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FRONTLINE
Who Was Lee Harvey Oswald?
PBS airdate: November 16, 1993

Prologue and Hour One

FINAL SCRIPT: PROLOGUE

NARRATOR

At the edge of downtown
Dallas, the Union Pacific
railroad crosses a triple
underpass near a place called
Dealey Plaza. [9"]

OPENING CREDITS

NARRATOR

On the north side of Dealey
Plaza are the Dallas County
Jail, the court house and the
Texas School Book Depository.
[6"]

In Dealey Plaza it is always
November 22, 1963. [6"]

Motion control

SOF FASHION SHOW

I notice that there are a number
of hidden zippers in the jacket.
Now what are these for, Betsy.
They can't be for - is it for mad
money?

Well, it depends on where they're
placed. They can be wherever
you want them.

WFAA NEWS DIRECTOR (1) IN STUDIO

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen.
You'll excuse the fact that I'm out of
breath but about ten or fifteen

minutes ago a tragic thing, from all indications, at this point, has happened in the city of Dallas. Let me quote to you this, you'll excuse me if I'm out of breath. A bulletin, this is from the United Press in Dallas: "President Kennedy and Governor John Connally have been shot down by assassin's bullets in downtown Dallas. They were riding in an open automobile when the shots were fired...

OVERLAP 2ND REPORTER (AT SCENE)
...book depository, headed for the triple underpass. There were three loud reverberating explosions....

OVERLAP 3RD REPORTER (AT SCENE)
...from about the fifth or sixth floor of the Texas Book Depository, he said he saw the rifle being pulled back in...

Motion control

WFAA NEWS DIRECTOR (1) IN STUDIO
Ah Bert...let's see, let's get reorganized here. Wrap that cable over there, we're on the air Bert...

BERT SHIPP @ HOSPITAL
...as fast as they could get there at Parkland Hospital

BERT SHIPP & WFAA NEWS DIRECTOR
This is what I've been told today. The President was shot in the head. Connally was shot in the chest. Both of

or two, I couldn't tell you, one or two,
and I saw his head practically open up,
all blood and everything and I kept on
shooting. I'm just sick.

WFAA NEWS DIRECTOR W/T

I think that pretty well expresses the
entire feelings of the whole world.

NARRATOR

Less than one hour after the
President was pronounced
dead, police had arrested a
suspect. [7"]

Lee Harvey Oswald was a 24
year old former marine, who
had once defected to the
Soviet Union. Only weeks
earlier, he had visited the
Soviet and Cuban embassies.
[10"]

JIM HOSTY

The original complaint that the
police department filed on Lee
Oswald round midnight on the
22nd of November said that Lee
Oswald did in furtherance of an
international communist
conspiracy assassinate, President
John F. Kennedy

NARRATOR

That night, as Airforce One
brought John Kennedy's body

them are still alive when I left the Hospital.

- Do you have some film?

- Yeah I have film at the Hospital

- Well you get over there and see if you can get it developed real quick.

-Yeah I will.

CROWDS IN DISTRESS

RADIO REPORTER

...emergency supplies of blood are being rushed to the hospital.

Motion control

WFAA NEWS DIRECTOR IN STUDIO

A gentleman just walked in our studio that I am meeting for the first time as well as you. This is WFAA in Dallas, Texas. May I have your name please, sir.

ZAPRUDER

My name is Abraham Zapruder.

REPORTER (clarifies name)

And would you tell us your story please, sir.

ZAPRUDER

I got out about a half hour earlier to get one of the good spots to shoot some pictures...and as the President was coming down from Houston street...he was about a half way down there when I heard a shot and he slumped to the side, like this, and another shot

*This is not at all
what happened*

home to Washington, the new President was afraid that Oswald's apparent communist connections could spark an international crisis.

President Johnson ordered the district attorney to drop any reference to a communist conspiracy. [16"]

LYNDON JOHNSON

This is a sad time for all people.

JIM HOSTY

Johnson was certain that if this had gotten out it would inflame public opinion and could possibly lead to World War III. This is exactly how World War I began - with an assassination.

ANTHONY SUMMERS

Imagine the new President's predicament. This was just a year after the Cuban missile crisis when the world came to the brink of nuclear war. What does he do? He calls in Chief Justice Earl Warren, tells him that he must, as Chief Justice, chair the Commission of Investigation. The Commission of Investigation goes ahead and effectively puts the lid on the whole thing and that meant hiding things in order to keep the peace.

I do not remember seeing or hearing this & Wade never said it to me.

Hosty had no way of knowing

NARRATOR

Nine months later, the Warren Commission concluded that Oswald had acted alone. But for thirty years, its findings have been under attack. [7"]

In 1979, the House Select Committee on Assassinations said there was a probable conspiracy to kill the President. [7"]

not nearly this many books

And thousands of books and films have accused The Mafia, right wing oilmen, anti-castro cubans, Fidel Castro, the pentagon, the KGB, the FBI, the CIA and even Lyndon Johnson of murdering John Kennedy. v [18"]

POSNER

Increasingly in the last thirty years Oswald has become a footnote to the story. He is lost under a deluge of details about trajectory angles, and ballistics and forensics and possible plotters. We have no understanding of a sterile presentation, a small presentation of him and his real character and what motivates him.

SOFOSWALD

They're taking me in because I lived in the Soviet Union. I'm a patsy.

NARRATOR

Lone gunman, conspirator or patsy? Was Oswald controlled by private political passion, or by his apparent connections to virtually every group with a motive to kill President Kennedy. [12"]

false

BLAKEY

Any effort to explain what happened in Dallas must explain Lee Harvey Oswald, you know, and Lee Harvey Oswald is a mystery wrapped in an enigma, hidden behind a riddle. He is not to put it in simple words an easy man to explain.

NARRATOR

Thirty years later, the many mysteries of Oswald's short life are still at the heart of the enduring question --- who killed John Kennedy? [8"]

Motion control

SOF

Here comes Oswald etc
Oswald's shot!

CLICK

FADE TO BLACK

SOF

Oswald's been shot!

LHO PT 1
FINAL SCRIPT 11/6
NB-- Final changes approved by MS, thru pg 18

BABY PIX

He was born October 18, 1939 in new orleans, the son of Marguerite and Robert Oswald. But his father, died suddenly of a heart attack 2 months before Lee's birth.
(was born).

