

Original text is a transcription of Oswald's interview with the FBI on 10/22/63

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88... Oswald's Game

time was William Morgan, a former sergeant in the U.S. Army who had become a major in Castro's army. That August Morgan received considerable press coverage when he lured some anti-Castro rebels into a trap by pretending to be a counter-revolutionary.

Delgado recalled that Oswald wanted to emulate Morgan. They began talking about going to Cuba to join the revolutionary forces as officers and "lead an expedition to some of these other islands and free them too." They talked about how they would "do away with Trujillo." With Delgado's help, Oswald learned some elementary Spanish.

After the Cuban government started sending hundreds of Batista supporters before the firing squad, Delgado lost his enthusiasm for Castro, but Oswald defended him. He argued that in all new governments some errors were bound to occur, but he was certain that these people had been investigated prior to their executions and that the American press wasn't publicizing those investigations. For Delgado, leaving for Cuba had been barracks talk, mostly, but Oswald still wanted to go. He asked Delgado for ideas about how an Anglo-American like himself could, in Delgado's phrasing, "get with a Cuban, you know, people, be part of that revolutionary movement," and Delgado suggested he get in touch with a Cuban embassy. He believed that Oswald later made contact with the Cuban consulate in Los Angeles and received mail—perhaps pro-Cuban literature—from there. But for some reason Oswald abandoned the idea of going to Cuba, at least for the moment.

Delgado also remembered that Oswald had no use for religion—"He used to laugh at Sunday school... mimic the guys that fell out to go to church... Oswald told him that "God was a myth or a legend, that basically our whole life is built around this one falsehood." The Bible was simply "a novel." Oswald preferred *Das Kapital* and other political books like George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. Through Delgado, we are able to see that Oswald had little sense of irony. As he described *Animal Farm* to Delgado, the farmer represented the imperialistic world, and the animals were the workers or socialist people, and "eventually it will come about that the socialists will have the imperialists working for them." When he was asked if Oswald had explained that after the pigs took over the farm they became like the farmers, Delgado replied, "No, just that the pigs and animals had revolted and made the farmer work for them." Oswald had read the book literally and obviously missed Orwell's point.

Nelson Delgado's name appears in many conspiracy books, but we have in his article several clues it is not necessarily as widely as Delgado's name of importance

with Oswald's name, saying a shot. He was. Then pointing my that there is full and complete. He pointed out that he was a good shot but just was not "that good." Then, instead of getting the point, Oswald said she gets the point. Oswald was not what he seemed. Oswald was a poor shot. Oswald was mainly because he testified that Oswald was a poor rifle shot when he was in the Marines:

Q. Did you fire with Oswald?  
A. Right, I was in the same line... It was a pretty big joke, because he got a lot of "Maggie's drawers" [a red flag indicating the shot had missed the target], you know, a lot of misses, but he didn't give a damn.  
Q. Missed the target completely?  
A. He just qualified, that's it. He wasn't as enthusiastic as the rest of us. We all loved—liked, you know, going to the range.

The key element in this account is that Oswald wasn't enthusiastic—he didn't give a damn. He scored just one point above the score necessary to qualify. As a raw recruit he had done better. And according to a report in *Time*, his Marine rifle-score book showed him "making 48 and 49 points out of a possible 50 in rapid fire at 200 yards from a sitting position, without a scope."

In the spring of 1959 Oswald struck up an acquaintance with Kerry Thornley, another young radar operator, who would be so impressed by Oswald that he would write a novel about him after his defection. As in the case of Delgado, Oswald became interested in Thornley after Thornley seemed to agree with some of his ideas—beginning with an admiration for the new Cuban leader. They met at a bull session during which Oswald learned that Thornley, too, was an atheist. "What do you think of communism?" Oswald asked him. When Thornley replied he didn't think much of it, Oswald told him, "Well, I think the best religion is communism." At first Thornley felt that Oswald was merely playing to the crowd, but he later decided that Oswald sincerely believed "communism was the best system in the world." Although he noticed some gaps in Lee's knowledge, Thornley considered him to be "extremely intelligent," and was surprised on learning after the assassination that Oswald had never finished high school. He thought the news media underestimated Oswald's understanding of Marxism:

I certainly think he understood much more than many people in the press have seemed to feel. I don't think he was a man who was grasping onto his particular beliefs... trying to know something over his head, by any means.

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including "I don't think he was a man who was grasping onto his particular beliefs... trying to know something over his head, by any means." and other scribbles.

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Mr. LIEBELER. How many men were there?

Mr. DELGADO. Oh, in our company there was about roughly 80 men, 80 to 100 men, and I would say about 40 of us were in the pot. All low ranking EM's, though. By that I mean corporal or below. None of the sergeants were asked to join. Nine times out of ten they weren't firing, just watching you. They mostly watched to see who was the best firer on the line.

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Mr. LIEBELER. You say there were about 40 men involved in this pot?

Mr. DELGADO. Yes.

Mr. LIEBELER. And you say that Oswald finished fifth from the highest?

Mr. DELGADO. No, he didn't even place there. He didn't get no money at all. He just barely got his score, which I think was about 170, I think it was, just barely sharpshooter.

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Mr. DELGADO. Minimum.

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Mr. DELGADO. It's broken down into three categories: sharpshooters—no; pardon me, take that back; it's marksman is the lowest, sharpshooters, and experts. And then Oswald had a marksman's badge, which was just a plain, little thing here which stated "Marksman" on it.

