

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date December 11, 1963

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Captain CECIL E. TALBERT, Patrol Division, Dallas, Texas, Police Department, was interviewed at his place of residence, 1211 Toltec, Dallas, Texas, at which time he furnished the following information pertaining to November 24, 1963, the day that LEE HARVEY OSWALD was shot in the basement of the City Hall:

He advised that on November 24, 1963, he reported at the Dallas Police Headquarters which is located in City Hall for his regularly scheduled duty. It was on or around 9:00 a.m., that morning, acting on his own behalf, he began to make some arrangements for the transfer of OSWALD. Although Captain TALBERT was not completely aware of all the specific details concerning the transfer of OSWALD from the City Jail to the County Jail, he decided that he would begin to initiate his plan of coverage for the transfer. His first step along this line came at approximately 9:00 a.m., when he began to discuss the coverage and security of the transfer with Lt. R. S. PIERCE, who he identified as being commander of Central Headquarters Division Area. After a brief discussion, Capt. TALBERT directed Lt. PIERCE to call in 3 squads from their district assignments from the three different stations and to take four individuals from headquarters station. His plan was to obtain at least two men from each squad at this time. The original plan and the plan that was put into effect was that the police officers being made available for the transfer were to report to Central Station with the squad cars parked in the immediate area in case the cars were needed. All officers were to report and have their cars parked in position prior to 9:30 a.m., that morning. Although he could not be positive Capt. TALBERT was quite sure that the majority of officers involved were available by 9:30 a.m., barring a few individuals who may have been a little late. In regard to this plan, Capt. TALBERT advised that he obtained a total of 19 patrolmen and identified these individuals as follows:

M. L. WISE  
A. R. BROCK  
L. G. TAYLOR  
B. G. PATTERSON  
L. E. JEZ  
R. E. VAUGHN

*Allen 12/10/63  
44-5069  
of Capt. C. E. Talbert  
Per A. White  
C. E. Talbert*

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on 12/10/63 at Dallas, Texas File # Dallas 44-1639  
by Special Agent AYTON E. BRAMBLETT & LANSING P. LOGAN:RL Date dictated 11/11/63

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency. Ex. No. 5069 TALBERT, C. E. Deposition.

TALBERT EXHIBIT No. 5069

M. E. HIBBS  
T. R. BURTON  
D. K. ERWIN  
R. A. WATKINS  
G. L. TALBERT  
M. E. FARRIS  
J. RAZ  
K. K. ANDERSON  
F. L. PATE  
R. C. NELSON  
H. J. WAGES  
J. R. GREGORY  
L. L. FOX

In addition to the foregoing individuals, Capt. TALBERT identified the following listed individuals as supervisors who would assist in the control of the transfer of LEE HARVEY OSWALD:

Lt. PIERCE  
Sgt. P. T. DEAN  
Sgt. PUTNAM  
Sgt. STEELE  
Lt. WIGGINS

Capt. TALBERT went on to say that although he had not been briefed on all the aspects of the transfer, he had learned that the transfer route was originally planned from the basement level of city hall, out the ramp way to Commerce Street, up Commerce over to Main, and directly down to the county jail. Capt. TALBERT later learned that the route was being changed and that the second plan was to transfer OSWALD by means of the armored car from the Dalls Police Department basement level, up Commerce to North Central Expressway to Elm Street, left on Elm Street to Houston Street, and left one block to the Dallas County Jail. Capt. TALBERT stated that he had originally based his coverage of the transfer on the original route but later changed a few men to cover the second planned route.

Capt. TALBERT continued to say that Lt. PIERCE instructed one of his supervisors, Sgt. P. T. DEAN, to check all the entrances and exits leading from the basement level of city hall to assure that all personnel, other than authorized individuals, were cleared from the immediate area. He added at this time that there were no reserve officers utilized in the basement of the police building and that specific arrangements were made to check the vicinity of the basement. In regard to this, Capt. TALBERT stated

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that he had two of his supervisors search the immediate area on the basement level of city hall and that the two supervisors in charge of this were Sgt. PUTNAM and Sgt. P. T. DEAN. Although he could not recall the exact time, Capt. TALBERT stated he had discussed the search of the area with the two supervisors prior to the transfer. At the time of their discussion he could recall both DEAN and PUTNAM had advised him that the search included the cars, trunks of cars, tops of pipes, entrances and exits, were all checked with negative results. Nothing unusual was found during the check and he could recall being satisfied with the area search. Capt. TALBERT went on to say that he personally checked the doors leading off the basement level to insure that they were all locked.

