

The FBI and the Framing of Oswald

By John Armstrong

For years, researchers have speculated that the FBI played a part in covering up certain areas of the investigation of the John Kennedy assassination. The existence of the so-called "Walter telex" warning of an attempted assassination on November 17th was denied by J. Edgar Hoover. When Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry told the press about FBI contacts with Oswald, Hoover became enraged. According to Curry, Hoover called Gordon Shanklin, his agent in charge of the Dallas FBI office, and told him that if Curry did not retract his statement regarding FBI contacts with Oswald within 30 minutes, Shanklin would be through in Dallas.

The more they tried to deny contact with Oswald, the more examples of contacts surfaced. Critics suspected a cover-up but lacked definitive proof. Now we have it. This article relies on government documents and evidence relating to the FBI's handling of Oswald's possessions which were obtained by the Dallas Police from his two residences. We will see how the FBI *twice* obtained these items from the Dallas Police. We will see how evidence was manufactured, manipulated and altered while in custody of the Bureau. Then, these possessions—some original and some altered—were given to the Warren Commission and later transferred to the National Archives. We will also understand what the reasons for the manipulations were.

Shortly after Oswald's arrest on Friday afternoon, Dallas Police Captain Fritz sent detectives to Ruth Paine's house and 1026 North Beckley to conduct searches and look for evidence. They confiscated hundreds of

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Now Martin Luther King?**

items belonging to Oswald. Within hours, the FBI was insisting those items be sent to Washington—even though the FBI had no jurisdiction.

On November 23, the FBI received the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, bullet fragments, cartridge casings, the blanket from the Paine garage, the .38 Smith & Wesson revolver, and Oswald's shirt. Until recently, I was under the impression this was the only evidence the Dallas Police had turned over to the FBI on November 23rd. However documents show the FBI obtained the *bulk* of Oswald's possession the day after the assassination and took them to Washington. These items were neither inventoried nor photographed before they left Dallas. They were in FBI custody for two days and then secretly returned to the Dallas Police. Proof of this comes from Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry and FBI agent James Cadigan's testimony.

On April 22, 1964, Curry was questioned

by Warren Commission member Allen Dulles. He said, "We kept getting calls from the FBI. They wanted this evidence up in Washington...Fritz told me, he says, "Well, I need the evidence here...But we finally, the night, about *midnight Friday night*, we agreed to let the FBI have all the evidence and they said they would bring it to their laboratory and they would have an agent stand by and when they were finished with it, return it to us." [Emphasis added.]

Later, Curry added: "We got several calls insisting we send this and nobody would tell me exactly who it was that was insisting...they insinuated it was someone in high authority that was requesting this and we finally agreed as a

matter of trying to cooperate with them, *continued on page 22*

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tually."

At this point, Dulles adjourned the session. When the Commission reconvened, Chief Counsel J. Lee Rankin stated, "Chief Curry, I was asking you just as we closed your examination before lunch about Exhibits 709, 711 particularly..." As we have seen, this is not correct. Although Rankin had asked about those exhibits previously, Rankin and Dulles were talking to Curry about the transfer of evidence from Dallas to Washington "as we closed your examination before lunch." As I have found out, the remainder of Chief Curry's testimony—his statements referring to the FBI's obtaining of evidence *the day after the assassination*—has been curtailed. They did not want to hear anything more about the Dallas to Washington transfer.

Also deleted were statements made by James Cadigan, an FBI document specialist in Washington. Cadigan received Oswald's possessions the day after the assassination. When Cadigan was asked by Commission attorney Eisenberg about one of the items, he said, "I know that on November 23, when the vast bulk of this material came in, that it was photographed. But to select one item of four or five hundred, I cannot say I definitely recall seeing this before it was photographed." He stated that "Initially the first big batch of evidence was brought into the laboratory on November 23rd of 1963 and this consisted of many, many items." Eisenberg seemed surprised and asked: "1963?" Eisenberg's puzzlement clearly implies that he thought the bulk of the evidence came to HQ in 1964. Cadigan's reply was unequivocal: "November 23, 1963. It was a very large quantity of evidence that was brought in."

