

Mr. Steve August
68 Norfolk St.,
Needham, MA 02192

11/14/95

Dear Steve,

Your remark on my prompt reply to letters. I do reply to virtual^{ly} all because those who write me care and because the duty of a writer is to inform and he cannot always do that with books. If I do not reply promptly they accumulate. If I reply promptly they are less of an interference with my writing and I do write just about every day, to make a record for our history, with no publication in view. I have the obligation to use the knowledge I have acquired as best I can in the country's interest. It is this simple.

I'll copy and enclose the records I have at hand relating to how NEVER AGAIN! begins in the morning and I'll enclose them. The backstopping for the Afterword is at least three inches thick. If I had a college student to do the work I'd copy the whole thing for you. I'll see what I'm up to and will enclose that. I may not stand except very Briefly and those records are in a box atop file cabinets because I've run out of filing space and cannot use the stairs to the cellar where I do have a bit of file space. If you can find the time to tell me which of those records you'd like in time I'll get them done. The suppressed HSCA medical transcript is rather long, about 75 pages as I recall. I'll try to remember to make a list of those I send so as not to duplicate them if I can get some help on the copying.

To answer your questions, I have restricted myself to the official evidence almost entirely and have avoided theorizing for the reason explained in the beginning of NA! Most of those writing in the field know little or nothing about the official evidence and care little for it. They visualize themselves as Sherlock Holmeses. They in fact almost always make up what they say, often developing dubious sources for some of it. I believe we should not mislead the people, as most of the books do. Most of those theories, some of which are not even that, disregard the disqualification of them in the official evidence of the crime. Therefore, on occasion, I undertake to refute them. Mostly I ignore them, refuting only when it appears to be worth the time.

There are only two books I can recommend unstintingly. One is Sylvia Meagher's magnificent Accessories after the Fact. There was a Vintage reprint some years ago. A specialist in remainders named Hamilton in Connecticut once had copies of it. The other is perhaps the best simplification of all, Howard Roffman's Presumed Guilty. He wrote it when in high school, edited when a freshman at Penn, and unfortunately only few copies were printed. When he was in high school and college he used to spend summers here going over what I have. He is now with Lucas films. I do not know if he is a baseball fan but if he is maybe you can make a deal with him to get one if he still has some.

In varying degree all the others I've read are flawed, some virtually totally.

The Commission's hearings and exhibits are basic and important. I used them to disprove virtually all the Reports says. I think there were pangs of conscience when it was decided to publish a large ~~xxxxxx~~ batch of documents that were not exhibits. I understand that the hearings ^{only} are now available on a CD-Rom. About \$80.00.

Those I refer to ^{as} the House assassins never intended to do a real job. I learned this in my earliest contact with ~~and~~ them and was the source of most of the stories exposing them in their lifetime. I never asked for anonymity and they never even tried to refute what I said. It accomplished renewing interest in those two assassinations and did nothing really good in what they published. As you saw in the Afterword they suppressed much that was important. There may well be more of that but because I cannot travel I was limited to what friends gave me.

You will find the simplest proof that Oswald alone could not have done the shooting in WA! pages ~~xxxx~~ 301-4. The best shots in the country under vastly improved conditions could not do what he, a real duffer, is said to have done. I have that in less detail in my first book. It is in the published hearings and exhibits and almost everyone missed it.

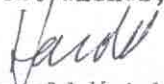
In what was gutted from Case Open I assembled all the Commission's evidence to prove that Oswald could not have been an assassin. He was not at the ^{alleged} scene of the crime at the time of the crime, he could not possibly have hidden that rifle and gotten to that lunchroom before Truly and the cop Baker. I could go on and on with this. My nonlawyer's belief is that there was not enough against him to let the case go to a jury. From the actual, official evidence only.

If you were writing a book you'd still be welcome to all the records I have. I have always made them available to all writing in the field. Aside from principle and belief, this is not a subject in which the country's interest can be served by claiming property rights and I never have.

I hope we are both here for next year's games and that it may be possible for Gil to take in a real major league game. She's seen them only on TV. If it is a day game I could go but I'm necessarily asleep before the night games begin. We have a cousin who is an Orioles fan and he would do the driving.

Glad you enjoyed Dutch's Daughter. It is one of the two restaurants we go to, The other is a former mom 'n pop Oriental restaurant, ~~Oriental~~ now only mom. People from all over the world have gone to both and been pleased.

Best wishes,


Harold Weisberg

November 9, 1995

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21702

68 Norfolk Street
Needham, MA 02192

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

You sure do respond promptly to letters. Thank you. I was glad to hear that you and Lil are doing fine. Whenever I get back to Frederick we will have to go to the Dutch's Daughter again for lunch. I enjoyed that.

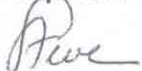
I would like to accept your offer to provide copies of the documents that the publisher did not want to use for the beginning of your book. The documents for the Afterward would also be appreciated. I'll be happy to reimburse for postage.

To the issue of the assassination... I know you refute many of the claims that several authors make, yet clearly your position is that "something is rotten in Denmark." Which works by other authors do you respect? What do you make of the Warren Commissions Hearings and Exhibits (not just the final Report)? What was accomplished by the House Committee's Investigation? What evidence exists that there were multiple gunmen? Was there enough evidence to convict Lee Harvey Oswald? Lots of questions.

I'm not writing a book (I don't have the time or money), but I do find the reading and the research interesting. I will occasionally go to the local college libraries to just flip through the twenty-six volumes of Warren Commission testimony.

Anyway, I enjoy corresponding with you, and I appreciate your time in writing to me. I know many of my questions must be rudimentary to you. Thanks again, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Respectfully,



Steven W. August