

Form No. 1588 (Revised)  
MEMORANDUM REPORT  
(7-1-59)UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

ORIGIN Field (Dallas)

OFFICE Dallas, Texas

TYPE OF CASE  
Protective ResearchSTATUS  
ContinuedTITLE OR CAPTION  
Assassination of President KennedyINVESTIGATION MADE AT  
Dallas, TexasPERIOD COVERED  
12/2 - 6/63

Texas School Book Depository

INVESTIGATION MADE BY Special Agents Arthur W. Blake,  
William N. Carter and Elmer W. Moore

DETAILS

SYNOPSIS

This report covers inquiries which were made at the Texas School Book Depository, 411 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas. All employees who work in this building and who were present at work on November 22, 1963, have been interviewed as set forth below, and written statements taken from those who were able to furnish pertinent information concerning the assassination.

DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

The Texas School Book Depository is a privately-owned firm engaged in the warehousing and shipping of textbooks for various publishers. The books are shipped to schools in Texas and surrounding states. The firm presently occupies a building at 411 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas, and has occupied the building since January 1962. Prior to that time, the firm was located at 501 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas. The presently occupied building is leased from Mr. D. Harold Byrd, 6909 Vassar, Dallas, Texas, who has owned the building for many years.

The officers of this company are Mr. Jack C. Cason, President, 4015 Druid Lane, Dallas, Texas; Mr. O. V. Campbell, Vice President, 7120 Twin Tree Lane, Dallas, Texas; and Mr. Roy S. Truly, Director and Superintendent of Operations, 4932 Jade Street, Dallas, Texas.

This firm also furnishes office space for seven publishing companies, whose books and publications are handled by the Texas School Book Depository. These publishers are as follows: Lyons and Carnahan, Room 201; South Western Publishing Company, Room 203; Allyn and Bacon, Room 301; The MacMillan Company, Room 302; The American Book Company, Room 303; McGraw-Hill Book Company, and their subdivision, Gregg Publishing Company, Room 305; and Scott-Foresman Company, Room 401.

DISTRIBUTION Chief Dallas	COPIES Orig. & 2cc 2 cc	REPORT MADE BY <i>Arthur W. Blake</i> SPECIAL AGENT Arthur W. Blake	DATE 12-7-63
		APPROVED <i>Frank J. ...</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DATE 12-7-63

(CONTINUE ON PLAIN PAPER)

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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The normal working hours for the employees of the Texas School Book Depository are from 8:00 A.M. to 4:45 P.M. with a 45-minute lunch period. The employees of the publishing companies have varying work schedules, but all of them are normally out of the building by 5:00 P.M.

Mr. Eddie Piper, age 55, 3402 Manger Avenue, Dallas, telephone TA 5-2190, is employed by the Texas School Book Depository as handyman and janitor. His normal working hours are from 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., and he usually works until 7:00 or 8:00 P.M. Among his duties are to clean the offices and toilets of the Depository after all the employees have left for the day. He also checks to see that all the lights are out and doors locked before he leaves. During the evening hours, and usually after Piper leaves the building, two employees of the Acme Building and Maintenance Company, 1901 Laws Street, Dallas, come to the Depository Building, and they clean the offices of the publishing companies and the toilets on the second, third, and fourth floors. These people usually leave the building around midnight. They are furnished with keys to the building and are required to lock the entrance when they leave. The building then remains unoccupied for the rest of the night.

The Smith Detective Agency and Nightwatch Service, 610 N. Akard Street, Dallas, makes periodic checks of the building during the night-time hours, to determine whether all doors are locked and all lights out.

The portions of the first, second, third and fourth floors, not occupied by offices, are used for book storage, and the entire fifth, sixth and seventh floors are used for book storage. The actual filling of orders and packing of books for shipment takes place on the first floor of the building.