Cadigan was also asked about Exhibit 820, which was Oswald's Fair Play for Cuba card: "Do you know why 820 was not reprocessed or delivered?" Cadigan's partial reply was: "Time was of the essence, and this material, I believe, was returned to the Dallas Police within two or three days. . ."

But this answer appears only in his original deposition. In the Commission volumes (Vol. 7 p. 434), it has been changed. Cadigan's answer reads, "No, this is a latent fingerprint matter."

We don't know who changed Cadigan's testimony, it may have been Cadigan himself. But we do know that his reference to the Bureau having custody of Oswald's possessions the day after the assassination has been

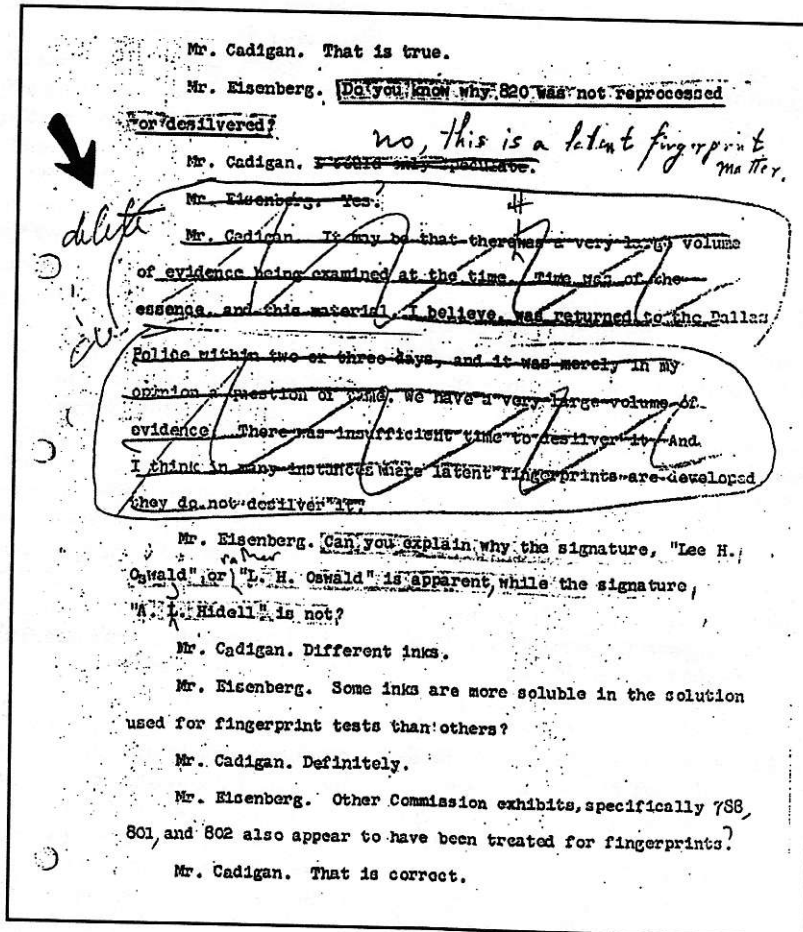
Russia". This implies that someone in the Bureau suspected that film found in the Paine's garage in Irving, Texas may have been exposed in the same camera as film found in an espionage file in New York. In turn, this means that someone in the Bureau probably knew more about Oswald than they cared to admit. Lastly, this FBI document came from the National Archives. I have requested copies of the complete file from the Bureau but they deny the file's existence.

We know the FBI obtained many of Oswald's possessions on 11/23, kept them until 11/25, then returned them to Dallas. We know Cadigan knew about this and that someone changed his statements. What we don't know is what the Bureau did with the possessions while they were in the Bureau's custody. But we have some clues.

At 8:00 PM on 11/22, six hours after Oswald's arrest, FBI agents were at Monig Junior High School in Fort Worth looking for Oswald's junior high school records. They were met by the school principal, Mr. Ree Bostick.