3-SHOT

Marguerite Oswald was left alone to care for Lee and his two older brothers-- his half brother John... and Robert.

ROBERT OSWALD
You go back to the death of dad two months before he was born, that's a tremendous impact. Oh, what Lee missed from his childhood was, ie., in comparison to me, was

ROBT OSWALD

the whole family being together all the time. The continuity there. It, the stability, the lack of stability, I think, entered into that to a large degree.

3-SHOT

Marguerite sent the older boys into an orphanage and later to boarding school. Lee stayed at home with his mother.

STILL-- Back toward camera

ROBERT
I don't know at what age Mother verbalized the effect that she felt he was a burden to her. But certainly by age three, he had the sense that you know We were a burden.

STILL-- 3 yr old

When he was 3 yrs old, Lee too was sent to the orphanage.

11/9/93

LHO Pt 1 nar SCRIPT

1

STILL-- Marguerite

Like Lee, Marguerite herself grew up without a parent. It was their common bond (too)

ROBERT

She had certain characteristics that were so much like Lee. The time and circumstances always seemed to be against her. the world owed her a living . She wanted to be somebody. I think this was passed on to Lee.

STILL-- trike

Later, Lee summed up his own childhood: (tight)

OSWALD

"the son of an insurance salesman whose early death left a far mean streak of independence, brought on by neglect."

SUBWAY/FX

BRONX APT

At 12, Lee and his mother moved to new york. (where) They lived in a small apartment in the Bronx. While Marguerite worked days in a dress shop, Lee spent his time alone. New York, to a small/ days/time)

ZOO

He went often to The Bronx zoo.

The zoo had become a haven for Lee, who seemed to prefer the company of animals to that of people. (often went)

STILL-- Lee at seal pond

He was enrolled in the eighth grade, but had not set foot in school for almost two months.

EAGLE

On March 11, he was noticed at the zoo by a truant officer and taken to court.

DETENTION CTR

He was sent to a youth detention center for 3 weeks of psychiatric evaluation.

His social worker was Evelyn Siegel.

EVELYN SIEGEL

SIEGEL
Well, I remember him vividly. He was a skinny,

STILL-- Lee 13 yrs old

unprepossessing kid. He was not a mentally disturbed kid. As a matter of fact, his IQ was better than average. He was just emotionally frozen." *He said*

SUBWAY

Lee thought he had better ways to spend his time than in school. He spent his days at the public library and museums... and endless hours learning the New York City subway system.

EVELYN SIEGEL

SIEGEL
From what I could garner, he spent the day all alone reading magazines or hanging out by himself and, ah, he really interacted with no one.

SUBWAY

SIEGEL (vo)
He made his own meals. His mother left at around seven and came home at seven and he shifted for himself. Ah, you got the feeling of a kid nobody gave a darn about him. He was just

floating along in the world with no emotional resources at all.

I LED 3 LIVES

ANNOUNCER

This is the true story of Herbert A. Philbrick who for nine frightening years did lead three lives: average citizen, high level member of the communist party and counter spy for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

ACTOR

"Got a cigarette, Herb?..."

His favorite TV program was a saga of political intrigue and espionage.

(THE STUFF OF)

ROBERT OSWALD

ROBERT

I Led three lives, he really became engrossed in that particular TV show... I think he liked the atmosphere that you could do anything that you wanted to do, that you could imagine you could do.

I LED THREE LIVES

ANNOUNCER

Herbert A Philbrick, successful communist. His party's pride. He'll lie for the party, spy for the party, report his best friend for the party, as a deviationist liberal.

TV

At the same time, very real events were making a lasting impression on Lee.

ROSENBERG PROTESTS

In 1953 Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were sentenced to death as russian spies. Journalist Edward J. Epstein

PROTEST PAN

traces Lee's political awakening to this moment.

(the rosenbergs) tight

EDWARD J. EPSTEIN

EPSTEIN

The first instance we have of Lee Harvey Oswald's politics

LEAFLET PG TURN

is that he picked up a leaflet in New York City

about the coming execution of the Rosenbergs, and as he reads this it begins to show him

EJE

that there's a way of finding himself by opposing the established order.

BOOKS/ DIARY

"I was looking for a key to my environment. Then I discovered Soviet Literature. I always had to dig for my books in the back, dusty shelves of libraries ""

SUBWAY

When the truant officer came after Lee again, he and his mother fled New York.

truck/street lamp/

They moved back to New Orleans, to the edge of the French Quarter.

FALSE! It was near it in the French Quarter

But their home was far from the tourists on Bourbon Street.

EXCHANGE ALLEY
EXCHANGE ALLEY

BLAKEY

That street at that time was one den of iniquity after another. Strip joints, gambling joints. It was a place with every hustler and pimp in New Orleans plied his trade. Oswald grew up in a community and environment of crime and corruption.

YPSL LETTER

Dear Sirs,

11/9/93

LHO Pt 1 nar SCRIPT

5

he saw the identical letters to the
CP the same day

I am sixteen years old and would like more information about your youth league.

HIS interest in socialism may have Diverted Lee from the vices of his neighborhood. He tried to join the Socialist Party's Youth League, but there was no chapter in New Orleans. (PROBABLY)

Sincerely,
Lee Oswald

CAP

Instead, HE joined the Civil Air Patrol, and tried to lie his way into the marines.

But he was rejected as too young.

ASSAULT COURSE

Just after his 17th birthday, Oswald enlisted.

Will-- irony!!!!!!!

It was 1956, the height of the cold war, and the young socialist had become an instrument of US foreign policy.

ASSAULT COURSE/ EJE

To him, the Marine Corps was a vehicle for escaping from all the things that were holding him down in his life.

EJE

Look what he got as a Marine.

ASSAULT COURSE/ EJE

He learned to use a rifle,

RIFLE RANGE/EJE

he learned to travel and he got away from his family.

RIFLE RANGE *the min num
required of all recruits only*

STILL-- *also false*

POSNER *only as a recruit and in
training. Later it was the lowest of the
lowest range*

RIFLE RANGE/GP

not so

RADAR SUNSET

STILL- Atsugi
EJE #3, pg 20

U-2 *not only
the USSR* ✓ TIMINGS

Oswald received extensive training in marksmanship.

Fellow marines remember him as a poor shot. but the record indicates otherwise.

