786

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT Memorandum

• Chief James J. Rowley то

DATE: November 30, 1963

SA Lawton, 1-16 - White House Detail PROV

summacr: Activities of this Special Agent in Dallas, Texas on Friday, November 22, 1963

On Friday, November 22, 1963 I was a member of the StOAM - 4:007M shift. I arrived in Dallas, Texas, Love Field at 11:40AM aboard "SAF 26000. T was assigned to the Press Area upon arrival and my instructions were to remain at the airport to effect security for the President's doparture.

T received information President Kennedy had been shot and that he was being brought back to "SAF 26000. I immediately contacted the Police Official in charge of the police detail at the a rport and advised him of the situation and requested that strice security be placed in the vicinity of USAF 26000, the terminal, and surrounding area. I advised the Police Offical to caution his men to be on the lookout for people taking pictures, that there was to be no picture taking by anyone.

A short time later I received information that President kennedy had died and that his body was being brought to Dallas Love Field and placed aboard USAF 26000, for return to Washington, D.C. After a short time the President's body arrived at the airport and I assisted in placing the coffin aboard USAF 26000.

APPROVED

Special Agent 1-16. White House Detail

Gerald A. Behn Special Agent in Charge 1-16. White House Detail

COMMISSION EXHIBIT NO. 2554

CO-2-34030

FIELD OFFICE - Dallas, Texas AGENT - Roger C. Warner DATE - November 22, 1963

On November 22, 1963. I was assigned, in connection with the Presidential Visit to Dallas, to Love Field Airport to provide help for advance preparations for the President's arrival, security of the Air Force I and II during the President's visit to Dallas, and as help in advance for departure of President from Dallas.

I arrived at the airport at approximately 10;30 A.M. in company with Special Agent Jerry Kivet, Vice Presi ential Detail. At that time, I undertook duties to aid SA Lawson, Presidential Detail in lining up cars for the motorcade, passing out numbers for the automobiles, and other general duties.

At about 12 Noon the President arrived in Air Force I, and upon his departure from the plane he began shaking hands with citizens gathered along the fence, approximately 75 yerds from the ramp on which the President deplaned. During the time the President was shaking hands with these citizens. I provided security and passage for the Presi ent to move around the fence meeting the people. The President then moved to his automobible and the motorcade left the airport.

As soon as the motorcade left Love Field I introduced myself to Special Agents Rybka and Lawton and aided them in securing Air Force I and II with armed Air Force sentries. Plans were also made at this time to secure the area for the President's return. Agents Rybka and Lawton, and I then went to the airport to have lunch.

About 12:30, plane crews of Air Force I and II and of the Press plane were alerted by public address system of the airport to return to their planes immediately. Agents Rybka, Lawton, and I immediately returned to the planes at which time we were informed by Special Agent Patterson, who was standing near the boarding area of Air Force I that the President had been shot.

No further information was received at that time relative to the condition of the President. Agents Patterson, Rybka, Lawton, and the undersigned immediately secured the boarding area of Air Force I and II, all buildings, and warehouses adjacent thereto. This was accomplished by directing police officers and airport personnel to clear the areas of both private citizens and airport personnel working in the immediate vicinity. In this manner, the lower end of Love Field adjacent to the terminal was completely secured along with warehouses and various outbuildings of the terminal itself. Also, parking lots were secured with no persons being allowed to sit in cars parked near the fence.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2554-Continued

00-2-34,030 -2-

During the time we were waiting for the Freedent to return to the plane, we were getting reports from various individuals who were listening to the radio, both pocket transistor radies and radies aboard the nearby simplanes, and were therefore shue to gether information about the progress of the President to Parkland Heenital.

In a short period of the, I observed two automobiles pull up to the airplane and persons boarding the Force I. I then subsequently observed Special Agent Rufus Youngblood closing the door on Air Force I and knew the new President Johnson had boarded the airplane.

Approximately ten minutes later, word use received that the coffin containing the body of President Kennedy use returning to the airfield; that Hrs. Kennedy had requested no photographo or persons be allowed near the area where she would beard Air Force I. It was also suggested at this time by unknown persons that Air Force I and I be noved to the far side of Love Field. This suggestion was not complied with for the reason that security had been established in the original landing area and it would involve a mumber of movements to return the planes to the other side of the field and again provide substantial security.

About ten minutes later, a Hotoroado containing the body of the President in a bronze colored cashet and Mrs. Kennedy appeared and were loaded aboard ship. At this time no photographic were taken with the exception of one photographor uno had climbed to the roof of a wardbouse approximately 200 yards from the airplano. This photographer was restrained from taking further photographs.

After irm. Hennedy and the budy of the President were loaded absard hir Force I, security use maintained until I mist with Special Agent James H. Howned the had driven from Fort North to the Love Field area in company with Special Agent Millian Dancan. Special Agent Howerd stated that a suspect had been captured by Tork Worth Police and that he wished me to accompany him to Fort Worth to question this suspect. I informed Special Agent Patterson and other Secret Sarvice agents who had accompanied the decased President Kennedy to the airport that I was about to depart with Agent Howard to question this suspect and they concurred and gave permission 'o depart. I then laft with Agent Howard and traveled to Fort Worth Police Station where we questioned Donald Wayne House, Woh Luis, Renger, Texas. A: the time SA Howard and I laft for Fort Worth to question the suspect, the Air force I had not departed Love Field.

