

ASSISTANCE RENDERED BY THE POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE
IN INVESTIGATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION

Immediately upon learning of the assassination of President Kennedy, the cooperation of the Postal Inspection Service was offered to agencies investigating the murder. By 2:00 p.m., November 22, our Fort Worth Division had established liaison with the Secret Service, the FBI, the Dallas Police Department, the Fort Worth Police, and Sheriff's offices.

At the outset it was not known who had primary responsibility for the investigation. Accordingly, cooperation was offered to all. As soon as President Johnson made clear that the FBI was in charge of the investigation, we assured them, both here in Washington and at Dallas, of our complete cooperation.

The following summarizes the more significant Inspection Service participation:

At Dallas, Texas

A postal employee of the Terminal Annex, Dallas post office, after hearing early broadcasts of Oswald's apprehension on November 22, recalled that he had rented a box to a person by that name. He checked his rental applications and determined that Box 6225 had been rented to Lee H. Oswald on November 2, 1963, and promptly furnished this information to a postal inspector. The business on the application was shown as "Fair Play for Cuba Committee, Chairman." This information was passed on to the Secret Service.

At the request of the Secret Service, Box 6225 was kept under constant personal surveillance by postal inspectors from about 5:00 p.m., November 22 until midnight November 24, as it was anticipated that an accomplice might call for mail in the box. The only mail in the box consisted of a Russian magazine addressed to Oswald. A modified surveillance was maintained thereafter. No one called for mail out of this box. The only outstanding key was recovered from Oswald immediately after he was taken into custody.

On November 23, in accordance with a request of the Secret Service, Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Tobias, manager of the apartments at 602 Elsbeth, Dallas, were interviewed. They stated that the Oswalds had lived at that apartment from November 3, 1962 to about March 1, 1963. Mrs. Tobias stated that the Oswalds had had considerable domestic trouble, and their fights disturbed other tenants so that they finally were requested to move. Mrs. Tobias mentioned that the

Oswalds frequently used her telephone to make and receive telephone calls and that all such conversations were in a foreign language. Three visitors of the Oswalds were described. Oswald was described as queer acting, and his wife as being quite lonely but very friendly. The foregoing information was furnished to the Secret Service.

Mrs. Tobias also stated that an information form completed by the Oswalds incident to renting the apartment was in the possession of Mrs. Marian Jurek, 9211 Hathaway, Dallas. The FBI was informed of the possibility that Mrs. Jurek might have handwriting specimens of Lee Oswald.

Advice was received on the morning of November 23 from the FBI that a rifle similar to that found in the sniper's nest had been purchased from Kleins Sporting Goods Company, Chicago, Illinois, for \$21.95, with a postal money order issued March 20, 1963. Search at the main post office, Dallas, by a postal inspector failed to disclose such an order; however, the inspector upon checking undeliverable sporting goods magazines in the post office found an add of Kleins showing the price of an identical rifle for \$21.45. The Postal Inspector in Charge at Chicago was so informed immediately and determined through examination of bank deposit slips that Kleins had deposited a money order for \$21.45 about March 14, 1963. Further search by an inspector at the Dallas post office disclosed record of the issuance of money order No. 2,202,130,462, for \$21.45, on March 12, 1963. This paid order was located at the Records Center in Alexandria, Virginia on the early evening of November 23. The order showed the remitter as A. Hidell, P. O. Box 2915, Dallas, Texas. This box was rented in the name of J. H. Oswald at that time and a forwarding order was later entered to have mail sent to New Orleans. Hidell is the same name as was used by Lee Oswald on a draft registration card which he had in his pocket, and his name was also shown on his box application card in New Orleans as being entitled to receive mail in the box.

The paid money order was immediately turned over to a Secret Service agent at Washington, D. C., who flew it to Dallas.

Postal inspectors furnished to the FBI at their request the originals of applications for Post Office Boxes 6225 (Terminal Annex) and 2915 (General post office). The original forwarding request was turned over to the Secret Service at their request.

On the morning of November 24, in accordance with a request of the FBI, postal inspectors obtained and furnished the address of Miss Ruth Willis, a Terminal Annex box patron, who worked on the fourth floor of the Texas School Book Depository on November 22 and heard footsteps overhead just after shots were fired.

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A postal inspector took part in the interrogation session of Oswald for about two hours just prior to the shooting of Oswald on November 24. A memorandum covering the interview was furnished by him to the FBI at their request. Two copies of the memorandum are attached.

On December 2, the Secret Service advised that they had a letter from Oswald to his wife, written in Russian prior to the assassination, indicating there might be a sudden, permanent separation between him and his wife. Because the Secret Service surmised that Mrs. Oswald would receive further word through a post office on Ervay Street, postal inspectors gave the matter attention but could not locate the letter.