During the period of December 2 through 5, 1963, all persons employed in this building were interviewed and the results of these interviews are set forth as follows:

Mr. Jack C. Cason, President of the Texas School Book Depository, stated that to his knowledge he had never seen Oswald. Among Mr. Cason's duties is public relations and he is away from the building much of the time in that capacity. On November 22, 1963, Mr. Cason left the building at about 11:00 A.M. to meet some friends who were arriving in town to attend his daughter's wedding scheduled for November 23, 1963. Therefore, he was not in the building or in the area at the time of the assassination and had no knowledge of those events.

Mr. O. V. Campbell, Vice-President of the Depository, advised that although he does not have the title, he actually acts as office manager, takes care of the payroll, and does the hiring of office personnel. The office of this firm is located on the second floor of the building and the office personnel has very little, if any, contact with the warehouse employees. Mr. Campbell continued that to his knowledge he had never known Oswald, and does not recall ever having

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seen him prior to the time Oswald's photograph was shown on television on the day of the shooting. At the time of the shooting, Mr. Campbell was standing on the steps at the front entrance to the Depository Building, and was unable to furnish any pertinent information concerning the assassination.

Mr. Campbell continued that Oswald had made no provisions for disposition of wages due him for the week of November 18, 1963. The actual amount due, after deductions, was \$43.37, representing four and one-half day's pay from Monday, November 18, to noon on November 22, 1963. All of the warehouse employees including Oswald are normally paid in cash on a twice monthly basis. On October 31, 1963, and on November 15, 1963, Oswald was paid \$104.41 in cash, representing wages, less deductions, for those periods.

On December 3, 1963, Mr. Campbell wrote a company check, #6052, in the amount of \$43.37 payable to Mrs. Lee Harvey Oswald, and representing full payment due Oswald for his last week of employment. This check was turned over to Special Agent William N. Carter, Secret Service, for delivery to Mrs. Marina Oswald, widow. Mr. Campbell also furnished a copy of Oswald's W-4 form which was executed on October 16, 1963, the first day of his employment.

Mr. Roy S. Truly, Director of the Texas School Book Depository, and Superintendent of Operations, has been interviewed on several occasions between November 26 and December 4, 1963. Mr. Truly probably had more contact with Oswald than any of the other employees at the Depository.

Mr. Truly stated that Oswald's employment with this firm resulted from the following circumstances: On or about October 14, 1963, Mr. Truly received a telephone call from a woman living in Irving, Texas. He had never heard of her prior to that time and did not recall her name until newspaper stories subsequent to the shooting on November 22, 1963, mentioned a Mrs. Paine of Irving, Texas, and he then recalled that she was the woman from whom he had received the above-mentioned telephone call. Mrs. Paine stated that she had a young man staying at her home who was unemployed, in need of a job, and whose wife was expecting a child in the very near future. Mrs. Paine continued that she had a neighbor whose brother, Wesley Frazier, worked at the Depository, and Frazier had stated that he thought there might be a job open at the Depository.

Mr. Truly stated that he did need a temporary order filler at that time and he told Mrs. Paine to have her friend come down for an interview. On the following day, October 15, 1963, Lee H. Oswald came to Mr. Truly's office for an interview at which time he told Mr. Truly that he was honorably discharged from the U. S. Marine Corps, that he had never been arrested, or in any difficulty with the police, and that he was badly in need of a job. Mr. Truly decided to hire Oswald and told him to report for work the following day, which was October 16, 1963. During the first few hours of his employment, Oswald worked

