

# Description of Oswald: A Lonely, Bitter Loser

By James R. Dickenson  
Washington Star Staff Writer

In early 1963, shortly after she moved from the Soviet Union to the United States, Marina Oswald made this assessment in her broken English of her American husband, Lee Harvey Oswald: "Me like America. Lee no like Russia. Lee, no like America. Lee like the moon."

That was an apt if inadvertent metaphor. The moon, a cold, lifeless, pockmarked planetary hanger-on, is an apt simile for Oswald, the assassin of President John F. Kennedy, if the description of him by his former associates in the FBI raw files is any indication.

His testimony is in 40,000 pages of documents made public yesterday. They reinforce the image of Oswald as a lonely, bitter, scruffy loser who lived in poverty on the fringe of society while nurturing dreams of fame, or notoriety, and intellectual achievement.

Oswald realized his dream of notoriety by assassinating Kennedy. He is described by his acquaintances (he apparently had few if any friends) as a man who beat, slapped and otherwise mistreated his wife and whose development as a social misfit is steadily chronicled, beginning with his being repeatedly sent to the principal's office in grade school for arguing with his teachers over the concept of political democracy.

**HIS WIFE AND** acquaintances indicated Oswald had early dreams of violence and previous attempts at assassination. His wife, Marina, is described in the FBI files as telling how her "crazy" husband tried to assassinate Maj. Gen. Edwin Walker, a noted right-wing political leader, in Dallas about eight months before the Kennedy assassination.

Oswald, according to the FBI report, escaped from the Walker shooting scene on foot and by bus, as he did after the Kennedy assassination, after reportedly deciding that this would allow him to outwit police in patrol cars.

Wald's life show up early. A cousin describes him as "outgoing as a child, but he built up strong beliefs against everything."

From there it all runs downhill in the FBI files. Oswald attended several schools as his mother moved from New Orleans to Texas. While in the third to sixth grades in the Arlington Heights Elementary School he was described by a classmate as one who "laughed a lot but was laughed at by all the others."

It was at Arlington Heights in the late 1940s that Oswald was sent to the principal by his social studies teacher because of his defiant rejections of the theory of political democracy.

He dropped out of high school in 1956 to enlist in the Marine Corps.

In the Marine Corps he was also known as a "loner" and "the kid who doesn't talk." He was known in New Orleans and took liberty by himself in New Orleans.

On the troop ship to Japan he read Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass" and "The Age of Reason" along with playing some low stake poker.

He told one service acquaintance that the Marine Corps "teaches a person only how to kill, and you can become a good gangster later on in life."

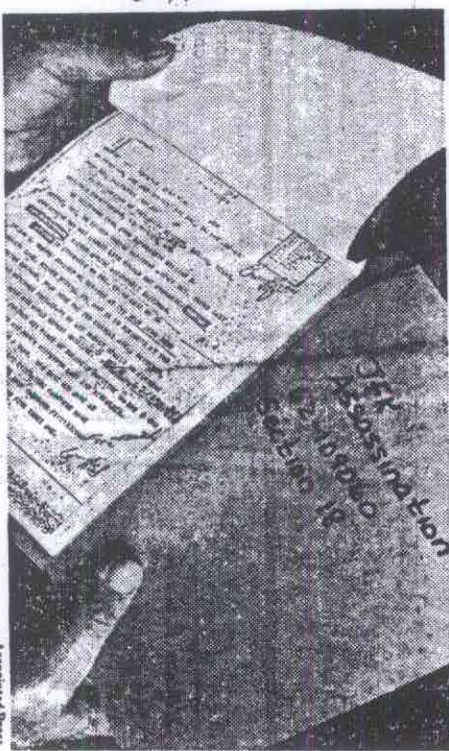
In Japan, his Marine Corps acquaintances said, he had a girlfriend who was probably a Japanese prostitute, and there are stories that he was court martialed for varying offenses such as hitting a non-commissioned officer, hitting a fellow Marine with a bottle and fighting a brig guard.

