

or confidential information he may have gained during his military service.

The day after he arrived at his mother's one-room apartment in Fort Worth, he informed her that he was going to "board a ship and work in the export-import business." When she tried to talk him out of it, he told her his mind was made up and, "If I stay here, I will get a job for about \$35 a week, and we will both be in the position that you are in." He visited Robert and his family at their home—where he altered his explanation somewhat by saying he had plans to go to New Orleans and "work for an export firm." He said nothing about boarding a ship. After two days at home he left for New Orleans, where he booked passage on the freighter *Marion Lykes* bound for France. On the steamship company's application form he described himself as a "shipping export agent." From New Orleans he wrote Marguerite:

I have booked passage on a ship to Europe. I would have had to, sooner or later, and I think it's best I go now. Just remember above all else that my values are different from Robert's or yours. It is difficult to tell you how I feel. Just remember this is what I must do. I did not tell you about my plans because you could hardly be expected to understand.

During the first days at sea Oswald spent most of his time pacing back and forth on deck. There were only three other passengers aboard: a retired army colonel and his wife, and a 17-year-old student, Billy Joe Lord. They found their fellow passenger to be vague about his travel itinerary and bitter about life in the United States. He complained about his mother's circumstances, the fact that she had to work in a drugstore to get by. When he saw that Billy Joe, his roommate, had brought a Bible, he said he couldn't see how anyone could believe in God in light of the findings of modern science, since "anyone with intelligence would recognize there was only matter."

From Le Harve, France, Oswald sailed to Southampton, England, where he told customs officials he planned to stay in Britain for one week before proceeding to school in Switzerland. On the same day he flew to Helsinki. *By the way Oswald is not a student, he is a Communist Party member.* Oswald arrived in Moscow around the time of his twentieth birthday, in October 1959. Shortly thereafter, he told his Intourist interpreter, Rimma Shirokova, that he wanted to become a Soviet citizen. She helped him write a letter to the Supreme Soviet requesting citizen-

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ship. But at that point the Soviet bureaucracy took control. When his six-day visa expired, Oswald was informed he would have to leave the country immediately. And since the Russians were not interested, he would have to return to the United States. Oswald went back to his hotel room, considered the situation for a few hours, and cut himself above his left wrist.

Although the Warren Report cautiously called it "an apparent suicide attempt," there is reason to believe that this incident was another one of Oswald's dramatic manipulations. He knew that Rimma was scheduled to arrive at his hotel room within the hour and would find him. The hospital records, provided by the Soviets after the assassination, state that his injury was "light" and that Oswald told his doctor he had cut his wrist to "postpone his departure" from the Soviet Union. In fact, this "apparent suicide attempt" was similar to the minor gunshot wound Oswald had inflicted on himself in Japan. Each incident seemed to have had the same purpose—to avoid being sent where he did not want to go. The emotion expressed was probably not suicidal despair but an extraordinary willfulness—a determination to act decisively and even violently to manipulate events.

The stratagem worked, at least for a while. After being released from the hospital, Oswald was transferred to another hotel, although his tourist visa had expired. His diary claims he was interviewed by a new set of Soviet officials the same afternoon. They asked him to describe the other officials he had seen, and took notes. But these bureaucrats also put him off. Several factors must have entered into their decision—among them, Oswald's evident unpredictability and the overall political situation. While Oswald was sailing to Europe, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev had been touring the United States after meeting with President Eisenhower at Camp David. The world press was heralding a potential thaw in the Cold War.

Priscilla Johnson thought the Soviets were suspicious of all foreigners, including those whose ideological credentials were unquestionable—as, of course, Oswald's were not. Having never joined the Communist party, he had no ideological record. One of the questions the second group of officials asked him was, "What documents do you have to show who and what you are?" The only thing Oswald could produce was his Marine Corps honorable discharge.

After waiting for three days without getting an answer, Oswald decided to take action again. He went to the American Embassy and attempted to sign away his citizenship. As a non-American he couldn't have been forced to return to the United States—it would

These are reasons of fact to believe Oswald was not a Communist Party member.