At New Orleans, Louisiana

On the evening of November 22, postal inspectors determined from records of the Lafayette Square Station, New Orleans, that post office box 30061 was rented to L. H. Oswald on June 3, 1963. Others authorized to receive mail were A. J. Hidell and Marina Oswald. The home address was shown at that time as 657 French Street, but there is no such number. On September 24, 1963, the New Orleans post office received a request to forward mail from Box 30061 to 2515 West Fifth Street, Irving, Texas. The box was closed September 26, 1963. Two copies of a newspaper "The Militant" were on hand. The FBI was furnished the originals of the application and forwarding order on Box 30061 on November 23.

Inquiry by postal inspector on the evening of November 22 of Mr. Jesse Gardner, manager of apartments at 4905 and 4907 Magazine Street, New Orleans, elicited the information that Oswald had rented a furnished apartment at 4905 Magazine, but had used the 4907 address probably through error. Mr. Gardner stated that Mrs. Oswald became pregnant while living there, and was picked up by another woman, name unknown, in a station wagon, who said she was taking her to Texas to have her baby, and that Oswald left shortly thereafter. The letter carrier from Station B, serving the Magazine Street address, recalled that most of the mail for Oswald was second-class matter including some foreign newspapers. One Russian magazine was on hand at Station B.

On the evening of November 22, postal inspectors determined from New Orleans police records that Lee H. Oswald was arrested on August 9, 1963 in the 700 block of Canal Street, charged with disturbing the peace, and fined \$10 or 10 days. The arrest occurred after he became involved in an argument with three students who were anti-Castro, as he was distributing pro-Castro circulars. He had no other record of arrest to our knowledge.

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At Irving, Texas

Inquiry on November 22 by postal inspectors at Irving, at the request of the Secret Service, disclosed a forwarding order, dated May 15, 1963, directing that mail for Lee Oswald be sent from 2515 West Fifth Street to 4907 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. As far as could be determined the address at 2515 West Fifth Street was the only one ever used by Oswald at Irving.

Carriers who served 2515 West Fifth Street from the latter part of July 1963 until November 22, had continued to deliver mail to the Oswalds to the 2515 West Fifth Street address. One of the carriers recalled that only circulars and newspapers of foreign origin had been delivered.

Postal inspectors interviewed Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Schneider, 2707 West Fifth Street, on the early evening of November 22. They stated that they first saw Mrs. Oswald at the 2515 West Fifth Street address in August 1963, and that Mrs. Ruth Paine, who resided in the residence at the latter address, said that she (Mrs. Paine) had taken Mrs. Oswald to New Orleans at least once since August 1963, and had last returned from there with Mrs. Oswald on about October 22, so that the latter could have an expected baby. Both stated that Mrs. Oswald apparently could speak only Russian, and that Mrs. Paine had taught Russian in a Catholic church school.

Mr. Schneider said he had seen Oswald in front of the 2515 West Fifth Street residence at approximately 6:00 p.m., November 21. He stated that a neighbor, Mrs. Ed Roberts of 2519 West Fifth Street, had told him that Willie Randle, 2439 West Fifth Street, had driven Oswald to work on the morning of November 22, and that Oswald was carrying a package large enough to have contained a rifle.

On November 25, it was determined that a postage due parcel had been on hand in the Irving post office for Mrs. or Mr. Oswald earlier in the week of the assassination and was delivered about November 20 or 21.

At Fort Worth, Texas

At the request of the Secret Service on November 22, for information on Robert L. Oswald, brother of the assassin, and listed in the Fort Worth city directory as living at 7313 Davenport Street, Fort Worth, inspectors maintained surveillance at that residence, and checked license plates of vehicles parked at that address. Their inquiries disclosed that he had moved on March 5, 1962 to Route 5, Box 32-C, Malvern, Arkansas, and from there on September 10, 1963, to

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1009 Sienna Drive, Denton, Texas. They also determined that there was no criminal record for him in the Tarrant County Sheriff's office or the Fort Worth Police Department. Secret Service was so advised.

On November 22, inspectors checked records of the Fort Worth Motel for possible registration by Oswald on November 20 to 21. This was based on a report that on the morning of November 21 at breakfast in the motel an unidentified man remarked that "Benedict Arnold is coming to town." The identity of the person making this remark was not established.

At midnight on November 22, postal inspectors, at the request of the Secret Service, accompanied two agents to the residence of Peter Gregory, 3513 Dorothy Lane, South, where the agents went inside to interview Mr. Gregory. Their information was that Gregory had taught Russian to Oswald and that his son was friendly with Oswald.

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CONFIDENTIAL



Lee Harvey Oswald on bridge in Minsk.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1800