He shoots on a rifle range 212, which means he qualifies for the 2nd highest position in the marines corps, that of a sharpshooter.

New the end of his stay in the marines in 1959 he went back to requalify himself in the range, still shot 191 and still qualified as a marksman.

The sergeant in charge of his training called Oswald a slightly better than average shot for a marine, excellent by civilian standards.

(quote)

Oswald requested to be a radar controller. He received training and then shipped out for what would be his first great foreign adventure-- a posting AT Atsugi, Japan.

What he arrived at Atsugi in Japan wasn't simply an Air Force Defense Base. It was a CIA Base and a CIA program taking place at that base involved one of America's most secret and important reconnaissance missions, the spy plane which became famous as the U2 Plane.

The U-2 's mission was to invade Russian airspace and photograph Soviet strategic sites.

Its flying altitude was A closely guarded secret, but one that radar operators like Oswald and his colleague Dan Powers Could have learned.

RADAR ROOM/Dan Powers

On occasion uh we would get aircraft calling into the uh bubble at Atsugi they would ask us for the winds aloft at seventy

DP

and sometimes a hundred thousand feet and we just didn't realize they were aircrafts at that particular point in time that could fly that high.

U2 lands

Oswald's posting at atsugi And his LATER defection to Russia have fueled speculation that Oswald was recruited as a spy.

(a top secret base)

EJE #5, tk 754 pg 3 SR 51

One of the things I found out from questioning Oswald's associates in the Marine corps was he wasn't living the life of an ordinary Marine. He was living, what you might call, a secret life. He was moving to a type of--to bars and nightclubs which weren't for the purpose of socializing, but were for the purpose of making contacts.

Still--Moody rifle

one day, a fellow marine noticed Oswald heading off limits with a Eurasian woman he assumed was a prostitute.

(owen dejanowich)

Dejanovich #2, pg 8

There's a small business section across one bridge that was called Skivvy bridge. We were allows as Americans to go into that sector of the residential

portion of Iwakuni. The other sector was considered to be communist, uh, Japanese communist and we were, and it was an off limits that we were not allowed to go in as Americans. The first time I saw Oswald with the round eye, uh, she was a beautiful white Russian, uh, he was walking with her,

BRIDGE

they were going across the bridge into the uh section that was off limits to us.

STREET

Lee ventured off base often, and later claimed he met with radical Japanese students.

SOFT CAP TABLE W/ SCOTT

But US intelligence says he never contacted the Soviets directly. and there's no hard evidence he was part of an american spy mission.

EJE #6, pg 4

So what was Oswald up to?

I think from the entire pattern of Oswald's life, he was trying to find people who could use the information he was acquiring in the Marines, which he thought was valuable--whether or not it was--. He was trying to find another way of moving his life a step ahead and he saw these Japanese contacts ... As he later saw contacts elsewhere as a way of getting him to the next stage of his journey.

But, Oswald' marine career kept running into roadblocks.

(But, after a good start, Oswald found himself increasingly at odds with his superiors.)

POSNER

Oswald enters the marines with such high hopes, but it quickly unravels for him. Just a year after entering, he wounds himself with a pistol that he's not supposed to have, and as a result, he's court marshalled and then he's put on KP duty for a very long stint. He's very dissatisfied with it. Eventually, he attacks the sergeant that he believes is responsible for his long KP service in a bar and challenges him to a fight. Then he's court marshalled a second time, this time he's put into the brig. And this has an effect on him. The brig is very hard. And when he comes out, he's now an embittered person.

BUNK

Oswald started learning Russian. And he began openly espousing the virtues of Marxism to fellow marines.

Dejanovich #6, 235 pg 20

If you complained about how we've got to go on a march this morning, or we've got to do this this morning, scrub barracks, whatever we had to do, if you were complaining about it, he would, he would say that that was the capitalist form of government making us do these things.

GRIN

Karl Marx and / his form of government would alleviate that.

Questions have been raised about why Oswald was never disciplined for such "UnAmerican activity."

instrument irony

(ALT-- And yet, the Marines never disciplined Oswald for his political views.
(INVESTIGATED)

BLAKEY / White hat

This man was a man with a security clearance, this man was a man who had access to highly sophisticated materials, er, and he is now showing an interest in er, Marxism. In retrospect I think that what this indicates and this was the judgement of the committee, is that our own people aren't as efficient as we might think they ought to be. That more often than not it's keystone cops you know and not stainless steel efficiency and that we drew ultimately no sinister inference from our own people's failure to take action, or even to investigate Oswald in any way.

BIVUAC

During the end of his duty in California, Oswald carefully prepared his next move.

First he applied to a college in Switzerland.

Then he applied for an early discharge.

CU GUN

The day after it was approved, he applied for a passport.

VISA

He secretly planned to go to Russia.

EPSTEIN tk 764 (pg 26)

Oswald didn't defect to the Sov Union on a sudden impulse, we know that

This was well planned and the question is would Oswald have planned this alone or did he have help?

TRAIN HEAD ON

Oswald's route to Moscow was complicated.

windows cu

He journeyed from New Orleans to Europe, where he moved quickly from France to England, then to Finland.

WS

Helsinki was one of the few cities in the world where an American could get a visa to Russia on short notice. From there, Oswald boarded a train for Moscow.

STATION

Where did he get the money for his extensive travels? He later claimed he had saved over a thousand dollars, while in the Marines. But records show he had only \$200 in his bank account. (his bank account had only 203 dollars in it)

CAR

As a deluxe class tourist, Oswald received the personal attention of his own Intourist guide, Rimma Shirakova.

RIMMA #3v/o (78, pg 2)

I took him for an excursion around the city. We went to the most important sites of Moscow.

DRIVE/DOMES

such as the Tretikov gallery, the cathedrals and the treasury of the Moscow Kremlin

???

But Oswald seemed uninterested in the sights. On their second day, he told Rimma his real reason for coming. He wanted to defect.

RIMMA #6 (78, pg 4)

I was shocked! I asked his motives, his reasons. And he said that it was his political views. He said that he was a Communist, he doesn't approve of the American way of life.

PARK PAN

√timing!!!!!!

With Rimma as their go-between, the KGB considered Oswald's request.

SEMI WALKS

The former head of the kgb who handled Oswald's case is Vladimir Semichastny.

It's only now that men like Semichastny can tell the KGB's version of events.

