

a. former Boxer. Former professional prize fighter. Former narcotics addict. Long time friend of Ruby from Chicago days. Ruby visited him at least once a year and telephones him two or three times a year.


COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2980—Continued
William McEwan Duff

On May 26, 1964, James R. Cantrell, Special Agent, Secret Service, U. S. Treasury Department, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, advised that in an interview of William McEwan Duff on May 23, 1964, Duff had claimed evidence of an association between Jack Ruby and General Edwin A. Walker, Dallas, Texas, that during the period December, 1963, through March, 1964, while Duff was employed by General Walker and resided in his home, Ruby visited the base of about once a month, each time in the company of two unidentified white males, arriving in a Ford car, not further described.

Duff alleged that Ruby had identified himself to him while he was in the company of a white male, mid 30's, 5'11" to 6', weighing 145 pounds, dark receding hair; said to be a member of John Birch Society, and another male, in late 40's, heavy build, dark complexion.

Duff advised that he had known nothing of Lee Harvey Oswald. Agent Cantrell said that his receipt of this information from Duff, predicated on an earlier interview on April 5, 1964, at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and several subsequent telephone calls, had led to an interview with Duff and his wife, Peggy Marie Duff, indicating that Duff may have been using this means to present his wife and to restore their marital relationship. Duff's wife had threatened a divorce on the grounds that he had misrepresented his background, even claiming to have the rank of Captain in the U. S. Army.

On May 26; 1964, James R. Cantrell, Special Agent, Secret Service, U. S. Treasury Department, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, advised that the man who had offered him $10,000 to kill General Walker had been following him at Lawton, that he, in turn, had followed this man to the Capri Motel, Lawton, Oklahoma, where he established that the man was Cliff Roberts of the Oklahoma Crime Bureau. Roberts had interviewed Mrs. Duff, informing her that warrants were outstanding for Duff. Cantrell said the purpose of Duff's call was to enlist his aid in clearing this matter with Mrs. Duff, to inform her that no warrants were outstanding. In a later call on the same evening, Duff had put Mrs. Duff on the telephone for this purpose, although it had taken three or four minutes to do so, as the two were in an apparent argument. At this time, Mrs. Duff had asked that Cantrell call her on the following day at her office. She is said to have been employed for some 17 years by the Consolidated Supply Company, Lawton, Oklahoma. She railed against Duff, stating he had lied to her.

Cantrell said the following day he had been unsuccessful in reaching Mrs. Duff. On May 15, 1964, he received a long distance telephone call from Mrs. Duff in which she stated her husband had vital information in the case concerning the assassination of President Kennedy. A meeting was arranged that evening at the police station in Chickasha, Oklahoma. It was at this time that Duff, in the presence of his wife, related the information concerning the alleged association of Jack Ruby and General Edwin A. Walker.
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Agent Cantrell said he had taken Duff aside in an effort to establish the truth, pointing out that if the information were found not to be true, Duff could be subject to prosecution. He urged Duff to change his story, if it were not the truth, while assuring the futility to his wife. Duff insisted on its truth and volunteered that he would submit to a polygraph examination if desired. Duff requested that the polygraph examination await his discharge from the Army on June 3, 1964, on grounds of fraudulent enlistment. He claimed to have been in the Air Force from December, 1944, to December, 1960, and had not so indicated when enlisting in the Army.

Agent Cantrell advised he had been informed by Cliff Roberts, Oklahoma Crime Bureau, that Duff had been examined by psychiatrists at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and had been diagnosed as a pathological liar.

On June 12, 1964, Pegge Marie Duff, 1213 Lawton Street (Elgin 5-4040), Lawton, Oklahoma, a civilian employee of the U. S. Army in the Consolidated Supply Department (Elgin 1-4208), at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, advised of the following in a telephone conversation initiated for the purpose of locating William McEwan Duff for interview.

Mrs. Duff stated that she is now divorced from William McEwan Duff, a divorce filed by her attorney, J. Merrill Oakes, on February 14, 1964, in Comanche County, Lawton, Oklahoma, effective June 3, 1964.

Duff, she said, had been discharged from the U. S. Army at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, on June 3, 1964, under Section 606 for fraudulent enlistment and has left the Lawton area.

Although Mrs. Duff said she had not seen Duff since June 3, 1964, he had called her on the telephone on June 12, 1964, from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. At this time Duff, who would not give his address, perhaps because he is to pay $100 per month alimony in connection with his divorce, advised Mrs. Duff that he had secured employment at Oklahoma City through General Clyde Watts whom he described as an attorney at Oklahoma City and counsel for General Edwin A. Walker, Dallas, Texas. Duff claimed that he was living at the time with an elderly friend of General Watts, a friend who was retired. In order that Mrs. Duff might return a telephone call which he had requested, Duff supplied the telephone number for the residence of this individual with whom he said he was residing, the telephone number being Victor 1-3075.

