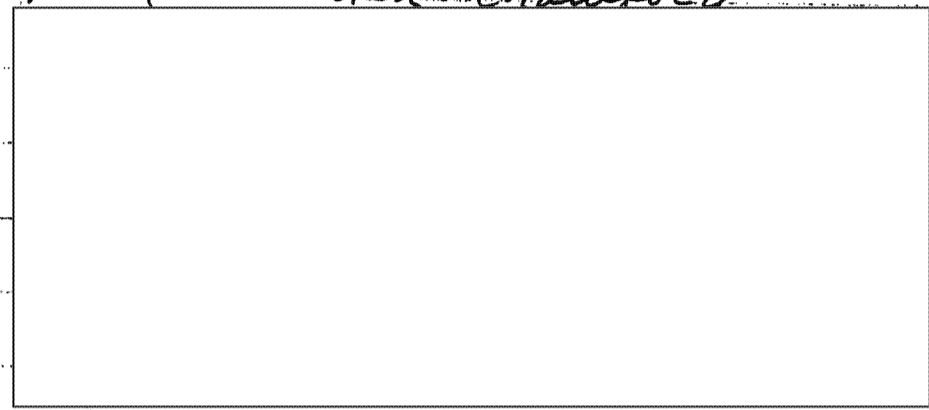


13-14-02

interview

RETURN TO CIA
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Name William Crawford



at 9:30 A.M. on 5-14-78 ^{SCA} Staff

AM 59
out 60

investigator Harold Deas interviewed William Crawford, former executive officer of the CIA station at Atsugi, Japan concerning his knowledge of LHO and the military intelligence that LHO may have possessed from his military assignment as Radio-radar operator at the Atsugi Naval Airbase.

Crawford advised that he did not know LHO and never heard the name until after the assassination of J.F.K. The U-2 program administered by the CIA at Atsugi did not have their own radio-radar facilities. The U-2 planes utilized the naval base communications for only for take-off and landing clearance.

The ~~the~~ CIA employees at Atsugi had no clandestine activity other than the U-2 program. All human

intelligence ~~reports~~ ^{resources} were handled by ~~the~~ case officers stationed elsewhere

The cover story for the U-2 plane at Atrugi was that it was used to monitor radio activity in the atmosphere. In fact the plane actually ~~had~~ ^{had} equipment installed to measure radio activity to facilitate the cover story. ~~When the~~

Oswald would have seen the U-2 take-off and land at the base however he would have ~~had~~ ^{had} no other information.

Radar operators would not be able to trace the U-2 ~~over~~ ^{over} the flights. The plane would take off in the opposite direction. The U-2 would ~~start~~ fly to a staging area (Peshawar, Pakistan) before going into the flight plan for the over flight. However the Russians were aware of the over flights from the beginning of the program 1955.

The Russian did not have the ability to shoot the U-2 down at the altitude of the U-2 flight.

CIA recruited personnel for the program from the military service. The pilots would resign from their respective service units with the understanding that at the completion

(VNC)

of the program they would go back without losing service time and at a rank comparable to their contemporaries. All program employees were paid by CIA. General maintenance on the U-2 was provided at Ahsugi however major overhaul was made only in U.S.

Although the program was directed and administered by the CIA, the commander of the Ahsugi program was Col. Marion "Hack" Nixon from the Air Force.

The program was terminated in 1960.

Harold:

Can you add the following statement? :

Crawford said that had LHO been associated with the Atsugi ^{CIA} station, he, as executive officer, would've known about it.

~~However he would not have~~
~~known of his assistance~~

contact report

Pursuant to critic ^{publications} ~~allegations~~ and specific ~~statements~~ ^{allegations} by former CIA employee James Wilcott that LHO was a CIA agent, Staff Investigator Harold D. Reap, interviewed the following ~~persons~~ ^{persons} personnel to determine if there ~~was~~ ^{is} ~~any~~ ^{any} collaboration for ~~the~~ Wilcott statements ~~which~~ ~~had~~ ~~been~~ ~~made~~ ~~known~~ relating to the Oswald agent issue.

1. Robert P. Wheeler

[redacted]
[redacted] Position, with CIA, was Deputy Chief of Station, [redacted] June 59 to ~~Oct~~ 64. Interviewed at CIA Hqrs 4-13-78. Subject is retired.