In regard to other security measures that were taken by Capt. TALBERT he stated that the city basement elevators of which there are two, were both "shut off" and this was done by means of a key. He explained this by saying that the elevators were adjusted so that they could not be operated below the level of the first floor of city hall. The service elevator which has an operator, was instructed not to pass the level of the first floor. Capt. TALBERT stated he could not recall the name of this particular operator, but felt it was something like "MITCHELL" or "MICHAEL." In regard to this, all city hall employees who were not police officers were cleared from the area including the parking attendant, whose nickname he could recall as being "KING." He could recall that "KING" was sent to the first floor prior to 10:00 a.m. that morning.

After the search had been conducted and the area cleared of all individuals other than authorized, Capt. TALBERT personally continued to check the area to include the Commerce Street exit leading from the basement area. He explained that the authorized personnel were those police officers who were to assist in the transfer as well as all news personnel who presented proper credentials. Capt. TALBERT could recall that during the course of the morning two news individuals were brought to him because they did not have press credentials. After a check of these two individuals, he determined that both were authorized newsmen and were permitted to stay on. He added that this check of news media representatives was one of several that was conducted during the morning hours prior to transfer of OSWALD.

Capt. TALBERT further advised that during the morning hours, prior to the transfer, he could recall that regular business was being carried on at the jail office. All individuals

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conducting business at the jail office were checked and if it appeared that they were authorized they were allowed to complete their business. He could specifically state that the jail office business was light that morning and very few individuals were actually conducting business. He could not recall if this business was being carried on at the time of OSWALD's transfer.

Prior to the transfer, exact time he could not recall, Capt. TALBERT telephonically contacted the Homicide Section and advised Detective BECK that the parking area was checked and if Capt. FRITZ would desire to have uniformed officers proceed and follow the transfer vehicle which he still believed was to be the armored car. He was told that Capt. FRITZ was still interviewing OSWALD and that if anything was needed along this line he would contact him. Immediately thereafter, Capt. TALBERT prepared three plain police cars and three marked cars for the purpose of escort if desired. Subsequently, Chief STEVENSON and Chief LUMPKIN contacted Capt. TALBERT and advised that the armored car that was to arrive for the purpose of transfer should be backed into the ramp way leading from Commerce Street as far as possible. Upon arrival of the armored car it was noted that because of its weight, the armored car could only back in a short distance and in order to maintain the security measures, Capt. TALBERT assigned two officers, one on each side of the armored car, to insure no one would either leave or enter from that ramp way. Although Capt. TALBERT was not aware of the officers' identity at that time, he later learned that Sgt. P. T. DEAN and Officer R. A. WATKINS were assigned to each side of the armored car.

Capt. TALBERT further advised that just prior to the arrival of the armored car, Chief LUMPKIN, Chief STEVENSON and Capt. TALBERT discussed the route and traffic obstructions that he may encounter during the transfer. Although he had no personal knowledge of the number of individuals around the county jail, Capt. TALBERT was advised by an unknown police officer that there were approximately 600 people in the vicinity of the county jail. He added that Sgt. STEELE was instructed to place a police officer at each traffic light and to maintain their cars at a close distance. His plan was that the lead car would flash its lights as they approached and the officer who was assigned to the corner would be able to cut off all oncoming traffic. He explained that after the vehicle had cleared the intersection the police officers stationed at various points were to follow in their cars to give assistance

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if needed.

Capt. TALBERT could also recall that upon arrival of the armored car at the Commerce Street exit, a plain car with three detectives were sent out the Main Street ramp way so as to be in condition in front of Armored car for purposes of escort. Capt. TALBERT identified the occupants of this car as being Lt. PIERCE, who was at that time driving; Sgt. J. A. PUTNAM, who was in the right front seat; and Sgt. E. J. MAXEY who was in the left rear seat. He was later informed by Lt. PIERCE that it was approximately five minutes prior to the shooting of OSWALD that they had proceeded from the basement level of City Hall. Lt. PIERCE advised Capt. TALBERT that his route was out the Main Street exit, left on Harwood Street, and then over to the Commerce Street exit of the basement.

Although Capt. TALBERT could not be absolutely sure of the exact positions of each of the police officers assisting in this transfer, he did recall that Sgt. PUTNAM was stationed in the center of the ramp way and was trying to clear the news media that had congregated at this point. He could recall that Lt. WIGGINS was inside the jail office but was not aware of his exact duties in the jail office. He later learned that just prior to the arrival of LEE HARVEY OSWALD in the basement area, Lt. WIGGINS had received a phone call from the Homicide Section who advised that Capt. FRITZ was on his way to the basement level of City Hall with OSWALD. Lt. WIGGINS had advised him that the Homicide Section had asked him if everything was ready, at which time replied in the positive.

