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"Who else but the FBI could have done it?" McDonough responds. She adds that there are no pictures of the card in its unobliterated state at the archives.

According to assassination writer David Lifton, there is no mention of DD 1173 in any FBI testing reports he has reviewed. These include non-published commission documents, FBI Dallas field office reports and FBI summary reports to the Warren Commission.

The name photo of Oswald on DD 1173 also appeared in the Warren Report (Cadigan Exhibit 15) on a phony Selective Service classification card found in Oswald's possession with the name Alex James Hidell, the name he supposedly used to purchase the assassination rifle by mail order. It was the 112th Army Intelligence Group at Fort Sam Houston that notified the FBI that he was carrying a fraudulent Selective Service card. How the military knew this has never been explained.

The Hidell card, with its photograph of Oswald, was one of two major links between Oswald and the assassination weapon. The other is a photograph — known by its commission designation of 153A — allegedly taken of Os-

wald brandishing the weapon in the back yard of a home in the Oak Cliff area of Dallas.

The 26-volume Warren Commission publication acknowledged the existence of the DOD identity card in only two places: Oswald's military record and the report of FBI agent Manning Clements, who listed the contents of Oswald's wallet on the night of Nov. 22, 1963, after the Army intelligence tip. Clements cited both the DOD identity card and the Hidell card.

Clements' report, however, did not reveal that the two cards had the same picture — or that the DOD identity card had a photo at all.

The Oct. 23, 1963, postmark on Oswald's DOD identity card is a further enigma. "If found, drop in any mailbox," the card's reverse side instructs. It then tells the Postmaster: "Return to Department of Defense, Washington 25, D.C."

Reached at Notre Dame University where he now teaches law, Robert Blakely, former general counsel to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, considered the possibility that the card was lost, dropped in a mailbox, postmarked and delivered to the Defense Department.

"In that case," says Blakely, "Defense would have had to have given it back to Oswald. Interesting."

W. J. Lebelier, an associate counsel to the Warren Commission, expresses similar surprise at the convolutions of Oswald's mysterious ID card.

"This is all new to me," he says. "Two things seem odd. The picture identified as Oswald in Minsk, and the postmark on the defense card. The postmark implies the Defense Department either mailed it back to him or gave it to him at some time."

If so, that would have happened less than a month before Kennedy's assassination. Was, as some conspiracy theorists suggest, Oswald working for the U.S. government at the time?

Renowned assassination researcher Paul Hoch of Berkeley, Calif., attempted to discover the significance of Oswald's DD Form 1173 as early as 1974.

Today, he says: "The HSCA (the House assassination committee) attempted to deal with the possibility that Oswald had been working with the U.S. government after he left the Marines. But as far as we know, they didn't deal with this card. It may have been the missing element."

1 Oct 63

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM
NOTICE OF CLASSIFICATION


AL/IE

Selective Service No. [redacted]

has been classified in Class [redacted] by [redacted] (by voice of [redacted])

Unit [redacted] has [redacted]

Approval not required



N 4, 271, 617

7 Dec 1963

OSWALD, Lee H

GRAY BROWN 911 445

10 Oct 63

1653230

Li H Os

Also found in Oswald's wallet is the phony Selective Service classification card, bearing the name of James Hidell — the name law enforcement officials say Oswald used to purchase the rifle and the Kennedy.

Duplicate copy

Oswald ID card may be missing link

BY RAY LAFONTAINE AND MARY LAFONTAINE SPECIAL TO THE HOUSTON POST

DALLAS — On the tense evening of Nov. 22, 1963, the 112th Army Intelligence Group at Fort Sam Houston transmitted a confidential priority message to the U.S. Strike Command at Florida's McDill Air Force Base.

The cable from San Antonio to McDill, which remained on Red Alert following that morning's assassination in Dallas of President John F. Kennedy, identified arrested suspect Lee Harvey Oswald as a "card carrying member of (the) Communist Party."

He was not, but 29 years ago today Oswald was carrying a card that suggests he may have been an employee of an organization much closer to home.

Found by Dallas police in Oswald's wallet — along with a photograph of his wife, Marina — was a U.S. Department of Defense "Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card," or more simply, a DD Form 1173.

It's a card officials today say Oswald should not have had.

But why he had it and what it might have meant is one of a lengthy list of unanswered questions surrounding Kennedy's death. Also in question is whether Oswald — as the Warren Com-

OSWALD: Postmark on ID card creates more speculation

From A-1

Speculation concluded — acted alone in shooting the president that clear, crisp day in Dallas, or was the part of any one of several conspiracies that have been offered up over the past three decades.

DD 1173 bears Oswald's photo, the circular seal of the U.S. Department of Defense, and what appears to be a postmark — dated Oct. 23, 1963, less than a month before the assassination.

Oswald was issued the identity card by the U.S. Marine Corps on Sept. 11, 1959, nine days after his request for a dependency discharge from the corps was approved. His stated reason for the request was to support his mother, Marguerite, then living in Fort Worth.

Five weeks after receiving the card issued at El Toro Naval Air Station, Santa Ana, Calif., Oswald crossed the French-Soviet border on his way to Moscow. Two weeks later, he announced his intention to defect to the Soviet Union.

Oswald's military record notes the identity card was issued "in accordance with paragraph 3014.5 PRAM (Personnel Records and Accounting Manual)."

However, this paragraph pertains only to the issuance of USMC member cards and does not apply to a DD 1173. The appropriate card for the discharged Oswald, as stipulated by the PRAM, would have been a ZMC (RES), reflecting his new status in the Ready Reserve.