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Mr. DELGADO. That was the lowest. Well, that was qualifying; then there was nothing, which meant you didn't qualify.

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# NEWS

## number of young men gaoled

### ed, understaffed s take the strain

recruiting professional and technical staff for building and maintenance.

The condition of Britain's prisons is likely to be unaltered for some time. Of 56 prisons opened before 1930 only 10 were in good physical condition, 39 were fair and seven were poor.

The report quotes two governors' remarks about their buildings: "The prison is drab, shabby and in dire need of a massive injection of resources to recoup some of the years of neglect, in order to preserve this valuable property in which the prisoners and staff, living and working in Dickensian conditions, continue to suffer."

Another governor said of his prison: "There is nothing wrong with this prison which he expenditure of several million pounds could not put right."

A list of projects which will pen in the 1980s is prefaced by a warning that they will not necessarily add places to the system.

An increasing rate of deterioration in the former wartime camps and the Victorian prisons like Liverpool and Wormwood Scrubs meant few additional places would be lined.

"They will simply compensate for places lost elsewhere. They are not therefore likely to reduce the amount of cellaring and, although most of cellular projects will have legal sanitation, that will not make the practice of slopping-out much less extensive elsewhere."

The numbers of men sharing cells in 1978 rose to 15,823 in March, when 5,061 were sleeping three to a cell. This was out of a total of 27,933 adult men at the end of 1978. In women's prisons the facilities for mothers and babies were fully used, with units accommodating up to 30 babies at any one time.

An increase in secure units and a net gain in staff, however, provided some "welcome relief" to the small number of women's prisons widely scattered throughout the country.

The 91 gaoled under Section 53 of the Children and Young Persons Act represented an increase of 82 per cent over the past five years. The Act is used for gaoing people under 18 for murder and juveniles for grave crimes which in adults would merit at least 14 years' imprisonment.

The number of times prison officers' branches took industrial action increased from 42 in 1977 (and 19 in 1975) to 119 in 1978. After the serious disturbances the last Government set up an inquiry by Mr Justice May.

The industrial action is blamed for the huge increase in the loss made by prisons. The loss on trading account for 1978-9 is estimated at £4.9 million compared to £2.8 million the previous year. The "strains within the system" and interruptions to production continued to restrict output, the report says.

Report of the work of the Prison Department 1978. HMSO Cmnd 7619, £3.25.

## ndemned by lawyers

given a non-immediate custodial sentence." The society, an organisation of Socialist lawyers, describes the present provision of bail as derisive and says that most of those at present in prison could be housed safely and cheaply in hostels.

It is the lack of a securely-located address which so often results in refusal of bail, the society suggests.

The society claims that in

is not that the court is genuinely considering a custodial sentence but to give the offender a taste of being "inside."

"Nowhere is this abuse of power more prevalent than in juvenile courts," says the society. "The number of under-17s on remand was 4,072 in 1977. Of these, 202 were remanded in adult prisons, imposing unjustified additional pressures on the juvenile and on prison staffs not trained to

## Shade of Oswald visits friend in Britain

The latest investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy, which suggests a conspiracy by organised crime, has brought renewed fear to a former US marine who now lives in Cheshire.

Nelson Delgado was a corporal in the marine corps in charge of Private Lee Harvey Oswald who was considered by the Warren Commission to have acted alone in killing the President.

In a report published earlier this month, however, the House of Representatives' assassination committee criticised the Commission for neglecting the evidence of a possible conspiracy and the indications that Oswald's shots that day in November 1963 might not have been the only ones.

Mr Delgado, a Puerto Rican who considers himself to have been Oswald's closest friend in the army, has always maintained that Oswald was an unlikely assassin and too poor a shot to have fired possibly six rounds in rapid succession on that day.

"We all had to qualify as marksmen in the marines," he said yesterday. "Oswald only just scraped through in the marksmen category when we were tested on the range. Many others of us got better ratings as sharpshooters or experts. In our last test, when I watched him from behind Oswald scored 192 to my 234."

Mr Delgado told all this to the Warren Commission but his evidence and that of 26 other marine colleagues, appeared not to influence the Commission's final report. Most of the other 26 are now dead. Many were killed in Vietnam but others have died in mysterious circumstances.

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So Mr Delgado, who came to live with his English born wife in Warrington when he left the marines in 1977, feels threatened. "If they're now saying that the assassination was a conspiracy after all the whole thing could start up again. I believe I could be seen as a threat once again. If the CIA or the FBI had any part in the conspiracy they would want nothing in their way to destroy their cover."

When the FBI interviewed Mr Delgado after the assassination, he says pressure was applied to try to make him change his testimony about Oswald. "They attacked my competence to judge his character and shooting ability and criticised my efforts to teach him Spanish."

In the early 1960s both men were interested in Cuba and Mr Delgado says that mail from the Cuban Consulate in Los Angeles used to be addressed to Oswald at the radar-scanning unit in California where they were both stationed.

Mr Delgado admits that he has no evidence beyond that of Oswald's character and his well-known incompetence with firearms. "But the conspirators may think I know more than I do." So he has made a sworn affidavit of that information and of the events that have happened to him since. "That is my insurance policy. If anything should happen to me now, people will know."

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