Twelve hours later, two FBI agents were at W. C. Stripling Junior High, also in Fort Worth, to pick up Oswald's school attendance records. According to several students, Oswald lived directly behind Stripling at 2220 Thomas Place, while at-

tending Stripling part of the 1954-55 school year in the ninth grade. Assistant Principal, Frank Kudlaty, met those agents. We don't know who the agents were, but there is a clue. FBI agent John Fain lived four blocks from Oswald on Thomas Place. Why, in less than 24 hours after the assassination, was there this urgency to pick up junior high school records in Fort Worth? What makes this even more puzzling is that according to the *official* chronicle of Oswald's life, in the ten year period of September 1952 through June of 1962, Lee Oswald lived in Fort Worth for only four months: July through October of 1956. The only school he attended was Arlington Heights High School. Before 1956, he attended junior high in New York and New



deleted. It would be very helpful to talk to Cadigan. Unfortunately, he was one of five top FBI officials who died in a four month span in 1977, during the HSCA inquest.

Minox camera film was found in Oswald's seabag in Ruth Paine's garage on November 22nd. The FBI had this film in Washington, two days before they "officially" received Oswald's possessions from the Dallas Police. They made a documented request for "comparison of Minox film recovered from possessions of Lee Harvey Oswald" with Minox film located in a New York FBI file to see if the films were exposed in the same camera. The New York file is marked LOCFAB, which is "Location-Foreign Agent Bureau". It is also marked ESP-R which signifies "Espionage—

Orleans. After 1956 he was in the Marines and then left for Russia.

Now, and with improbable speed, the FBI is at Stripling and Monig in Fort Worth attempting to obtain Oswald's junior high school records. Why? Evidently, someone at the Bureau knew Oswald's background. Someone knew he had first entered junior high in New York in September, 1952 and graduated from Beauregard Junior High in New Orleans in June, 1955. The FBI had obtained his graduation photograph from the Beauregard yearbook, and his school records. But someone in the FBI knew that a Lee Harvey Oswald had also attended Junior High School in Fort Worth.

Obviously, Oswald could not have attended junior high in New Orleans and Fort Worth at the same time. Yet there were records of Lee Oswald attending school in both cities at the same time. The FBI obtained his 7th, 8th, and 9th grade records from New York and New Orleans. Those junior high records can be found in the Warren Commission. But the actual Stripling school records obtained from Kudlaty have disappeared! The logical answer as to why is that it would have raised questions about the existence of two Lee Oswalds and raised questions as to the role and true identity of the Dallas suspect. This seems to be the reason for the FBI's late evening visit to Monig, and early morning visit to Stripling.

On Saturday, November 23rd at 12:35 PM, Captain Fritz showed Oswald an 8 x 10 photograph of himself holding a rifle. Oswald claimed that this picture was a forgery.

This backyard photograph of Oswald was not officially found by the DPD until three hours later at Ruth Paine's house. An FBI teletype of December 2, 1963 states "photograph was found during the search of the property of subject Oswald, same being located in a box in the garage of Mrs. Ruth Paine." And they found a 3" x 3" snapshot—not an 8" x 10" enlargement. How could the Dallas Police show Oswald the backyard enlargement three hours before it was found at the Paine residence? We have two clues as to how this could be. Mr. and Mrs. Hester, owners of the National Photo Labs in Dallas, said they made enlargements of the backyard photos the evening of the assassination—the day before Fritz showed the 8 x 10 photo to Oswald. Mr. and Mrs. Hester remembered making the enlargements from a transparency furnished by the FBI. Jeremiah O'Leary, a reporter for the *Washington Evening Star*, in an FBI interview was quoted as saying, "either late on the night of the 11-22-63 or the morning of 11-23-63, he saw a copy of the photograph in the hands

of a police officer."

