

(1) Oswald Before 22 November 1963

- a. Oswald leaves the US Marines in 1959.
How did he get a hardship discharge? The WC claims Oswald filed for this based on his mother's minor injury, caused by a box falling on her foot at work. The Marines told me that a hardship discharge is extremely difficult to get, usually being given only for major personal problems.

How did Oswald get a passport as quickly as he did? In each instance that Oswald asked for a passport, he received it in far less time than is usually needed, as evidenced by the WC explanation of his getting a passport to go abroad in 1959, and in 1963. In the latter case Oswald received his documents overnight. Not only that, but in 1963 the passport office did not stop him from getting his documents, even though, as a defector to the USSR his State Dept. file should have had a 'lookout card', placed there to warn consular officers that this individual should not be allowed to travel. The WC also suggests that Oswald was helped by a passport official who came forward to help him and who came from a back room in the office.

This may suggest that Oswald had 'friends' who by-passed regular channels for him - for example, US Consular official Richard Snyder saw him in the Embassy in Moscow regarding his passport. (David Harston and I checked Snyder's background and found that he was Yale '47, fluent in East European languages, and had been in intelligence in the Armed Forces. We felt that it would be helpful to speak to him and find out whether his functions for the US went beyond simply Consular duties).

Oswald had told his mother after leaving the Marines that he intended to study at the Albert Schweitzer institute in Switzerland. I find this difficult to accept since Oswald was a high school dropout who had never indicated any enjoyment of studying.

Furthermore, at the time I worked for Schweiker, Newsweek had published an article on CIA fronts around the world. I asked the Swiss culture minister in Washington if there was a Schweitzer institute, and he had never heard of it. Oswald did fill out a one-page application for admission, though, and it is reprinted in the WC volumes.

(I would suggest that the following materials be read regarding the State Dept. handling of Oswald's travel documents, 1. The State Department report on this, sent to the WC 2. The critique of the Report prepared in 1964 for Rep. Gerald Ford for Lawrence Listerman, his LC).

There is a need to find out exactly what Oswald knew of the U-2 Program. According to Mr. Kelas, in a deposition for the LC, Oswald was stationed at Atsugi Naval Station in Japan, where there was a U-2 facility, but at no time saw a U-2 and did not work in U-2 related projects. A Colonel I spoke with last year, whose name I shall find in my own files, told me that Atsugi was a major base abandoned by the Japanese after the war, and converted to a U-2 station of major importance. This Colonel felt it preposterous to suggest that Oswald could have been stationed at Atsugi and not have known about the U-2. In fact, Oswald CO told the LC that after Oswald defected, the entire East Coast coding for US aircraft had to be changed because of Oswald's extensive knowledge of U-2 and other sensitive radar information.

(It might be noted that the Soviets had tried before 1 May 1960 to shoot a U-2 down, but failed because they know nothing of its radar capabilities. One year after Oswald defected, on 1 May '60, they shot Gary Powers down. Oswald worked in a radio factory in Minsk. The LC placed sensitive classifications on material developed on Oswald in the USSR - materials is still classified).

b. Oswald in the Soviet Union.

In his Diary of life in the USSR, Oswald claims he was depressed at first, and slashed his wrists in a Moscow (?) hotel. The LC goes along with this story. Yet his autopsy photos are classified, even though they would indicate whether or not he did in fact try to commit suicide. This is important because if Oswald was disillusioned in fact in the USSR, he might have just been the misguided youth the LC says he was and not a US agent.

The LC does admit that in the hospital after the incident, Oswald was visited by KVD (internal security) people, who gave him money and set him up at work in Minsk. KVD and KGB are all part of the Soviet's foreign and domestic intelligence apparatus. Oswald's married Marina in the USSR, her uncle and KVD officer.

During the time he was in the USSR, Oswald apparently enjoyed travel privileges between Minsk and Moscow. This is irregular, because Soviet citizens could not freely travel between cities.

Oswald's literary works apparently almost stopped Rep Loggs from signing the LC Report. These are (1) A very well written Diary (2) A legal brief asking the Marines to change his dishonorable discharge, complete with sections of US Code. Loggs felt that after comparing these works with Oswald's early writing samples, it was clear that he was helped in writing the brief and the diary. Loggs' suspicions are important because if Oswald was helped by US agents, his discharge may have been a product of the CIA or FBI not telling the Marines that Oswald was now working for them under cover, and had not deserted the service.

c. Post-USSR activities.

Richard Snyder apparently gave Oswald some money in Moscow to buy passage for himself and Marina to come to the US. Although this is a possible action, Snyder claiming it was a loan, the documents relating to the return do not indicate that at any time the Embassy was concerned with the fact that Marina, who was given a visa to enter the US, was related to an KVD agent. (After all, this was in 1961, the height of the cold war).

