

Dear Sir:

This piece of information may or may not prove helpful in your current investigation into President John F. Kennedy's assassination. I send it to you only on the off chance that it may be helpful. If you have an investigator in the Los Angeles-Orange County area you might have him check out these facts.

1. In November 1963, a Lance Corporal Phil Dillard was on leave from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, California. His home as far as I know was Dallas, Texas; and evidently, he was there on Nov. 22, 1963.
2. At a later date (Spring, 1964) this individual showed me a copy of the "Welcome Mr. Kennedy" advertisement that appeared in the Dallas papers Nov. 22, 1963.
3. He also had a little roll of gummed stickers like a roll of stamps that read:

Communism Killed
Kennedy — red ink

I have seen these stickers posted in various places and at various times.

4. This individual at some time in the latter part of 1963 (Sept.-Dec.) wrote an article for the base newspaper (where he worked) The Flight-Jacket, indicating that a John Birch Society Chapter was going to be formed on the El Toro Marine Base. The new Chapter was to be composed entirely of Marines according to the article. The story was printed though it should have been stopped by the station Headquarters Chief-of-Staff whose duty it was to preview all copy before the paper was printed. Although I wasn't in California at the time, I understand the article caused quite a furor and was reported widely in the local press (Santa Ana Register, Los Angeles Times, etc.) and even covered by local radio and TV. There is a bound volume of 2nd half/1963 Flight-Jackets in the El Toro, Joint Informational Services Office.
5. In his last rifle qualification in the Marine Corps, Phil Dillard fired a 241/250 which is very high Rifle Expert.
6. This individual, in 1962 during the Cuban Missile crisis begged the Officer in Charge of the Joint Informational Services Office to go to Florida with the Marines that were being airlifted from nearby Camp Pendleton. He didn't get to go because he was in a station squadron rather than a 3rd Marine Air Wing Squadron.
7. He had a very large (4' X 5') map on the wall near his desk in the Joint Informational Services Office (Building 329) indicating, "areas under communist domination" shaded in red; and "areas following the Moscow line" in cross-hatched red. It was a world map, and as you might guess, it was almost all red except the United States.
8. This individual was president of a small John Birch Society chapter that met in the apartment of two ex-Marines named Miles and Jennings in Santa Ana, Calif. Evidently, Miles and Jennings had worked in the same office Dillard work in. A Marine named John Darling shared a room in building 329 with Dillard, and they were good friends. Dillard and Darling were both discharged from El Toro around June 13, 1964. Darling on a three month "school cut" and Dillard on a regular discharge. Darling supposedly was to attend a junior college back in Michigan and Dillard was going back to Texas and was planning to enroll in 'Kalgore' College in the Fall of 1964. Darling was back in California before the end of the summer and was working for a large automobile sales near 1st or 4th street and the Santa Ana Freeway. A Jim Jones also attended the JBS meeting. I heard that he was very active in the campaign of John Schmitz (R-Tustin), an ex-Marine who successfully ran for the Calif. Senate. Jones was supposedly investigated by OMI for right-wing activities in late 1963 or early 1964. Jones and a Lt. Stearns was very active in distributing NO MORE DARE CALL IN FREEDOM at El Toro. Person's behind this book may be the same as those involved in the assassination. Find out who funded its publication. Many details are unknown, even as to where it was actually published. Was it in Florissant, Mo?

8. The jacket found in the parking lot in Dallas, that was supposedly discarded by officer Tippit's assailant, bears a dry-cleaning ticket almost identical to those used by the PX dry-cleaners at El Toro. I refer to the one marked B 9738. The two staples in the tag are exactly the same way most dry-cleaning (uniforms, etc.) came back from the PX cleaners. (I'm looking at the picture of the jacket & cleaning tags on p. 229 of Six Seconds in Dallas)

9. Dillard used to joke about some "blems" of his that were in the Minute Men. He said that they felt that the John Birch Society was a bunch of liberals. I believe he mentioned that some of them even left the Minute men.

10. I heard a joke around the office where Dillard worked to the effect that, "We thought Dillard did it" in reference to the assassination. They said that they knew he was in Dallas that day. Dillard himself laughed at the joke, for what reason (perhaps, "If you only knew."), I don't know.

11. A physical description of Dillard is as follows: 5'8", 150 - 65 lbs (possibly lighter), dark brown hair with a slightly receding hairline, fairly dark complexion. He mentioned that for a short period (at some time) he wore a beard. He did mention that he got a full treatment (haircut, complete shave, shampoo, etc.) when he had the beard removed. As his regular beard was heavy, he could have grown a rather heavy one on a 20 or 25 day leave in Texas in 1963 (Nov.). With a little stretch of the imagination, he approximates the physical description of Lee Oswald and just might have been the one seen at the rifle ranges around Dallas just before the assassination.

12. I heard later in 1964 that Dillard was working two jobs, "one on a newspaper and another building silos" back in Texas.

13. Names or Names and addresses of persons knowing more about Phil Dillard:

Maj. Raymond H.W. Pett USMC-retired*
1542 Tiffany Place
Santa Ana, Calif.
AC714 544-7586
former officer-in-charge of the El Toro
Joint Informational Services office during
1963-64

Major John J. McShane USMC-retired
259 N. Prospect
Orange, Calif.
AC714 633-3907
Asst OIC of JISO in 1963-64

Names of persons working in JISO in 196-64

SSgt Frank Teplansky (Last of Cal. St., Fullerton Graphic arts Dept.)
SSgt Fred Davis (Last of Armed Forces Information Office, Los Angeles)
SSgt Bob Vandewalker (Vietnam 1966 - ?)
Joe Kopcak (last known working for a Newspaper near Glenview, Illinois)
Wanda Kinkle (later married - new name unknown)

I do not wish to become involved in your investigation at this time, because I have certain feelings about the assassination that would disqualify me as either a witness or an investigator. I feel strongly, however that Mr. Dillard (age 22 in 1963) may have some information you need. If you wish further information from me, place a small notice in the "personals" of The Santa Ana Register, on the first day of Feb., March., or April, and make it like the following:

PTD INFORMATION NEEDED, Call (A NUMBER AT WHICH I COULD CALL)

I will identify myself as "Lance Corporal Phillip T. Dillard, USMC"

* Maj. Pett's wife supposedly owns the dry-cleaning concession at the El Toro, Marine Corps Air Station. You could check about the dry cleaning tags used in 1963 at the same time you're getting information from Maj. Pett.

HOPE THIS ALL WON'T CAUSE YOU ANY LOSS OF TIME IN YOUR INVESTIGATION.