Later that Saturday afternoon the DPD again searched the Paine residence—this time with a search warrant. They obtained 451 items of evidence belonging to Oswald. Among the items found by Officer Gus Rose was a Minox camera. This was listed as item #375. The following statements are from a tape recorded interview with Gus Rose by a member of the House Select Committee on Assassinations:

Q: Minox camera, was that with Ruth Paine's camera equipment?

A: No, it was in the seabag.

Q: Oh, in the seabag.

A: This was exclusively Oswald's gear. Ruth Paine explained to me, she stood right there while we searched. And she explained that everything in that sea bag and some boxes, a couple or three boxes were Oswald's.

Q: You're quite sure that this Minox camera

was a camera. I mean, did you open it up and see film in it—this is a little camera isn't it? It was very small. . . not any bigger than a half pack of cigarettes.

A: OK. I think I've seen pictures of it. You kind of push it together to make it snap. And this particular one, it did have a roll of film in it. And there's no question absolutely that it was a Minox miniature camera.

Q: And you initialed it?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Do you remember where or how?

A: Somewhere on the base of the camera. I scratched my initials and so did Stovall—R. S. Stovall.

Q: OK, very good, very good. And I assume that's all part of the property that was turned over the FBI?

A: Yes, it was. . . now they later did come back and request that I change that on the invoice

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AFFIDAVIT IN ANY FACT

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF DALLAS

BEFORE ME _____

a Notary Public in and for said County, State of Texas, on this day personally appeared
H. W. Hill

Who after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:

On November 26, 1963, the FBI took property and evidence which had been seized in connection with arrest of Lee Harvey Oswald, for assassination of President Kennedy, to their office in the Santa Fe Building. I accompanied the agents and property to the FBI office and I was present when agent Warren C. DeBrueys checked each item, called the name of item and description off to their stenographer who typed the descriptions on Police Property room, official invoice or receipt sheets. On invoice sheet #11192-G it showed they had picked up from the Dallas Police Department: one Minox camera, one pedometer, one compass, one Hansa self-timer, one lens in hood, one Fifteen Power telescope, Wollensak, one stereo viewer, one pocket knife in leather container; a photograph no. 375 taken of the above articles.

Quite some time later, several weeks, an agent of the FBI came to the property room and referred to our invoice # 11192-G and stated they did not get the camera as shown above, that they got only the Minox light meter. He requested that I note on invoice #11192-G his statement regarding the Minox Camera. I did so note. I do not remember the name of the agent who came to the Property Room and made this request. I did not write his name down.

H. W. Hill

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO MEFORE ME THIS 1st DAY OF October A.D. 1964

Notary Public, Dallas County, Texas

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to read Minox light meter. But it definitely wasn't a light meter, it was a camera.

A number of the items Gus Rose found at the Paine's house were later photographed on the floor of the Dallas Police station. Among those items was the Minox camera.

On November 26th, J. Edgar Hoover spoke with Nicholas Katzenbach who had been talking to the White House about the report the FBI was to render in the Oswald case. This famous memo states that "The report is to settle the dust, in so far as Oswald and his activities are concerned, both from the standpoint that he is the man who assassinated the President, and relative to Oswald himself and activities and background. . . ." The powers in Washington had already decided Oswald was the lone assassin.

FBI officials were working on plans to deal with the assassination. Mr. Belmont advised Mr. Sullivan that "Division 6 will handle the portion of the report dealing with the assassination at-

tempt and the evidence gathered to show that Oswald is responsible. This means that we will have to carefully check the evidence and Oswald's possessions. . . ." Belmont and the FBI clearly understood the importance Oswald's possessions would have in their investigation.

On November 25th, Oswald's possessions were photographed by the Dallas Police using a Recordak camera. Five rolls of film were used. On November 26th, the FBI officially took over the investigation. Agent Warren DeBrueys picked up the 451 items of evidence and the five rolls of undeveloped film from the Dallas Police. DeBrueys took the film and physical evidence to Washington the following day.

The Dallas Police requested the FBI "process and make 3 prints of each exposure and return all to the Dallas Office." This memo was acknowledged by FBI agent James Bookout.

