

18 • CASE CLOSED

was a committed Communist. On other occasions, Oswald lectured McBride about the "virtues of Communism," how "the workers in the world would one day rise up and throw off their chains," and he often praised Khrushchev.⁹¹ At times, he encouraged McBride to join the Communist party with him. McBride once accompanied Oswald to his apartment, and there Lee "seemed quite proud" to have library copies of *Das Kapital* and the *Communist Manifesto*.⁹² Years later, Lee's Dallas friend George de Mohrenschildt asked him, "Who told you to read the Marxist books?" Oswald bragged, "Nobody, I went by myself. I started studying it all by myself."⁹³ Oswald also later confirmed to a correspondent, Aline Mosby, that he had studied Marxism from the age of fifteen, when an elderly woman in New York handed him a pamphlet about the Rosenberg case.⁹⁴ But he said it was not until he arrived in New Orleans that he discovered *Das Kapital* on a library bookshelf. "It was like a very religious man opening the Bible for the first time," he recalled. "I continued to indoctrinate myself for five years."⁹⁵

In July 1956, Marguerite and Lee moved for the twenty-first time since his birth. Expecting that Lee would join the Marines on his seventeenth birthday, she decided to return to Fort Worth. In September, Oswald enrolled at Arlington Heights, his twelfth school. For a few weeks, he sporadically attended classes before dropping out.⁹⁶ He bought his first real gun, a Marlin bolt-action .22 caliber rifle, which he later sold to his brother, Robert.⁹⁶ He also continued devouring library books about Communism. Within days of leaving school, he wrote a letter to the Socialist Party of America and announced, "I am sixteen years of age and

*Marguerite later admitted to the Warren Commission that Lee had books about Communism at their house. But she still defended her deceased son: "I knew he was reading it. But if we have this material in the public libraries, then certainly it is all right for us to read."

**Oswald's early fascination with Communism is a difficult issue for the conspiracy critics, and many ignore his early attraction to Marxism/Leninism. Despite the fact that Oswald was fifteen years old and living with his mother, Harold Weisberg writes that his attraction to Communism only makes sense when "the possibility of Oswald's being somebody's agent is considered."

would like more information about like to know if there is a branch in I am a Marxist and have been stu well over fifteen months."⁹⁷

Why did Oswald, a dedicated left Ideology did not control him at that enlist preceded his interest in Comr joining the Marines since grammar him best, his mother and brothers, his reasons. Robert acknowledged said, "I feel very surely that the reas States Marine Corps was because o he was a truant in New York and wore his brother's Marine ring as a told a reporter: "I joined the Ma brother in the Marines."¹⁰¹

But Oswald's stepbrother, John motive beyond emulation of Robert sons that I did it and Robert did it . . . [t]he yoke of oppression from m mitted that Lee "had seen us esca him, military service meant freedo:

At sixteen, Oswald had a strong he was not prepared to stand on p Marines, which would have meant less and still under his mother's c fered a new start, and if it had wo very satisfied with the service, O work the same magic for him. Lee 18, 1956, and joined the Marines o

*If nothing else, being in the Marines break away from his mother. After enlist saw her only sporadically during the rem she arrived at the police headquarters c Marguerite did not even know Lee and h

Page 11

Notes = 509

- wald's possible attendance at a day nursery in Dallas, Texas, during the school year 1944-45 (CD 861), CE 1874, WC Vol. XXIII, p. 7.
50. FBI report, June 4, 1964, of interview with Mrs. Clyde Livingston (CD 1245), CE 2220, WC Vol. XXV, p. 119.
 51. Oswald, op. cit., p. 49.
 52. Ibid., pp. 50-51.
 53. Ibid., p. 53; testimony of John Pic, WC Vol. XI, pp. 38-39.
 54. Testimony of John Pic, WC Vol. XI, p. 40.
 55. Ibid., p. 42.
 56. Letter to Commission, February 4, 1964, from the mayor of New York, transmitting school records of Lee Oswald (CD 364), CE 1384, WC Vol. XXII, pp. 688-700.
 57. Carro Exhibit 1, WC Vol. XIX, p. 1.
 58. Testimony of John Carro, WC Vol. VIII, p. 205.
 59. Ibid., p. 206.
 60. Oswald, op. cit., pp. 57-58.
 61. Testimony of Dr. Renatus Hartogs, WC Vol. VIII, p. 217.
 62. Ibid., p. 220.
 63. Ibid., p. 223.
 64. Ibid.
 65. Hartogs Exhibit 1, WC Vol. XX.
 66. CE 1384, p. 700.
 67. Testimony of John Carro, WC Vol. VIII, p. 207.
 68. Oswald, op. cit., p. 63.
 69. Testimony of John Carro, WC Vol. VIII, pp. 207-8.
 70. Oswald, op. cit., p. 60.
 71. Testimony of John Carro, WC Vol. VIII, p. 209.
 72. Testimony of Lillian Murret, WC Vol. VIII, p. 124.
 73. Testimony of Myrtle Evans, WC Vol. VIII, p. 54.
 74. Ibid., p. 57.
 75. Testimony of Julian Evans, WC Vol. VIII, p. 70.
 76. Ibid.
 77. Ibid., p. 73.
 78. Testimony of Ruth Paine, WC Vol. III, p. 22.
 79. Testimony of Edward Voebel, WC Vol. VIII, p. 3.
 80. Ibid., p. 13.
 81. Ibid., p. 9.
 82. Testimony of William E. Wulf, WC Vol. VIII, p. 18.
 83. Ibid., p. 18.
 84. Ibid., pp. 18, 19, 21.
 85. Letter from Louisiana Department of Public Safety to Commission, February 4, 1964, transmitting information concerning Lee Oswald's education and background in Louisiana (CD 365), CE 1413, WC Vol. XXII, p. 10.

the watershed
ers the riddle

a now be
e killed
the evi-
account
tion. His
s logic is
ment in

'Hit Men

PHOTO: BOHUSLAV RAPICH

e co-author
imed as the
ther books
ls of Crime:
l (The Bio-
ith children
articles have
cluding The
New York

41825



8