

Notes on Oswald as a marksman

The WC has him as a good shot. . . . Do they use the term sharpshooter? Check with the WCR. He did qualify in boot camp as a "sharpshooter." But only once.

This "sharpshooter" qualification was just barely (by 2 points) and he never achieved this ranking again while in the Marines.

Some of those who served with him in the Marines had a different opinion about Oswald the super sniper.

Nelson Delgado called Oswald on the firing line "a pretty big joke." He noted that Oswald was sort of famous for getting "maggie's drawers" fairly frequently. He also did not bother to take care of his weapon. He was always getting gigged. (WC vol. 8

Sherman Cooley, who served with Oswald in the Marines told Henry Hurt (who interviewed him for the book "Reasonable Doubt") that "If I had to pick one man in the whole United States to shoot me, I'd pick Oswald. I saw the man shoot. There is no way he could have ever learned well enough to do what they accused him of doing."

When Oswald was in Minsk Russia when he and some of his co-workers went out to shot hares and pheasants (w/ shotguns) his Russian buddies had to bag game for Oswald so he could take it back to Marina because Oswald was such a poor shot. (He had a coordination problem. May explain why he never learned to drive.)

Monty Lutz, with the reputation of being one of the world's greatest marksmen told the HSCA that no professional marksman was ever able to duplicate what Oswald was supposed to have done.

Craig Roberts a US Marine sniper who later wrote a book on the JFK case called "Kill Zone." He was persuaded to write the book after visiting the 6th floor of the

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TSBD and looking out the window of the SE corner where Oswald allegedly shot the president. When he looked out the window down range of Elm Street the word that popped into his mind was IMPOSSIBLE.

A Carlos Hathcock, a former instructor in Marine Sniper Corps instructor at Quantico, Va. He is sometimes referred to as the most famous American military sniper in history. Hathcock had 93 confirmed kills in Vietnam.

When Roberts asked him if Oswald could have accomplished what the WC claims he achieved. . . . Hathcock said no. The Marines duplicated a scenario in Quantico that mirrored the conditions in Dallas on 11/22/1962—the angle, the moving target, and the time and not one shooter at the sniper school was able to achieve what the WC claimed Oswald achieved on 11/22/1963.

Honors 470

Re: Addendum Notes to "Who Was Lee Harvey Oswald"

Missing government documents related to Oswald:

The Secret Service documents dealing with the Texas trip in November were all destroyed despite the ARRB's admonition to preserve them for inspection.

The US Army's documents on Oswald were all destroyed. Especially those designated Secret and Top Secret.

We've mentioned the CIA's New Orleans documents on Oswald were sent to Langley and have been deep sixed.

The Office of Naval Intelligence documents on Oswald have been sanitized. At least those sent to the Warren Commission.

Add here: The first Kennedy autopsy and the notes of the Bethesda prosecutors were destroyed or "lost." Add here all of the other disappearing material related to the JFK autopsy.

Oswald marksman

FW: Every Marine a Marksman

Thursday, November 05, 2009 9:48:49 AM

From: mbriggs@ku.edu

To: jerrycatchall@comcast.net; David.Wrone@uwsp.edu; morleyj@gmail.com

Jerry, David, and Jeff:

Thought you'd like to see Michael Kurtz's interesting response to my posting regarding Marine Corps marksmen.

Best, Mike

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-----Original Message-----

From: Michael Kurtz [mailto:mkurtz@selu.edu]

Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 8:41 AM

To: Briggs, Michael J

Subject: Re: Every Marine a Marksman

Mike:

The term "marksman" is misused in the quoted sentence. The Marines had three categories of firing ability: (1)Expert - the highest; (2)Sharpshooter - Middle; (3)Marksman - the lowest. They had no such category as "mediocre shot" or "poor shot." Whatever may have happened during the Korean War, during Oswald's three-year stint in the Marines, he was tested only twice for firing ability. The first time, in 1956, he scored "Sharpshooter." The other time, in 1959, he scored "Marksman," and in fact made only one point higher than the minimum possible score of 190. There is no evidence that I know of that the Marines continually trained any Marine in Oswald's unit in marksmanship. His unit was a radar unit and did not engage in battlefield simulations, as obviously was the case with the unit featured in the new book.

Mike

On 11/4/09 7:59 PM, "Briggs, Michael J" <mbriggs@ku.edu> wrote:

Hi, Jerry, David, Mike, and Jeff:

I'm in the process of preparing to put into production a book about a Marine brigade that fought in the early days of the Korean War, a brigade that was literally thrown together and despite amazing obstacles performed extremely well. The author's book is partly an attempt to explain why that happened. In part, he thinks that success in this instance emerged from the Marine Corps culture or ethos (fighting man first and foremost, never leave a buddy behind, etc.). As he played out this notion I encountered the following passage and immediately thought of Oswald and the apparent anomaly that Oswald represents to what the passage describes. Here it is:

"As part of this creed, every Marine was a marksman. Despite the massive firepower available to the Marine infantryman, Marine leadership never let up on the fundamental concept that every Marine must be able to hit his target. From dedicating two weeks of boot camp to basic marksmanship instruction to the value placed on it by Marines in the operating forces, the Corps reinforced this idea at every opportunity."

That statement and Oswald make a poor pair, yes? Any thoughts?

Best, Mike

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