When the evidence reached FBI headquarters, they realized they had a problem. Some of his possessions could not be made public—for example, what is Oswald doing with a Minox spy camera? It is not the type of camera normally owned by a poor laborer like Oswald. It is an expensive camera now, as it was in 1963.

Other items were found that did not fit

their lone assassin theory. Some of these needed to be altered or changed. But, there was a problem. The DPD, who had photographed these items, wanted their photos developed and returned. The Secret Service was also asking for copies of the photos. But the FBI realized they could not develop and return photos of Oswald's possessions, because some of those possessions needed to be altered or changed. This presented a problem, and a big one.

A conversation took place the afternoon of November 29th, between Mr. Branigan, from FBI HQ in Washington and Gordon Shanklin, head of the Dallas FBI office. Branigan pointed out that the original material—the 451 items of evidence—had been rephotographed at the Bureau, in Washing-

"The Bureau does not desire that the Commission ask any questions about this, and Dallas should either furnish amended pages and renumber the exhibits so that all exhibits are accounted for, or else we should explain why some of the exhibits are missing."

ton D. C. He inquired as to whether the Dallas office still desired to have the Bureau develop the exposed DPD film. Shanklin stated that the Dallas police still needed three copies of the photos of Oswald's possessions although "it did not matter whether these photographs were made from the exposed film submitted by Dallas or the original photographs made at the Seat of Government." Note that Shanklin said it did not matter from which exposures the DPD copies are made: the Dallas set or the FBI's newer one. (Also note the confusing use of the word "original".) Once this possibility was broached, the problem was solved. Some of the original Dallas photos were not going back to the DPD. Items the Bureau did not want the public to see could be replaced with substitutes. They could rephotograph the substituted items and return these new photos back to Dallas. Virtually no one would know what had happened.

But searching through, altering and rephotographing Oswald's possessions would take a lot of time and the DPD wanted their photographs as soon as possible. So, on December 2nd, the Bureau returned *some* film to Dallas. The police had shot 451 items using five film rolls. But the FBI returned only two rolls containing photos of 241 items. So there were 210 photos that were missing.

Which items were unaccounted for? This can be deduced by comparing the 451 items on the joint DPD/FBI inventory sheet of 11/26 (WC Exhibit 2003), with the actual two rolls of film returned to the DPD.

The first roll of film contains photographs of items #1 through # 163, with ten photos missing. Curiously, at the end of this reel someone has spliced five feet of clear film. This clear film is a different brand than the rest of the roll. Rolls 2, 3, and 4—which contained photographs of item numbers 164-360—have disappeared. That means there are 196 missing photos. The last roll of film contains photos of item numbers 361 through 451 with four photos missing.

Consequently we can show that the Bureau received five rolls of film from the DPD.

They found photos of items they did not want the police or the public to see. They cut out those pictures, spliced the remaining film together, and returned *that* film to Dallas with 210 photos missing.

On December 2nd, Dallas Police Chief Curry was advised of the missing photos. He immediately wrote Shanklin a letter informing him

that "items #164 through # 360 did not record." Curry requested the FBI "to photograph these missing items and forward them to the Dallas Police Department." This request was forwarded to FBI HQ.

How did the Bureau account for the missing photos? They didn't. They tried to blame the Dallas Police. An FBI memo states "items #164 through #360 were not photographically produced because of faulty technique." On December 15th, Shanklin made a second request for the missing photos. The reply from Washington came that afternoon and said "You will receive as complete a set of photographs as can be made *by the Bureau*." (Emphasis added.) But they did not send the missing photographs—in fact they did not send the photos for another two months. They needed time to manipulate Oswald's possessions in order to frame him as the lone assassin and hide his true identity and background.

