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### "I'll Never Go Back to That Hell"

Short on money, and without a job, Lee moved with Marina and June into Robert's Fort Worth home. The brothers had a "tacit" agreement not to discuss politics, and Robert said they got along well, almost as though Lee had "not been to Russia."<sup>1</sup> Marina, who spoke no English,<sup>\*</sup> was introduced to American novelties, like her first hair permanent and a pair of shorts that would have been scandalous in Russia. She was given a whirlwind tour of Dallas by Robert and his wife, Vada. Marguerite arrived Friday, the day after Marina and Lee settled in. She told Lee she intended to write a book about his defection, and they were arguing before the end of the weekend. "She thinks that she did it all," Lee complained to Marina. "She thinks she's the one who got us out."<sup>2</sup>

Four days after arriving in Fort Worth, Oswald appeared at the office of a public stenographer, Mrs. Pauline Bates. He located Bates through the Yellow Pages and wanted her to type a manuscript from scraps of paper on which he had scribbled his recollections of the USSR. Oswald had smuggled the notes out of Russia, and told her he wished to publish them as a memoir.<sup>3\*\*</sup> She was

<sup>\*</sup>Through the assassination, seventeen months later, Marina understood and spoke very little English. Despite the prodding of acquaintances and his family, Oswald steadfastly refused to teach her, claiming he was afraid he would lose his weak mastery of Russian.

<sup>\*\*</sup>The notes he had Bates transcribe were in addition to the writing he kept in his diary. On the application for Albert Schweitzer College, Oswald

The agents quizzed him for an hour. Fain noticed he had changed since the first interview, seven weeks earlier. He had "settled down . . . wasn't as tense . . . [and] he seemed to talk more freely with us."<sup>23</sup> They covered the same questions as in their first meeting. Although Oswald still refused to say why he had defected to the USSR, he again promised to contact them if he heard from Soviet agents. Based upon his answers, together with information in reports from two confidential informants that Marina and Lee had nothing to do with the local Communist party, Fain recommended the case be closed. He recalled, "Even though he [Oswald] was arrogant and cold, from his answers, I couldn't see any potential for danger or violence at that point."<sup>24</sup> Since cases were easy to reopen, Fain had no compunction in closing the file.\*

Oswald had no idea the FBI was essentially through with him. Instead, the second interview put him into a funk. He ate little at dinner that night and sullenly told Marina about the Bureau's interest: "Now it's begun. Because I've been over there [the USSR], they'll never let me live in peace. They think anyone who's been there is a Russian spy."<sup>25</sup> He began to wonder if he had made a mistake by coming home. Perhaps he should even go back to the Soviet Union. He wrote the Soviet embassy in Washington asking where he could obtain subscriptions to *Pravda* and *Izvestiya*, and requested the embassy send periodicals and bulletins

parked the car directly in front of Oswald's house and conducted the interview in full view of the neighborhood, not a very effective means of protecting an alleged informant. The House Select Committee, which reviewed the question of whether Oswald was ever an FBI informant, concluded there was no evidence the FBI even considered it, much less proposed it to Oswald.

\*After the assassination, J. Edgar Hoover was furious with the Bureau's handling of the case. Seventeen agents were secretly reprimanded for the preassassination investigation of Oswald. When some of the agents protested to Hoover that Oswald did not meet the criteria for the FBI's security index, he replied "no one in full possession of all his faculties" could make such a claim. Hoover believed that agents with early contact to Oswald too willingly accepted his word that he was not in touch with Soviet agents or subversive elements and, at the very least, he should have been the subject of a more rigorous investigation. But Hoover kept this criticism private since he feared its disclosure would hurt the Bureau's reputation.

published for the U.S.A."<sup>26</sup>

Oswald's reaction to his marriage as well as the usual, the argument increased. Their sex would say immediately changed. I did not me as before, but I very irritable . . ." but did not say anything Marina, later deflection: "There may be

Paul Gregory had because of the detour their twice-a-week wald, Gregory refused and "seemed to be up."<sup>30</sup> Gregory on after passing through lecture from Lee a "Well, I never was

Gregory and Oswald liked Marina and party on Saturday Oswalds for dinner Bouhe, two other man originally from the émigré community from the Soviet walds what was he

At the dinner party. Since Marina what she could do ing constantly for and affection. As cold.<sup>32</sup> In Russia, tion. The Soviets

## "Hunter of Fascists"

January 1963 was a good start to the new year for Oswald. On the twenty-fifth, he sent two postal money orders, totaling \$106, to the State Department as the final installment on his repatriation loan.<sup>1</sup> He also made the final payment on the \$200 loan his brother, Robert, had given him the previous October.\* Free of debt for the first time in America, he turned his attention to things he had wanted for some time. On January 28, he sent a mail-order coupon with \$10 in cash to the Los Angeles-based Seaport Traders and ordered a Smith & Wesson .38 special revolver. The balance of \$19.95 was to be paid C.O.D. when delivered to his post-office box.<sup>2</sup> The order form was signed by A. J. Hidell, and the line requiring a witness by D. F. Drittal. Hidell was the third authorized name to receive mail at the post-office box, the others being Marina and Lee. After the assassination, handwriting experts confirmed Oswald had signed both Hidell and Drittal.<sup>3</sup>

January also started well for Marina, free of Oswald's marital

\*How did the Oswalds manage to repay the State Department and Robert when Lee was only earning \$1.35 an hour? "We lived very modestly," Marina testified. "Perhaps for you it is hard to imagine how we existed. . . . He worked and we paid out the debt. Six or seven months we were paying off this debt" (WC Vol. I, p. 62). It actually took them eight months to repay the loans. Copies of Oswald's tax returns show he had little money left after paying monthly expenses.

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abuse. But when the intensity. He no longer punches to her. Early he began arguing unrestrained and when he forced himself on her, she grabbed her by the neck and called him that again.

Their first night was when the de Mohrenschildts moved into their house. Oswald, a geologist, Volkmar saw them getting along with a right-winger, who commented that based on Oswald appeared to be a violent

When de Mohrenschildt party, Lee expressed his opinion. Mohrenschildt gave him a party like Schmidt and Oswald acted differently. One in Dallas had written to Mohrenschildt, whose opinion Mohrenschildt had

The next day, the *C Morning News* that Mohrenschildt had warned General Edwin Walker. James Hargis in Oklahoma tour to fight the Oswald.<sup>9</sup> General Edwin of the 24th Army Infantry relieved him of his duty to his troops. He returned to his native Texas segregationist who right-wing John Birch tours and high-profile