

as 'Loner' — desirable Discharge From Marines

From Post-Dispatch Wire Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23—The man charged with assassinating President John F. Kennedy is an admitted "Marxist" who spent three years in Russia trying to renounce his American citizenship, but got a United States government-paid passage home when he had a change of heart.

The onetime defector was identified as Lee H. Oswald, 24 years old, former Marine, and chairman of a Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

Police said Oswald worked in the Texas School Book Depository Building. After the assassination, police found a foreign rifle in the building.

Beside it were three empty shells. One cartridge remained in the chamber of the rifle.

Oswald was born in New Orleans Oct. 18, 1939. Twenty years later, on Oct. 30, 1959, he appeared at the American embassy in Moscow, telling officials that he wanted to renounce his American citizenship. At the time, he was reported to have told officials that "I am a Marxist."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation confirmed that Oswald did go to Russia and had asked for Soviet citizenship. He had recently been discharged from the Marine Corps.

Recalled as a 'Loner'

Mrs. Howard Green, wife of a Texas State representative, taught young Oswald in the sixth grade of Fort Worth's Ridgely Elementary School. His grades were below average and her description of him from her memory was "an introvert . . . bookish . . . a loner."

A Fort Worth policeman, asking that his name not be used, said he knew Oswald from fifth grade until his entry into Arlington Heights High School in Fort Worth. The former classmate recalled:

"He was always opposed to any kind of discipline. He seemed to hold it against people up there any authority. He never was like any other kid. He didn't associate hardly at all, but he wasn't a trouble maker. He talked a good bit in high school about how things should be."

In an altercation with the coach of the school's B football team, the policeman recalled Oswald

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"It's supposed to be a free country, a man's supposed to be able to do what he wants."

However vocally Oswald expressed his belief in freedom, by his own admission his conversion to Communism already was well along.

He said he became interested in Marxism at the age of 15, when a Communist pamphlet fell into his hands. Later, he discovered Marx's "Das Kapital," the Bible of Communism.

At the age of 17, Oswald withdrew from school 23 days after starting in high school. He promptly joined the Marines.

Record to Washington

The Marine Corps record of Oswald was removed from the Military Records Center, 9760 Page avenue, Overland, Mo., last night and flown to Washington.

The record was delivered to Scott Air Force Base, where it was placed aboard an Air Force jet plane and flown to Washington.

The record shows that Oswald was given an undesirable discharge from the Marine reserves in 1960.

A corps spokesman said this discharge was a result of Oswald's renunciation of United States citizenship.

Oswald twice received summary courts-martial when serving on active duty with the Marine Corps in Japan, the spokesman said.

He qualified as a "marksman" with the M1 rifle when in the Marines, rating neither low nor high as a rifleman, the spokesman told reporters.

Oswald's record, as described by the spokesman, included items:

Born in New Orleans on Oct. 18, 1939. His mother is Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, whose address at the time of his enlistment was given as Fort Worth, Tex. He enlisted Oct. 24, 1959, at Dallas.

Oswald was released from active duty, at his request, for reasons of hardship—to support his mother — while he still had about a year of duty ahead of him. He was put in inactive reserve.

His discharge from the inactive reserve was ordered on Sept. 13, 1960 and was sent to a board of record correction for review. The board upheld the undesirable discharge.

One of the summary courts-martial in Japan was on April 11, 1958, on the charge of viol-

ating a regulation requiring the registration of a privately owned firearm. For this conviction, Oswald was reduced from private first class to private.

The second court-martial occurred on June 18, 1958. The charge was using provocative words to a noncommissioned officer. The record does not show the disposition of this charge.

His occupation specialty in the Marine Corps was electronics operator. The spokesman said that a skilled man in this category works with radar and fire control of weapons systems, but that as a private first class Oswald probably would not have been assigned to this skilled work.

The spokesman said Oswald's service record showed that:

He was a recruit at San Diego from October 1956 to January 1957; from Jan. 20 to Feb. 26, 1957, he was in a combat training unit at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

From March 18 to May 3, 1967, he was at the Marine air detachment training center at Jacksonville, Fla.

In May and June of 1957 he was attached to a casual company.

From July 1957 to October 1958 he was in Marine Air Group 11, First Marine Air Wing, Japan.

From December 1958 to Sept. 17, 1959 he was in the Third Air Wing at El Toro, Calif., from which he was released from active duty.

His highest rank was private first class.

Oswald told the embassy officials in Moscow that he planned to tell Soviet officials everything he learned while he was in the Marines. Embassy officials said Russia never granted Oswald's request for citizenship.

