

1/11/93

Dick Russell
6 Fort Ave. Terrace
Boston, MA 02119

Dear Dick,

My attention has been drawn to your use of my 1968 interview with Bob Castorr and his wife on page 317 and your citation of that interview transcript as your source on page 763.

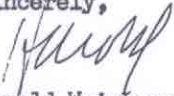
I do not recall that you asked me for a copy of that transcript, or asked my permission to use it.

While after 25 years I cannot be certain, but I do not remember giving a copy of that transcript to anyone and I am confident that if I did and do not remember doing it, it was with the understanding that it would not be used publicly.

I therefore ask where you got the transcript and by what authority you used it, not having asked mine.

You were in touch with me several times before your book was published and could have spoken to me then. I do not recall that you did.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

letter from
Dennis Ford

the first awareness anybody had of Scott's look into the newspaper's Nazis and ex-SS men on its staff and files. Its editor, Gerhard Frey, was ABN, as well as to two men whose ghby's correspondents (Dr. Theo-

Munich newspaper obtained its shed it before Marina Oswald said gained the discrepancy in the dates. ing his chin. "Of course, the Ger- ll give the Germans credit for the o- this day. We paid Germany \$5 5 to '57. I don't think anybody can ever quite dawned on me that they

led him all the way from Germany ? Walker had been in Shreveport, ere from Dallas on November 22 to zens' Council of Louisiana.

ie up. I didn't know anything about And they didn't say a word about ple days that Marina spilled some- ogether in there right quick, didn't n was what did I know about Os- 's a Communist.' They said, 'Well, print now.' They just said I was the ld think of that would tell them the oliment."

paper, saying that he himself later o do with Oswald allegedly having at Walker, but being released on This, I felt, was absurd, but Walker ody who knew what he was talking as."

the Fair Play for Cuba Committee speech against Castro and Cuba," sonally been to "a student meeting" r two" Cubans had visited his home. ome were legitimate," Walker said. ciation with anti-Castro Cubans was

on record with the Warren Commission. Walker and a close acquaintance, a "Colonel Caster," were described by one witness as "trying to arouse the feelings of the Cuban refugees, in Dallas, against the Kennedy administration" in speeches to exile groups.⁵⁰ The colonel was actually Robert Castorr, who in 1968 consented to an interview with researcher Harold Weisberg. In it, Castorr said he had indeed attended some of the exiles' gatherings and had become "acquainted with Walker eventually through H. L. Hunt."⁵¹

According to all official versions, including Walker's, the ex-general had never heard of Oswald until the day of the assassination. Yet in 1992, John Curington, H. L. Hunt's chief staff assistant during that period, told me a different version. Curington said he himself "had run across Oswald before the assassination. He was sort of known in certain circles as being an extremist, very vocal about certain issues, and his name had just come up in conversation or some of our reviews."

I pressed Curington to be more specific. "Well," he added, "General Walker was a pretty good friend of Mr. Hunt's and we visited in his home. Walker told us one night that Oswald's name had come up in an investigation of the sniping there against him. I don't remember just when, but this was before the assassination."⁵²

De Mohrenschildt and the Walker Incident

Two days after the Dallas headlines revealed that someone had fired, and missed, as the general sat in his study, George and Jeanne de Mohrenschildt showed up unexpectedly at the Oswalds' door on April 3, 1963. According to Marina, the first words out of the baron's mouth were, "How could you have missed, how could you have missed him?" Marina says Lee looked at her with a stunned expression. Since he had told her that nobody except she knew about the Walker attempt, Marina was equally shocked.⁵³ De Mohrenschildt would later explain to the Warren Commission that his statement was a "logical assumption," since he knew his young friend had a "gun with a telescopic lens."⁵⁴

Then, not long after the Walker shooting, Mrs. Natasha Voshinin recalled de Mohrenschildt dropping by to see them one evening. "He said, 'Listen, that fellow Oswald is absolutely suspicious, you are right.' Thousands of times before, he would say we were wrong. 'Imagine,' George said, 'that scoundrel took a potshot at General Walker. Of course Walker is a stinker, but stinkers have the right to live.' Then he told us something about the rifle. But Igor and I felt Oswald had some connection with CIA.

(May 31, 1978).
 er 5, 1973).

omas J. Hench, 766th Military Detach-

July 30, 1975.
 mas B. White, Jr. (January 2, 1964) File
 1976).

30, 1975).
 umber 29, 1961).
 he Politics of Unreason 2d ed. (Chicago:

merican (October 2, 1962).
 "Thousands Coming to Aid Mississippi,

osa, Ca.: Camden Place Communications,
 6-7.

d on the front page of the *Dallas Morning*
 Walker would join Hargis's tour in Miami

Marina meeting Paine: pp. 206-7. Author
 is not mentioned in *Legend*.

ia.
 in, *Legend*, pp. 209-10.

C X. 184-88.
 When arrested for the assassination and
 ce had been superimposed over someone
 lecture for years over their authenticity, an
 hentic. See Anthony Summers, *Conspiracy*
 alysis of the faked-photographs possibility.

