

Dallas Times Herald 9-6-80

Marina fears Oswald's body not in grave

By JULIA WALLACE

Staff Writer

FORT WORTH — Lee Harvey Oswald's widow told a district court judge here Friday that she now believes her husband's body may be missing from his grave and argued that digging it up is the only way to know for certain.

"I strongly believe that there is a possibility the body is not there," Marina Oswald Porter testified in a suit filed by her brother-in-law to prevent the exhumation.

Outside the courtroom, sources said documents have been discovered, showing that the Warren Commission considered removing the body of Oswald, the alleged assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

Sources said the documents recently surfaced and concerned Mrs. Porter and others.

The documents — a transcript of a portion of the Warren Commission hearings during the investigation of the assassination and a letter from then-U.S. Atty. Barefoot Sanders — show that the possibility of removing



Marina Oswald Porter

the body from Oswald's grave had been discussed. Commission members considered either cremating it or hiding it in a mausoleum.

See OSWALD on Page 14

9/16/50
New Warren documents cited

OSWALD — From Page One

The documents do not indicate what, if any, action was taken, but in the transcript, the members agreed that any action should not be put officially on the record.

Mrs. Porter, who arrived in court 45 minutes early and left by a fire escape to avoid reporters, said in a written statement to the court that she wants the body exhumed as soon as possible to keep her from "hanging on a limb."

Robert Oswald, the brother of her deceased husband, has asked the court to stop the exhumation, saying he would suffer mental anguish.

The exhumation effort has been spearheaded by British author Michael Eddowes and his attorneys. Eddowes, in his book, "The Oswald File," contends that Oswald, a former Marine, was switched with a Soviet spy when Oswald defected to the Soviet Union in 1959. He returned to the United States in 1962, a year-and-a-half before Kennedy's assassination.

Mrs. Porter, a Soviet native, met Oswald in the Soviet Union.

"The man I married is the man I buried," she told Dist. Judge James Wright and a packed courtroom. "I have no doubt it's the same person."

She said she signed a consent for the exhumation on Aug. 8 after persistent efforts by Eddowes's attorney, Jerry Pittman.

Then, she said she wanted "to call Mr. Eddowes' bluff," and prove that the body in the grave in Fort Worth marked Oswald is that of Lee Harvey Oswald. In court Friday, she said, "I want to more strongly defend my position."

She said she was concerned that the body may not be in the grave, because she signed a document setting up an electronic device to guard the site. But when the tombstone was stolen about a year after the burial, no alarm went off, she said.

She said she would continue to suffer unless the body is exhumed.

Her brother-in-law, Robert Oswald, however, testified that he would suffer if the body was ex-

humed, saying it would "prevent me from leading a normal life."

Despite testimony before the Warren Commission in 1964 that his brother's hair and complexion were slightly different after returning from the Soviet Union, Robert Oswald said he believed the body in the grave is that of his brother.

He said he identified his brother at an open casket funeral on Nov. 25, 1963.

Robert Oswald contends that he paid \$710 for the funeral and burial plot and should have a say in whether the body is exhumed. He testified that he made all the arrangements because the widow could speak little English.

Eddowes' attorney, John E. Collins Jr., continually asked the court to ignore the payment vouchers, saying a deed or title would show clearer ownership. Attorneys in the case say the deed for the cemetery plot is in the name of Marguerite Oswald, mother of Lee Harvey Oswald.

In other testimony, Paul Groody of Miller Funeral Home, who made the funeral arrangements for Oswalds, said he took "extraordinary precautions" in embalming the body so it would be in good shape if ever exhumed.

If the body is exhumed, experts plan to look at three discrepancies Eddowes has pointed out. The author, who has been spent years and \$250,000 on the case, contends the autopsy at Oswald's death showed he was 2 inches shorter than other records show and there was no comment of a scar or bone missing from an operation Oswald underwent as a child. Experts also plan to take dental X-rays of the body and compare them with his military records.

At the hearing Friday, Robert Oswald's attorneys rested their case after three hours of testimony. The hearing will continue Monday.