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THE MAN WHO WAS PERFECTLY ALL RIGHT

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frequently without his wife. And each time upon his return to the show that the would undergo debriation. It has a little to the show that the show the show that the show States he would undergo debriefing. It has always seemed most me ment give him no clean slate as far as intelligence was concerned." observed that - while his name is not on file as an agent - "he source, who had specialized in studying de Mohrenschildt, ment, that his association with Lee Harvey Oswald went a little matters involving American military intelligence. His lawyer, Patmilitary or in political or quasi-political positions...." As will well as to the American government who were members of the had contacts with intelligence again and again. We could certainly deeper than friendship." In 1979, an Assassinations Committee become clear, de Mohrenschildt did indeed become involved in his acquaintances people belonging to foreign governments as

Why was simply, "My husband and I heard from the Russian commun-AMM Bouhe said it did not happen that way. Jeanne de Mohrenschildt What TBI after the assassination that they had been introduced by the doyen of the affluent Bussian and the second transfer in the second which the bringing a young wife and daughter. . . . He needed a job and she encountered Oswald by chance, in autumn that year, following a his Russian adventure. He and his wife have always claimed they an excellent candidate if someone was needed to pump Oswald on Russian emigré de Mohrenschildt was in the area and available, the de Mohrenschildts had met before. De Mohrenschildt told the taken to see Oswald by a Dallas businessman of Russian descent, precisely it came about. One early version was that they were casual introduction by friends in the Russian community. Over than when that meeting took place it was obvious the Oswalds and Colonel Lawrence Orlov. Orlov, though, told a recent interviewer the years, however, the participants have differed as to how When Oswald and his Soviet wife came to Texas in 1962.

cleared to associate with Oswald by a CIA agent based in Dallas, The June J. Walton Moore 82 My Moore exists; he was the Domestic Contacts Division agent My My My Muy Mare 12 petryluwn, a legat, the virtibes

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needed help with the child. So we decided to take them under our wing." Under pressure, however, George de Mohrenschildt was

to inject a quite different element into the story - that he was

childt during his Central American travels. China, and in 1961 Moore viewed films made by de Mohrensschildt several times. They discussed their mutual interest in years following the Yugoslavia debriefing, he saw de Mohrencorrespondence with CIA headquarters reveals that, in the two purpose of eliciting information they might obtain." Moore's own Committee, was "to contact persons traveling abroad for the 1957. His job, as defined in 1979 by Congress' Assassinations who debriefed de Mohrenschildt after the Yugoslavia trip in

minute COMMIT M. WED according to de Mohrenschildt, responded by saying, "Yes, he is the way in the wake of the assassination that de Mohrenschildt day. I first implied that CIA agent Moore had special knowledge of Oswald. He told the FBI that, after meeting Oswald, he asked Moore whether it was "safe" to associate with him. Moore, okay. He is just a harmless lunatic." Jeanne de Mohrenschildt says she was present during the conversation and that "Moore seemed to be aware of Oswald. He knew who we were talking about. He all right and clear. The CIA had nothing on him in the records." If Oswald, or did he start to cultivate Oswald at the suggestion of the Mohrenschildt really consult his local CIA contact after meeting comment on Oswald without even checking? And did de nothing on Oswald, how was its Dallas representative qualified to as she claims - out of the blue, over dinner. If the CIA had familiar with the Oswald case when the subject was brought updant note is struck by Jeanne's allegation that Moore was at once on Oswald and his activities in Russia. But an even more discorfriend was behaving very strangely. CIA files did contain material the wife's version is accurate, George de Mohrenschildt's CIA said the CIA had absolutely no trace on him, that he was perfectly > It was in the wake of the assassination that de Mohrenschildt

one reporter in 1976 by claiming airily, "To the best of my recantation. Moore himself, who still lives in Dallas, fobbed of pressure and de Mohrenschildt's humiliating (and implausible) story of the Moore meeting. The documentary record reflects that sination, James Wood, tried to pressure him into withdrawing the schildt claimed that an FBI agent who visited him after the assasschildt's revelations about the Agency man in Dallas. De Mohrenrecollection, I hadn't seen de Mohrenschildt for a couple of years The CIA was and remains embarrassed by de Mohren-

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contact with de Mohrenschildt for 'debriefing' purposes over the mittee. Its report says that - while still denying he ever discussed "best recollection" when questioned by the Assassinations Comhis name before the assassination." On the matter of when he had that I cleared Oswald for him. I never met Oswald. I never heard before the assassination. I don't know where George got the idea wife were dining once a fortnight with the de Mohrenschildts. relevant period, Moore was so close an associate that he and his ment with rather credible feminine scorn. She says that at the Oswald - Moore indicated that from 1957 on he "had 'periodic' last seen de Mohrenschildt, Moore was more careful about his years. . . ." Jeanne de Mohrenschildt responds to even that state-

up with what may well have been the truth. He said that CIA agent schildt, Moore was well placed to arrange a discreet debriefing of now be little doubt that whether he knew it or not, Oswald was seen Oswald at all without Moore's encouragement. There can Moore encouraged him to see Oswald, that he would not have on the subject, in 1977, a weary George de Mohrenschildt came Division, and given his established rapport with de Mohrende Mohrenschildt had a direct effect on Oswald's life. returned to the United States. There is no doubt at all that George monitored by the Central Intelligence Agency as soon as he Oswald on his return from the Soviet Union. In his last interview As Dallas representative of the CIA's Domestic Contacts