Mo.: Laird M. Wilcox, 1969) p. 410.
 ew (January 4, 1992).

RCN case files, office of attorney Joseph
 indeed sent to *The Militant* was confirmed
 on with the author.

There has been some question about when
 adicated to me that it probably was in the
 n, *Assassination*, p. 333.

437ff.; XVI. 753. Detailed in Summers,

an that relates to the Walker shooting—and
 A. The letter states:

anced infantry training at Ft. Ord, Calif. I
 f 1962 I was assigned to Ft. Bragg, NC (2/

by two warrant officers at Ft. Bragg. After
 ation I agreed to undergo some special
 at I would be given additional up to date
 Riga, Latvia USSR for an assassination
 for them to discuss the basic details with

me and also said that I could refuse the assignment, but in any case I would have to remain quiet about it. The Riga operation entailed some Colonel in the Soviet Army that was infiltrating a CIA team which was supplying some weapons for a rebellion. The warrant officers said that no one would believe me if I said anything anyway, and that after I did, I would be placed incommunicado and given "treatment." I had no reason to say anything at that time to anyone, but within the last few years I believe that an effort has been made to seriously neutralize my position. They attempted to say I was incompetent once in 1969 and after a transfer to Springfield Medical Center their assertions were proven untrue.

During Feb. 1963 I was told that my assignment was going to be in the United States and that the target was Major General Edwin Walker. Then, late in that month, I was told to forget that assignment, that someone else had been chosen. . . .

47. Marina on LHO and Walker: WC I. 16. Warren Commission Report conclusions: Ch. IV. 183, 187. LHO keeping material: Epstein *Legend*, p. 213. The HSCA looked into the dispute over whether Oswald actually fired at Walker, and concluded in *The Final Assassinations Report* (New York: Bantam Books, 1979), p. 59:

"The committee's firearms panel examined the bullet fragment that was removed from the wall in the home of General Walker and found that it had characteristics similar to bullets fired from Oswald's Mannlicher-Carcano rifle. In addition, neutron activation analysis of this fragment confirmed that it was probably a Mannlicher-Carcano bullet. . . ." The HSCA also verified Oswald's handwriting on the note to Marina and concluded "that the evidence strongly suggested that Oswald attempted to murder General Walker. . . ."

48. Car photograph mystery: Summers, *Conspiracy*, pp. 244-45; WC XVI. 7 (missing tag), XXII. 582 (police testimony); Jesse Curry, *JFK Assassination File* (Dallas, Texas: American Poster and Printing, 1969), p. 113, exhibit 55.

49. Munich newspaper: Peter Dale Scott, "The Dallas Conspiracy" (unpublished manuscript, 1971).

50. "Colonel Caster": WC testimony of Mrs. C. L. Connell, cited in Paris Flammonde, *The Kennedy Conspiracy* (New York: Meredith, 1969), p. 125.

51. Castorr and Walker: transcript, Harold Weisberg interview, Colonel and Mrs. Robert Castorr (January 30, 1968), p. 39.

52. Curington on LHO/Walker: author's telephone interview (May 12, 1992).

53. Marina on de Mohrenschildt's remarks: WC V. 619. At earlier testimony, Marina recalled the baron saying: "Lee, how is it possible that you missed?" (WC I. 18).

54. De Mohrenschildt's explanation to WC: Epstein, *Legend*, p. 213.

55. Voshinin on de Mohrenschildt/reporting to FBI: author's interview (April 5, 1992).

56. De Mohrenschildt on CIA knowledge/LHO and Walker: Edward Jay Epstein, *The Assassination Chronicles* (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1992), p. 560.

57. CIA expedite check: CIA memo, No. 431-154B (December 30, 1963); declassified May 1976.

58. Kail quote: HSCA XII. 57.

59. Prouty on Matlack: author's telephone interview (June 19, 1992).

60. De Mohrenschildt in D.C.: HSCA XII. 57.

61. Pierce on de Mohrenschildt/Charles/RCN: Fensterwald memo to Gary Shaw, Mary Ferrell (June 30, 1983).

62. RCN on de Mohrenschildt/Haiti: letter to Fensterwald (February 26, 1975).

63. De Mohrenschildt/Dulles: Author's interview with Fletcher Prouty, June 10, 1992.

64. De Mohrenschildt in Haiti: HSCA XII. 57-61.

65. De Mohrenschildt reaction to assassination: WC. IX. 274.

66. Larrie Schmidt background: Patricia Swank, "A Plot That Flopped," *Look* (January 26, 1965), pp. 28-29.

67. Schmidt letters: WC XVIII. 836-63 (CEs 1032-40).

68. Willoughby and YAF: Group Research, Inc. (GRI), fact sheet on CW (March 11, 1963).

69. Willoughby and Larrie Schmidt: Source of author's interview requested anonymity.

70. International Committee geographical links: Bruce Cumings, *The Origins of the Korean War*, Vol. II (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1990), p. 105.