Mrs. Duff stated that on the evening of June 12, 1964, she had called the number Victor 1-3075 at Oklahoma City to contact Duff. The telephone was answered by an individual who sounded as though he were elderly and who had summoned Duff to the telephone by addressing him as "Bill." Mrs. Duff said that this was a collect telephone call to the number, charges which Duff accepted, and that the call lasted for well over an hour, terminating at about 12:15 a.m. June 13, 1964.

In her conversation with Duff at this time, Mrs. Duff said that she had reminded Duff that he was to contact Agent James R. Cantrell, Special Agent of the Secret Service at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for purposes of taking the polygraph examination to which he had agreed following his discharge from the military for fraudulent enlistment. According to Mrs. Duff, Duff responded to this by saying, "You notify Cantrell, and I'll be gone." Mrs. Duff stated that she would judge by this statement that Duff had no intention of pursuing this matter in which he had alleged that Jack Ruby had visited the residence of General Walker on occasion during Duff's employment in the Walker residence.

Mrs. Duff stated she had no additional information concerning the current alienation by Duff and had no information other than as related concerning his whereabouts. She advised that should Duff contact her at any time in the future, she would notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation immediately.


On June 12, 1964, Private First Class William H. Grim, Transfer Point, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, advised that Duff's personnel file had been forwarded to the Department of the Army on June 3, 1964.
On June 16, 1964, William McEwan Duff, 1211 Tedford Way, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, advised that since the date of his previous interview on January 24, 1964, with a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Lawton, Oklahoma, he had been discharged from the U.S. Army, divorced from his wife Peggy Marie Duff and had moved to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as of June 2, 1964.

With regard to his current status, Mr. Duff said that he had been discharged from the U.S. Army at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, on June 2, 1964, under Section 606, Fraudulent Enlistment, for the reason he had failed to disclose on his enlistment that he previously had served in the Air Force from which he had been discharged for failure to adapt.

He said his wife had filed for divorce at Lawton, Oklahoma, in February, 1964, a divorce effective June 2, 1964.

Duff said a week before moving to Oklahoma City he had visited General Clyde Watts, an Oklahoma City attorney, who is counsel for General Edwin A. Walker by whom Duff had been employed in 1962 and 1963 at Dallas, Texas. He said he had met General Watts when the General had visited General Walker in Dallas.

It had been through General Watts that he had obtained temporary living quarters with Marion W. Osborne at 1211 Tedford Way, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Osborne being a friend of General Watts. With the same recommendation he had obtained temporary employment at a firm managed by Mr. Osborne at the Paul T. Blackney Company, 1230 Northeast 38th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, a firm which distributes and repairs lawn mowers of commercial and home type. Mr. Duff said he anticipated General Watts will find employment for him as a heavy equipment operator in road construction at Oklahoma City by reason of his former association with General Walker.

Mr. Duff said that the information that he previously had related and would now relate was based on that gained in connection with his employment by

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General Edwin A. Walker from November, 1962, to April, 1963. He said he had been employed by General Walker as his "batman." He defined batman as a British military term for an orderly, valet, or personal aide, stating he previously had had such experience in England. Mr. Duff said he had applied for the job on impulse as one day he had passed the residence of General Walker in Dallas, a house which he had identified by the flags of the United States and Texas flying in front of the house, along with the name of the General. He said he had known nothing of General Walker until he had gone to Dallas, that he had learned of General Walker through newspaper accounts of the activities of the General. He said he had applied for the job in a personal contact with General Walker, who had been summoned by a volunteer aide when Duff had appeared at the door; that he had supplied no references; none were asked.

Mr. Duff said that his duties at the Walker residence largely concerned looking after the personal needs of the General, including cooking and chauffeuring for him. He said his day started each morning with the raising of the two flags in front of the house, and concluded when the house was locked and the General retired. Duff said that he was quartered upstairs in the front room to the left. He received no remuneration, only room, board and other personal requirements. Although he had access to the entire house, General Walker and his volunteer workers would use care that Duff neither saw correspondence nor overheard conversations of a business nature.

Duff said that during this period and in performance of his duties, he observed that Walker had numerous visitors. When photographs of Jack Ruby appeared in the newspaper in November, 1963, after his shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald, Mr. Duff said he believed him to be one
of two individuals who had visited at the WALKER residence once each month in December, 1962, January and February, 1963. Mr. DUFF said that he is "not sure" of his identification; that there is "doubt in his mind"; that he "would not swear definitely" as to his identification of this individual as JACK RUBY. He said there are a lot of men who look like RUBY, adding "I saw one (of RUBY's likeness) in Oklahoma City the other day."

