

Dear Vince, *Bugliesi*

7/20/99

Sorry the friend who had been so dependable when my wife and I <sup>were</sup> in hospitals or nursing homes failed to send you the Schrand inquest. Here it is. I guess it was her excitement at graduating college, with all six of her kids in the audience.

You did not enclose the two letters you said you sent. I may have forgotten them or they may not have reached me. There were times when those who said they'd take our mail from the box failed to do so.

I've also forgotten much of what I told you. We have been having a time of it. My wife had <sup>four</sup> major operations within six week when she was 36!

My first indication of Oswald having a crypto clearance was in mid-December, 1966. I was doing a talk show on KNEW when the man who had been in the Marines with him phoned in but did not want to talk to me on the air. He had just started a business and feared publicity could hurt. I promised not to try to learn who he was and I kept my word. He described a different Oswald than is portrayed in the WC stuff, a serious young man who had a good head, was a pool shark, loved classical music, particularly operas, and was one of five in their outfit who had a CRYPTO clearance. (In WW II I had SECRET clearance and never heard of crypto.) In Los Angeles, from a woman who said she had that clearance, I learned that TOP SECRET was a prerequisite.

When I got home from that trip I started checking what the man had told me. I think it was also that Oswald was not gay. I checked that with the gay bartender of the gay bar that was owned by "Ma" Sawyer, who with her son had the other two apartments on the floor of the building in which Marguerite had the <sup>par</sup> apartments on Exchange Alley. Johnny Kormundi, that bartender, even showed me where the pool hall that no longer existed that Oswald as a boy preferred! The bar was called The Society Page.

In the volumes I found confirmation of Oswald likes in music and as I recall his favorite opera was Tchaikovsky's The Queen of Spades. Of which I'd never heard. Or, all that I remember aside from clearance that the man told me checked out and was confirmed.

On the clearance I'd known that the officer under whom Oswald worked in the special radar section in which he was testified that Oswald had at least SECRET CLEARANCE. Name was Donovan. I went over all that Marine testimony and it is true that five men had the higher clearance, that Oswald was one, that Schrand was another (they'd all taken advance training at Keesler field which disposed of all the records other than how they did and Oswald did well) and all testified that those five had at least a SECRET clearance. Which does not exist in the Navy's records.

When Scharmd killed himself he was guarding that crypto van. Sorry the xeroxes I was sent of the body, etc., xeroxes instead of pictures are so poor. When I was in the army classified places could be entered only by those who had the proper clearance, as high as the place had or higher than the place had. That is true of what was guarded and who did guard duty. The guard had to have the clearance that would permit him to enter the building he was guarding. In practice we generally guarded our own place.

All five of those with the higher clearance went to Keesler for advanced training together. The other three testified and all three said the clearance had to be at least ~~clearance~~ <sup>SECRET</sup> clearance.

There is no question about Oswald being assigned to the crypto van that had been removed from the deck of the carrier. That required a crypto clearance. The only question can be, was TOP SECRET a prerequisite. I believed my source on that.

What is odd is that the Navy records included no security clearance for Oswald as I remember it. The first Navy cable after he defected said the records showed none but he could have had a Confidential clearance, which is the lowest. The FBI's examination of those records includes no security clearance. I have these records.

It is also odd that the man accused of killing the President and who had to have a high security clearance for the work he did, at least CRYPTO, and who all those who worked with him stated under oath that had at least a secret clearance, has none in his Navy records. And if you for one minute think he was just another jerk who was farting around, read the testimony of Donovan, under whom he worked, and see what he testified Oswald had knowledge of. Not everyday stuff, Vince. You can get the citation as I recall in O in NO. I quoted him, Donovan, in it.

If you believe Thornley, after Oswald was on his way out and was no longer doing CRYPTO work at Santa Ana, he still had SECRET clearance.

There was no loose writing on my part, Vince. As you know what I have written is severely critical of many people and I wrote much, ten books that were published. Three times that much as a record for history that can't be published commercially. For all of that and after all these years I have not gotten a single phone call or letter from any of those of whom I was critical with a complaint that I was unfair or inaccurate. And after all these years nobody has shown me or complained to me of any serious error in my books. Of the couple, and I mean only couple literally, the most serious one was an error but it was an error I had taken verbatim from an FBI report. I quoted it.

When in the FOIA lawsuit the FBI was playing dirty with overt perjury, I did not file a lawyer's pleading, which my lawyer could have done and been

immune in it. I put myself under oath and I filed the allegation of FBI perjury when it was most material and when I was under oath myself. The judge was not very happy about it. He actually threatened my lawyer, Jimm Lear, and me. And the FBI's "defense" was to admit that I did not exaggerate! And they actually got away with that! They said I could make such charges ad infinitum because I knew more about the assassination and surrounding circumstances than anyone working for the FBI!

Much as it looks like Oswald was some kind of agent for somebody I have not found a shred of evidence to support it and he never had an extra penny so he had no loot from being an agent.

I have not had access to most of my records since 1993 and had only limited access then. They are in the basement and stairs are a hazard for me. When I fell I could not get up unassisted, either. Not then and not now. So I can't do the searching for the other records I refer to. I have a single file drawer of Oswald records in my office and I kept the Schrand records there.

I do not know what you are working on and I'm not asking you to tell me but I do suggest that the chances of ruining your reputation when you deal with Oswald and in terms of the official mythology can do that. Oswald, according to the actual official records, could not have fired that rifle that day and the best shots the NRA could give the Commission, under infinitely better conditions, could not and did not duplicate the shooting attributed to the duffer Oswald. There is no evidence that he was, at the required time, on the sixth floor and there is evidence that if he had been he could not have gotten to the lunch room before Baker.

One of the Members of the Commission had a high opinion of my work and encouraged me until his dying day, Russell. He did not believe the single-bullet magic of the Report and the Commission memory-holed the record he was making for history. I have a copy of the carbon of what he prepared for the 9/18/64 executive session he forced and Rankin and Warren saw to it that the court reporter would not be there. I have those records, too, the Commissions and the firm's. When I worked for the Senate we used them and they were a very good firm. Oswald was on the first floor and aside from official evidence which states that I have a picture or two proving that the man in the Altgens picture was not Lovelady.

I've tried to be informative. Please excuse the rush.

Best,

Heads