

REPORT ON OFFICER'S DUTIES IN REGARDS TO THE PRESIDENT'S MURDER

J. R. LEAVELLE - #736

I reported for work at 7:00 am on Friday November 22, 1963. My partners I normally work with, Detectives E. R. Beck and G. R. Boyce, were both off duty. At 10:00 am C. W. Brown reported in for duty. We got together to arrest a negro hijacker, Calvin Eugene Nelson. We located him at 12:15 pm, 2431 Ellis Street, and returned to our office and placed him in jail at 12:45 pm. I was told by Lt. Wells that the President had been shot and for us to report to Elm and Houston Streets.

On our arrival I went directly to the front of the Texas School Book Depository, 411 Elm Street. I met Inspector Sawyer who told me that the building was secure and that it was being searched. Inspector Sawyer also told me all witnesses were being taken to the Sheriff's Office for interrogation.

The uniform officers came up with a white man named William Sharp of 3439 Detonta, who the officers said had been up in the building across the street from the book depository without a good excuse. I took charge of this man and escorted him to the Sheriff's Office, where I placed him with other witnesses.

Several Burglary and Theft Bureau detectives came in and volunteered their services for interrogation. I told them if they would work with the Sheriff's duties, questioning the witnesses, I would return to the scene of the shooting to assist in the search.

Just as I reached 411 Elm, the scene of the shooting of the President, a call came out on the police radio of a shooting of a police officer in the 400 Blk. of East 10th Street in Oak Cliff. I returned to the Sheriff's Office and called my office and talked with Lt. Wells who said there was no one covering the officer shooting. I told him I would make it. I borrowed a car from Det. A. L. Edwards who was questioning a witness in the sheriff's office and proceeded to Oak Cliff.

LEAVELLE EXHIBIT A

REPORT ON OFFICER'S DUTIES IN REGARDS TO OFFICER TIPPIT'S MURDER

J. R. LEAVELLE - #736

On my arrival in the 400 Blk. of E. 10th Street I talked with Sgt. Bud Owens and Officer J. H. Poe. At the same time a call came out that a person fitting the description of the suspect was seen entering the Texas Theatre on West Jefferson.

I attempted to reach the Texas Theatre in the 200 Blk. of West Jefferson but was unable to do so because of the traffic. Officer Poe had given me the name of a woman who was an eyewitness to the shooting. Her name was Helen Markham of 328 E. 9th Street, a waitress at the Eat Well Cafe on Main Street. Also that the manager of the used car lot, 501 E. Jefferson, had heard the shooting and seen the suspect running from the scene. Officer Poe also told me someone had picked up two empty .38 hulls from the street and given them to him, but he did not know who it was.

After the arrest of Oswald at the Texas Theatre I was told over the police radio that Squad 91 had the witness to the shooting and was enroute to the city hall. I then returned to the city hall and my office. I assisted other officers in taking affidavits and answering the telephone. I took affidavits from Charles Douglas Givins and Billy Nolan Lovelady.

I was then directed by Captain Fritz to locate the woman witness to Tippit's murder and take her to the showup room to view Lee Oswald in a lineup. I found Helen Markham in the Police Emergency Room with Det. L. C. Graves. She was suffering from shock. As soon as she was able, I took her to the showup room and called Captain Fritz who had Oswald brought down and placed in a lineup. At 4:35 pm, November 22, 1963 Helen Markham identified Oswald as the #2 man in a 4-man lineup as the man who had shot Officer Tippit. Also present was Chief Curry, Captain Fritz and Det. L. C. Graves. There may have been others in the room, I don't recall.

LEAVELLE EXHIBIT A—Continued

Det. L. C. Graves and I then took Helen Markham to her home in Oak Cliff. We stopped at the used car lot, 501 E. Jefferson, where we talked with the manager, Ted Calloway, who told me he had seen the suspect running from the scene with a gun in his hand and how he was dressed—with dark trousers, shirt light color, jacket and a T shirt; that the shirt and jacket were open and he could see the T shirt. A colored porter, Sam Guinyard, of Waxahachie, Texas said he also saw the suspect and could identify him. I also talked with another employee of the lot, Domingo Benavides, 509 E. Jefferson, who said he went to the scene of the shooting and picked up two empty hulls and gave them to Officer Poe.