Mr. DUFF said that what identification he had made was on the basis of personal appearance only, a likeness which he had noted upon seeing the photographs of RUBY in the newspapers; that never had he heard Gen. WALKER or anyone else in WALKER's household mention RUBY in any respect nor had he any other basis which would indicate an association between JACK RUBY and Gen. WALKER.

Mr. DUFF stated that to his knowledge the two individuals in question had visited on these three occasions only, each time in the late afternoon at about 4:30 p.m. In December and January he had not observed their arrival but had only seen their departure, observing them as they stood at the doorway conversing with Gen. WALKER for several minutes after emerging from the sitting room where they had conversed behind the closed French doors. Mr. DUFF stated that he had heard none of the conversation. He said WALKER always conducted his business in this manner, not wishing to be disturbed. On the occasion of the third visit of these individuals in February, 1963, DUFF said he had seen them arrive, parking a 1958 Ford at the corner. Mr. DUFF was not able to provide further description of the Ford vehicle.

Mr. DUFF described the man whom he had considered might be JACK RUBY as follows:

White male American, 40 to 50 years of age, 5'8", 125 pounds, grayish white hair, wearing a business suit. DUFF described this individual as being very thin in appearance.

The second individual DUFF described as a white male American, in his late 40s, 5'11" to 6', 210 pounds, with an evident paunch. This man had very black hair and was believed to have been of Italian or Mexican descent according to DUFF. He was described as wearing a dark business suit. Neither man carried brief cases or dispatch cases of any type.

Mr. DUFF stated that he previously had not informed of this possible association between JACK RUBY and General WALKER based on his personal identification because on the occasion of his interview in January, 1964, he had been interviewed at the hospital at Fort Sill and was more concerned about his personal welfare and physical condition than the matter which he reported.

Mr. DUFF reiterated that while he cannot now be certain that the individual who visited WALKER actually was JACK RUBY, in his view, this possibility alone was sufficient to require his reporting it to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He volunteered to take a polygraph test concerning the matters which he had reported.

Mr. DUFF was asked whether or not he was acquainted with one ANDRE ANGELES. Mr. DUFF said he was not acquainted with such an individual and knew of none in his acquaintance who had traveled to Dallas, Texas on November 22, 1963.

DUFF stated that never had he seen nor had he been in any association with LEE HARVEY OSWALD; that he has never seen anyone of OSWALD's description at the residence of Gen. WALKER.

Mr. DUFF stated that he had left the employment of WALKER because of friction between himself and several women of the office staff. He said he was supposed to have time off from his present duties when the General was away but the women on the staff became very demanding of him expecting him to make coffee, tea and expecting him to do other chores for them. He said he finally had had enough of this and left.
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Mr. Duff stated that in the event a later interview might be required, he would advise of any change of address in order that he might be located readily.

It is noted that information, as originally obtained from Special Agent James R. Cantrell, U.S. Secret Service, as reported herein, indicated the presence of two men with the individual believed to have been Jack Ruby, on the occasions of the reported visits to the residence of General Walker. Mr. Duff advised there was not a third man, only two, one whom he thought might have been Ruby. He said if three men had been reported, it was in error.

On June 16, 1964, Mr. Marion W. Osborne, 1211 Tedford Way, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, employed as manager for the Paul T. Blakeney Company, 310 Northeast 38th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, advised he had given temporary residence and employment to William McEwan Duff upon the recommendation of General Clyde Watts, an attorney for the Blakeney firm, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Mr. Osborne, who advised he had been general manager of the Twentieth Century Fox Films, Inc., at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, from 1925 until he retired several years ago, said he knew nothing of the background of Mr. Duff or of the basis for Duff's interview sought by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

On June 16, 1964, Clyde J. Watts, attorney, 219 Couch Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, contacted the Oklahoma City Office by telephone from Fort Worth, Texas, and furnished the following information:

William Duff contacted Watts in Oklahoma City on approximately June 7, 1964, indicating he had just been discharged from the Army by reason of fraudulent enlistment, and was in need of employment.

Watts had known Duff to be formerly associated with former General Edwin Walker in Dallas, Texas, and believed Duff possibly had information concerning the assassination attempt on General Walker. Watts believed that if he kept Duff around where he could talk with him there would be a chance Duff would reveal his knowledge of the Walker assassination attempt. Watts contacted a friend at the Paul Blakeney Company, a lawn mower service company in Oklahoma City, obtaining a job for Duff.