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Lee, and they made a strange pair. De Mohrenschildt was thirty years older than Oswald, swashbuckling and sophisticated, a equipped to cultivate Oswald. De Mohrenschildt was a maverick introverted, consumed with idealistic notions, and grindingly hanger-on of a well-to-do social group which Gerald Ford, a among his Dallas friends, an articulate champion of minority salutes while privately working for the Allies, so now he was well played the Germanophile, infuriating friends with "Heil Hitler" poor. Yet just as in the war George de Mohrenschildt may have "conservative, anti-Communist." Oswald, in contrast, seemed former member of the Warren Commission, had described as genuinely to have liked him. Years later de Mohrenschildt would trouble building a bridge to Lee Harvey Oswald and seems causes and a liberal who loved to flout convention. He had no George swiftly established a man-to-man relationship with

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MWMohrenschildt portrays Oswald as a young man with ideas which (h) United States and spoke admiringly of Martin Luther King. Most will be the greatest President in the history of this country." different he looks from the other politicians!. . . If he succeeds he handsome he looks, what open and sincere features he has! How accused of killing John Kennedy, as saying of the President, "How Mohrenschildt quotes Oswald, who within a year would be and to reach an understanding with the Communist world. De today would raise few eyebrows. For example, he shared with de praised the President for his efforts to improve the racial situation poignant of all today are Lee Oswald's statements about President episode, the Baron and the "hippie" covered a lot of ground moron out of him, but he was smart as hell. Ahead of his time say, "Lee Harvey Oswald was a delightful guy. They make a Kennedy. As reported by de Mohrenschildt, Oswald repeatedly Mohrenschildt a sense of outrage over racial discrimination in the together. In a rough manuscript written after the assassination, de really, a kind of hippie of those days. . . . " Apart from the Soviet

collecting notes and comments on his stay in Russia and spoke his older friend's advice in a way that changed the direction of his respectfully asked for his opinion. Possibly the papers were Oswald handed over his detailed notes to de Mohrenschildt and second thoughts, for he did not respond at all when a persistent briefly of getting them published. Then he seems to have had bonus. When Oswald arrived in the United States he had started the Soviet Union, and de Mohrenschildt received one unexpected new friends talked hour after hour about Oswald's experiences in tion about the Russian episode, Oswald was a walkover. The two to go to bed or where to stay." In October 1962 Oswald followed were, Lee grabbed them and took them, whether it was what time putty in de Mohrenschildt's hands. "Whatever his suggestions local CIA, Jim Moore. De Mohrenchildt's son-in-law, Gary promptly copied and passed to de Mohrenschildt's friend in the local reporter tried to discuss them with him. Now, though, Taylor, was to tell the Warren Commission that Oswald became If de Mohrenschildt's main purpose was to extract informa-

Mohrenschildts with their daughter and son-in-law, visited the On October 7 a group of Russians, including the de

a few days at the city YMCA, it is not known where Oswald stayed without notice or explanation, and traveled to Dallas. Apart from sion that he was personally supplying Oswald with funds. Perhaps about Oswald's job prospects in Dallas. He even gave the impreschildt was overdoing things a bit, that he seemed strangely clear some of those present would remember that George de Mohrensproposals seemed reasonable and were accepted. Much later, awhile with one of the emigré families. Everyone present had claim that was not true, and thus sparked a discussion as to wha announced that he had lost his job at a nearby metal factory, a for the best part of the next month. letter. He walked out of his perfectly good job in Fort Worth, apartment, Oswald followed de Mohrenschildt's advice to the the travel from New York. The day after the meeting at his finished repaying the \$200 his brother had lent him to help with significantly, Oswald - for all his apparent poverty - had just believed Oswald had been beating his wife. De Mohrenschildt's been aware of tension between Oswald and Marina, and some thirty miles away, and that Marina would be better off staying Oswald would have a better chance of finding work in Dallas, teered what seemed a ready-made plan. He suggested that he should do next. It was George de Mohrenschildt who volun-Oswalds at their rundown apartment in Fort Worth. Oswald

He rented a post-office box, a system which — assuming no official surveillance — ensured the receipt of mail with absolute privacy. Oswald used a post-office box wherever he went from now on. Four days after arriving in Dallas he also secured a new job — one which paid, within a few cents, exactly the same as his old job in Fort Worth. Although technically the work was found for Oswald by the Texas Employment Commission, George de Mohrenschildt's wife and daughter both say de Mohrenschildt organized it. Instead of factory chores the job involved photography, a skill Oswald was keen to learn. It was to be an odd setting for a young man who had sullied his name by defecting to the Soviet Union and offering to give away military secrets.