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with other employees learning the job of order filling and after that worked by himself. Mr. Truly added that Oswald was a very quiet person and accomplished his duties in a satisfactory manner. Oswald was paid at the rate of \$1.25 per hour, worked a regular day shift from 8:00 A.M. to 5:45 P.M. five days a week, and had never missed a day's work during the period of his employment which ended at noon on November 22, 1963. Oswald's duties required that he, on occasion, visit the warehouse areas of all floors in the building including the 6th floor. Mr. Truly stated that about 12:10 P.M. on November 22, 1963, he and Mr. O. V. Campbell, Vice-President of the Depository, walked out the front entrance to the building and stood at the bottom of the steps waiting for the Presidential motorcade to pass by. He continued that the President's automobile passed his location at about 12:30 P.M., and a moment later three shots rang out. Almost immediately, Mr. Truly saw a motorcycle patrolman pushing through the crowd and heading for the entrance of the Depository Building. Mr. Truly ran inside the building with the patrolman, who asked "Where is the stairway?" and Mr. Truly escorted him to the rear stairway. As they passed the shaft for the two freight elevators, Mr. Truly paused momentarily and, noting that neither of the elevators was available, he directed the way up the back stairway. As Mr. Truly started up the stairway from the second to the third floor, he noticed that the patrolman was not with him and, at the same time, he heard the patrolman say something. Mr. Truly returned to the second floor and saw the patrolman standing at the doorway leading to the lunch room, with his pistol drawn and pointed at Oswald, who was then just inside the lunch room near the doorway. The patrolman asked Mr. Truly if he worked in the building and Truly replied "Yes".

Then Mr. Truly and the patrolman continued up the back stairway to the fifth floor where they found an elevator and they rode the elevator to the seventh floor. They proceeded up a short stairway to the door leading out onto the roof of the building, where a quick examination was made of the roof-top area. They then returned to the seventh floor, got in the elevator, and proceeded down, stopping briefly at each floor to make a hurried search. When they arrived at the first floor, there were numerous people about, many of them police officers. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Truly noticed that most of the shipping and order room employees were congregated together in a group, and that Oswald was not among them. Mr. Truly immediately conveyed this information to one of the police officers.

It is Mr. Truly's recollection that, at the time, he and the patrolman met Oswald at the lunch room door, shortly after the shooting, Oswald was dressed in light colored clothing and probably a T-shirt.

The above information was incorporated into a statement executed by Mr. Truly.

Additional information about the company and obtained from Mr. Truly is set forth as follows: The Texas School Book Depository operates another warehouse located at 1917 N. Houston Street, Dallas, Texas, and at the present time, there are three men employed there, none of whom work at the building located at 411 Elm Street. These men are Mr. H. S. Aiken, foreman, Edward Shields, and Frank Hester.

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Employment in the shipping and order filling section, supervised by Mr. Truly, varies seasonally. The normal number of employees is 13 or 14, but in January each year he hires about four extra personnel for six weeks to two months. Then, again in June, he hires about ten to fifteen extra persons for the summer months which is the busiest time for the company. In late August and September most of these extra employees are dropped. However, about three to five of the extra employees are kept on during October, and then during the months of November and December, employment drops to the normal of about thirteen or fourteen. Oswald was hired as a temporary employee and probably would have been dropped within the next week or two after November 22, 1963.

Mr. Truly also advised that the office of his firm usually employs about seventeen persons, and that they sometimes hire an extra one or two persons during the summer months.

Employees who work in the shipping and order filling section do not punch a time card. Mr. William H. Shelley, the senior employee in that section, makes a visual check of those present and reports to Mr. Truly if anyone does not show up for work. Attendance and employment records had been seized by the FBI and were not available for examination.

With regard to the boxes of books which were stacked in a disorderly fashion near the sixth floor window from which the shots were fired, Mr. Truly advised that several of his regular employees were engaged in laying a new plywood floor on the sixth floor, and had temporarily moved these boxes of books to clear an area in which they were working.

Mr. Truly was questioned about the identity of the first law enforcement officer to reach his building after the shooting and he stated that, to his knowledge, the first officer to enter the building was the motorcycle patrolman whose activities were previously described in this report. This officer has been identified as Patrolman M. L. Baker, Dallas Police Department, and a copy of his statement was obtained. He further stated that no one contacted him regarding security measures prior to the visit of the President to Dallas.

Mr. William H. Shelley, senior employee in the shipping and order filling department, was interviewed on December 2, 1963. He acts as foreman of that section although he does not have the title. Mr. Shelley is 37 years of age, and he lives at 126 S. Tatum Avenue, Dallas, telephone FE 7-1969. He has been employed by the Texas School Book Depository continuously since October 1945.