SEMI (154, pg 47) EC0045

""When he came to us and began to ask for asylum here so insistently / the first reaction was to refuse and not to give him permission to stay in the Soviet Union, still less give him political asylum.""

DIARY SETUP

Later, Oswald recorded his reaction in what he called his historic diary. (Much later)

DIARY

"" I must leave country tonight at 8:00pm. I am shocked!! My dreams! I retire to my room.""

CHANDELIER/ RIMMA #11 (80, pg 1)

That same afternoon, we were to meet downstairs as usual. Some time passed and he didn't appear. Certainly I was nervous and wanted to know what had happened. So that's why I rushed upstairs and I knocked at the door, but there was no answer.

""HOTEL CORRIDOR

Hotel security men finally broke down the door.

RIMMA # 12 vo (81, pg 2)

We all tumbled into the room / and behind the shoulders of the two men, I saw Lee in the bath. It was water there and it was reddish. So it was blood. Lee cut his wrist.

*from
to
C. ...*
AMBULANCE

Oswald was rushed, unconscious, to Botkin Hospital.

STAIRWAY

His wounds were quickly stitched up and bandaged. He was then transferred to the psychiatric ward.

Dr. Lydia # 2 (122, pg 33)

Dr Lydia Mikhailina was on duty when Lee arrived.

""It was my impression immediately that this was a 'show 'suicide attempt, since he was refused political asylum, which he had been demanding, and he tried to obtain permission to stay in the Soviet Union by inflicting the wounds.""

AMBULANCE WIPE

After 7 days, Oswald was ready to be discharged. That day, Dr. Mikhailana got a call from the KGB asking her to hold him until they arrived.

Dr. LYDIA # 4 (125, pg 39)

""Sometime later, about 40 minutes, a large black car arrived and 3 young men got out. They took the patient notes and all the documents and medical history and then told me they were taking him away.""

AMBULANCE

SEMI BOOK

For 30 years, the KGB has maintained that it never interrogated Oswald about his military service, until now.

SEMI (155, pg 51) EC0556

""There were conversations, / But what he had to say was hardly useful information, there was nothing new in it, it was the kind of information we had been talking about for a long time already and then Oswald tells us about it, it was of no interest to a high level organization like ours.""

LTTrans

There were conversations...But this was such unimportant information... the kind we say the sparrows have already chirped from the rooftops, and now Oswald tells us about it. This is not the kind of information that such a high level organization would be interested in...

STILL-- FORMAL HD SHOT

Still, Semichastny conceded the KGB considered recruiting Oswald as a spy.

SEMI LTTRANS...

Counter intelligence and Intelligence, they both looked him over and studied to see what he was capable of. But unfortunately, neither one nor the other could find any ability at all, in either one field or the other.

PAN KGB/METROPOLE

The KGB moved Oswald to a hotel while they considered his fate. After 3 days, Lee decided he'd had enough.

DIARY

""It seems like 3 years. I must have some sort of showdown.""

SNYDER PIX

On October 31, he went to the US Embassy and demanded to see the Consul, Richard Snyder.

PAPER/ SNYDER #D7

He put a uh, he put a piece of paper, on my desk. It said, in effect, uh "I have come to uh, to ask you to revoke my American citizenship. I have applied to uh the Supreme Soviet, for Soviet for Russians, for Soviet citizenship.

SNYDER #D5

he also volunteered the information that he had been, w'-, while in the marines he'd been a uh, a radar technician. And uh that when he became a Soviet citizen he in'-, he intended to offer uh to the Soviet authorities everything that he had learned

STATE DEPT CABLE

Snyder reported Oswald's threat to Washington, where the Marines began proceedings for an undesirable discharge and changed their radar codes

METROPOLE

The embassy also suggested to reporter Priscilla McMillan that she should try to interview Oswald.

PRISCILLA

He spoke with a quiet manner and a little southern accent. He spoke so quietly that it wasn't until later when I looked at my own notes that I realized that the content of them was very

angry. He said he did not want to live like a worker under capitalism, the way his mother did and be exploited all his life and therefore he wanted to come live in the soviet union.

LONELY STEPS/ McMILLAN

He seemed lonely, he seemed ^{lost} lost in a situation that was beyond him.

McMILLAN ARTICLE

ROBT O tp #2, pg 18

I was delivering uh milk on a milk route in Fort Worth, and a taxicab pulled up and a reporter gets out and asks me if I'm Robert Oswald, you know, and I said "Yes", and he's showing me and AP or a UPI wire that uh saying that uh uh Lee Harvey Oswald defecting defecting in Moscow, trying to turn in his citizenship. I just couldn't believe it, I was floored. It was a complete surprise.

KREMLIN

Meanwhile, word of Oswald's suicide attempt had reached the top levels of the Kremlin.

Yekatrina Furtseva, seated just behind Nikita Kruschev, was the highest ranking woman in the politburo.

FURSTEVA

Fursteva became Oswald's champion and demanded the KGB reverse its decision and allow HIM to stay.

SEMI154, pg 47

We thought if he wants to stay, to hell with him let him stay and avoid an international scandal. We were not convinced that this would be his last effort at blackmail. We were sure that he would try something again, and we

didn't want to deal with that in Moscow, and so we decided to send him to Minsk.

LTTrans

If he's begging, to hell with him, let him live here, in order to avoid an international scandal on account of such a nobody. person (on account of such a jerk/nincompoop). We were not convinced this was (would be) his last step/act/effort of blackmail. We could expect that there will be another effort on his part which would difficult to deal with in Moscow, so we decided to send him to Minsk.

CHANGING THE GUARD ✓ timings

His ordeal in Moscow over, oswald now had the chance to become what he had always wanted to be -- a model young marxist.

RIVER PAN

Soviet authorities set him up in style. Despite a chronic housing shortage, he was given a choice apartmen-- a luxury unheard of for a young bachelor.

EPSTEIN#2 (760, pg 18)

Oswald went to the Soviet Union and they sent him to the City of Minsk where he found himself, according to his own reporting of it in his diary living a life that was much more luxurious and much more respectable than the life he had lived anywhere else in his young life. This was a step upward for him. This was, ah he had an apartment. He had the possibility of being respected. He had a good job. He was given a very good position in his own view in Minsk.

Shop floor

Oswald built prototypes of new models at the Minsk Radio and Television

Factory. As in the Marines, he got off to a good start.