Capt. TALBERT related that just prior to the transfer of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, which he estimated to be approximately 11:30 a.m., he noticed a Homicide detective, name unrecalled, pull a plain car on the ramp way behind the armored car and then observed another Homicide detective, name unrecalled, who pulled in behind him with another plain car. Although he did not know the identities of these two detectives, at this time, he later learned that the first car was being driven by C. W. BROWN and the other car was driven by CHARLES DHORITY. He observed that the second car, driven by Detective DHORITY, was attempting to straighten as well as back into position for the transfer.

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TALBERT EXHIBIT No. 5069—Continued

TALBERT EXHIBIT No. 5069—Continued

Capt. TALBERT could recall that he was standing at the left front fender of the car that DHORITY was driving, and was attempting to clear the area of the people that had congregated. He stated that news media individuals were as close as two or three feet from the rear of the police car and for this reason was trying to clear the area. Although Capt. TALBERT did not actually see LEE HARVEY OSWALD being escorted from the basement level, he did hear a pistol shot during the time he was attempting to clear the congested area. He immediately turned to observe what had happened and noticed that several police officers were struggling with an individual whom he could not identify at that time. It was not until after the shooting that Capt. TALBERT realized that the individual identified as JACK RUBY had actually shot LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

Immediately following the shooting of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, Capt. TALBERT stated that he talked with Chief CHARLES BATCHELOR and asked him at this time if he could arrange to have all the individuals in the basement area assemble in the assembly room for purposes of a search. He explained this by saying that he was not aware of the fact that the pistol with which RUBY had shot OSWALD was in possession of the police officers. He later was advised by Detectives GRAVES that the gun had been recovered and that there would be no need to assemble the individuals for the purpose of a search. Capt. TALBERT then obtained several pads from the jail office and instructed Sgt. EVERETT to obtain the names and addresses of all individuals in the basement area. Although he could not recall the exact time, Capt. TALBERT stated that he had instructed Sgt. EVERETT prior to the arrival of the ambulance and later learned that the names and addresses of the individuals were not obtained as directed.

Capt. TALBERT further advised that shortly thereafter, he proceeded to the Parkland Hospital with other officers to initiate security measures at the hospital. He stayed at the hospital until approximately 5:30 p.m. that day at which time he returned to the police headquarters. He could not recall the exact time, but Capt. JAMES M. SUTER relieved him and the remaining officers around the area. He estimated this time to be approximately 6:45 p.m. that day, and stated that he thereafter left for his home.

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TALBERT EXHIBIT No. 5069—Continued

In regard to his particular assignment, Capt. TALBERT advised that he was acting on his own behalf concerning the security measures and was not instructed by any particular superior as to what he was or was not to do. At no time prior to the proposed transfer, did Capt. TALBERT receive any specific instructions concerning the details of the transfer and most of this information was obtained during the course of the morning.

Capt. TALBERT continued to say that he has never worked for JACK RUBY in any way whatsoever, but had heard through rumor that an individual by the name of "COX", who was alleged to be a reserve officer, was at one time employed by JACK RUBY. He stated that he could not base this on any particular fact and had only heard this through rumors. He could offer no information pertaining to any association between JACK RUBY and any Dallas police officer and felt that the only connection would be that of any normal association. He explained this by saying that several of the police officers are required to check night clubs and for this reason there would be a chance that several police officers would know of him only as a night club owner.

Capt. TALBERT stated that he felt he could not estimate the number of individuals that were in the basement level of City Hall either prior to the transfer of LEE HARVEY OSWALD or after the shooting had taken place. He was not particularly concerned over the exact number who were present and stated that his only intentions were to maintain the security measures. He was unable to identify any of the news media representatives who were in the basement level at the time of the transfer.

In regard to any background information concerning JACK RUBY, Capt. TALBERT stated that he was never personally acquainted with JACK RUBY and when he did see RUBY he could only recall that it was a familiar face. He related that he could not associate the name with the face and was not aware that RUBY was a night club owner in the Dallas area. Subsequent to the shooting of OSWALD, Capt. TALBERT was reminded by Lt. PIERCE that they had seen JACK RUBY approximately two years ago Ramada Inn Pancake House but could not recall any circumstances surrounding this meeting. He stated that to the best of his recollection he did not talk to RUBY at this time. 11

Capt. TALBERT continued to say that he did not observe RUBY prior to the transfer and did not at any time talk with RUBY either before or after the shooting of LEE HARVEY OSWALD. He advised that he could offer no information pertaining to LEE HARVEY OSWALD and was not aware if there was any relationship between RUBY and OSWALD. The first time he had heard the name of LEE HARVEY OSWALD was shortly after the assassination of President KENNEDY on November 22, 1963.

In regard to this entire matter concerning the shooting of LEE HARVEY OSWALD on November 24, 1963, Capt. TALBERT advised that he had prepared a statement which was submitted to the Chief of Police, Dallas, and that the information that was furnished in this statement was essentially the same information that he had just now furnished interviewing Agents.