There were rumors that a Minox camera had been found in Oswald's possessions. This would be difficult to explain and would heighten the critics' curiosity about Oswald's ties to the intelligence community. FBI agents were immediately dispatched to DPD headquarters. They confronted Gus Rose who had found the camera. Officer Rose said:

A couple of FBI agents made three different trips to our office to talk to me about this camera. They said that after they had received all the property they found that I had made a mistake, and that really wasn't a camera. It was a Minox light meter. However, as I told them at the time, I was sure I hadn't made a mistake, because it definitely was a camera and it definitely did have film in it. However, they wanted me to change that in our property invoice to read Minox light meter and not read Minox camera. We never did change it. Captain Fritz instructed me if I was sure I was right, not to make any changes in any reports, to stay with what was right.

Undaunted, the FBI sent agents to the DPD property clerk office to speak with Officer Hill, the property clerk. They asked Hill to change the property inventory form from a Minox camera to a Minox light meter. He complied with their request and then wrote a memo to his files stating that the FBI made a new inventory list. The new list did not note the Minox camera from Hill's original list, only a Minox light meter.

The Dallas Police photographed item #375, which included the Minox camera on November 25th, then gave the undeveloped film to the FBI. When the photograph was returned to Dallas a week later everything *but the pedometer had disappeared*. There were eight items in the original photo. The FBI tampered with the photo to make seven of the items unrecognizable. One of the items was the Minox camera. They made a new inventory list. The camera was now changed to a light meter. The FBI even took a photograph of a light meter and case and gave it the same identification number as the Minox camera: item #375.

They next needed to establish ownership of the light meter. From a photo, Ruth Paine identified the light meter as belonging to her. But there was still a problem. The police found four rolls of Minox film in Oswald's seabag, which was listed as inventory item # 377. When you expose Minox film you must have a Minox camera. But now, through FBI alchemy, there was a light

meter, but no camera. They had to come up with a camera. They did so on January 31, 1964. They picked up a Minox camera from Ruth Paine and photographed it. The Bureau was now ready to tell the public that the Minox camera found at the Paines' residence belonged to them.

They never did explain what happened to the Minox camera found by Gus Rose in

explain a Lee Harvey Oswald in Japan and New Orleans at the same time. So they fabricated a story that Oswald had worked at the Pfisterer Dental Lab in 1956—*before* he entered the Marines. And they created a 1956 W-2 form to create a false historical record. Fortunately, someone screwed up. Prior to creating this fake 1956 form, they asked the IRS to issue a new tax ID number.

The number issued was 72-0444599. It appears on this form. I have a letter from the IRS to Linda Faircloth the current manager of Pfisterer Dental Laboratories. The letter states that the employer identification number on this 1956 W-2 form was not issued by the IRS until January, 1964. Of course, this is impossible if it were genuine.

But this W-2 form was not the only one created in January, 1964. There were two others. According to the Warren Report, Oswald was also employed by Dolly Shoe and Tujague's prior to joining the Marines in October, 1956. Dolly Shoe was founded in January, 1955 and discontinued business in October, 1957. I have a copy of Oswald's 1955 W-2 from the Dolly Shoe Company. We also have a letter from the IRS to Maury Goodman, former owner of that company. The IRS states that the tax ID number appearing on the 1955 Dolly shoe form was also issued in January of 1964, *seven years after that company went out of business*.

The tax ID number appearing on the Tujague W-2 forms for 1955 and 1956 was also issued by the IRS in January, 1964. Obviously, these are not original forms. These were created in 1964 while in the custody of the FBI. After these forms were created, they were photographed by the Bureau, included among the missing 210 photographs, and finally returned to Dallas in February of 1964.

