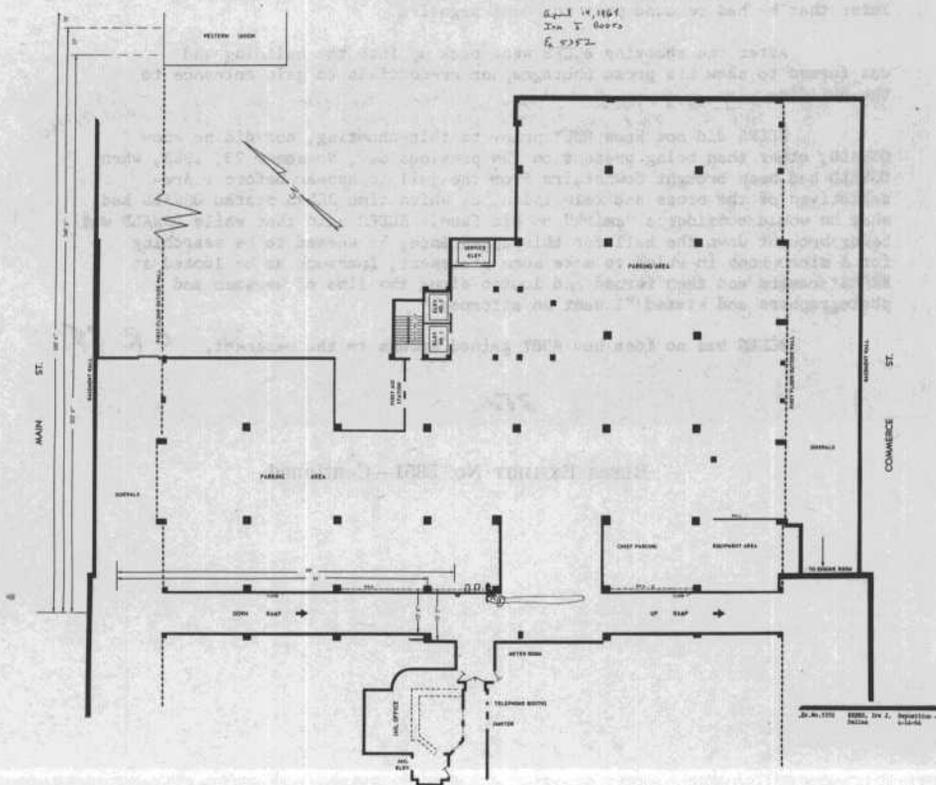
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It is noted during prior interview on November 30, 1963, BEERS advised that he was not required to show identification to get into the basement of the Police and Courts Building; however, he was carrying his camera and is personally acquainted with practically all police officials in Dallas, having been associated with Dallas newspapers for at least the last 18 years, and he is sure the officers who saw him in the basement knew who he was and were acquainted with him. He also observed the officers searching the cars parked in the parking area. He saw uniformed officers set up as guards in the parking area and observed uniformed guards at the Main Street entrance to the drive-through ramp and in the vicinity of the armored car which was at the Commerce Street exit to the drive-through ramp.

BEERS EXHIBIT No. 5351—Continued



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