Edward Tsagoika worked with Oswald.

Tsagoika works, vo#1 w/t pg 56

When he started work after his training, he joined the team. He fitted in well and worked well, too.

Still-- #D1, Sunglasses w/ coworkers (R-62).

Thinking that Lee sounded like a Chinese name, his co-workers dubbed him Alek. but he remained a mystery to them.

MAY DAY PARADE

May Day came as my first holiday. All factories etc closed. After a spectacular military parade all workers parade past the reviewing stand waving flags and pictures of Mr. Krushev etc. I follow the American custom of marking a holiday by sleeping in in the morning.

NIKO walks

Vacheslav Nikonov was an aide to the first KGB chief after Communism. He reviewed the entire Oswald file.

NIKO
Oswald looked very suspicious to the KGB because he was not interested in Marxism.

NIKONOV#6 (66, pg 11)

He didn't attend any Marxist classes, he didn't read any Marxist literature and he didn't attend even the labor union meetings. So the question was what was he doing there?

APT

The KGB kept Oswald under constant surveillance, and coopted most of the

people he met, including his best friend, Pavel Golovachev.

PAVEL #2 (185, pg 47)

I was met by one of their people beside my apartmenthouse block of flats and, well, it was like this. "Your country asks you, your country demands-- there's a foreinger here, it's in the country's interst, for security," and so on, one thing after another. That was early on, but I told him about it a year later. I had 3 or 4 mtgs with the KGB people. They gave me little tasks to provoke him, saying, "try this out on him and see what he says."

HUNTING

When Oswald asked some fellow workers if he could go hunting with them, the KGB became alarmed.

HUNTING NIKO #7 (66, pg 13)

The fear of KGB was that Oswald will take a gun, go to the forest and approach some military installations, secret military installations near Minsk. And so this company of people went hunting, was also joined by some KGB agents.

HUNT

Oswald's co-worker Eduard Tsagoika was (Also)along that day.

HUNT/ TSAGOIKA #4A (17, pg 1)

We set off to hunt. There were five of us. I was last.

TSAGOIKA #5A (20, pg 2)

Suddenly a shot rang out. I asked "Oswald, why are you shooting?" He POINTED (and said) "look, look, a hare!" The others fired too but missed. And then we all stopped and discussed

why he had sot too soon. He explained that the hare had jumped out from underneath his feet and he was startled and shot. I said "You could have killed me. Your gun was pointing right at me."

WALK AWAY/ TSAGOIKA #6 (w/t pg 3)

We didn't take him again because the head of our group had been warned not to take him again.

NARRATOR

Shunned by his co-workers, Oswald befriended some college students interested in learning English. He became FAST friends with Ernst Titovets .

TITOVETS

I rather gave him all the credit of him being a very highly educated and cultured man when I first met him. Well, he was an American and the United States was a country of high reputation here in this country.

STILL-- TABLELee sits at table still

Titovets made tape recordings of Oswald to study his souther accent.

Start tape recorder/
Reels spin

O: The door of Henry's Lunch Counter opened and two men came in.

Titovets listens to tape

They sat down. "What's yours?" George axed him.

ERNST TITOVETS

TITOVETS

I gave him rather chance pieces to read, and those happened to be, well, Shakespeare,

Tape recorder

TITOVETS (VO)
from Othello, Ernest Hemmingway....

Sound up Oswald:

O: The two men at the counter read the menu. From the other end of the counter Nick Adams watched them.

Titovets also interviewed oswald in mock dialogs.

T: Whom do you prefer to...

This is the first time the tapes have been heard publicly. In one interview, Lee played the part of a killer.

T: Would you tell us about your last killing?

O: Well, it was a young girl under a bridge. She came in carrying a loaf of bread and I just cut her throat from ear to ear.

T: What for?

O: Well, I wanted the loaf of bread of course.

T: OK. What do you think ... What do you take to be your most,

ah, your most, ah, famous in your life?

O: Well, the time I killed, ah, eight men on the Bowery that were on the sidewalk there. They were just standing there loafing around. I didn't like their faces so I just shot them all with a machine gun. It was very famous. All the newspapers carried the story.

TITOVETS (VO)

Titovets listens

Tape recorder



We were just having a great time, and actually, we were laughing our heads off.

JFK stock ftg

√ nar cue

I John F Kennedy....do solemnly swear... president of the united states...

The day after John KENNEDY'S inauguration in 1961, LEE's mother arrived at the White House to ask for help in locating her son .
(finding lee)

WINDOW DISOLVE

She was not the only one asking questions. noone had heard from oswald for over a year.

PUSH IN TO RESEARCHERS

recently released documents show that several government agencies began tracking Oswald in Russia.

MALONE

these files clearly show that there's hardly an intelligence agency that did not have an interest in Lee Harvey Oswald. Navy intelligence was worried about radar secrets he may have given to the Russians. The, ah, FBI was concerned that an imposter might be using as papers to come to sneak into the United States and the CIA had both a positive and a counterintelligence interest.

NEWMAN

The people who handled these files and who read them were branch chiefs and division chiefs and senior staff people in the clandestine services. What this all adds up to is a, a very significant level of interest in this man.

STILL Lee

Ironically, by that winter, Oswald decided he wanted to elave the soviet union.

MINSK GV's/ diary vo

""The work is drab, the money I get has nowhere to be spent. As my Russian improves I become increasingly conscious of just what sort of a society I live in.""

PAVEL #3, pg 49

He had become disillusioned about life here. He came here after reading a lot of Marxism and Leninism, thinking that it would be good here, but when he lived here he discovered the reality was not so good.

MINSK GV'S

PALACE OF CULTURE CU

POC MS

Then one night he went to a dance at the Palace of Culture. a friend introduced him to Marina Prusakova.

Merezinsky 1A (96, pg 21)

She was a very attractive lady. She dressed well, she knew how to carry herself. Lee Harvey Oswald and I went up to her, and he said straight away that he would like to get acquainted with her. We were standing right here, beside that column.

Dance scene/ Merezinsky v/o #2 (99, pg 24)

Of course he fell in love with her right away, at first sight as they say in Russia.

Priscilla set-up

Marina Oswald declined to be interviewed for this program. But she did talk to writer Priscilla McMillan.

trim pix head hand/pix!!!!!!!!!!