2. Leo Rosenbaum

[redacted]
[redacted] Position with CIA for the period Jun 60 ~~May 60~~ ~~to~~ 64 was Chief of Counter Intelligence, SR Branch, [redacted] Interviewed CIA Hqrs 4-10-78. Subject is retired.

3.

[redacted]

4. Frederick C. Randall

[redacted] Presently employed at CIA Hqrs and has cover. Randall position with CIA in Sept 61 to Aug 65 was Chief of Processing at the [redacted] Interviewed at CIA Hqrs on [redacted]

6/mc

notes ~~scribble~~

5.

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6.

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7.

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8.

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4/mc

9.

[Redacted]

10.

Jerome E. Fox,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

former CIA intelligence analyst at [Redacted] from Jul 1959 to Dec 1962, worked in program involving military intelligence. interviewed 5-1-78

11.

William V. Broe

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

former ~~CIA~~ CIA

CO5 [Redacted] from 1961 to 1965

interviewed 5-15-78

12.

William Crawford,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

former CIA executive officer at Atsugi air base in charge of the U-2 program. (Details of interview conducted 5-14-78 submitted in separate report)

3/mc

Subject Jerome E. Fox was ~~supposedly~~ one person who Wilentz could remember ~~that~~ ^{wife who} he had conversation ~~with~~ concerning the speculation that LHO was an agent for the CIA. The conversation supposedly took place in [redacted] after the information ^{was received} that LHO was the assassin of JFK. Fox advised investigator Leap that he was in the U.S. at the time of assassination on 23 Nov 63. Fox's CIA personnel advised he was transferred from the [redacted] station to the U.S. in 1962.

Subjects 2, 7, 8, 9 and 11 all thought they would have known if LHO had been ~~re~~ recruited as a CIA agent while he was in Japan. All the subjects worked within the SR Branch of the [redacted] station and theoretically ~~would have~~ one of them would have handled or had knowledge of the recruitment. All thought if Oswald had been recruited without their knowledge it would have been a rare exception to the working policy and guidelines of the station.

3/17/68

CIA employees

The above ~~individuals~~ were selected for interview because of the position they held ~~at the time~~ with the CIA at the [] station ~~during the time~~ ~~frame~~ frame of 1959 to 1964.

James Wilcott ~~made~~ gave testimony in a closed hearing before the SCA that a CIA case officer ~~told him~~ stationed in [] told him that LHO was a CIA agent and ~~also~~ also mentioned LHO's crypto ~~work~~ ^{mission}. The ~~conversation~~ ~~took~~ conversation took place in the [] shortly after the word of the JFK assassination was received on 23 Nov 63. Wilcott ~~stated~~ ~~that~~ could not recall the name of the case officer or the cryptos ~~work~~ ^{mission}. Wilcott also advised that considerable conversation took place among CIA employees ^{at the time} concerning the Oswald-CIA agent issue.

The basic questions asked of the CIA employees selected were as follows

- (a) Have you ever seen written documents which ^{indicate} that LHO was a ^{intelligence} CIA agent or a source of information?
- (b) ~~Have~~ ^{Were} you ever heard advised orally that LHO was an agent?
- (c) Have you ever heard conversation or heard ^{conversational} speculation that LHO was a CIA agent or intelligence source for any government ^{service}?
- (d) Were you in a position to know if LHO was recruited as an ^{CIA} agent during his tour of duty with the military in Japan.

(e) When was the first time you ever heard the allegation that LHO ~~was~~ ^{may have been} a CIA agent.

(f) Did you know James & Elsie Wilcott in

~~None of the~~ ^{all} individuals interviewed stated they never saw any documents nor heard any information that LHO was a CIA agent while stationed in . Only after ~~these allegations~~ ^{the} public publication and the Garrison investigation in the late 60s were they ~~so~~ ^{so} aware of the ~~public~~ allegation.

Subjects 2, 7 & 8 expressed belief that LHO ~~was~~ ^{may} have been recruited by the KGB during his tour of duty in Japan. They based their belief on the fact that during the period of time that LHO was in Japan, the CIA station in had identified a KGB program specifically ~~designed~~ ^{designed} designed to recruit U.S. military personnel in Tokyo. However they had no information that the recruitment of LHO by the KGB did in fact take place.

3/11/68