71. Hargis/Hunt/ICDCC: CW papers, MacArthur Archives.

72. Willoughby and H. L. Hunt: author's telephone interviews with Paul Rothermel, Jr., and John Curington (June 1992).

73. Walker on Willoughby: telephone interview (July 15, 1992). Walker added: "He knew Asia better than anybody in the whole Washington setup." According to GRI files, Willoughby preceded Walker as military editor of the John Birch Society's *American Mercury* magazine.

74. Walker on Hunt: author's telephone interview, *ibid*.

75. Willoughby and Schmidt: anonymous author's source.

76. Schmidt in Munich PIO: author's telephone interview with Bernard Weissman (June 29, 1992).

77. Walker in Germany: Newman, *Assassination*, p. 205.

78. Bob Schmidt hired by Walker: Swank, "A Plot That Flopped."

79. Schmidt letters: WC XVIII. 836-63 (CEs 1032-40).

80. Weissman and black-bordered ad: WC V. 487-535 (on Grinnan, 504-6). See also XI. 428-34 on CUSA.

81. Schmidt on Weissman's name: Swank, "A Plot That Flopped," p. 29.

82. Weissman on Schmidt and ad: author's interview.

83. This section is all derived from two Group Research, Inc., Washington, D.C., reports on the Anti-Communist Liaison's two-day strategy seminar.

This is tape recording of an interview with Colonel and Mrs. Robert Castorr. None of this is to be used in anyway publicly without their specific permission. Intended only for background and information. Since the last time I spoke to the Castorrs, they recognized the picture ofEugene Hall that appeared ~~x~~ in the Washington Post for Dec. 30, 1967, over a story announcing Garrison's attempts to subpoena Paul, Howard and ~~Tom~~ Tommie Becker? The pictures are attributed to the AP and UPI. The picture of Paul shows him with part of his beard and a cigar in his mouth; the picture of Howard is the only one I have.

~~This~~

Mr. C: This is a cutting as of this evening -- January 30, 1968.

W: That's the way I began. I'LL try to remember to

W: When we spoke before, do you remember that you recalled an incident in Dallas of a meeting with a group of Cuban students. This picture has recalled certain other things to your memory.

Mrs. C: Yes. These two men I believe are men whom I met at the home of ---- - Castille.

W: Who was in Dallas?

Mrs. C: Who was in Dallas

W: And was she the head of the Cuban Student Director for Dallas.

Mrs. C: She had some contacts there. She was a school teacher. But she did have a contact with the student group, as I understand it.

W: Do you remember the approximate date?

Mrs. C: I would say that it most probably was about October of '63.

W: Did you meet them on a subsequent occasion.

Mrs. C: I did. And I actually did not associate these two men with this student group until I saw their pictures in the ~~NY~~ paper. I also met these two men in a private home in Dallas --- in the home of ~~Melony~~ ^{Elizabet} and Ed Twilly ? and Ed Twilly had called me and said that he was having a group representing the students -- Cuban student group -- coming to his home and he would like me to be present. And I believe this was on a Monday or Tuesday night, because it was right after the student group had appeared at a -- I believe it was a building and loan office on a Sunday night and I was not present at that meeting.

W: May we get on the record -- or maybe we have it before -- I don't know. This was when Colonel Castorr was abroad? Right before the assassination?

Mrs. C: Well, it was a month or so before. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

W: You couldn't go because you didn't have any babysitter.

that somebody in a discussion that comes to mind that _____ with the possible view of recruiting manpower for a march here or there to lend ~~h~~ influence to ~~his~~ his Cuban ~~philosophies~~ philosophies. I wouldn't ~~dis~~ discount that...

W: That apparently happened because I've been told about it by people the way he spoke to them about it. This was all news to me but I discovered it early in November -- people who claimed that he asked them to join the march and to help them and that L/ P. Davis apparently was financing Walker.

Mr. C: Is that so?

Mrs. C: Walker never seemed to have any money, though. Certainly the house that he rented was a ransackle old place

Mr. C: And he spent an awful lot _____ and publicity a

W: Did he have any retirement?

Mr. C: No. But he did have money coming in on dowries, his own interests and so forth. Now, I became acquainted with Walker eventually through H. L. Hunt. I was talking with H. L. Hunt one day and he said "Have you met Walker" and I said I hadn't -- "Would you like to" and I didn't know -- it didn't make much difference to me -- so he made arrangements and I drove over to meet Walker for the first time and we talked about philosophy and politics and so forth and that was about it.

On occasion, I would drop in to see him or something He'd ask me "how are things" and I'd say ~~fine~~ fine -- how are things with you and then he did try to enlist ~~my~~ me to assist him financially and possible people that I know that might lend to his interests.

Well, I didn't

W: Did he ever mention the name Harold Lord ^{Varney} to you?

Mr. C: No.

W: I think it would be a mistake to call him a conservative ^{ive} although he's generally on that side -- he's rather an extremist --

Varney I'll tell you why I ask -- the day before the assassination, General Walker went to New Orleans to hear an address by Harold Lord Heines -- He was publicly seen there by any number of these people, appear in Louisiana and I can't really put my finger on ~~it~~ a reason for it.

Mrs. C: Didn't General Walker go to Shreveport though. I had heard him broadcast from there for this program --

Mr. C: _____ . He asked me if I'd go over with him.