By all accounts he resented Marine Corps discipline, was irritated by orders from superiors and sneered at the Marine Corps tradition of a esprit de corps.

Oswald was a radar technician who threatened to give U.S. radar "secrets" to the Russians when he went to Russia after his discharge. While in the Marine Corps, his fellow



Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby: Their lives detailed amid FBI files.



Rich Investigative detail found in FBI packets released yesterday.

Marines told the FBI, he had undergone psychiatric examination in Japan and that he had tried to shoot himself in the leg with a .22 caliber rifle, which they interpreted as an attempt to get an early discharge.

There is little known about Oswald's three years in Russia during which he met and married Marina while he was working in a factory in Minsk. According to her testimony and that of others, he did not like Russia.

**HE COMPLAINED** that Russians were "repressed" by their political governors and described his life in the Russian factory as one of long hours, low pay and no time off.

He complained bitterly that the Russian government delayed his re-

turn to the United States with his new wife. When he returned to America, however, life did not improve.

In October 1962 he went to work for a company in Dallas that did photographic work and provided graphic supplies for printers and graphic arts companies.

He lasted six months as a trainee whose job was to make photographic enlargements and reductions, but was fired because his work never improved.

**OSWALD'S NEIGHBORS** described him as a man who frequently slapped and beat his wife and who publicly denounced her as being dirty and lazy. He was generally unfriendly to neighbors and often quarreled loudly with his wife.

# Ruby Circle of Friends: From Police to Peelers

By Jeremiah O'Leary  
Washington Star Staff Writer

Jack Ruby was a man who lived on the seamy edges of society, a man who gained notoriety when he gunned down the assassin of President John F. Kennedy, a man whose life is detailed in thousands of pages of FBI documents.

The newly released raw files of the FBI include five cartons of material about the life of Ruby. In browsing through those records, it sometimes seems that everyone who had ever come into contact with Ruby was given a full field investigation by the FBI simply because he knew Ruby in school or had been part of his South Side Chicago milieu before he moved to Texas to become a nightclub owner.

Ruby's reputation is as a cantankerous and volatile man who acted as his own bouncer in the Carousel nightclub in Dallas. It is backed up by details in the FBI files, but the essential outlines are not much different now than they seemed in 1963 when he shoved a pistol into the stomach of Lee Harvey Oswald and fired as scores of policemen and millions of television viewers looked on.

**RUBY WENT TO his grave** insisting that he was not involved in a conspiracy to silence Oswald, that he shot Oswald on the spur of the moment to spare Kennedy's widow the ordeal of coming to a trial, and that he did not know Oswald or slay Dallas Police Pvt. J.D. Tippitt. He insisted until cancer put an end to his life that he suffered a blackout and does not remember the actual shooting on Nov. 24, 1963.

But the FBI meticulously recorded the comments of hundreds of people who knew Ruby back in Chicago, in his World War II service in the Army Air Corps, his hustling existence trying to make a buck and be a big shot and his later years as owner of one of the sleazier bars in the Dallas tenderloin.

His circle of acquaintances was surprisingly wide. Ruby was known by most of the policemen in Dallas because he was a police buff who liked to have policemen in his joint and who hung around the police station as a "gofer."

**THE FBI FILES** indicate that neither the mob nor the police had any high regard for Ruby. He was a quintessential small-time operator, but in his circle he had some clout. He knew girls named Tawney Angel, Darling Star, Kathy Kay and Tami True who take off the clothes for a living and will drink with a customer who buys champagne.

People in Dallas who knew him said he really had all he wanted: acceptance and a place in the scheme of things. That's why Ruby always carried a bankroll, cash, in his somewhat outdated suits. And when he had money, he also carried a .38-caliber Smith and Wesson pistol. It is not an uncommon thing to do in Texas, and no license is needed.

He was doing two typical things when he left the apartment he shared with George Senator on the morning of Nov. 24, 1963: He was going to send \$25 to one of his girls who was broke 30 miles away in Fort Worth, and he had his gun.