

# Referrals (Army)

To Quin Shea from Harold Weisberg, JFK assassination records appeals 6/26/79  
Referrals as stonewalling and harassment/ Thomas A. Vallee  
Withholding of the public domain  
Who is a public figure in historical cases?

Vallee, a Korean war Marine who received a total disability, was also a right-wing, anti-Kennedy extremist who provided a convenient excuse when the White House wanted a seemingly legitimate excuse for the President not to leave Washington at the time of the Diem executions, which were three weeks prior to the assassination.

It was made to appear that he was part of a plot to kill the President, thus, with the initial withholdings of records, making it appear that there was a withholding to hide the plot to protect the official explanation.

Some of my original work in tracking this down was stolen in Chicago by a wild man with a skill in self-promotions. His misuses were facilitated by the strange record of the Vallee arrest, which he also stole and misused. (He is Sherman Skolnick, who saw plots under every rock.) Beginning with a spurious suit against the Archives this attracted considerable attention, followed by a lingering assassination mythology that was extended to the so-called Tramp Pictures. Valle is now an assassination public figure and has been for years.

When I was able to obtain more information I became convinced that he is one of the innocent victims of bureaucracies, was arrested merely to provide a political excuse, and my interest in him became limited to the ~~xxx~~ historical record and the role into which he had been forced by the bureaucracies. He is relevant to nothing else except for those who seek to perpetuate confusion.

One of the very rare occasions on which the Department acted on my FOIA requests led to the release to me of records that include medical records relating to Vallee's psychiatric conditions. They are medical, they are quite personal, but they were disclosed years ago, as the Department's and the FBI's records should reflect. (Interestingly enough I have seen no reference to any of this in the general releases and know there was none in the PA request releases.) Over the AG's signature there were no privacy claims.

Attached are copies of the referral slip and the worksheet covering 62-109060-  
relating  
1389, which appears to be the response to a request for military records ~~relating~~ to  
Vallee, the information that/was disclosed years ago.

This also represents an inconsistency in that similar records have been released  
over the years without referral.

All of this raises questions about the standards followed by the FBI in historical  
case processing and disclosure, about make-work and needless referrals merely to  
frustrate use of the records and facilitate misuses and about the FBI campaign to  
inflate statistics of time and cost under FOIA.