

AN OSWALD ALIAS SEEN AS ANAGRAM

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The Name of 'Alek J. Hidell'
Linked to Jekyll and Hyde

Did Lee Harvey Oswald conceive of himself as a split personality—a better side struggling against a more evil nature?

Was the pseudonym used by the assassin of President Kennedy a reflection of such a recognition of himself—an attempt at an anagram, subconscious or intentional?

In the effort to decipher the puzzles in the strange career of Oswald, there has been speculation about the false name he used, "Alek J. Hidell."

Various suggestions have regarded the pseudonym as possibly influenced by the Jekyll and Hyde characters of Robert Louis Stevenson. Some views see an attempted anagram—a rearrangement of letters from one word, name or phrase to form another word, name or phrase.

Pseudonym in His Papers

In Stevenson's novelette, Dr. Jekyll was a physician who concocted a potion that transformed him into a brutish Mr.

Hyde, a guise in which he carried out even murder. Another potion would restore him to his better self. At the end, he could no longer effect the restoration; he remained Mr. Hyde—and killed himself.

The name of "Alek James Hidell" was on a Selective Service notice of classification and a Marine Corps certificate of service, both found in Oswald's wallet when he was arrested, according to the Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination. On the Selective Service card was Oswald's photograph, with the signature "Alek J. Hidell" in what the commission said was his writing.

The rifle with which the commission says President Kennedy was shot was ordered and shipped by mail in the name of "A. Hidell," of Dallas. Oswald's New Orleans post-office box listed "A. J. Hidell" as entitled to receive mail. In Oswald's Dallas effects was a vaccination certificate signed by "Dr. A. J. Hideel," a variation the commission said was an Oswald forgery.

Oswald's wife, Marina, testified that he had compelled her to write the name "Hidell" as chapter president on membership cards of a fictitious Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New Orleans, ostensibly favoring the cause of Premier Fidel Castro. She called this "foolishness," and suggested "Hidell is merely an altered Fidel."