McMillan befriended Marina after the assassination and wrote an intimate portrait of the Oswald's life together.

Priscilla McMillan

Marina liked Lee for several reasons. Uh, one was that he was uh, polite. She liked his being foreign. She thought that an American would treat her better than a Russian.

Pharmacy/ PM vo

A few days after they met, he was hospitalized for trouble with his adenoids, and marina went to visit him in the hospital. She did visit him several times and he rather quickly told her he wanted her not to go out with any other man but him and by the time he was released from the hospital, he asked her to be his fiance.

STILL--2-shot /

6 weeks after they met, a hasty wedding party was arranged at the home of Marina's uncle.

Because her uncle worked for Soviet domestic intelligence, questions have been raised about whether Marina herself was an agent.

Semichastny #8 (158, pg 60)

As for Marina, about whether she had been planted by the KGB as his wife, I was often asked this question. And I can say with authority that nothing of the sort happened. If we had done such a thing we would have done it with a bit more finesse, not so crudely as they did their own wedding.

Bugging

the KGB continued to bug the apartment and monitor everything that went on inside.

NIKONOV

They married and they had a girl very soon. I don't think they were the happiest family in the world. they had

a lot of quarrels all the time and there were some fights.

PASSPORT DESK

Lee was still determined to return to the us, with Marina and his daughter June. He persisted for 18 months, until soviet and us authorities granted permission. (a year and a half)
(over a year)

PASSPORT STAMP (exit visa)
SEMI, p. 55

We concluded that he wasn't working for American intelligence. His intellectual training and capabilities were such that it would not show the the FBI and cia in a good light if they used people like him.

STILL-- WAVE GOODBYE

FLIP STILL/EXTEND/DISSOLVE!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Oswald's two and a half year Russian journey was over.

On June 2, 1962, Lee, Marina and June left for America.

NIGHT TRAIN

SHIP STACK CU

SHIP INTO HARBOR

Oswald assumed the press would flock to hear his story.
(meet him)

ROBT#DIA--(tk 465 tp 3, pg 10)`

He had prepared answers and statements anticipating reporters either at the ship or some place down the line on the return. And I think he was surprised when he stepped off the plane in Dallas Field-- he asked me no reporters? I said Yes, I've managed to keep it quiet. And that was it. But I think he was disappointed.

NEIGHBORHOOD TRACKING

*Not a word true!
The FBI was satisfied. The
interview outside his home
last an hour*

FBI REPORT

ROBT #D12 (tk 476, tp 5 pg 4) *not so*

STILL--LEE... CHOOSE

ROBT

HELMS

Soon after his return to Texas, the FBI asked OSWALD to come in for an interview about his time in the Soviet Union.

(HOSTY #2(710, pg 2)

Oswald appeared at the, er, Fort Worth, er, resident agency, and was interviewed by er, two agents who happened to be in the office. Er, this interview did not turn out to be too successful, because Oswald was, er, an - in an aggressive, er, surly mood. And they, er finally broke the interview off after a little while.

According to the FBI report, Oswald's answers were evasive.

He said "they even asked me if I'd ever been an agent of the federal government or the CIA." /

/And I said, "What did you tell them." He says, "Well, don't you know?" and he just laughed.

he was in control of the FBI then, they didn't know for sure if he was an agent or not. He was toying with them, and he toyed with people like that.

Officially, the FBI was the only agency that questioned Oswald. It has always been a mystery why the CIA, which had a growing file on Oswald, maintains it never talked to him.

RICHARD HELMS IS FORMER HEAD OF THE CIA.

HELMS

The FBI would certainly interview him for counter espionage purposes and to try and find out whether the KGB had recruited him, //whether he was going to be somebody that they had to continue to watch uh, what his motives were and all the rest of those things. And it was the FBI's responsibility and if they interviewed him once or twice, that would seem to me to have been adequate.

DENSLEYA track

One former CIA officer, however, says he read an AGENCY debriefing of oswald in 1962 .
(in 1962)

Donald Deneselya still does undercover work, but agreed to be interviewed in shadow.

DENSLEYA

I received across my desk a debriefing report. It was a debriefing of a marine redefector. He was returning with his family from the Soviet Union and was back in the United States. The report was approximately four to five pages in length. It gave a lot of details about the organization of the Minsk radio plant. It was signed off by a CIA officer by the name of Anderson.

TILT FILES/MUGS

FRONTLINE researchers pored through Oswald's recently declassified CIA file at the National Archives. They found hard evidence which supports Deneselya's story.
(they/and)

NEWMAN

We were very interested in the marginalia and the handwritten notes

on these files. And one day I picked up a piece of paper and turned it over and could see through the back, I could read handwriting that said - OO, Andy Anderson, OO on Oswald. Later on we found out that OO really is the symbol, the office symbol for the Domestic Contacts Division which would have had the debriefing mission on Oswald had there been one.

HELMS WS

FRONTLINE showed the document to former director Helms.

PAGE FLIP

HELMS VO

I know of no contact that was made

HELMS

by CIA with Oswald when he returned to the United States, there may have been one, but I'm not aware of it and I'm not able to shed any light on who it would have been.

INT:

And this document doesn't change your mind?

HELMS:

And that document doesn't change my mind in the slightest.

FILE THUMBING/MUGS/FILES

FRONTLINE interviewed over 30 CIA officers off the record, including, a former deputy chief of domestic contacts.

He confirmed Densley's story that the CIA had debriefed— It was just a routine contact, he said.
(He said it was just a routine contact)

DENESELYA

My feeling at this point is the report is buried somewhere. I don't know where it is, but I'm sure it is probably in the contacts division, somewhere, or in one of the other filing systems at the agency.

OO ANDY Z.I.

Several CIA officers remembered an Andy Anderson, who worked for domestic contacts.

OO ANDY Z.O.

The CIA has not responded to Frontline's request to identify Anderson.

FLAGS

What now seems certain is that the CIA is still covering up its contact with Lee Harvey Oswald. Was it just a routine interview, or something more? And why has it remained hidden for 30 years?

FADE TO BLACK

OAK CLIFF

in the autumn of 1962, the Oswald's moved to Dallas. They were befriended by a group of Russian immigres who helped them settle in.

STILL- GEORGE

One of them, George DeMohenschildt, had originally come from Minsk. He took a special interest in Lee.

