

After converting to Marxism, Oswald's conscious motives were political. He considered his defection to be a courageous protest against American military imperialism. His explanation for attacking Walker was also ideological: he would be eliminating a potential Hitler, thereby saving lives. Each time, he expected to be recognized as a fighter for justice. But his inner compulsions were the same as they had been. On learning that the Walker bullet had missed, he was disappointed, but Marina believed that he was also pleased "with the clever fellow he was" in getting away with the attempt. He had put one over on the police.

Strip away the politics, and Oswald's antisocial personality is evident. He resembles the typical St. Elizabeths criminal seeking power, control, and excitement. At Youth House he had been diagnosed as a "passive-aggressive" individual, someone whose outward compliance masked deep anger. This characteristic shows up in his political writings, where Oswald cast himself as a silent observer who waited in "stoical readiness" for the opportune moment to act.

This complex of motivations reverberated in the Kennedy assassination. It would be a violent protest against American imperialism toward Cuba and a retaliation for the plots against Castro. But beneath Oswald's rationalizations, there was a continuing self-aggrandizement and a desire for vengeance that came from something other than politics.

Each of these incidents was also derived, in some way, from Oswald's reading of press reports. His ideas were never entirely original. Oswald's defection was preceded by that of Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, a famous case that Oswald alluded to in a conversation with Nelson Delgado. It wasn't so much that news stories "put ideas in his head." It was almost the other way around: Oswald's grandiose self-image drove him to project himself onto the world stage. The international political scene was the reality that mattered to him, and he was determined to make his mark on it.

As each of his efforts was frustrated, Oswald's schemes became progressively more violent. His defection resulted in a week's publicity and two and a half years of obscurity. The Walker incident gained only a brief, anonymous attention. Then his plan to reach Cuba was thwarted by red tape—moreover, the Cubans didn't take him seriously. His repeated attempts to join a revolutionary movement had failed, leaving him as isolated and unrecognized as ever.¹

After Oswald returned to Dallas in October 1963, events continued

to narrow his path. His perception of the plots against Castro had already led him to threaten President Kennedy's life on two occasions. On October 19th, a double feature about assassinations reminded him of "the actual situation" that existed in Cuba. The following evening his preoccupation was such that he didn't think to ask about the birth of his second child.

Having failed to get Russian visas, Oswald was stranded in Dallas. He made plans to renew his political activities. By "reading between the lines" of leftist newspapers, he would determine which line to follow. But in November there were new developments. His visit to the Soviet Embassy in Mexico had understandably reawakened the FBI's interest in him. Cornered, feeling unjustly persecuted, Oswald wrote a note to Hopsy and a letter to the Soviets in Washington protesting the FBI attention. At this juncture, he learned that the president's motorcade would pass the building where he worked. It must have seemed to him that fate had spoken. All his past life was a rehearsal for the moment when he decided to act out his violent fantasies against President Kennedy. After his arrest, Oswald appeared calm, introspective, at peace with himself. He behaved as if he were now in control—as, in a real sense, he was, until Jack Ruby's own obsessions intervened. At long last, Oswald had achieved what he had always wanted: vengeance power, and even an infamous immortality.

The assassination of John Kennedy was neither an act of random violence nor a conspiracy. It was carried out as a result of Oswald's character and background interacting with circumstance. It's likely that had there been no plots against Castro, Oswald would have eventually killed someone, but it would not have been President Kennedy. Castro's warning had simply deflected his aim.

of the had addressed the actual facts of the crime she would not have said this

No source, not true in any of them.

272... Oswald's Game

Notes... 273

268.

Note 1: Hosty's receptionist claimed that the note was partly visible inside the unsealed envelope and that it contained a threat to blow up the FBI and Dallas Police Department, but this is unlikely. Hosty said the note was folded so that the writing couldn't be seen, and it would have been uncharacteristic of Oswald to put an incriminating statement on paper. Hosty's version also sounds more like Oswald, who frequently took his complaints to "proper authorities." Finally, Hosty's reaction—putting the note aside—suggests that Oswald made no violent threat.

268-269. Letter to Soviet Embassy: XVI, 33; III, 13; WR, 309-311.

270. Oswald's knowledge of Azcue's replacement: Newman, 495; WR, 310; XXV, 817 (October 15 letter from Cuba regarding Oswald's visa, addressed to Alfredo Mirabal, consul of Cuba).
Martina unaware of new visa request: McMillan, 506.

270.