In the US after his return, Oswald found two sets of suspicious friends in the Southwest. 1. George De Mohrenschildt, a highly cultured White-Russian, a friend of Mrs. JFK (letters between them are in the WC materials), and a well-known anti-Communist. It is incongruous that George DeM. would associate himself with Oswald if the WC is correct in its evaluation that Oswald had become a vocal pro-Communist. DeM. had been in Guatemala City on 17 April 1961, the day the Bay of Pigs invasion was staged. It is highly unlikely he was there for pleasure on that day. David Perry, a right-wing CIA pilot, who disappeared in 1967 on his way to testify for Jim Garrison (I believe he was later found dead) was also in Guat. City that day. 2. Oswald became associated with the Payne family. The WC had classified as sensitive FBI reports on the Payne going as far as 20 years before Oswald came into the picture. These reports came from various cities/ I believe it essential to see them so as to see if Oswald might not have been in some form of ring, possibly of FBI informants.

(The FBI in its reports, denotes an informant as one who is "showing a willingness to furnish information." I discovered that such language described Ruby's relationship to the FBI, in the 1950's, and is also used in Agent Hosty's reports regarding Oswald in November of 1963. But we must ask, information about what?)

The Fair Play for Cuba offices were at 455 Camp Street in New Orleans. Where leaflets Oswald produced are reproduced in the WC books, the address is blotted out. Jim Garrison discovered that this was another entrance to the same building that housed the anti-Castro CIA contingent in Louisiana. The FBI materials in the WC group reports by informants in the anti-Castro groups in the same files as the pro-Castro Fair Play group that Oswald had organized. Individuals involved in both of these groups might shed some light as to whether they were different groups at all. I believe there is reason to doubt whether Oswald was ever a Communist sympathizer.

There is one photograph, and a partially censored report, regarding a possible Oswald trip to the Mexican island of Cozumel in 1962. If he was there, he might have been involved with anti-castro groups that were preparing strikes against Cuba after the Bay of Pigs. The WC did not follow up on this. I suggest you talk to Haynes Johnson who wrote about the Bay of Pigs and spoke to people involved in the invasion.

Helvin Belli on the 'Lou Gordon Show' aired in Philadelphia several weeks ago was asked about Oswald and Ruby, as he was Ruby's lawyer. Belli said that Ruby had been to Cuba several times after Castro took over on 1 January 1959. The WC mentions only one such trip, that might have taken place in an effort by Ruby to seal Fidel jeeps. I believe this must be followed up, since several trips may mean that Ruby was among people with (Mafia) organized crime connections who were acting as agents between Castro and the CIA. For some reason, Castro always seemed to escape CIA plots to kill him, possibly because he was given warning. In September of 1963, at the Brazilian Embassy, Havana, he threatened US leaders who were attacking him. (Story by Daniel Barker, AP).

In the summer of 1963, there is reason to believe that the FBI prodded by JFK cracked down on anti-Castro training camps, set up to stage a second invasion of Cuba. JFK, when he gave the Cuban flag back to the Bay of Pigs Assault Brigade at the Orange Bowl in 1962 said that the flag would fly in Havana, interpreted by some as a promise to support another invasion. Did the exiles view the breaking up of the camps, with which David Perry was associated, as a betrayal by JFK?

Pre-Nov 22 attempts on JFK's life - these may have taken place when JFK visited Miami, earlier in 1963. There is an article we found for Schweiker in the Miami Herald which discusses plot to kill JFK, overheard by reporters. The plot was very close in concept to the final way JFK died in November, i.e., gun from a tall building firing at motorcade. There also were reports that gunmen were prepared to kill JFK in Chicago on Nov. 1, but JFK either cancelled or cut the trip short because President Diem of South Vietnam was killed that day.

David Marston and I traced a possible link between Officer Tippit (killed November 22, 1963) and General Walker and John Birch society members in the Dallas Chamber of Commerce. These individuals played cards together. The WC claimed that Oswald had tried to kill Walker in April of 1963. But Oswald rifle, which the WC claimed was used both against Walker and JFK, was 6.5 mm, while the gun fired at Walker was 30.09, as the bullet was recovered from Walker's home. Walker was controversial in 1963 for anti-Communist and anti-integration activities in Texas. Also, there is reason to believe that Ruby was close to IL Hunt's family. Hunt, who died several years ago, was a prominent Texas businessman, very right-wing. Ruby had sent friends to see Hunt's sons just days before JFK died.

d. Oswald's Mexico Trip.

This is an extremely important area, as Mexico was a center of activity relating to Cuba at the time. Fensterwald has identified William Gaudet as having traveled outside the US at the same time as Oswald on several occasions. Gaudet told him that the WC would not release his name until 2039, and is sure that it came out, and is willing to talk. Gaudet was CIA, set up a newsletter about Latin America in the late 50's, early 60's. He worked for US News in the 40's.

