

Date December 2, 1963

1

THAYER WALDO, News Reporter, Fort Worth Star Telegram, advised his residence was Apartment 524, 200 Burnett Street, Fort Worth. He stated he had been employed by the Star Telegram for approximately one year. He stated that he was sent to Dallas, Texas at approximately 9:40 a.m. on November 22, 1963 to cover the arrival of President JOHN F. KENNEDY at Love Field and at the Dallas Trade Mart. He stated he attended the breakfast given for the Presidential party in Fort Worth, Texas that same morning prior to going to Dallas, and at this breakfast was given a large tag identifying him as a newspaper reporter. He stated he hung this tag on his lapel and used it as identification for the next three days.

He stated that while at the Dallas Trade Mart on the morning of November 22, 1963, he learned President KENNEDY had been shot and proceeded at once to Parkland Hospital. He stated that after remaining at Parkland for approximately thirty minutes, he received an assignment from his newspaper to go to the Dallas Police Department headquarters and cover that building in the event that any suspects in the shooting were taken into custody. He said he drove his personally owned automobile from Parkland Hospital to the Police Department and went at once to the third floor where the Homicide Division is located. He said he went up on the elevator to the third floor wearing his press tag and no one questioned him or asked for further identification. He stated he remained on the third floor for several hours and sometime that evening, attended a press conference in a large assembly room in the basement of the same building. He said at this press conference, Chief of Police JESSE CURRY addressed the members of the press assembled there and LEE H. OSWALD was shown to the reporters for three or four minutes then taken out. WALDO said that during this Friday night press conference, there were no security checks by the Police Department or anyone else as far as attendance was concerned. He stated he noticed several outsiders there, specifically,

*Stella Taylor, June 27, 1964  
beginning of Thayer Waldo's  
... Sub #1*

Thayer Waldo Exhibit 1

on 11/30/63 at Fort Worth, Texas File # DL 44-1639  
by Special Agent JOSEPH L. SCOTT and  
B. TOM CARTER/rms Date dictated 12/2/63

*CR 85*

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

WALDO EXHIBIT No. 1

DL 44-1639

two building janitors and several teenagers. The doors of the assembly room were not closed and it seemed to him that anyone could have wandered in. WALDO said he did not see JACK RUBY at this press conference but heard later from several people, whom he could not recall specifically at the moment, that RUBY had been at the conference.

WALDO said he slept the night of November 22, 1963 at the Statler Hilton Hotel and returned to the third floor at the Dallas Police headquarters on the morning of November 23, 1963. He said he went to the third floor on the elevator still wearing his press tag, and no one questioned him. He said he remained for several hours on the third floor and saw an individual whom he learned later was JACK RUBY handing out cards advertising the Club Vegas. WALDO said these cards entitled members of the press to come to the Club Vegas for free drinks. WALDO said he was given one of these cards by RUBY and does not know what he did with it as he cannot now find it. He said most of the individuals receiving the cards were so busy and preoccupied with news gathering that they threw the cards on the floor.

WALDO said that sometime during the evening of November 23, 1963, Chief JESSE CURRY made the announcement to members of the press that OSWALD would be moved from Dallas Police headquarters to the Dallas County Jail by 10 a.m., November 24, 1963. WALDO said he was in the back of the crowd when this announcement was made and at first, understood CURRY's announcement to be that OSWALD would be moved at 10 a.m. the next day and was surprised that the Chief would name a specific time for moving such a controversial-type of prisoner. However, WALDO said he was later informed by several members of the press who were standing closer to CURRY that CURRY's exact statement was OSWALD would be moved by 10 a.m. the next day.

Thayer Waldo Exhibit 1

529

WALDO EXHIBIT No. 1—Continued

CR 85  
H

On hearing that, WALDO said he at once assumed that the Police intended to transfer OSWALD surreptitiously sometime during the night of November 23, 1963 or the early morning hours of November 24, 1963.

After CURRY 's announcement, WALDO went to the Statler Hilton Hotel and stayed the night. At about 7 a.m. or 7:30 a.m., November 24, 1963, WALDO telephoned the Homicide Division of the Dallas Police Department and spoke with a sergeant whose name WALDO does not recall. WALDO identified himself over the telephone by name and by newspaper and asked the sergeant if OSWALD had been moved. WALDO said the sergeant said, "No, he would be moved in 1½ or 2 hours." WALDO said he was surprised to hear that OSWALD was still held in custody at the Police Department and walked over to Police headquarters at about 10 a.m. that morning. He stated that between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., he was standing with a group of newspapermen on Commerce Street at the end of the corridor or ramp which runs beneath the Dallas Police Department from Commerce Street on the south to Main Street on the north. He said that GEORGE BUTLER, who is a lieutenant or captain in the Dallas Homicide Division, came to the Commerce Street end of the ramp and called out to the group of reporters, "Come in." WALDO said he and the other reporters entered the ramp at which time a uniformed officer checked their credentials.

WALDO said he noticed that in the ramp, three Police cars were parked in a straight line one behind each other facing toward Commerce Street. He said the ramp was so narrow that it was necessary to squeeze between the ramp or corridor aisles in order to get to an area in the corridor where a hallway intersected the ramp at right angles from the west. WALDO said that this hallway connected the ramp with an elevator from the jail upstairs and it was WALDO's understanding that OSWALD would be brought down in the elevator and out to the ramp through the hallway.

Thayer Waldo Exhibit 1

530

CR 85

WALDO EXHIBIT No. 1—Continued

DL 44-1639

WALDO stated that he and an American Broadcasting Company (ABC) reporter stood behind the third car in the ramp and back of this car was just to the south of the hallway entrance. WALDO believes the ABC man is named DUNCAN, but does not know whether it is his first name or last name. He said this man was a regular employee of WFAA radio station in Dallas. This man held in his hand a long hooded microphone which was connected by a cord with a tape recorder.

WALDO said that when the Dallas detectives escorted LEE OSWALD out of the hallway leading to the elevator and into the ramp, it was necessary for them to walk within a few feet of the rear end of the parked Police car where WALDO was standing with the ABC man. WALDO said as they passed, the ABC man pushed the microphone out in front of OSWALD's face and asked, "Do you have anything to say?". OSWALD turned his eyes toward the microphone and just then WALDO said a man in a hat made one long lunging step from WALDO's right to the front of OSWALD, shoved out his hand so that it was pressed almost against OSWALD's body, and there was a white flash and an explosion. WALDO said he never saw the gun but knew at once what had happened because he was standing so close. WALDO said that he did not recognize JACK RUBY as the assailant at that time and did not get a good look at him at that time because detectives leaped forward to overpower the assailant and there was a lot of confusion while he was dragged from the ramp area.

WALDO said that he had seen the television pictures of the shooting later and felt that he recognized RUBY as the man from the Club Vegas whom he had observed on the third floor at the Dallas Police Station on the night of November 23, 1963.

Thayer Waldo Exhibit 1

531

C. R. 857A

WALDO EXHIBIT No. 1—Continued

After the shooting, WALDO said that no members of the press were allowed to leave until they identified themselves and for the rest of the day on the third floor, strict security was maintained by the Dallas Police Department and reporters and everyone on the third floor was required to show identification every time they entered the floor through the elevator or came up the stairs.

WALDO stated he did not recall seeing RUBY while on the third floor on the night of November 23, 1963 talk to anyone except when handing out his cards. WALDO said he had no knowledge whatsoever of any prior relationship between JACK RUBY and LEE H. OSWALD.

Thayer Waldo Exhibit 1

532

CR 85