

Dear Emory,

11/12/87

Your persistence is truly commendable! As is your thoughtfulness, for which thanks. If we have to refer to what you sent, I'm keeping it as you sent it behind my Oswald-Keesler file.

It was, in my day at least, true that men were assigned to military units for almost bookkeeping purposes only so I believe he was never in that unit. Note that when he left Keesler the record show he was assigned to Marines HQ in DC but he was never there. That was for reassignment.

It seems to me that while the original Marines testimony before the Commission may have been based on less than a full search for Oswald's records, at some point, if only for historical and cover-the-ass purposes all would have been at one point. I don't recall whether Folson said he had 100% of the records.

So, when in touch with HQ, why not ask for a search of their historical archives?

We know that originally HQ had so little the Oswald records there did not include what HQ assumed he had, security clearance. They assumed confidential. The FBI looked that then and reported no security clearance. We don't know if they would regard what we do as logical, but it would seem that pretty soon they sought all records of everywhere Oswald had been. What they did with them is the question.

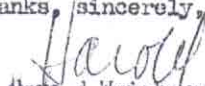
I don't think these would have been essential to the action that changed the kind of discharge Oswald had but asking there might help some.

If your letter asking about Powers gets no answer, why not write him at that address and ask that your letter be forwarded? If you didn't get it back it was delivered. I don't know anyone in that part of Calif. but maybe someone there can locate him for you.

Another approach: why not ask the Marines, HQ, for all records relating to the identification, location, study and forwarding of records on or about LHO? They must have kept a file. Include Folson in your request, his records. Such papers might be filed elsewhere and not surface on search. Like under the Commission.

Remember also, that while the Commission's work does not indicate that any investigation was made after the alleged defection, there certainly had to have been one. So, another item for FOIA request. The records of that investigation might hold the other missing records.

Again thanks, sincerely,


Harold Weisberg

9 November 1987

Dear Hal:

Here is an update on my efforts regarding Oswald at Keesler.

After nearly ten years the Marine Corps has finally told me what 1st Armor Amphibian Company notation on Oswalds Student Record means. According to them, he was attached to this Reserve unit only for record purposes and was not actually an active member of same. Further inquiries of them as to what records were maintained by that unit and where they are have brought no response from the individual who answered my initial request. I have now made an FOIA request for any such records.

to DC HQ

Another request to Keesler AFB for the Student Records of all six Marines including Oswald again brought the initial reply that such records were destroyed ten years after the men had graduated from the course as per regulations. A follow-up letter with copy of Oswalds Student Record attached to show them that they weren't fooling anyone has caused the matter to be transferred to Randolph AFB which informed me that they will contact the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis in an effort to locate them. I already know that they won't find Oswalds records there for they are in the care of the Commandant of the Marine Corps in Washington, D.C.

Daniel Powers who was one of the six marines in Oswalds Keesler group testified before the WC and read into the record information from his travel orders from Jacksonville to Keesler. The information contained in his testimony is in contrast to that published by the Government in the "official" Oswald service records. Powers testimony indicates that he reported to a different Squadron, took a different course and received a different MOS rating than Oswald and than he is shown to have in the Oswald service records published in the WC Exhibits. Today I have managed to trace Powers to a school in California but have not received any reply from the school or Powers as yet. Someone should get to him while he can still be gotten to.

Inquiries to the Defense Department, Marine Corps and Air Force as to the nature of the Keesler courses taken and MOS ratings given in the Official record and in Powers testimony have met with no response to date. Is it possible that they might have screwed up here?

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Best regards,

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Emory Brown