

Peter Dale Scott/Jones Harris alliance; Oswald-Imposter; Robert Anson 8/1/75

Anson has a "Special to The (Sacramento) Bee" article headed "How Many Oswalds?" in the issue of May 18. He uses what he says is the material of these two, "Scott and his partner; J.G.Harris, a New Yorker..."

Although anyone could have collected the same material, this seems rather much like some work done for me by Shirley Orr. I gave it to Garrison, whence the world. Harris copied everything possible and took it with him.

There is nothing new in this piece, not remotely. Even the errors of the NYTimes Franklin piece on Hoover and the alleged withholding from the staff is repeated. Harris personally knows better from the TV show we did together on WTTG.

What there is in this that require Harris to have any "partner" is not visible.

There is little doubt he could have given the same material to Anson himself.

(Can this be a piece Anson did for New Times, which would not use it? It hardly pays to write such a piece for a single paper.)

Without some explanation the whole thing, especially the "partnership" seems strange.

It can be that Harris is trying to trade on Scott's name but this does not explain Scott's willingness.

Or the ethics of presenting an old theory widely considered years ago as their own and an original one.

Harris started working this "imposter" and "Warren suppressed from his staff" line in September or October 1974, according to what Franklin told me. It is a line for which the staff, obviously, has every reason to go. Thus there is the repeat from the Times that Slawson is "one of the lawyers who did not see the [sic] memorandum. Well, this was Slawson's area; there were numerous memos; Slawson, with Coleman, filed a long report including analysis of the State and other information on Oswald's foreign travels; only one was even classified (confidential); and there not only is no reason to believe any was ever withheld from the staff - there is every reason to believe none were. To have done that would have been foolishly risky. The safer course was the general practise: to work around factual and conjectural problems.

More perplexing still is the fact that this is a b.s.-rehash piece that lacks what could easily have been included to make it better, old and new stuff. It either was left out or it is being held back for other purposes for which this could be a puffing. Example: little-know material on a domestic "imposter." Hoch certainly has plenty of this and Harris knows of the other non-secret memos on this I used to his face. Bolton Ford would have been an ideal one and if Harris hadn't known it he did after seeing me use it on the TV show.

Anson seems to be tending to specializing in this field. It is possible he is selling the same conjecture/conspiratorial stories around the country.

How Many Oswalds?

By Robert Anson
Special to The Age

Who was Lee Harvey Oswald?

The perpetrator of the crime of the century, the Warren Commission said, a deranged young man who, acting alone, murdered John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

Or was he?

Critics of the Warren Commission have always maintained that Oswald did not act alone, that he was part of a conspiracy, or, according to some of them, innocent of the crime altogether.

Now, amid the mounting interest in a re-examination of the Kennedy assassination, two researchers, using photographic and medical evidence, have come to perhaps the most startling con-

clusion of all: That the identity of Lee Harvey Oswald was used not by one person, but by several. There was, in short, one or more Oswald impostors.

Based on the material we have seen, it seems highly possible that at some point in time before the assassination, Lee Harvey Oswald became a set of documents, a cover identity to be used by one or more intelligence agencies, explains Peter Dale Scott, an English professor at the University of California at Berkeley who has been researching the assassination since 1960.

Scott and his partner, J.G. Harris, a New Yorker who has been studying the Kennedy case since 1964, add that the existence of at least one Oswald impostor

These two photos of Lee Harvey Oswald are cited by those who believe the impostor theory. The Oswald in Minsk, circa 1960, has a hairline, chin, and facial fullness differing from the Oswald arrested in Dallas in November 1963.

make it probable that the Lee Harvey Oswald who was arrested in Dallas Nov. 22, and was himself slain two days later, did not fire the bullets which killed President Kennedy and seriously wounded Texas Gov. John Connally.

Scott and Harris base their impostor theory on a series of photographs of Oswald taken in Minsk, Russia, where Oswald resided for more than two years after his defection to the Soviet Union in 1959, along with eyewitness testimony and a compilation of physical descriptions, including several front-view profiles and passport records.

Two of the Minsk photographs show a man who, according to Harris, appears to have a markedly fuller hairline than Os-



In Minsk, circa 1960.

wald's. In addition, the man in the photograph, Harris says, seems to have a fuller face and a broader, less pointed chin than the Oswald who was arrested in Dallas.

The Minsk photographs

were initially regarded as a "problem," according to Alfred Goldberg, a former staff lawyer for the Warren Commission. But, after a brief investigation, the possibility of an Oswald impostor was discarded as a "pri-



In Dallas, November 1963.

ivate rumor."

What lends additional substance to the impostor theory, Scott and Harris contend, is a third Minsk photograph, which shows Oswald standing on a bridge beside his Russian-

born wife Marina Prusakova, the niece of a high-ranking Soviet intelligence Officer.

In the photograph, Oswald is standing half a page

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in front of his wife, who appears to be wearing one-inch heels. In height, Oswald seems just a shade taller than his wife, who, according to Soviet records, stands a hair under 5'3" tall. After accounting for the additional height provided by Marina's heels, Scott and Harris say, Oswald would appear to be 5'5" or 5'6" tall.

Two men who met Oswald immediately upon his return to the United States

from the Soviet Union on June 13, 1962, state that the Oswald they encountered stood about 5 feet 6 inches tall. The men were Clary E'f empierre, and Spas Raikin, both former officials for Traveller's Aid.

"He was my height, I am certain of that," Raikin, who stands 5-foot-6, recalled in a recent interview. "There was no significant difference between his (Oswald's) height and that of his wife."

