

July 24, 1996

To: Tim Wray
cc: David Marwell, Doug Horne, Jeremy Gunn
From: Christopher Barger
Subj: Correspondence from Robert G. Vinson, received July 22, 1996
File No. 4.31.11

I have completed my review of the 50+ page packet sent to us by Robert G. Vinson of Wichita, Kansas, containing a lengthy statement made in presence of attorney, and supporting documents. My analysis of this packet follows.

The statement covers Vinson's military career, his recollections of his actions and observances on the 22nd of November, 1963, and an alleged psychological testing and attempted recruitment by the CIA later in his career. He alleges that while returning to Lowry AFB in Denver from Andrews AFB in Maryland on November 22, 1963, on an Air Force C-54, the plane diverted to Dallas upon receiving word that President Kennedy had been shot. The plane allegedly landed on a dirt airstrip, possibly on a highway under construction, and took on two passengers; one was white and the other looked Cuban. Vinson says that later, after seeing photos of Lee Oswald, he believed that the white passenger looked a great deal like Oswald. The plane then allegedly took off again within five minutes, and continued to Roswell AFB in New Mexico, where the two men deplaned and Vinson never saw them again. He then took a bus to Colorado Springs, where he was stationed. The remainder of the statement deals with events unconnected to the assassination and is not germane to the work of the ARRB.

The statement was made on September 28, 1994, so it could not have been made in response to the military article that ran. It was addressed to Dr. Marwell, so I believe that this gentleman knows of our work and believes he has information of use to us.

While his military personnel records confirm that Vinson was apparently in Washington DC on November 21-22, 1963, the rest of his statement is unverifiable. He says he took a "hop" on the C-54, which is a common practice whereby military personnel fly on cargo planes going to the destination that they need. However, he claims that no manifest was kept of the flight, which is an implausible contention. Standard procedure dictates that passenger manifests be kept even on hop flights. Additionally, the contention that a C-54 could land on a dirt landing strip seems dubious to me. Finally, regarding the two men allegedly picked up: even if this were true (and I have my doubts), there would be no records that exist of these men, nor would we have any way of tracking them down to interview them.

It is my opinion that there is nothing worth our further attention in this statement. Since we are attempting only to find records, this story seems to be outside our mandate. I suggest that we draft a letter thanking him for his contribution, file his statement, and take no further action.