The 2 Oswald theory is very significant --- David Phillips told me he heard Oswald in Mexico at the Cuban and Russian consulates. David wanted me to know that he heard either directly, or by recording, Oswald's voice/ Also the CIA took a photograph of a man entering one of the consulates, and said this man was Oswald. A cover-sheet to the photo was sent out in October of 1962.

There are a number of problems: First of all, in a letter to an Official of the Soviet Embassy in Washington (in WC books: The Official is identified in John Barron's Book, RGB, as an agent later expelled from the Soviet Embassy, London) in early November of 1963, Oswald claims he did not use his real name when he spoke in the consulates. Also, out cables from the US Embassy one day after the JFK murder suggest that Oswald may have entered Mexico under an alias. If this is true, and the photo taken in Mexico is not Oswald (the photo is identified in the WC books as an 'unidentified man') then how could David Phillips have been so sure at the time that the man he heard in Mexico was Oswald? Also, why did Oswald write to a RGB agent?

After John McCone met with RFK on 22 November at RFK's Virginia home, just after JFK had been shot, the FBI sent a copy of the above mentioned photo to the FBI in Dallas. The FBI cut out the background of the photo (I assume there is still a complete original around) and asked Oswald's mother who the man is. Since this time, Oswald's mother has been convinced that her son was working for the US. Clearly the FBI and CIA were baffled by the man they were sure was Oswald in the photo, unless one of the agencies had sent the man to Mexico to claim he was Oswald and the agency has kept this a secret.

The WC heard testimony by a woman (I believe named Aguirre, although this is easily verified) who said that in late September of 1963, one Leon Oswald, who looked exactly like Lee Oswald and several Cuban exiles, planned JFK's murder at her home. Her testimony is very detailed. The WC impeached the testimony only by saying that it could not be correct because Oswald was in Mexico at the time. But if he was not in Mexico, then he was plotting, and if he was plotting, then there might have been a conspiracy --- this is a vital lead.

(2) 22 November 1963.

The depositions taken by the Dallas police this day are very interesting because they show a different set of events than the WC. One Julie Ann Mercer claims that she saw Jack Ruby drive up to the Book Depository several hours before JFK passed by and left off men with long brown packages. This could be important because Jim Garrison claims that the CIA has a practice of triple-baiting, which means using one agent for several jobs so as to cut down on the number of people in each operation. A Dallas reporter gave the WC his notes, which show that at Parkland Hospital he was approached by Jack Ruby. The WC says this did not take place, but the reporter insists that he knew Ruby, and his notes on this follow chronologically at Parkland. If Ruby was there, then he might have anticipated JFK's arrival (Parkland would have been the logical place for the Secret Service to go in that area if there had been an incident). This would tend to go against assertions that Ruby did not become involved until after JFK died.

There are other depositions not used by WC but taken by Dallas police in which people claim that they saw gunmen running from the book depository and other events contradictory to the WC's findings.

There are phone records (still partially withheld) that show calls between Ruby's Club phone and a phone number in Galveston Texas in the name of David Ferris. The mere fact that the WC sought these number indicates that they were thinking of possible links.

It is reported that Mexican President Lopez Mateos, in Northern Mexico at the time, was shocked to hear of JFK's death and concerned that it may have been planned in Mexico. He was very close to Winfield Scott - do the materials just after the murder of JFK indicate that Mexican police authorities destroyed conspiracy leads?

(3) The Warren Commission

The Coleman Report on conspiracies must be examined, and Coleman must be asked about it. The problem is that the report asks the WC to look deeper into foreign involvement, something the WC did not do. In fact the WC was originally given only three months, and submitted its report in ten. The transcripts of the WC executive sessions (not all are de-classified) indicate that there was disagreement as to whether foreign matters should be examined.

Waggoner Carr, Texas AG, told the WC that there might be links between Oswald and the FBI (see Lonnie Hudkins articles on this, 1964). During the session in which this was discussed, the WC members, prodded by Dulles and Senator Russell, decide not to go further with this so as to avoid irritating J. E. Hoover.

Rep. Gerald Ford's book, Portrait of the Assassin, is a good example of the concern the members had over this problem - the book begins with the Waggoner Carr session.

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The WC appears to be apologetic in its Report about that fact that it was fed material by FBI/CIA, and had no investigate staff of its own. I was told that Arlen Spectre, who developed the single-bullet theory, broke down in tears after weeks of attempting to get these agencies to let him see the JFK autopsy photos. Finally he received one, a back shot, and developed the theory. He never saw detailed frontal shots according to my source.

The Rosenko affair is also worth following up - Bud Fensterwald told me that Oswald's defector file was taken from the State Department in connection with Rosenko's visit.

It might be a good idea to get hold of Jean Daniel, the journalist who was with Castro the day JFK died. Apparently, Daniel brought some kind of message from JFK to Castro.

James Angleton's remark upon his retirement --- There are many rooms in the house (Langley) but I was not privy to who struck John.