Note 2: In an earlier, handwritten draft Oswald had written, "The agent also 'suggested' that my wife could remain in the U.S. under FBI protection," that is, she could refuse to return to the—" The last five words were crossed out and the sentence completed with "defect from the Soviet Union." Oswald clearly felt that Hosty's routine assurances to Martina somehow threatened his plans to send her back to Russia. Ruth discovered this draft lying on her desk on November 9 (III, 13-18, 51-52; WR, 309). Puzzled and disturbed by its contents, she made a copy, intending to show it to Hosty if he returned.

271. Trip to shopping center, Oswald's mood: III, 14; IX, 391, 394.
Oswald asked not to return on weekend, Learner's permit application: I, 63; II, 515-517.

272. Martina's attempt to call Oswald: III, 43-44.

272-273. November 18 argument over alias: I, 46; III, 45; McMillan, 516-517.

273-274. President's Miami speech: Newman, 509; Summers, 425, 423.

274. Newspapers' coverage of speech and motorcade route: XXVI, 69; Newman, 511.

274-275. Marina on Oswald's failure to call: III, 45-46.

275. Hunting rifle in Truly's office: McMillan, 519; VII, 381-382, 387-388.
Conversation with Frazier: II, 222.

Ruth on Oswald's arrival: III, 46-48.

276. Oswald's activities at Ruth's house: McMillan, 521, 523-525.

276-276A. President Kennedy in Fort Worth: Bishop, 25, 28, 6; Manchester, 114, 121, 137; VII, 455.

276B. Oswald on his way to shoot Walker?: Newman, 47-49.

276B.

Note 3: There are other theories about where Oswald was headed. Commission lawyer David Belin believes that he was en route to a street at which he could have caught a bus to Mexico (Belin, 425-428). Congressman Harold Sawyer of the Assassinations Committee believes that Oswald was on his way to the home of an individual identified by the Dallas press as a Communist party defector who had helped the FBI destroy the Party in Texas. The news story had appeared on the same page as articles about John Abt defending Communists in New York and the president's proposed visit to Dallas. The informant's home was two blocks farther up the street in the direction Oswald was walking when Tippit stopped him (HACR, 673-674).

276B. Oswald seen by shoe store manager: VII, 3-4.

CHAPTER 15: THE ARREST

277. Seth Kantor's reaction: XX, 410.
AM/LASH meeting with case officer: Book V, 19-20.

277-78. Castro's statements: Daniel, "When Castro Heard the News."

278. Michael Paine's reactions: McMillan, 540-541.
Oswald's arrest: VII, 40, 52, 73; VII 54 (crowd); VII 41, 59 (in police car); Belin, 27.

279. Fritz on Oswald's answers: IV, 239.
Other questioners' impressions: XXIV, 839, 844; VII, 135.

Oswald discusses political beliefs: WR, 610; IV, 224.
Oswald apprised of rights, declines lawyer: IV, 216.

FBI agents join questioning: IV, 209, 210.
Oswald meets Hosty: IV, 210, 466-467.

279-80. Hosty realizes note was from Oswald: HACR, 245.

280. Oswald's statements on rifle, whereabouts, and pistol: WR, 619; XI, 613; WR, 181.

Denial he was in Mexico City: IV, 210.
Witnesses identify Oswald: WR, 166.

Concealment of Neely Street address: WR, 617.

281. Oswald at press conference: IV, 166; Newman, 547. Ruby's personality and arrest record: XXIII, 21, 22, 172, 356, 7, 125; WR, 796, 800. Ruby's large sums of money and pistol: WR, 797, 805.

281-282. Ruby's reaction to assassination: WR, 335, 337-338.

282. Oswald's assertions, Jarman's location: WR, 182, 635, 250.

Jarman, Norman, and Williams on shooting: III, 204-207, 194-192, 175-176.

282A. Secret Service report: WR, 635; Oswald asks for Abt: XX, 44; IV, 215; VII, 314.

282-83. Kantor and Oswald's remarks: XX, 416.

JOHN FREDERICK JOSEPH FITZGERALD
NOVEMBER 22, 1963, DALLAS, TEXAS

Its 700
rough 799 Assigned to Civil Defense Units
Its 800
rough 874 Unassigned
Its 875
rough 880 Assigned to Public Works Department
D Units Assigned to Police Reserve Supervisors

Unit numbers are allocated past 930.

In addition, Sergeant BOWTIZ advised that Alert 2 is for a potential airplane crash problem at Love Field. He said Alert 1 indicating the problem has

Station 5 is the Dallas County Sheriff's Department in the Park Department's office radio, BOWTIZ stated in the Accident Prevention Bureau and "NBC" refers to Broadcasting Company.

FRANK BOWTIZ advised that a capital "A" or a "2" in a unit number indicates that a second unit is being called simultaneously assigned to another unit. He said that in the Radio Patrol Command the second unit assigned as above.