> ary units, saying they didn't intermingle their armored divisions μ once watched in Japan, and only employees with a special security of effects in November 1963, after the assassination, they found with sophisticated camera techniques. He also acquired items of months at Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall, Oswald became acquainted ition and had orders to shoot any trespassers." Over a period of six when Ofstein helped Oswald enlarge a picture, he said it had been geographical location and their infantry in another. . . ." Once, and infantry divisions and various units the way we do in the the Soviet Union. Oswald mentioned "the dispersement of milit-Ofstein later recalled the curiously professional way his new col-Agency. Oswald was closemouthed about his background, but have ing Oswald - worked in cramped conditions which made secrecy clearance were supposed to see it. In practice everybody — include the Minox camera — the sort usually referred to as a "spy camera. youngster living on a pittance. When police seized Oswald's photographic equipment which seemed unlikely possessions for a the guards stationed there were armed with weapons and ammuntaken in Russia and showed "some military headquarters and that United States, and they would have all of their aircraft in one league discussed matters of military interest he had observed in MIP loosened up a little when he found Ofstein knew some Russian. How Dennis Ofstein who had previously worked in the Army Security We impossible. He worked side by side with a young man named CENTRUM THE MAIN WHO WAS PERFÉCTLY ALL RIGHT 231
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Dallas police detective Gus Rose says he found the Minox camera in Oswald's old Marine seabag. It was listed with other confiscated possessions in Dallas police headquarters and kept there until the FBI took over the inquiry and carried off all evidence, including the camera, to Washington. Two months later the FBI contacted the Dallas police and tried unsuccessfully to have the manifest of Oswald's possessions changed. They now claimed that the equipment found had not been a camera at all, but a Minox light meter. The police declined to change the manifest, and today Detective Rose remains adamant that it was indeed a Minox camera he found. He is emphatically supported by Assistant District Attorney Bill Alexander, who saw the Minox camera just after its seizure. He scoffs at FBI attempts to say the

camera never existed, recalling that he personally worked the mechanism on Oswald's Minox. As a professional investigator, Alexander is familiar with the workings of the Minox camera and owns one to this day. He regards the FBI behavior over the camera as further indication that before the assassination, Oswald had some connection with a government agency. Warren deBrueys, the FBI agent who took Oswald's possessions to Washington and monitored his activities during part of 1963, today says he "cannot remember" the Minox camera. Now retired from the Bureau, deBrueys adds, however, that there are "limitations as to what I can say.... I have signed the secrecy agreement before leaving the Bureau." In the recent proceedings of Congress' Assassinations Committee, a staff lawyer made it clear that the item seized was indeed a Minox camera.

Along with the camera, police confiscated a whole array of other equipment after the assassination, including rolls of exposed Information Act, the FBI released twenty-five pictures developed from the Minox cassettes. The majority show scenes shot in Europe, and five show military scenes apparently photographed in Asia or Latin America. Apart from the Minox material, the police also seized three other cameras, a 15-power telescope, two pairs of fieldglasses, a compass, and even a pedometer. None of those who knew Oswald in the two years before the assassination have remembered him as a cross-country hiking enthusiast. The total cost of all this equipment must have been hundreds of dollars.

Oswald's address book, also confiscated after the assassination, contained the words "micro dots," written alongside the entry for the firm of Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall. The microdot technique is used to store and transmit intelligence information. By a system of photographic reduction a mass of written material can be transferred to a tiny spot like a punctuation mark and then concealed in an apparently innocent document, such as a letter. It is a technique that has little use outside espionage. Taken together, Oswald's activities, possessions, and associations all jar with his public image of a hard-up workingman. There is no avoiding the strong suspicion that he was, in reality, something else.

In the weeks before Christmas 1962, Lee and Marina appeared to lurch from crisis to crisis in their married life. For a while they were separated again — and the Russian exile colony buzzed with rumors of Lee's cruelty toward his wife. Oswald, for his part, complained that Marina had her faults — not least a weakness for gossiping to others about their sex life. Many of the local Russians, who had at first befriended the Oswalds, swiftly backed away from the marital strife. George de Mohrenschildt, however, did not. He continued to spend time with Oswald, talking politics with him — largely in English, a language Marina still had trouble following.

As the fateful year of 1963 began, Oswald moved into a new phase. Ostensibly he plunged once again into a lonely obsession with left-wing causes, this time with a tragic spiral into violence. The conventional wisdom for a long time was that Oswald was now set on a course which would lead him — and him alone — to Dealey Plaza, as the assassin of President Kennedy. Today, with the Assassinations Committee finding that at least two gunmen were involved, the signposts point in new directions. So far as the role of triggerman is concerned, Oswald may even have been the fall guy he claimed to be.