GDM

I actually believe he was a very sincere person and with me he was extremely sincere. Because I treated him like a son, or as a soldier in my regimen.

trim!?!?!?!?!?!?

PHOTO LAYOUT- DOLLEY 2 WORKERS

deMohrenschildt helped Oswald find a job at a photo lab downtown, where he worked beside Dovid Offstein.

OFSTEIN #6 (627, pg 10)

I met Lee Oswald when he came to work for Jagers Chile Stovall in October of 1962, and was involved in training him on the equipment we used in the photographic department.

OFSTEIN #4 (626, pg 6)

About a month or two after ah, Lee came to work for us, he ah asked me what the company policy was about making ah, using the the company equipment for making personal photographs, enlargements of ah

personal pictures, family pictures, that sort of thing. Ah I told him at the time that the company policy was pretty much that you don't do it, but that people did it anyway, and as long as it didn't get out of hand, company usually didn't say very much about it.

CAMERA/ FAKE ID

Lee apparently put his skills to use forging a new identity, including a selective service card in the name of Alek J. Hiddell. It was the first alias Oswald was known to use.
(was known/began)

LEE was beginning to construct a secret life. He opened a post office box to receive mail for himself, and Hidell.
(for hidell)

McMILLAN 2A p. 6

Lee began to receive publications that he did not want to get at home. they were the worker, the newspaper of the American communist party, The Militant, newspaper of the

MILITANT

Socialist worker's party. All of this he wanted to receive without his landlord noticing.

PROJECTOR

ROBT

Lee was hiding things from his family too.

lense

That Thanksgiving, the Oswald brothers gathered at Robert's house.

home movies / ROBT #D7 (tp 3, pg 24)

Thanksgiving Day November 22nd 1962 we all having a pleasant holiday atmosphere. Everybody is getting along

fine. John and Margie and his family have not seen Lee in nine years. It's been a couple of months since I've seen him. We talked about small things in - - things that were of interest to each of us -- hunting and fishing type thing. You know what the families were doing and everything and Lee didn't seem under any particular strain, no indication that there's any particular problems.

L&M ON COUCH

BUT Behind the facade, Lee was beginning to lose control.

LENSE
REEL

He was picking fights at work. And at home.

HOME MOVIES / McMillan vo 2 B, p. 22

Lee became more and more tense and

PJM oc 2B, p. 3

he began to hit Marina, something he had never done before and by the winter

PJM vo / home movies

he hit her more and more frequently and harder.

LEE

Adm

At the same time, Lee's interest in politics was growing.

MILITANT HEADLINES

The left-wing papers he was reading embraced the issues that were important to him, such as civil rights and Castro's Cuba.

Fidel

As far back as the marines, Lee, was enamored with Fidel's romantic revolution. He now saw Cuba as the marxist ideal.

JFK CIGAR

And he was highly critical of the Administration's policies toward Castro.

De morenschildt

Yet those who knew him claimed Oswald liked the young president.

DeMOHRENSCHILDT

He was an admirer of President Kenedy, he certainly was not an enemy of President Kennedy. We raised the question many times.

DeMOHR HOUSE

Personal accounts differ. At a party in February, 1963, Oswald was introduced to oil geologist Volkmar Schmidt.

The two hunkered down by a window to talk politics.

Schmidt #3, pg 9

Lee Harvey Oswald brought up in the conversation with me the ah, fact that he really felt very angry about the support which the Kennedy Administration gave. To the Bay of Pigs. Invasion. It turned out that Lee Harvey Oswald really idolized socialism of Cuba. While he was critical of the socialism in the Soviet Union. And he was just obsessed with his anger towards Kennedy.

JFK -- LIFE cover

Schmidt says he tried to divert Lee's political anger toward a more worthy target.

Walker-- NEWSWEEK cover

General Edwin Walker was a virulent anticommunist. He had recently been

fired by Kennedy for preaching right wing extremism to his troops.

Schmidt #6 pg 14

I mentioned General Walker, who deserved criticism because he was a racist, retired general, ultra-right wing, and who had just a few--a little time before eh, talked to students at the University of Mississippi, who then got so agitated that they shot and killed some reporters.

OLE MISS

Ole Miss (had) erupted when James Meredith was enrolled as the first black student.

WALKER IN CAR

General Walker drove up from Texas to lead the white student revolt.

WINDOW BREAK

crash

BUS TURNED OVER

The result was a bloody 15-hour riot and General Walker was arrested for inciting the violence. But after a week he was released. He was soon to start a cross country tour to rally support for the overthrow of Castro.

SCHMIDT #8 TK 669, PG 19

In hindsight, I probably may have given Lee Harvey Oswald the idea to go after General Walker. I certainly didn't tell him to take the law in his own hand. Not at all. He may also have thought of General Walker independently.

CATALOG

Using his alias, Lee had already ordered a .38 pistol through the mail. Now, he

WALKER HOUSE	ordered more firepower--(in the form of) a cheap italian rifle.
POSNER	He apparently went on a reconnaissance mission to general walker's house, and scouted the alley in the back.
STILLS/ MAP/ DIARY	Oswald had an entire book of operations for his Walker action, including photographs of Walker's house, photographs of an area that he intended th stash the rifle, maps that he had drawn very carefully, statements of political purpose. In the end, <u>he wanted this to be an important historical feat and this was to be the documentation left behind.</u> HITLER LINE.. <u>get from another script...</u>
music BACKYARD DOLLEY	Lee's guns <u>finally arrived in the mail.</u> A few days later, he surprised Marina while she was hanging up the laundry in the backyard.
Backyard / PJM vo 2 B, p. 12	dressed all in black it was Lee and he was wearing, carrying his rifle and had his pistol at his waist.
PJM	and she burst out laughing and asked him what on earth he was doing in that costume and he told her to take a picture of him.
DARKROOM/ STILL	The backyard photographs remain among the most incriminating and controversial evidence against Lee Harvey Oswald.
BLAKEY #5 tk 653 pg 17	Oswald himself shown those photographs denied that he owned a

STONE FILM "JFK"

rifle and denies that this was him in it. He said his head was pasted on it. The critics of the Warren Commission seized on this.

The most famous critic is filmmaker Oliver Stone.

COSTNER
Oswald was no angel, that's clear, but who was he?

Stone's movie suggests the photographs were faked in order to frame Oswald.