Various physical exami-

nations of Oswald taken during the last seven years of his life are also at odds. On Oct. 15, the date of Oswald's enlistment in the Marine Corps, for instance, his height is listed as 5 feet 8 inches. On Sept. 3, 1959, the date of Oswald's discharge, he was measured by Marine doctors as 5 feet 11 inches tall. Yet, at his autopsy, Nov. 24, 1963, Oswald was measured as 5 feet 9 inches tall.

The only explanation for the multiple descriptions of Oswald's height, Scott and Harris contend, is the existence of different-sized Oswald impostors, each of whom bear a superficial resemblance to the "real" Oswald.

"The photographs, the physical examinations, the eyewitness testimony all point to the existence of at least one Oswald impostor," says Harris. "The historical Oswald — The Oswald who was born Oct. 18, 1939 in New Orleans, who went into the Marine Corps and was eventually arrested and killed in Dallas — is one man. The man who arrives in the Soviet Union is someone else. The man who comes back to this country on a ship that docks at Hoboken, New Jersey could not have been the historical Oswald."

To Harris and Scott, the likeliest motive for the multiple Oswalds is their employment in intelligence

work, probably with the CIA. What their mission was, or how their identities were switched, Scott and Harris say they do not know. They speculate, though, that at some point before the assassination, an Oswald impostor was used to incriminate the real Oswald in Kennedy's murder.

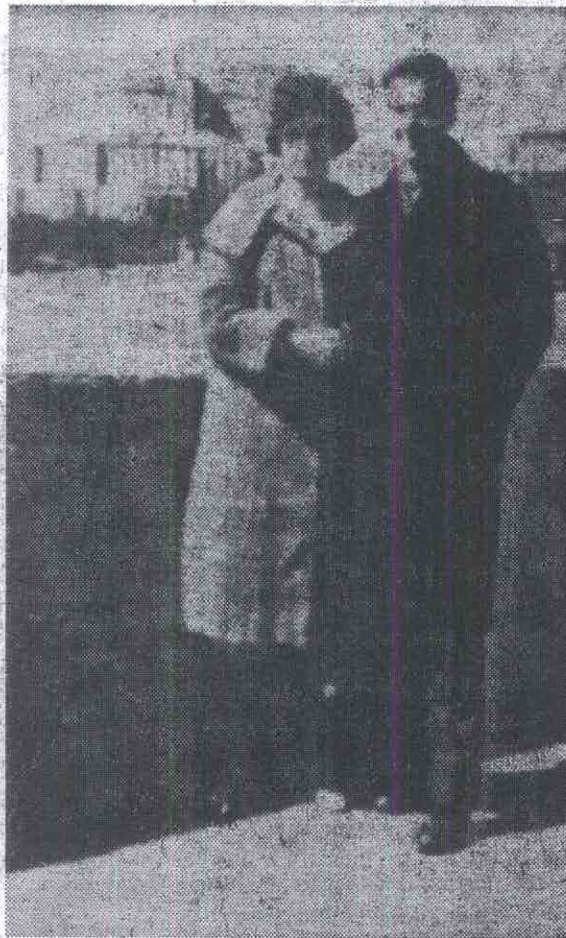
Complex as the Scott-Harris theory seems, sources familiar with the workings of intelligence agencies acknowledge that the use of physical look-alikes is relatively common in intelligence work.

Other critics of the Warren Commission, notably Richard Popkin, a St. Louis college professor and author of *The Second Oswald*, have noted that on several occasions in the months immediately preceding the assassination, a man claiming to be Lee Harvey Oswald appeared at places in and around Dallas, while,

according to the Warren Commission, the "real" Lee Harvey Oswald was somewhere else, in one case, several hundred miles distant.

The CIA itself exhibited some confusion about Oswald's identity more than a month before the assassination, when Oswald was allegedly in Mexico City, seeking a visa for travel to Cuba. On Oct. 10, 1963, the CIA cabled several government agencies for information and pictures of Lee "Henry" Oswald, whom the CIA cable described as "approximately 35 years old with an athletic build, about six feet tall with a receding hairline." At the time, the real Oswald was a slightly-built 23-year-old.

Later, the CIA produced pictures of Lee "Henry" Oswald taken by a hidden camera in Mexico City. They bore no resemblance to Lee Harvey Oswald. The CIA's explanation for the affair was that it was a,



This photo, identified by the Warren Commission as Lee Harvey Oswald and his wife, Marina, shows the man to be just a shade taller than the woman, who appears to be wearing heels. Investigators say the man would be 5-feet-5 or 5-feet-6, yet U.S. Marine doctors measured Lee Harvey Oswald at 5-feet-11 and at his autopsy, doctors said, he was 5-feet-9.

"mixup."

The possibility of an impostor using Oswald's identity was referred to by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover more than 2½ years before the assassination. In a memorandum to the State Department dated June 3, 1960, Hoover warned that an impostor might be using Oswald's identity and birth certificate. Subsequently, two internal State Department memoranda repeated Hoover's concern, and the U.S. Embassy in Moscow was instructed to return Oswald's passport only after he had completed his plans for departure from the Soviet Union and his identity had been personally confirmed by an Embassy officer.

The Hoover memorandum was referred to briefly by the Warren Commission. But the full text of the

memorandum, along with the State Department memos, was apparently concealed from all but two of the Warren Commission's staff lawyers: University of Southern California law professor David Slawson, one of the lawyers who did not see the memoranda, recently called for a new investigation into the assassination.

The Rockefeller Commission on the CIA is, according to sources close to the commission, probing previously unexplained aspects of Oswald's background, as well as material which the CIA may have withheld from the Warren Commission.

Lee Harvey Oswald himself, only hours before his own murder, was quite definite about his identity. "I," he said, "am a patsy."