

Vincent Magliosi
663 Arbor St.,
Pasadena, CA 91105

8/9/99

Dear Vince, The night of the day I mailed the letter, laying awake and going back over the day, it came to me that I had made that mistake as I was wondering why you had not made the inquiry ^{before} ~~before~~ of all the military people in your area. Then I was embarrassed. My apologies.

When I have to sit with my legs up to type what I generally do is read the mail when it comes and reply when I've the time. In recent years I'd begun to use a highlighter to catch my eye but instead I have what I'm replying to on my night, on the desk. That time it was several hours after the mail had come and I'd gone over it.

If I recall correctly most of the testimony by the marines who had served with Oswald was in ^{8/} your ~~8/~~ I think that you give the wrong interpretation to Donovan's testimony that secret classification "was a minimum for all of us." He was not referring to that entire MACS outfit. He was referring to those who worked under him. and when he testified that secret clearance "was a minimum requirement for all of us" who worked under him, those five, he implies by saying that the minimum classification they all had was ~~secret~~ ^{that some had higher clearance} if that is the minimum, make ^{your} ~~your~~ own choice about what some had that was higher. I think it is obvious that if secret was the minimum he is saying that some had higher clearance than secret.

After my first couple ^{of} contacts with the HSCA ~~I~~ stayed away from them because what Blakey was up to was obvious. You should see some of what they had and suppressed!

Is it that unusual if the other four who worked with Oswald worked with a man whose security clearance is not in his service record that they also would not have it in their records?

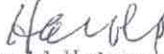
It is obvious that you are assuming Oswald's guilt without going over the official records that prove the opposite. Quite a bit of it was published but not all of it.

If you were in the service and had any connection with clearances you should be willing to believe that the knowledge Donovan ticked off that he said Oswald had required more than the minimum classification, ^{the lowest}.

From recollection, you read the marine testimony selectively or hastily, jumping around because a number of them did testify ~~that~~ that what they and Oswald did required secret clearance or more.

I hope that you are not ultimately embarrassed.

Thanks and best wishes,


Harold Weisberg

August 3, 1999

Dear Harold,

Regarding your last letter to me of July 29, 1999, it appears you did not closely read my last letter to you of July 26, 1999, in which I specifically say that I do intend (contrary to what you suggest) to make an effort on my own to see if there is any support for the allegation you made in your book "Case Opened" that Oswald had a Top Secret clearance in the Marines and this fact was expunged from his Marine records. Also, contrary to your letter, I said that because of your health and age I did not want you to make any further effort to get this information for me.

As far as Oswald's Marine colleagues are concerned, nowhere in their testimony or affidavits do they say, as you allege, that they or Oswald had a Top Secret or even Secret clearance. As far as Oswald's superior, LT. John Donovan, is concerned, he did testify that he assumed Oswald had a Secret (not Top Secret) clearance because, he said, "that was a minimum requirement for all of us." (8H298) But the HSCA found that Donovan's assumption was incorrect. They reviewed the files of four enlisted men who worked with Oswald and learned they each had only a Confidential clearance. See HSCA Report, page 219, and JFK Document # 013677. So unless I (or you)

can come up with controverting evidence, Oswald's
Confidential clearance, as set forth in his Marine
records (19 H 665) seems to be accurate.

About my being responsible and factual, I don't
think any true crime writer in America has a better
reputation than I for being both of these things, and I
don't intend to do anything to alter that reputation
with my book on the Kennedy assassination.

Harold, if there is any reference to you in
my book, it will be a respectful one, acknowledging
all the seminal research you have done into the
facts and circumstances surrounding the assassination
of President Kennedy. I don't put you into the
category of the Mark Taper, Robert Groden and Jim
Garrisons of this world.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Vince Bugliosi