Mr. Shelley furnished the information that Oswald worked directly under his supervision, that he normally spoke to Oswald three or four times a day concerning the work, but that he had never had any social conversation or any association outside of working hours with Oswald. He continued that Oswald was always at work on time, never missed a day's work, and that he learned the operations of his job faster than any other new employee they had hired.

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Shelley continued that Oswald never took part in conversations with the other employees and appeared to want to be left alone. On the day of the shooting Mr. Shelley last saw Oswald at about 11:50 A.M., at which time Oswald was working at his normal duties on the first floor. It is Mr. Shelley's recollection that Oswald was wearing khaki trousers and a T-shirt.

The other employees of the shipping and order filling department were interviewed and the information obtained from them is set forth as follows:

✓ Eddie Piper, 3402 Munger Avenue (telephone TA 1-2190), Dallas, employed as a janitor, and normally works from 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 or 8:00 P.M. Piper stated that he had never become closely acquainted with Oswald, although he had occasion to see him many times each day in connection with their work. At about 12:00 noon on November 22, 1963, Piper last saw Oswald on the first floor and at that time Oswald said, "I'm going up to each lunch". Piper stated that he ate lunch on the first floor and was still on that floor at the time of the shots, that he looked up at the clock, and it was 12:25 P.M. Piper did not see Oswald again.

Charles D. Givens, 37 Cochrane Street, Dallas, telephone RI 2-4670, has been employed at this firm for about two months as a general laborer. He had never had any contact with Oswald other than to say "hello". On November 22, 1963, Givens, along with other employees working on the sixth floor, was laying the new plywood floor. Givens stated that he saw Oswald on the sixth floor at about 11:45 A.M. on that date, and that Oswald was carrying a clipboard that appeared to have some orders on it. Givens felt that Oswald was looking for some books to fill an order, which is his job, and did not give the matter further thought. Shortly, thereafter, Givens and the other employees working on the floor-laying project quit for lunch and they took both elevators. They were racing the elevators to the first floor and Givens heard Oswald call to them to send one of the elevators back up. It is Givens' recollection that Oswald was wearing a brown shirt, when he last saw him. After Givens ate lunch, he left the building and was several blocks away at the time the shooting took place. He had gone to visit a friend who is employed at a nearby parking lot.

Billy Nolan Lovelady, 7722 Hume Drive, Dallas, stated that he has been employed with this firm for about two years as a stock man. He stated that he never got to know Oswald, that he was not friendly, was a wise guy, and a loner, and that he, Lovelady, decided to let him alone and not try to get friendly with him. The other employees usually play dominoes during their lunch period after they have eaten, but Oswald never showed any interest in taking part in the games. On November 22, 1963, Lovelady last saw Oswald at about 10:00 A.M., although Lovelady was in one of the elevators coming down from the sixth floor at about noon and he heard Oswald ask them to send one of the elevators back up. Lovelady was one of the employees working on the floor-laying project on the sixth floor.

Daniel Garcia Arce, 1502 Bennett Street, Dallas, telephone TA 1-3289, has been employed for about three months as a general laborer. He had never become well-acquainted with Oswald, although he knew him by name. On November 22, 1963,

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State of Texas )  
 County of Dallas ) ss:  
 City of Dallas )

12/4/63

I, Roy Sansom Truly, wish to make the following statement to Special Agents William N. Carter and Arthur W. Blake of the U. S. Secret Service.

I live at 4932 Jade Drive, Dallas, Texas, and I am a Director of the Texas School Book Depository and I am also Superintendent of Operations. I have been employed with this firm since 1934 and the firm is now located at 411 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas. The building in which our company is located has been owned for many years by Mr. D. Harold Byrd who leaves at 6909 Vasser in Dallas. Mr. Byrd is now a retired Army Colonel. The building has been leased by the Texas School Book Depository since 1961. This is a privately owned firm and is not a part of any governmental agency. The Texas School Book Depository is a business involved in the shipping and distribution of textbooks for various publishers to schools in Texas and other states. The building is not occupied at night except for a company janitor who works until about 7 or 8 P.M. doing janitorial work. When he leaves, he locks the building. From Sunday through Thursday, two employees of the Acme Building and Maintenance Company, 1901 Laws Street, Dallas, come into the building during the evening hours and do janitorial work in the publishers offices and toilets on the second, third, and fourth floors. After they leave, the building is locked and unoccupied. The Smith Detective Agency and Nightwatch Service of 610 North Akard, Dallas, makes a periodic check of the building during the night time hours to determine if the doors are locked and the lights are shut off.