COSTNER
.... that he was an intelligence agent on some kind of mission for our government and remained one until the day he died.

MAN #2
The intelligence community murdered their own Commander - in- chief?

MAN #3
You know I never could figure out why this guy orders a traceable weapon to this post office box when he could go into any store in Texas give a phony name and walk out with a rifle that could never be traced.

COSTNER
To frame him obviously.

MAN #2
There's a lot of smoke there. But there's some fire.

MAN #3

We're talking about our government

COSTNER

We're talking about a crime Bill, pure and simple. Y'all got to start thinking on a different level like the CIA does, now we're thorough the looking glass here people - white is black and black is white. Just maybe Oswald's exactly what he said he was - a patsy.

BLAKEY

We took very seriously these charges

BLAKEY

We had our - our first bit of evidence examined by the Warren Commission. Marina testifies that she took it, she identifies the camera that she used.

with us
TV
or

The FBI was able to - to the exclusion of all other cameras tie that camera to these photographs. Assuming that all that's fake we went further with a photographic panel...

FACE ECU

and studied very carefully all of the testimony about the shadows being inappropriate.

BLAKEY

Our photographic panel indicated in great detail that these shadows were not inappropriate, that the critics had simply not understood optics accordingly.

BACKYARD STILL FREEZE END!?!?!?!?

Oswald gave a copy of the photograph to his friend George de Mohrenschildt. On the back, someone wrote "Hunter of Fascist" in russian and Oswald signed it.

HANDWRITING GRAPHIC / BLAKEY

The House committee's experts concluded beyond a doubt the signature was his.

Any notion that the photograph was faked by other people to frame Lee Harvey Oswald now has to explain the fact that Lee Harvey Oswald himself signed that photograph.

RIVER/ GUN

ON April 6th, LEE WAS FIRED FROM HIS JOB AT THE PHOTO LAB. NO ONE KNOWS WHERE HE SPENT HIS DAYS.

Shot

I think not. Presilla may have said it

MARINA SAYS HE SPENT A FEW EVENINGS SHOOTING TARGET PRACTICE.

ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 10, SHE SAYS HE DIDN'T COME HOME AT ALL.

PJM2 B, p. 14/ NOTE

trim?!?!?!?!?!?

She waited until 7 and then she made herself a little supper. At about 10 he still hadn't come home. she was worried. She walked into a room, his study, which he told her never to enter, and there on his desk, she saw a sheet of paper, with a key lying on top of it.

LEE WROTE TO MARINA IN RUSSIAN.

"Here is the key to the post office box. You can throw out my clothing, but as for my personal papers I prefer you keep them. I left you as much money as I could.

PJM o/c

and then he said .."in case i'm in jail and then he explained where to find the jail" and she ahd no idea where he had gone and she stared to shake all over.

PAN WALKER WINDOWS

THAT EVENING, SOMEONE FIRED A SINGLE SHOT THROUGH THE WINDOW OF GENERAL WALKER'S STUDY.

WALKER

Looking the situation over, back there 40 steps behind me... dip sound...

Walker

GENERAL WALKER SURVIVED TO TELL WHAT HAPPENED.

WALKER oc

A bullet crashed through the window and just missed me. And it felt much grit and dirt in my hair. And my arm was laying on the desk and it was bleeding in 3 places, which turned out to be fragments from the shell casing.

WALKER STOCK FTG

CASE WALKS IN ALLEY

WALKER'S NEIGHBOR, CASE COLEMEN REMEMBERS THE SHOT HE HEARD WHEN HE WAS 14.

CASE WALKS/TALKS

I was in the den working on a school project with my st-ah, godfather, and ah, he was helpin' me out on the typewriter, and we heard this loud bang. I ran out this door here, and right up to the fence. At the time, the church had built a six foot stockade fence, but my uh kid sister's

CASE OVER FENCE / PAN

bicycle, lookin' over the fence, that's when I noticed the, the black Ford that was- had bee backed in here, driving off down the alley. And there was a fifty-eight Chevy sittin' over here, with a guy bent over the back seat throwin'

something on the floorboard, and he went down towards Turtle Creek.

CASE

I can see it now, is is I'm jumpin' up of- over the fence, lookin' over lookin' at this Ford drivin' off the other way. Lookin' at the fifty eight Chevy sittin' down there. It's very vivid.

HDLINE

BASED ON HIS ACCOUNT, THE DALLAS POLICE BEGAN LOOKING FOR SEVERAL SUSPECTS, WHICH WOULD SUGGEST A CONSPIRACY. BUT MARINA SAYS LEE TOLD HER A VERY DIFFERENT STORY.

PRISCILLA 2B, p. 15

Later that night, about 11:30 PM Lee came in covered with sweat and looking quite wild in the eyes. And he said " I shot walker"

Bus/PJM 2 B. p. 19/

Lee explained to marina that he had jumped on a bus, buried the rifle and then he'd taken another bus, and he said that when he took the bus, there they lose the scent.

PJM o/c

And the radio broadcast that a boy on the spot had seen one or two cars in the alley behind Walker's house. lee laughed. he exploded in to laughter and he said "Americans are so spoiled, they think you always have to have a car, whereas i got away on my own two feet."

BACKYD PHOTO ZI/NEG

THE WALKER CASE WOULD NOT BE RESOLVED UNTIL MARINA TOLD HER STORY AFTER THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION. NO CO-CONSPIRATORS WERE EVER FOUND.

(ALT)

THE WALKER CASE WOULD NOT BE RESOLVED UNTIL MARINA TOLD

HER STORY AFTER THE KENNEDY
ASSASSINATION AND THE
WALKER BULLET WAS
(SCIENTIFICALLY) LINKED TO THE
TYPE OF AMMUNITION OSWALD
USED. NO CO-CONSPIRATORS
WERE EVER FOUND.

(Alt: The Walker case would not be
solved until Marina was (retrieved)
and the bullet was scientifically linked
to the bullets in the Kennedy shooting.
No co-conspirators were ever (found),
and Lee was never questioned about
his first attempt at assassination.
:16-17

BUS

TWO WEEKS LATER, OSWALD
ABRUPTLY LEFT TOWN.

IN SEVEN MONTHS, HE WOULD
RIDE INTO THE HISTORY BOOKS.

BUT FOR NOW, HE WAS HEADED
HOME-- TO NEW ORLEANS

END END END PT 1