Orig. 7 2 Chief Eulas 2 co

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2554-Continued

Duty Assignment Upon Arrival At Dallas, Texas On November 22, 1963.

Upon arrival at Love Field, Dallas, Texas aboard Air Force O.E (2600) at 11:35 as, I proced to the follow-up car 679-X and stationed ryself at the right front fender of 679-X and the rear of 100-X. There I stopped overyone from going in between the cars. Once the motor-cade began to move I moved along with it, until the motor-cade picted up speed. From this point I returned to the irrediate area of Air Force CEE.

Once the motor hade left the Airport, approximately fifteen minutes later I proceided to the Airport restaurant for a sendwich and coffee. Upon completion of my meal, I saw the crew from the Pan-American chartered plane leaving in a hurry. One of the crew measures stated they received word to recurn to their craft immediately at which time I also left the restaurant and went to the area of Air Force OKE.

After receiving information of what has happened, I asisted other Agents in enforcing security at the Airport. When word was received that the body was to be brought tack on the plane I took the post at the rear ramp of the plane, and remained there until departure time. At this time I boorded Air Force Oke and departed at 2 rids pm.

Henry C. Rytk

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2554-Continued

CU-2-34,030

4

FIELD OFFICE - Dallas, Texas AGENT - William H. Patterson DATE - November 22, 1963

On November 22, 1963, I was assigned to drive the Vice President's Car in Fort Worth, Texas, and was therefore not assigned a post during the Dallas visit.

Upon completion of my assigned duties in Fort Worth, Texas, which occurred somer than anticipated, I departed Caravall Air Force Base in Secret Service car 720-8, and proceeded to Batas Love Field to assist in the general security in that area. I arrived at Datas Love Field at approximately 12:20 P. M., and assisted the local police and Special Agents Warmer and Lawton in the security of Air Force I and II.

At approximately 12:30 P. M. the crew of Air Force I was alerted to Stand by for immediate departure and this use the dirst indication I received that some trouble had occurred with the Presidential visit. Succeeding information was obtained at various intervals from the pione crew and over a pecket radie carried by one of the local pointe officers. It was by this means that I learned the President had been assassinated.

Upon learning of the President's death, I assisted SA Lawton and SA Warner in direction of local police officers in appring strict security to Air Force I and II and the general Lapring area and buildings in this vicinity.

I remained in close proximity of Air Force I during the arrival of Vice President and Krs. Johnson, the President's coffin, and Krs. Kennedy. I stayed in the vicinity of Air Force I until it departed, at which time I returned to the Damas Field Office.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2554-Continued

THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDI ON NOVEMBER 22, 1963, AT DALLAS, TEXAS

Statemant of Special Agent John J. O'Leary, United States Secret Service, concerning his activities and official duties on November 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas.

On the morning of November 22, 1963, I departed Fort north, Texas, with the Fresidential Party aboard Air Force One (U. S. Air Force Plane No. 26000). Departure tize from the Fort Worth Airport was at 11:25 a.m. Air Force One arrived at Love Field, Dallas, Texas, at 11:40 a.m. Uy official duties as a Secret Service Agent in connoction with this trip of the Fresident was to supervise the handling and socurity of all luggage aboard Air Force One. This would include all the porconal effects of the Fresident, such as the subservices, loose clothes, hanging bags, bed mattrose, Fresidential Seal, etc. Baggage for Mrs. Konnedy, who was along on this trip to Texas, was also handled by se-

When we arrived at the Dallas airport I remained about the Presidential airplane or in close proximity of the plane during the time the velocoding ceremonies were in progress for the President and First Lady, and after the Presidential motoreade departed for downtown Dallas. None of the President's Huggage use to be unloaded in Dallas as this reas not be be an overnight stop. My instructions were to remain at the airport until the President's motoreade roturned for departure for Austin, Texas. SA Don Lawton remained at Love Field with me.

By first knowledge that the President had been shot was when Colonel Swindle, Presidential pilot, asked me if I had heard that the President and Governor Connally had been shot. I had seen the pilot of the Pan-American chartored Fress plane running into the terminal building just before Colonel Swindlo told me of the shooting, so I felt that scatching was wrong. At this point, aftor learning of the indicat, I boarded Air Force One and watched the tolevision coverage of the events following the tragedy. I stayed on the plane until it departed Dallas at 2:47 p.m. Dallas time and arrived at Andrews Air Force Base, Washington, D. C., at 5:58 p.m. that night (dashington time). Defore doparture from Love Field I was told that we were waiting for the President's body to be put on the plane.

Somptime before departure from Love Field, Dallas, I was asked to witness the sucaring in correctly of Lyndon Johnson as the 36th President of the United States. This was done aboard Air Force One at 2:38 p.m., and all passengers aboard Air Force One were invited to witness the swaring in.

Upon disembarking from Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base, I entored a Unite House car and followed the ambulance carrying the President's body to the Chieked Maval Hospital, Betheeda, Maryland. Departure from Andrews Air Force Eneo was at 6:10 p.m. and we arrived at the hospital at 6:55 p.e. At the hospital was present at the autopay and the official picture taking of the Provident's body. I eventually departed the hospital about midnight and returned to the Unite House. This is a true statement of facts to the best of my knowlcdys and bollef.

Above statement made on Now. 30, 1963.

John J. O'Leary

John J. O'Leary () Special Agent U. S. Secret Service .5