Why would anyone want to create these fake tax forms? Because a false history was necessary for Oswald. In the case of the dental lab, they had to show he worked there in 1956, *before* he joined the Marines, rather

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72 0444241		WITHHOLDING TAX STATEMENT	
Dolly Shoe Co Inc 729 Canal St N.O., La.		1955 Federal Taxes Withheld From Wages	
Type or print EMPLOYEE'S Identification number, name, and address above.		Copy C—For Employee's Records	
SOCIAL SECURITY INFORMATION		INCOME TAX INFORMATION	
\$ 78.32 Total F.I.C.E. Wages* paid in 1955	\$ 1.57 F.I.C.E. employee tax withheld, if any	\$ 78.33 Total Wages* paid in 1955	\$ 14.10 Federal Income Tax withheld, if any
Lee H. Oswald 126 Exchange St N.O., La.		433 54 3937	
Type or print EMPLOYEE'S social security account no., name, and address above.		NOTICE: If your wages were subject to Social Security taxes, but are not shown, your Social Security wages are the same as wages shown under "INCOME TAX INFORMATION," but not more than \$4,200. Keep this copy as part of your tax records.	
FORM W-2—U.S. Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service		*Before payroll deductions. 4-15-1960-1	

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service	
MEMPHIS, TN 37561	In reply refer to: 4916503261 Oct. 17, 1995 LTR BC 72-0444241 0000 00 000 00005
MAURY GOODMAN 1914 FINLEY RD MEMPHIS TN 38116	
Taxpayer Identification Number: 72-0444241	
Dear Taxpayer:	
I have reviewed your correspondence of September 26, 1995, concerning the established month and year of your identification number 72-0444241. Unfortunately I find no record of this number. However I have reviewed our files starting with the number 72-0444200 through 72-0444260. I can only find six numbers which are active.	
Two of these numbers are before yours and four are after. All six numbers indicate that they were established in January 1964. Employer identification numbers are computer generated in numerical order. Therefore I feel confident in stating that although your identification number is no longer available, it was established in January 1964.	
If you have any questions, please write us at the address shown on this letter. If you prefer, you may call the IRS telephone number listed in your local directory. An employee there may be able to help you, but the office at the address shown on this letter is most familiar with your case.	

Oswald's sea bag and photographed on the floor of the Dallas Police Department on November 23rd. How could they?

Another item found at Ruth Paine's was Oswald's W-2 form from the Pfisterer Dental Lab—item #168—the first photograph missing from the Dallas Police film. Palmer McBride had worked with Oswald at the Pfisterer Dental Laboratory in 1957 and 1958 according to Commission Exhibit #1386. In late 1957 and 1958, there was also a Lee Oswald in Japan serving as a radar operator in the Marine Corps. They could not

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than in 1957-1958, when he was in Japan. The FBI, through this manipulation, did two things: it covered up Oswald's intelligence role, and it created one Oswald out of two. Hoover knew about the possibility of two Oswalds as early as June of 1960, when Oswald was in Russia. At that time, someone using the name Oswald was in New Orleans trying to buy jeeps to send to Cuba. Hoover sent a memo to his field offices warning them that an impostor might be using Oswald's birth certificate.

By the end of January, 1964 the FBI was finished with Oswald's possessions. Some items had been altered, some changed, some made to vanish. On January 31, 1964 Hoover sent a memo to Shanklin: "Bureau has rephotographed all of the material in possession of the Bureau and will send a complete set of these photographs to you by separate mail." Along with the photographs, Hoover sent a new inventory list. Hoover explained, "The inventory list as submitted by your office November 26, 1963 has been superseded by the list furnished to your office by the FBI laboratory dated February 1, 1964. The list submitted by your office is incomplete and is not completely accurate." The list he is referring to as incomplete and inaccurate is Commission Exhibit 2003, the joint FBI/Dallas Police inventory of Oswald's possessions. The new inventory list was needed to account for the changes made to Oswald's possessions.

On February 4, 1964, Shanklin again requested and finally got the missing photographs. A set of photos was forwarded to the DPD. But the police had no idea the pictures they got were not of Oswald's original possessions.

The manipulation of Oswald's possessions barely escaped the attention of the Warren Commission. FBI Section Chief Bill Branigan noticed that items 232 through 248 from a report by Robert Gemberling were marked deleted. Belmont asked for the reason why. He was concerned that the Commission would believe that the Bureau was holding something back from them. He wrote, "The Bureau does not desire that the Commission ask any questions about this, and Dallas should either furnish amended pages and

renumber the exhibits so that all exhibits are accounted for, or else we should explain why some of the exhibits are missing." They renumbered the exhibits and explained nothing.