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- 72-73. Allen R. Felde's recollection: XXIII, 797.
73. U-2s at Aisugi seen by radar crew, briefings: Epstein, *Legend*, 55, 279-280 n. 1. (In the late 1970s Epstein interviewed dozens of the men who had served with Oswald in the Marines.)
- Bristling at Young officers: Epstein, *Legend*, 68.
- Powers on Oswald: VIII, 288.
74. Bar girls: Epstein, *Legend*, 70-71.
- Gunshot wound and court-martial: *Ibid.*, 72-73; WR, 683; VIII, 319-320.
- 74-75. Second court-martial: WR, 684; Epstein, *Legend*, 78-79.
75. Comment on getting out of brig: Epstein, *Legend*, 79.
- Claimed met Communists in Japan: IX, 242-243; XI, 172-173.
- Began studying Russian: WR, 684.
- 75-76. Guard duty incident: Epstein, *Legend*, 81-82; WR, 684.
76. Radar crew: WR, 684.
- 76-77. Donovan's comments on Oswald: VIII, 290-293, 297, 295, 293.
77. Delgado on officer-baiting: VIII, 265.
78. "Pursue Russian": VIII, 297.
- Pro-Russian behavior: VIII, 322, 323, 315-316.
- Subscriptions to Russian paper and *Worker*: VIII, 323, 315, 320, 242.
- Critics on pro-Russian behavior: Anson, 158; Summers, 149.
- Donovan on Oswald's politics: WR, 686.
- 78-79. Captain Block: Interview with Epstein reported in *Legend*, 86.
- "Unjustly put upon": XI, 100.
- Delgado on helping Castro: VIII, 233.
- Exile raids on Dominican Republic, other countries: Halperin, 320-321.
- Morgan's background: Epstein, *Legend*, 88, 285-286 n. 2.
- Delgado on Morgan and leading expeditions: VIII, 240.
- "Do away with Trujillo": VIII, 241.
- Learning Spanish: WR, 687; VIII, 241.
80. Oswald on Cuban purges: VIII, 240, 243, 235.
- "Be part of revolutionary movement": VIII, 241.
- Contacted Cuban consulate: VIII, 241-243.
- Oswald on religion, *Des Kapital*, and *Animal Farm*: VIII, 262, 244, 255.
- 80A. Delgado on Oswald's marksmanship: VIII, 235.
81. Rifle scores: WR, 681-682; *Time*, November 24, 1975, 37 (see also I, 233).
- 81-82. Thornley on Oswald: XI, 96, 87, 91-93, 97-98.
- 82A. Extinction without meaning, "no wonder men go into a rage": Namy, 426, 422; Becker, 64, 141.
83. "Come the revolution": XI, 94-95.

CHAPTER 5. THE DEFECTION

84. Commitment to Reserves: WR, 688-689; Epstein, *Legend*, 89.
- Equivalency exam, college application: WR, 687; XVI, 621, 625.
- Robert on cover story: Oswald, 99.
85. Oswald's trips to L.A.: VIII, 241, 251.
- Extradition treaties, defection route: VIII, 260-261.
- Oswald denies plan to go to Cuba: Epstein, *Legend*, 89; VIII, 244.
- 85A. Letter to Robert, Marguerite's injury: Oswald, 93-94.
- Letter to Marguerite: XVI, 581-582.
- Marguerite's affidavit, Lee's discharge: WR, 688; HACR, 281-282.
- 85A-86. Application for passport: XXII, 78.
86. Promise not to divulge secrets: Epstein, *Legend*, 90-91.
86. Claims involvement in "export": I, 201-202, 212; Oswald, 95; WR, 689.
- 86-87. Farewell letter to Marguerite: WR, 690.
- 86-87. On board the *Marion Lyker*: WR, 690; XI, 115-117; Epstein, *Legend*, 92-93.
87. Arrival and departure at Southampton: WR, 690.
- 87-88. Moscow activities and "apparent suicide attempt": WR, 691-692; XVI, 94.
88. Hospital records: XVIII, 488; WR, 692.
- Interviewed by new officials: XVI, 96.
- Johnson on Soviets' suspicion: XX, 293.
89. Asked for credentials: XVI, 96.
- Told to "go home": XVI, 94.
- Embassy lost track of him: XVIII, 156, 120.
- Suspicion of questioning by KGB: Epstein, *Legend*, 295 n. 4; Blakey and Billings, 123.
- Low security clearance: XXIII, 796; XVIII, 116.
- 89-90. Access to confidential information: VIII, 298.
90. Scientist defector and *Air Review* photograph: De Gramont, 354-355, 258.
- "Will talk to a Marine about... drill": Dave Murphy, former head of CIA Soviet operations in Berlin, quoted by Martin, 104, 157-158.
- 90-91. Application to Patrice Lumumba University, desire for education: WR, 705; McMillan, 104-123-124; HACH, II, 217-218.
91. Thornley on Oswald's expectations: XI, 98.
- Other defectors' work assignments: De Gramont, 349, 353.
- "Serves him right": V, 294.
- Given apartment and stipend: WR, 697, 698.