

Comments on FBIHQ 62-109060 records mentioned in Paul Hoch's notes

Serial 859 is represented by a "Permanent Serial Charge Out" sheet of 11/30/63. The "Subject" is "June Mail," with only the identification of the assassination added. This is helpful in locating where these removed surveillance records are stored, "Has been removed and placed in the Special File Room of Records Branch."

There remains, of course, the question who's mail? (In Section 11)

Serial 1002, Section 13, is classic Hoover (in the note) and classic FBI in the leaking to Les Whitten of the coming FBI conclusions in its CD1. Hoover wrote on the story "I assume none of this is coming from FBI." DeLoach was no less sanctimonious, telling Mohr "We have given Les Whitten no information ~~whatsoever~~ whatsoever." Technically it was true. It was not information. DeLoach gilded the lily by quoting Whitten as saying "he had 'good sources.'" (PH- Hoover was not worried. You should heed their cover-the-ass method!)

Serial 1042, Section 13 is the Los Angeles forwarding of the Watley report. PH says "Davis= informant?" The equals mark is correct. The ? can be removed. Hall and Hemming are hand noted for 105 files, "Internal Security-Nationalistic Tendencies." The file on Davis is 134-6356. 134 = "Security Informants."

Serial 1094, Section 14 represents the forwarding of the borrowed Secret Service copy of the Zapruder film with a request for two dubs to be returned with it. HQ sent only 1 dub, with caution for official use only. The Dallas language is Eastman Kodak "...developed original negative and three copies for ZAPRUDER." Well, this does represent their knowledge of film. It was a positive that was developed. However, of possible significance is the failure to state the total number of copies the Eastman lab made. This is limited to three copies for Z. Says nothing about pirated copies, no Dallas secret.

Serial 1115, Section 14. PH says it is a copy of the story provided to Jeremiah O'Leary by Lt. Donovan, which is accurate. The DeLoach to Mohr memo says O'Leary left a copy of his story and suggested that Donovan be interviewed. He had not been. He was the next day. The story O'Leary left was not the printed copy. It is a copy of the uncorrected typed draft. A little out of the ordinary for a normal reporter being helpful. Partiotic, perhaps?

Serial 1132, Section 14 has two parts. The first suggests that they learn from Zapruder the speed at which his camera was going. This might account for the Barrett report, which gives the wrong speed. The second discusses the Walker bullet without any mention of scientific testing. Conrad (lab) refers only to how mutilated it was. (Dallas PD had already determined it was 30-caliber and hence not from the so-called Oswald rifle.) Conrad ignores this and lets it be believed that because of the mutilation it cannot be ~~determined~~ "whether the Walker slug had been fired from the assassination rifle." Getting a 30 cal through a 6.5 mm barrel would make it a truly magic bullet. As Marina said, that is the FBI for you.

Serial 1167, Section 15 inadvertently discloses that a Chicago political informer who provided the info on John Rossen a liberal. He was source not of FBI but of Mayor Daly's "social events." This is of interest to me because similar material, in great detail, reached the Minutemen, from who I obtained it years ago. I suggest the co-operation was between the Mayor's people or police and the MM source.

Serial 1188, Section 15, includes the unwanted information that there was a second Oswald helper in the Trade Mart lit. dist. project and what I do not recall from Steele's testimony, that Oswald told him at the outset the project would last only 15-20 minutes. (This would seem to indicate that Oswald expected TV coverage and at a certain time.) This TT coincides with what Steele and Jesse Core both told me about the third man. I am surprised, however, that it took a day for WWL to speak to the FBI and that the FBI appears not to have spoken to it after knowing from WDSU of the TV coverage. Core and Planer, News Director, WDSU TV, both told me that some footage had disappeared by the time the FBI returned the WDSU footage.

Memorandum

Tolson	_____
Belmont	_____
Mohr	_____
Casper	_____
Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
DeLoach	_____
Felt	_____
Gale	_____
Rosen	_____
Sullivan	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: December 2, 1963

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

REC-21

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

John F. Kennedy
9/11/63

Attached is a copy of a story authored by Jerry O'Leary, Jr., of *The Evening Star* playing up his interview with John K. Donovan, 29, of 2009 Belmont Road, Northwest, who was Lee H. Oswald's Commanding Officer in the Marine Corps for seven months. Donovan is a physics instructor at Ascension Academy, 4401 West Braddock Road, Alexandria (telephone 548-8106).

O'Leary left the attached copy of his story with us and suggested that if we have not done so we might want to have Donovan interviewed. He was thanked for his interest.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this memorandum be referred to the General Investigative Division for its consideration.