A few weeks before the Warren Report was issued, an internal FBI memo summarized the Bureau's position as to photographs of Oswald's possessions. It states, "The inventory list submitted by your office has been superseded by the list furnished to your office by the FBI Laboratory dated

cisely what the Bureau did with the original evidence.

This alteration of evidence cannot be understated. By this manipulation, the Bureau helped create Oswald's background as told by the Warren Commission. Had Oswald's possessions been presented to the public as they were found, they would have created many questions—questions that the government did not want to answer. The government did not want the attention of America focused on the riddle of who Oswald really was. The Commission gave us their truncated and fabricated version. This was followed by books written by Gerald Ford, Robert Oswald, Priscilla Johnson, Edward Epstein, Jean Davison and Gerald Posner, among others. These dubious people helped further the hackneyed, rubber stamped version the general public knows as Oswald: a lonely young man from a broken home, a misunderstood defector, a promoter of communism, the lone assassin of President Kennedy. So much was written by so many of these people, that critics and researchers then investigated everything but Lee Harvey Oswald. As of today, there has never been a comprehensive investigation of the life and background of the man.


What can the Review Board do?

2/1/64. The revised list was prepared from a check of the actual evidence submitted. The 11/26/63 list submitted by your office is incomplete and is not completely accurate." Essentially, Hoover is telling his agents that their original list is wrong and the new substituted photo series is correct. These photos were furnished to the Commission and to the Dallas FBI office. They were also given to the DPD, Secret Service, and eventually to the National Archives and to researchers. They are photos the FBI took of Oswald's various possessions: some original, some altered, some fabricated. How do we know which of these photographs are of Oswald's original possessions? FBI photos are marked "FBI" or have the identification numbers written in by hand. DPD photos can be identified by a label with a printed identification number.

What happened to the original five rolls of Dallas Police film of Oswald's possessions? The National Archives advises us "We were unable to locate any documents that describe what happened to the film." If this film could be found, we could examine pre-

Lee and Marguerite Oswald's federal income tax returns should be released. Every file on both Lee and Marguerite should be declassified. Ruth Paine should be subpoenaed and asked to explain every aspect of her involvement with the Oswalds, and her employment and connections for the last decade, particularly in Nicaragua. The FBI should explain what happened to the original five rolls of film. They should also explain how 1955 and 1956 W-2 forms could have IRS tax ID numbers issued in January, 1964. They should also explain what happened to Oswald's Stripling Junior High School records, given to them by Kudlaty on 11/23/63. The FBI should explain how and why they transformed an absolutely crucial piece of evidence—the Minox camera—into a light meter. That would have helped greatly in revealing who Oswald really was, and who created his legend. If we understand the Oswald creation, then we begin to understand the real forces behind the assassination of President Kennedy. ☩

This article is an adaptation of Armstrong's talk given at the COPA conference in October of 1996.

 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service		In reply refer to: 4916503261 Oct. 17, 1995 LTR SC 72-0444599 0000 00 000 00003	
MEMPHIS, TN 37501			
PFISTERER DENTAL LABORATORY X LINDA FAIRCLOTH 3100 27TH ST METAIRIE LA 70002			
Taxpayer Identification Number: 72-0444599			
Dear Taxpayer:			
I have reviewed your correspondence of September 29, 1995, concerning the established month and year of your identification number 72-0444599. Unfortunately I find no record of this number. However, I have reviewed our files starting with the number 72-0444550 through 72-0444650. I can only find four numbers which are active.			
Two of these numbers are before yours and two are after. All four numbers indicate that they were established in January 1964. Employer identification numbers are computer generated in numerical order. Therefore I feel confident in stating that although your number is not available, it was never the less established in January 1964.			
If you have any questions, please write us at the address shown on this letter. If you prefer, you may call the IRS telephone number listed in your local directory. An employee there may be able to help you, but the office at the address shown on this letter is most familiar with your case.			