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Lt. Kim Miller, a Washington spokeswoman for the Marines, said Oswald could have been issued a DD 1173 for one of two reasons: because of an injury while on active duty entitling him to medical privileges, or because he was a civilian employee overseas needing a military ID.

But records do not show an injury to Oswald, and civilian employment, she adds, "would not have been annotated to his military book."

A similar finding was reached by Dennis Velock, reference historian of the U.S. Army Military History Institute of Carlisle, Penn. He notes issuance of DD 1173 was regulated under Defense Department guidelines at the time: Oswald received his card. "These guidelines limited recipients of such cards largely to military dependents "and civilians who require military identification."

If such a card was issued in error, says Velock, "it wouldn't have been authorized, and immediately upon being called to official attention, would have been changed or revoked."

There is no evidence Oswald's identity card was revoked, even after he defected, threatened to provide military secrets to the Russians and received an undesirable discharge from the Marine Corps in 1960. Oswald's card did not expire until Dec. 7, 1962.

Oswald's card was not printed in the photographic evidence of the Warren Commission's report on Kennedy's assassination. But the head-on photograph of Oswald on DD 1173 is the same as two other Oswald photos included in the report.

One is Warren Commission Exhibit 2892, identified by the FBI as "Photo taken in Minsk." (The "Minsk" photo has a white circular cutout in the lower right hand corner corresponding to the overlapping postmark on the Defense Department card.)

The Minsk contradiction — Oswald's trip to Russia occurred after the issuance of the DOD identity card — was not evident to the commission, apparently because the card was not made available to its members by the FBI.

In December 1966, when the FBI finally released Oswald's Defense Department identity card to the National Archives, it arrived "nearly obliterated by FBI testing," according to archivalist Sue McDonough of the Civil Reference Branch. "The color, the image, the printing, everything is gone," she said. "You couldn't use it to show anything."

Challenging the archivist's assertion, FBI spokesman Bill Carter of the Public Affairs Office in Washington asks, "How does she (McDonough) know it was tested by the FBI? Does she have a report?"

N 4, 271, 617



1. CARD NUMBER
2. EXPIRATION DATE
3. ISSUANCE (Type name and relationship)
4. COLOR, HAIR, EYES, HEIGHT, WEIGHT
5. DATE OF BIRTH OF BEARER
6. GRADE AND CLASSIFICATION
7. SERVICE & STATUS
8. SERVICE NO. OF SPONSOR
9. AUTHORIZED PATTERNS
10. TREATY
11. EXCHANGE
12. NECESSARY

OSWALD, Lee H
GREG BROWN 71 145
18 Oct 59
CR/INACT 1653250
Dec 1962

Lee H Oswald

1. MCD CAL CARL FAC TAG AUTHORIZED 19 DATE OF ISSUE
2. CIVILIAN UNEMPLOYED SERVICES 11 Sep 59
3. PLACE OF ISSUE H&H, INCAS, EL TORO SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA
4. SIGNATURE
5. TYPED GRADE AND NAME
6. WARNING: USE OF THIS AUTHORIZATION BY OTHER THAN PERSON NAMED THEREON, OR ANY USE IN VIOLATION OF PROVISIONS OF DEPENDENT'S MEDICAL CARE ACT OF 1954 BEARERS USER LIABLE FOR PROSECUTION UNDER APPLICABLE FEDERAL LAWS PERTAINING TO FALSE STATEMENTS. (28 USC 1082)
7. IF FOUND DROP IN ANY MAIL BOX
8. POSTMASTER RETURN TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20304
9. UNIFORMED SERVICES IDENTIFICATION AND PRIVILEGE CARD

A.G. AYERS JR., 1st Lt., USMCR

FROM 'INVESTIGATION OF A HOMICIDE,' BY JUDY W. BONNER (1969)



Lee Harvey Oswald. Photo taken in Minsk. Commission Exhibit No. 2892

(CE 2892 = FBI ITEM 451-7)

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM NOTICE OF CLASSIFICATION Approval not required


ALEK JAMES HIDEELL
(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)

Selective Service No. 42 224 839 5321 has been classified in Class 1-F (Until 19-) by Local Board Appeal Board, by vote of to President (Show vote on appeal board forms only)

(Date of mailing) 19 (Member or clerk of local board)

The law requires you, subject to heavy penalty for violation, to carry this notice, in addition to your Registration Certificate on your person at all times—to exhibit it upon request to authorized officials—to surrender it to your commanding officer upon entering the armed forces. The law requires you to notify your local board in writing (1) of every change in your address, physical condition, and occupational, marital, family, dependency, and military status, and (2) of any other fact which might change your classification. FOR ADVICE, SEE YOUR GOVERNMENT APPEAL AGENT

(Integrit must sign here)



(= CE 795)

To complete the face of the Hidell notice a picture of Lee Harvey Oswald was inserted into the space in the lower left-hand corner which had been created by reducing the size of the printed legend at the bottom.¹⁹⁹

(WR 572; CITE IS CE 795)

15 Sep 59 H&H, INCAS, EL TORO, SANTA ANA, CALIF
11 Sep 59 Rel fr ac du by reason of hardship
tr to Cl III Ready MCR asgd M&PC NAS 005.
auth para 10873 MARCORH&M & MCO 1900.2B
ID Card FORM N 4, 271, 617 issued this date
expiration 8 Dec 62 in acqd/w para 3014.5
PR:m
A.G. AYERS JR., 1st Lt. U.S. CR

19 WCH 665 (FOLSOM DE 1, OSWALD'S MARINE RECORD)

PLH
11/22/92