Married Russian Woman

In February 1962 he wrote to the embassy asking for a passport to the United States. In the meantime, he had married a Russian woman, Marina Nicholaevna, once a hospital employe in Minsk.

They have a young daughter and an infant.

Embassy officials reviewed his case. Since he had not been given Soviet citizenship, it was decided to give him a passport to the United States.

Oswald, when his disenchantment with Russia set in, wrote to Senator John Tower (Rep.)

Texas. The defector pleaded:

"Since July 20, 1960, I have unsuccessfully applied for a Soviet exit visa to leave this country. The Soviets refused to permit me and my Soviet wife to leave the Soviet Union. I am a citizen of the United States of America and I beseech you, Senator, to raise (sic) a question of holding by the Soviet Union of a citizen of the United States against his will and express desire."

Tower's office referred the letter to the State Department which acted favorably for Oswald.

Government records show that he left Moscow at the end of May 1962. The embassy advanced him \$435 to defray the cost of his trip, a customary practice in the cases of Americans stranded in a foreign nation. It is not clear from available records he ever repaid the loan.

Carlos Bringuier of the Cuban student directory in New Orleans said that Oswald was in the city two months ago as the chairman of a pro-Castro "Fare Play for Cuba committee." He was reported to have been arrested for allegedly distributing pro-Communist propaganda on a street corner. The House Committee on Un-American Activities

Oswald, appearing to be the same man who headed the Fare Play for Cuba committee in New Orleans.

One year Oswald applied for a new passport. He told the State Department he wanted to visit England, France, Germany, Holland, Finland, Italy, Poland and the Soviet Union. He said he planned to make the trip between October 1963 and December or January 1964.

Got Temporary Job

On Sept. 26, President Kennedy's plans for a visit to Dallas were announced. A few days later, Oswald got a job at the Texas School Book Depository as a temporary warehouse worker. The man who hired him, R. S. Truby, said:

"He was a pretty quiet individual. His work was fine and I had no reason to believe—no idea—the man had ever been in Russia. He was very quiet with nice manners and a nice appearance."

On Oct. 14, with just a satchel and a few clothes on coathangers in his possession, Oswald rented an \$8-a-week room from Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Johnson on North Beckley street in Dallas.

It was a barren 5-by-12-foot

room, devoid of pictures, furnished with a small stand, an ancient dresser and a small clotheshopper. The walls were painted baby blue. White curtains covered the windows. Two throw rugs were on the floor.

Regularly between 9:30 and 10 p.m., Oswald retired for the night, to listen for a time to his small radio. He kept his room neat and clean, although he brought in fruit to eat and made sandwiches and coffee for himself.

No Weekends There

Oswald kept few clothes in the room and never spent weekends there—leaving after work Friday and returning on Mondays. He liked to read western stories but never seemed to get any mail.

During the Friday noon hour Mrs. Roberts, the housekeeper, was watching a television report of the shooting of President Kennedy.

She said of Oswald:

"He came running like a dickenis, and said to him, 'How sure are in...?' but he didn't say anything. Just ran to the room and took short fan and ran back out."

Police said that a search of Oswald's room turned up Communist literature. But landlady Johnson said:

"We had never seen these books. He may have kept them hidden somewhere."

Mrs. Oswald also was questioned—through a Russian interpreter because she speaks only broken English. She bore her arms her 10-month-old second daughter. The girl is 2 years old.

Oswald was a short, dark-haired man with a well-shaped nose and thin lips.

Worth. She said of her son:

"He doesn't come around any more. I haven't seen him in a year."

She said that the stigma of Oswald's Russian adventure bothers him.

"He never said why he doesn't come to the house, but I know," Mrs. Oswald continued. "because he doesn't want to persecute me. . . . They turned their backs on me before and they will turn their backs on me again. . . . He knows how they've treated me. He wanted to shoulder it himself."

When the mother of the man accused of assassinating President of the United States declared:

"I'm broken hearted about this. He is really a good boy."

care that assuming the case "would not be fair to other clients."

Late today the president of the Dallas Bar Association, H. Louis Nichols, visited Oswald to assure him of legal representation.

Nichols said Oswald declined any immediate assistance, saying that he preferred representation by Abt or a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, "who believes in the same things I do."

Chief Curry said Oswald "readily admitted he is a Communist" and "apparently is proud of it."

None Critical of Handling

No one in Dallas appeared inclined to criticize the handling of the case. Emotions here are so inflamed and defensive that normally temperate persons speak only of their personal willingsness to help the President's assassin.