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“The Best Religion Is Communism”

Oswald reported for duty at the Marine Corps recruit depot in San Diego on October 26, 1956, and was assigned to the Second Training Battalion. There, he was given a series of aptitude tests and scored slightly below average.¹ He was also trained in the use of the M-1 rifle.² On December 21, 1956, after three weeks of training, he shot 212, two points over the score required for a “sharpshooter” qualification, the second highest in the Marine Corps.³ Such a score indicated that from the standing position, he could hit a ten-inch bull’s-eye, from a minimum of 200 yards, eight times out of ten.⁴ Shortly before he left the Marine Corps, in May 1959, Oswald again certified himself on a firing range. Although he then had no motivation and his disgust for the Marines was high, he still managed to score 191, enough to qualify as a “marksman.”⁵ Sgt. James Zahm, the NCO in charge of the marksmanship training unit, said, “In the Marine Corps he is a good shot, slightly above average . . . and as compared to the average male . . . throughout the United States, he is an excellent shot.”^{6*}

Oswald left San Diego in January 1957, and through that sum-

*Harold Weisberg stated that “Oswald’s marksmanship . . . was poor . . .” Jim Garrison is merciless in his attack on Oswald’s rifle ability, saying he was “terrible,” a “notoriously poor shot,” and had “an abysmal marksmanship record in the Marines.” Yet those in charge of the marksmanship branch praised Oswald’s ability and said he was easily capable of carrying out the JFK assassination. It “was an easy shot for a man with the equip-

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