

## WALKER SHOT RELATED

# Details on Unhappy Life, Husband Bared by Marina

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WASHINGTON — The bullets from presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald's rifle ripped into the anonymity cloaking his 23-year-old wife and two daughters.

And Sunday the complicated story of Marina Oswald from her self-described "unhappy" childhood in Russia to the complexities of marriage and the hollowness of notoriety was permanently inscribed in history with the release of the Warren Commission's probing report.

A finely drawn story of the young woman who almost immediately after the assassination received outpourings of both sympathy and mistrust at times lends the characteristics of a novel to the detailed report.

The report uses Mrs. Oswald's testimony in two appearances before the 7-man commission and testimony from the Oswalds' friends and family.

And it weaves together the circumstances of the couple's courtship, their marriage and flight from Russia to Texas, his erratic behavior and their marital difficulties to shed light on the fourth presidential assassination in the United States' history.

In the lengthy passages describing her testimony and actions, Mrs. Oswald emerges as a cooperative, important if at times "confused" witness.

She shed much light on the long-unsolved attempt to kill Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker April 10, 1963, at his Dallas home. The commission described her testimony on this

matter "an important element."

Mrs. Oswald told the commission that her husband had left their Neely Street apartment shortly after dinner April 10. When he failed to come back about 10 or 10:30 p.m., she discovered a carefully detailed note telling her what to do if he didn't return and about the money and protection that was available to her.

When Oswald returned home later, Mrs. Oswald testified, "I asked him what had happened. He was very pale. I don't remember the exact time, but it was very late. And he told me not to ask him any questions. He only told me he had shot General Walker."

Later she identified pictures of Walker's home which had been found in Oswald's possessions.

On her second appearance before the commission, Mrs. Oswald said her husband was going to kill former vice-president Richard Nixon.

On April 24, she said, Oswald started to go out with a pistol. "I asked him where he was going and why he was getting dressed. He answered 'Nixon is coming. I want to go and have a look,'" she testified.

She described for the commission the events that followed:

"I called him into the bathroom and I closed the door and I wanted to prevent him and then I started to cry. And I told him that he shouldn't do this, and that he had promised me.

"I remember that I held him. We actually struggled for several minutes and, then he quieted down."

In its thorough investigation, the commission concluded that regardless of what Oswald may have said to his wife he was not actually planning to shoot Mr. Nixon at that time in Dallas.

Mrs. Oswald speculated that the incident may have been unrelated to an actual threat.

"It might have been that he was just trying to test me. He was the kind of person who could try and wound somebody in that way. Possibly he didn't want to go out at all but was just doing this all as a sort of joke, not really as a joke but rather to simply wound me, to make me feel bad," she testified.

After the assassination, Mrs. Oswald testified that she thought her husband was "shooting at Connally rather than President Kennedy." In support of her conclusion Mrs. Oswald noted her husband's undesirable discharge (Connally was secretary of the Navy at that time) and that she could not think of any reason why Oswald would want to kill Mr. Kennedy, the commission said.

Mrs. Oswald also testified that she "had never heard anything bad about Kennedy from Lee." She added, however, that in Russia her husband "spoke well of him (Connally) . . . Lee said that when he would return to the United States he would vote for him (for governor)."

The commission however, discounted the theory that Oswald was solely shooting at Connally.

The last 10 months of tragedy began for Marina Oswald as she watched television in the early

afternoon of Nov. 22, 1963.

"My heart dropped," she testified, when Mrs. Ruth Paine, with whom Mrs. Oswald lived in Irving, told her that someone had shot the President "from the building in which Lee is working."

The assassin's widow remembered that her husband's Mannlicher-Carcano was supposed to be wrapped in a blanket in the Paine garage.

"I then went to the garage to see whether the rifle was there and I saw that the blanket was still there and I said 'Thank God,' Mrs. Oswald told the commission. She did not unroll the blanket but saw that it was in its usual position and it appeared to her to have something inside, the report said.

But soon afterward, about 3 p.m., she found that the blanket was indeed empty when Dallas police officers checked the garage.

Mrs. Oswald later testified that the rifle found on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository building, from which the shots were fired, was "the fateful rifle of Lee Oswald," as she described it.

Later she was able to identify the shirt her husband wore to work that morning and the two jackets he wore during his flight from the depository building to the Texas Theater, where he was apprehended, the report said.

The Russian-born woman thought nothing suspicious Thursday night Nov. 21, 1963, when her husband unexpectedly ap-

peared at the Paine home in Irving. He always spent the weekdays in his Dallas room and visit his wife and daughters, June Lee and Rachael, on weekends.

Mrs. Oswald said they had argued the weekend before by telephone because she felt he shouldn't "come every week" and that the Paines were planning a birthday party. Another argument of that earlier weekend was about Oswald living under an assumed name, which Mrs. Oswald discovered when she called him at his Dallas residence.

Both Mrs. Oswald and Mrs. Paine thought he had come to Irving Thursday night to "patch up" the quarrels. It was that night, too, that Mrs. Oswald refused for a while to live with her husband in Dallas.

The Oswalds' married life since coming to the United States, Mrs. Oswald and various friends testified, had been stormy with many separations. It was these marital difficulties which the commission termed "of great importance in any attempt to understand Oswald's possible motivation."

The commission added, however, that it does not believe that the relations between Oswald and his wife caused him to assassinate the President. "It is unlikely that the motivation was that simple," the commission said.

Mrs. Oswald testified that ". . . immediately after coming to the United States Lee changed. I did not know him as such a man in Russia . . . he helped me as before, but he became a little more of a recluse . . . he was very ir-

ritable, sometimes for a trifle . . ."

Friends of the couple testified before the commission of his volatile actions and of her nagging and public criticisms.

On Feb. 17 and in July, 1963, Mrs. Oswald wrote to the Russian embassy. The first time she requested permission for herself and June, their only child at that time, to return to the Soviet Union. The second time she wrote that "things are improving due to the fact that my husband expresses a sincere wish to return together with me to the USSR."

She said both letters were written at her husband's insistence. She testified before the commission that:

"Lee wanted me to go to Russia, and I told him that if he wanted me to go then that meant that he didn't love me, and that in that case what was the idea of coming to the United States in the first place. Lee would say that it would be better for me if I went to Russia, and what he had in mind I don't know."

Mrs. Oswald also testified to some of the happier moments of her marriage with Oswald.

She recalled he was "very happy at the birth of their second daughter, Rachel, and said "two daughters were better for each other. And in New Orleans where they lived before returning to Dallas in the fall of 1963, "family life was more peaceful."

But she testified before the Warren Commission that her husband could really "only be happy on the moon."