Handwritten signatures and initials:
W *MM* *A. J.* *...*

Enclosure

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Jones
- 1 - Mr. Morrell

REW:saj
(6)

Donovan interviewed by WFO - see WFO file for Bureau L.A., S. Sup. 12/3/63

62-109000-1115

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A Washington D.C. man who was Lee H. Oswald's ~~commanding~~ commanding officer in the Marines for ~~seventhsixmonths~~ seven months today said the accused assassin of President Kennedy was a supercilious wise guy who went out of his way to annoy people.

John K. Donovan, 29, of 2009 Belmont road N.W., a physics instructor at Ascension Academy, was a first ~~lieutenant~~ lieutenant in charge of a six-man section of a counter air operations center. Oswald, he said, was a private under his command ~~for~~ from March, 1, ~~1959~~ until ~~about~~ September, 1959.

"His revolt was against any kind of authority," said Mr. Donovan, ~~now a~~ now a Captain in Marine Air Control Squadron 24 on weekend reserve duty here. "He wasn't expelled from society. He expelled himself from it."

Mr. Donovan said Oswald's philosophy is best summed up in the slain Texas gunman's own oft-repeated words, "There are a few of us in the world who know what's going on. The majority haven't got any idea."

Oswald, according to his section commander, was an ~~officer-baiting~~ officer-baiting trouble-maker, who practiced the role so ~~assiduously~~ assiduously that the rest of the enlisted men warned him to cut it out lest he tar them with the same brush.

"He used to read most of the time," said Mr. Donovan, "History books, magazines and a Russian newspaper he used to get. He also spent a lot of time studying the Russian language. There^s were no pocket books or comics for him.

tr for lat add

"One of his tricks was to lay a trap for some officer, particularly a field grade officer if he could ~~possibly~~ catch one. He'd study up on some particular world political situation and then go up to the officer and say, 'Sir, could you please explain the ~~Marine situation~~ Venezuelan or ~~some~~ Cambodian situation situation, ~~with~~ sir.'

"He always put a 'sir' before and after speaking to an officer but he did it in such a supercilious, pointedly obsequious way that it became an insult rather than a courtesy.

"The poor officer would make a valiant attempt to answer the question, probably not knowing a whole lot about the specifics of whatever Oswald brought up. Then, Oswald would turn to me and say, 'Sir, what do you think of that, sir?'

"I knew what he was up to. He was just trying to show off his superior knowledge. He was smart enough. You have to have a GCT (general classification test) score of 110 to get into radar. That's the same score for getting a commission. But you could tell he was a self-educated man because there were rough edges to his knowledge."

Mr. Donovan recalled that he had to ask Oswald to get off the Marine Air Control Squadron 9 football team during the tour of duty at the lighter-than-air base atustin, Calif., near the big El Toro Marine air base.

"He played end for me," said his commander. "But he screwed up the squad so badly I had to ask him off the squad. I so happened we had a pretty good college player named Tib Czick, who was a captain, as quarterback.

"Oswald kept talking back in the huddle, and demanding to know why an officer was running the team and ~~was~~ criticizing the plays."

Oswald, who was 20 years old then, antagonized everybody ~~but~~ by saying things like, "If the Marines are so smart, why don't they recognize guys like me?" Mr. Donovan said Oswald always ~~maintained~~ claimed he knew more than ~~the~~ 90 per cent of the officers and non-coms. He was dependable on watch, when it was his duty to scan the radar scope for aircraft but in the long slack periods he rarely associated ~~himself~~ with the others in the section.

"I heard about him before I ever met him," Mr. Donovan said. "I had a friend, a lieutenant named Bill Trail who was the O.D. in Japan when Oswald got in trouble there. He told me how Oswald had gotten drunk and cursed an officer. We also knew about his court martial for not reporting that he owned a pistol.

"Trail knew Oswald was going to be in my outfit and warned me, ~~HEHEH~~ 'This guy is a talker. He's out of his mind.'

"I also dated an airline stewardess about that time and found out from her that she had been dating Oswald. She told me, 'That guy is a real nut.'"

When Oswald requested and received a hardship discharge in September, 1959, because his mother needed financial aid, Mr. Donovan said the other men in the squadron offered to help. He turned them down curtly, Mr. Donovan said.

A month later, word reached the squadron that Oswald had defected to the Soviet Union, that he had turned up ~~nowhere~~ in Moscow ~~and~~ signed an instrument of allegiance to the USSR.

"That compromised all our secret radio frequencies, call signs and authentication codes," said Mr. Donovan. "He knew the location of every unit on the West Coast and the radar capability of every installation. We had to spend thousands of man-hours changing everything, all the ~~communications frequencies~~ tactical frequencies and ~~verify~~ verify the destruction of all the codes."/>

"Oswald was a very unpopular man that month."

• Mr. Donovan is a graduate of Georgetown University Foreign Service School and studied physics/after his three-and-a-half years of active duty ended.