We then returned to our office where Captain Fritz told me to call the above people to come down for a lineup. I called Mr. Calloway who came down and brought Sam Guinyard with him. We went directly to the showup room. While waiting for the showup I took an affidavit from both of the above men. At 6:30 pm Oswald was brought down, where he was identified by both Calloway and Guinyard as the same man they had seen running from the scene of Officer Tippit's killing with a gun in his hand. He was identified as #2 man in a 4-man lineup.

Mr. Calloway and Guinyard were then taken up to the crime lab on the 4th floor where Captain Doughty showed us a jacket that was found along the route taken by the suspect from the scene of the Tippit shooting. They identified it as the same one or one just like the one worn by the suspect.

I returned to the Homicide Office where I worked until 1:30 am Saturday morning. I went home and returned at 8:00 am Saturday, November 23, 1963. During the day I did general office work and took two more affidavits: one from R. S. Truly, supervisor at the Texas School Book Depository, 411 Elm Street and another employee of this business, Mrs. R. A. Reid. I also took an affidavit from W. W. Scoggins, a cab driver who was near the scene of the Tippit shooting and

witnessed same. At 2:15 pm another showup was held where Scoggins identified Oswald as the man he saw shoot Officer Tippit.

Also at this same showup was William Wayne Whaley, another cab driver, who drove Oswald from the Greyhound Bus depot to the 500 Blk. of North Beckley. He also identified Oswald as the #3 man in a 4-man lineup. Others in the lineup were: #1 John Thurman Horn, #2 David Knapp, #3 Oswald, #4 Daniel Lujan.

I worked until 9:00 pm this date and was told to return about 8:30 am the next day, Sunday November 24, 1963 by Captain Frits. He said we would transfer Oswald about 10:00 am.

LEAVELLE EXHIBIT A—Continued

LEAVELLE EXHIBIT A—Continued

REPORT ON OFFICER'S DUTIES IN REGARDS TO OSWALD'S DEATH

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I arrived Sunday morning, November 24, 1963 about 8:00 am. We received word from Mr. Perry, Security Officer of the Statler-Hilton that they had a man check in who said he represented a munition company out of California. I went to the hotel in company with Det. C. W. Dhority and Mr. C. W. Brown. We talked with Robert W. Parker, 544 North Cypress, Orange, California. We satisfied ourselves he was O. K. and returned to the office.

At 9:30 am I was instructed, along with Det. L. C. Graves and Det. C. W. Dhority to go up in the jail and get Lee Oswald. I went to his cell and put the handcuff on him with his hands in front of him.

We returned to Captain Fritz's office where Captain Fritz, Mr. Sorrells and Mr. Thomas Kelly of the Secret Service questioned Oswald. Also in the room were Detectives L. D. Montgomery, L. C. Graves, C. W. Dhority and Inspector Holman of the Post Office Department and myself.

Shortly after 11:00 am we began the transfer. Chief Curry had come to Captain Fritz's office. He had made a suggestion earlier to double cross the press and take Oswald out on the first floor via the Main Street door, leaving the press waiting in the basement and on Commerce Street.

Also it was suggested to go out the Main Street ramp and west on Main Street. These suggestions were turned down by Chief Curry who stated that we had better go ahead with the transfer as planned, since he had given his word on it.

Approximately 11:15 am we left the third floor office with Oswald handcuffed to my left arm with Det. L. C. Graves holding to Oswald's left arm, preceded to the jail elevator by Captain Fritz, Lt. Swain, Detective L. D. Montgomery. We reached the basement jail office with officers in front we headed to the automobile ramp just outside the jail office door. We hesitated just inside the jail door,

LAVELLE EXHIBIT A—Continued