Interviewed on a previous occasion, January 8, 1964, Mr. Watts had advised of the following concerning William McEwan Duff, information he had gained as counsel and friend to General Edwin A. Walker:

Mr. Watts advised he is a long-time personal friend of Edwin A. Walker, Dallas, Texas, former General of the United States Army; that he presently is acting as legal counsel for General Walker.

In the Spring of 1963, shortly after someone shot General Walker in his home in Dallas, Texas, Watts hired two private investigators in Oklahoma City to go to Dallas and attempt to ascertain the identity of the person who had shot at Walker. These investigators were Bill Keester, former member of the Oklahoma City Police Department, and Cliff Roberts, former Oklahoma State Narcotics Bureau Agent.

During the investigation conducted by Keester and Roberts, information was received that one Bill Duff, a Scotsman, who was at one time employed by Walker or Walker's staff, had allegedly remarked he was the person who had shot at Walker. Keester and Roberts made contact with Bill Duff without disclosing their true identity or capacity as private detectives, and offered Duff $5,000 to shoot General Walker. Duff was interested in the proposition and discussed with Keester and Roberts a plan to shoot General Walker. A tape recording was made of the discussion and this recording, along with the results of the investigation by Keester and Roberts, was turned over to the Dallas Police Department. At no time did Duff ever admit to Keester and Roberts that he was the person who had previously attempted to shoot General Walker. At the time Keester and Roberts were in contact with Bill Duff, he resided at 5420 Lewis Street, Dallas, Texas.

On January 16, 1964, Cliff Roberts, Investigator, Oklahoma State Crime Bureau, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was interviewed concerning his employment as a private investigator.
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by Clyde J. Watts, attorney, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, representing General Edwin A. Walker. He had been retained, he said, with an associate, Bill Keester, for purposes of investigating the attempted shooting of General Walker. In connection with this matter, he had conducted investigation concerning William McEwan Duff, offering Duff $5,000 to shoot Walker, in an effort to establish whether he had information concerning the earlier attempt. During the discussions with Duff relative to this plan, Duff never made any admissions which would indicate he was guilty of the earlier shooting, although he attempted to show some knowledge, in an apparent attempt to impress Roberts and Keester. Roberts said he considered Duff to be a "complete phoney" in every respect, and was convinced he had gone along with Roberts and Keester merely in an attempt to get some money out of them.

Investigation concerning William McEwan Duff has disclosed the following background data concerning him:

William McEwan Duff was born November 4, 1931, at Grangemount, Sterlingshire, Scotland, and on January 24, 1964, was serving in the United States Army at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He is enlisted under serial number RA 18 678 666 and was connected with Battery D, First Training Battalion, USATC-FA, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Duff, when interviewed on January 24, 1964, claimed he had been a member of the British Army, the "Argyles," an infantry unit, from 1949 to 1952. He worked for a number of years for the British National Railroad as an engine driver, and came to Dallas, Texas, in November, 1962. He said at that time the newspapers were full of news of General Edwin A. Walker and he felt he might get a job with the General as his "Butcher." Duff, according to his own statement, went to the General's home in Dallas, was hired, and resided at the Walker house as an employee from November, 1962, to April, 1963. He left the employ of General Walker because of friction with a woman on the General's staff.

In August, 1963, he left Dallas and went to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where he enlisted in the United States Army and was sent to Fort Polk, Louisiana, for basic training, and on December 10, 1963, left Fort Polk and went to Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Duff is described as follows:

- **Race**: White
- **Sex**: Male
- **Date of Birth**: November 4, 1931
- **Place of Birth**: Grangemount, Sterlingshire, Scotland
- **Citizenship Status**: Entered the United States in 1957, alien registration number A1150675
- **Height**: 5 feet 9 inches
- **Weight**: 160 pounds
- **Hair**: Brown and receding
- **Eyes**: Blue
- **Father**: Deceased
- **Mother**: Margaret Lawson, 45 West Mission, Ailacreta, California
- **Brother**: Robert Duff, living near Long Beach, California
- **Uncle**: William McEwan, 7614 Glendon Way South, San Gabriel, California
- **Relative (possibly ex-wife)**: Jodie Lorelaine Duff, Post Office Box 5293, Broadus, Montana
- **Characteristics**: Described as "con man," pathological liar and lazy
- **FBI Number**: 4832446
- **Dallas Police Department Number**: 52495
- **Los Angeles Police Department Number**: B73533
- **Former Wife**: Peggy Marie Duff, 1213 Lawton Street, Lawton, Oklahoma

He claimed in July, 1963, he was investigated by the Dallas Police Department in connection with the attempted shooting of General Walker. He said he took a lie detector test and was "completely cleared" as a result. He is reportedly a former chauffeur and handyman for General Walker.