

MEMORANDUM

KP
Thornley, Kerry
Wendell

IN V Y

DATE: May 27, 1964

① TO: Mr. Melvin A. Eisenberg

FROM: Mr. Albert B. Jenner, Jr.

RE: Kerry Wendell Thornley

Delivered herewith are the originals of the three Thornley Exhibits. Exhibit No. 1 is to be printed.

Exhibits Nos. 2 and 3 are not to be printed. They are:

Exhibit No. 2 -- This is an autobiographical novel written by Thornley in which the central character is one "Johnny Shellburn," a "mythical Marine", whose inspiration was Lee Harvey Oswald. The novel was completed in February 1962. It is unpublished.

Thornley testified that the evidence given by him on his deposition covered fully adequately and factually Thornley's contacts with and views concerning Oswald, and that, therefore, it appeared to him that there was nothing in the book that had not already been placed in the record in the course of his deposition insofar as concerned any issue involving Oswald being investigated by the Commission.

Exhibit No. 3 -- This is an incomplete novelette which Thornley completed writing after the assassination. "Johnny Shellburn" is its central character and Thornley, in his testimony, likened the fictional character to Oswald, but stated frankly that Exhibit No. 3 is so completely fictional and imaginative that it did not, in his opinion, merit study by the Commission or the Commission staff.

Exhibits Nos. 2 and 3 did not come into our possession until the day Mr. Thornley's deposition was taken. Inasmuch as they are lengthy documents (especially Thornley Exhibit No. 2), I did not have an opportunity to do more than identify them in the record. I have read each of them since that time. I am of the opinion that the aspects of Thornley Exhibit No. 2 pertinent to our investigation were fully brought out in the course of Thornley's deposition and that we should not print that exhibit.

Files

I also agree that Thornley Exhibit No. 3 is so fictional that it is, for all practical purposes, of no value to the Commission's investigation.

The Thornley Exhibit Nos. 2 and 3 should be lodged with Archives.