With regard to the employment by this firm of Lee Harvey Oswald, the following circumstances took place on or about October 14, 1963. I received a telephone call from a woman whose name I did not recognize at that time. She told me that she lived in Irving and that she had a young man staying at her home in need of a job and his wife was expecting a child any day. Since the assassination of the President on November 22, 1963, and the subsequent mentioning of Mrs. Payne of Irving, I now recall that she was the woman who called me about a job for her friend. During my telephone conversation with Mrs. Payne, she told me that she had a neighbor whose brother was employed at the Texas School Book Depository and who had stated that there might be a job opening at this firm. I told Mrs. Payne to have her friend to come down for an interview and on the following day, probably October 15, 1963, Oswald came to my office and at that time told me that he was an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Marine Corp and had never been arrested or in any difficulty with the police and needed a job very much. He filled out an application stating he was an honorably discharged Marine.

The work load at my firm varies seasonably and since I did need extra temporary help at that time, I hired Mr. Oswald and I told Mr. Oswald that I had nothing but a temporary job to offer him and he accepted. The job of

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an order filler was his position and during the first few hours of his employment which began probably on October 16, 1963, Oswald worked with other employees learning the job routine and then worked by himself filling orders. Oswald appeared to be a quiet type of person and did his work satisfactorily. It did not appear to me that he associated to any extent with any of the other employees. Oswald was paid at the rate of \$1.25 per hour during the entire period of his employment. He worked a regular eight hour day and five days a week and to my knowledge never missed a day's work.

With regard to the events of November 22, 1963, at about 12:10 P.M., I walked outside to the front of the building with Mr. O. V. Campbell, Vice-President of this firm, and we stood directly in front of the building entrance until the Presidential motorcade passed by which was close to 12:30 P.M. I heard three shots fired and moments later a man who I believed to be a motor cycle policeman came running up the the entrance of the building, and I accompanied him inside. He asked me something about the location of the stairway, and I accompanied him to the rear of the building. We paused momentarily by the freight elevator but since neither were on this floor, we ran up the back stairway to the second floor. I had started to go up the stairway to the third floor when I noticed that the officer was not following, and I heard him say something. I then went back and found that he was standing near the entrance to the lunch room, and he had drawn his weapon. Just inside the lunch room door, Lee Oswald was standing and the officer was facing him. At that time, the officer asked me if this man worked here to which I replied, "yes". The officer and I then proceeded to the stairway and continued on up to about the fifth floor where I noticed a freight elevator. We rode the freight elevator up to the seventh floor and ran up a little stairway to a small penthouse which had a door opening on to the roof. We made a quick examination of the roof-top area and the officer over the lot below. We stopped momentarily on the other floors for a quick look and then returned to the first floor.

By this time, there were numerous people including police officers on the first floor of the building. A few minutes after returning to the first floor, I noticed officers taking the names and addresses of the various people in the building. At that time, many of the shipping and order room boys were standing in one location, and I noticed that Lee Oswald was not among the group. Therefore, I notified the authorities that this boy was missing.

To the best of my knowledge when the police officer and I encountered Oswald in the lunch room on the second floor right after the shooting, Oswald was wearing light colored clothing and probably a tee shirt.

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I have read over this statement, and it is true to the best of my knowledge.

R. B. Truly  
Roy Sansom Truly

Subscribed and sworn to before me this  
4th day of December, 1963.  
"Auth. Title 5, Sec. 93 USC"

William N. Carter  
William N. Carter, Special Agent  
U. S. Secret Service

WITNESS: Arthur W. Blake  
Arthur W. Blake, Special Agent  
U. S. Secret Service