

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/23/632
DL 89-43

ARNOLD LOUIS ROWLAND was interviewed at the Dallas County Sheriff's Office. He advised he was born April 29, 1945 at Corpus Christi, Texas. He resides at 3026 Hamorny Street, Dallas, telephone FE 7-1861. He is a student at Adamson High School in Dallas, Texas, and is employed on weekends at the Pizza Inn on West Davis Street in Dallas.

At approximately 12:10 PM, November 22, 1963, he and his wife BARBARA took a position on Houston Street at the west entrance of the Sheriff's Office to observe the KENNEDY Motorcade as it was to pass that position and then turn left on Elm Street. While standing there waiting for the motorcade to come, ROWLAND talked to his wife about security measures that were being made for the President's visit. He advised that he was talking of this subject in view of the recent trouble that Mr. ADLAI STEVENSON had upon visiting Dallas.

About 5 or 10 minutes after they had arrived at this position on Houston Street, he looked up at the Texas School Book Depository building and noticed two adjoining windows on the second floor from the top were open and in the windows he observed a man standing back about 10 or 15 feet and he was holding in his hands what appeared to be a rifle with a scope. He was holding the rifle at a parade rest sort of position.

Upon seeing this, ROWLAND said he mentioned it to his wife and made the remark that the person must be a Secret Service man.

He advised this person was a white male of slender build and appeared to have dark hair. He appeared to have on a light colored shirt, open at the neck.

The KENNEDY Motorcade passed this spot about 15 minutes after ROWLAND observed the man at the window with the rifle and had just turned west on Elm Street and headed down the hill toward the Triple Underpass, when he heard the first shot, which he said sounded somewhat like a backfire of an automobile. He said following the first shot some people around him had laughed. He said that about 8 seconds after the first shot, there was another report which he was positive was a rifle shot. A

on 11/22/63 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 89-43
by Special Agent WALLACE E. HEITMAN /rmb Date dictated 11/23/63

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 11/23/63Dallas, Texas
November 24, 1963

ARNOLD LOUIS ROWLAND, 3026 Hammerley, telephone FE 7-1861, advised that he is a white male, 18, and resides with his wife, BARBARA WALKER ROWLAND at the above address and they attended school at Adanson High School. He stated that on November 22, 1963, he and his wife, ~~went~~ to downtown Dallas for the purpose of seeing President KENNEDY in the parade through the downtown area. He stated that at approximately 12:15 PM, he and his wife were standing on the East side of Houston Street, adjacent to the Dallas County Courthouse. He stated he and his wife were discussing the security of protecting the President under such circumstances as the forthcoming parade and he was looking around at the buildings and observed an unknown male wearing a light colored shirt and holding what appeared to be a .308 rifle with telescopic sight on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository. He stated this man was standing inside the window on the southwest corner of the sixth floor of the building, which window is nearest the overpass. He stated he assumed that the individual in possession of the rifle was a security guard ~~there~~ for the purpose of protecting the President and that he called this matter to the attention of his wife but the man moved back out of sight before his wife could see him.

ROWLAND stated that he was not close enough to identify the person he saw and cannot say if it was or was not LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

"I, Arnold Louis Rowland, make the following statement of my own free will to James W. Swinford and Paul E. Wulff, who have identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I am 18 years of age, live at 3026 Hammerly, and am employed at Pizza Inn, 2841, West Davis, Dallas, Texas.

"My wife Barbara and I arrived at a point on Houston Street in Dallas between Main and Elm Streets at about 12:10 p.m., November 22, 1963, for the purpose of observing President Kennedy in the motorcade. The exact position where we were located was on the sidewalk on the west side of the Dallas County Courthouse just under the office of Sheriff Decker and a few feet to the south of the elevator shaft which comes out of the sidewalk.

"Between 12:10 p.m. and 12:15 pm., I looked toward the Texas School Book Depository which faces the South and is located on the corner of Elm and Houston. I observed the two rectangular windows at the extreme west end of the Texas School Book Depository on the next to the top floor were open. I saw what I believed to be a man standing about 12 to 15 feet back from the window on the right. He appeared to be slender in proportion to his height, was wearing a white or light colored shirt, either collarless or open at the neck. He appeared to have dark hair. He also appeared to holding a rifle with scope attached, in a ready position or in military terminology, port arms. I saw him only momentarily and he seemed to disappear in the shadows of the room.

"I gave this no further consideration as I [/] at the time believed he was probably a Secret Service man. I also called this to the attention of my wife, but she did not see the man.

"About 15 or 20 minutes later the President came by, but I did not see him get shot, nor did I see any shots fired. I did hear three shots. By about 1:45 p.m. I had advised an officer of what I had seen and I was taken to the office of Sheriff Decker.

on 11/21/63 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 89-43
by Special Agent J. CALVIN RICE &
JOHN V. ALMON/cah Date dictated 11/23/63

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COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2782--Continued

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1Date 11/23/63

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"I would not be able to identify the person I saw due to the distance involved.

"I have read this 3-page statement which contains to my knowledge the correct truth.

"/s/ ARNOLD L. ROWLAND
11-24-63

"WITNESSES:

"/s/PAUL E. WULFF
"Special Agent, FBI, Dallas, Texas
"/s/JAMES W. SWINFORD,
"Special Agent, FBI, Dallas, Texas"

BARBARA WALKER ROWLAND, born April 5, 1946, at Grand Prairie, Texas, advised she resides at 3029 Hamner Street, Dallas, telephone FE 7-1801, and is a student at Adanson High School in Dallas. She advised she and her husband, ENOLD LOUIS ROWLAND, came to downtown Dallas on the morning of November 22, 1963, to observe the KENNEDY Motorcade. At approximately 12:10 PM, they took a position at the west entrance to the Sheriff's Office on Houston Street, to await the Motorcade.

They were standing on the street talking about the security measures which were being taken to protect the President and talked about the recent incident involving Mr. ADLAI STEVENSON. Shortly after they arrived at this place her husband told her to look up at the building across the street, which was the Texas School Book Depository. He said that two adjoining windows on the second story from the top were open and there was a man standing up there holding a rifle. Her husband told her he must be a Secret Service man. She said she looked up and then her husband told her that the man had moved back. She said she could not see the man because she is very nearsighted and she did not have on her glasses.

She said they did not say anything more about this and in about 15 minutes the President's Motorcade passed by and headed left on to Elm Street and started down toward the underpass, when they heard the three shots, spaced several seconds between each shot. She advised after hearing the shots, they started running. She stated that is all she could remember.

on 11/22/63 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 89-43
by Special Agent WALLACE R. HEITMAN /rmb Date dictated 11/23/63

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