

Oswald—Crackpot?



NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 29 — Police Chief Joseph I. Giarrusso reopened for this writer Lee Harvey Oswald's arrest file here. Step by step, Lt. Thomas A. Drake, chief of the Police Department's Intelligence Division, led me thru Oswald's entire New Orleans career.

Recently I wrote: "Surely Oswald knew that, whether Castro directed it or not, if he killed the President of the United States (a secret the Reds most certainly would keep) he would be an inside hero in the Havana hierarchy, and a hero for the first time in his life."

New Orleans is the place to root for the truth about Lee Oswald. He was born here, grew up here and returned here with his Russian wife. This is where he distributed his circulars condemning our country and the President.

Millions have been led to believe Oswald was a crackpot. But Oswald was no more a crackpot than Chief Giarrusso himself. The current furor about William Manchester's "The Death of A President," and the rekindled controversy about the Dallas bullets and other factors, further distract the public from the correct picture of Oswald and the exact sequence of events. Dates are vital in this. Yet their sequence is obscured in the size and diversity of the Warren report. Here is the sequence of dates:

Oswald sailed from New Orleans for Russia on Sept. 20, 1959. His activity in the Soviet need not be detailed here, but on Oct. 21 he told American Embassy officials he was a dedicated communist and confirmed in writing that "my allegiance is to the USSR."

Oswald returned to the U.S. on June 13, 1962, with his Russian wife, Marina Prusakova, and their child. They settled first in Fort Worth, Tex., and then here.

New Orleans police date Oswald's arrival in this city as April 24, 1963.

By Henry J. Taylor

On June 3 he rented P.O. Box No. 30061 at the Lafayette Square substation, and included his alias of A. J. Hidell for the mail use of his pro-communist Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

On Aug. 9 Lt. William Gaillot arrested Oswald during a scuffle while demonstrating for Castro's cause. By Aug. 31 he had achieved enough local notoriety to debate on radio station WDSU. It was a self-portrait of a Red.

On Sept. 8, over Radio Havana, Castro bitterly denounced what he called U.S.-prompted raids on Cuba and stated: "The United States leaders would be in danger if they helped any attempt to do away with the leaders of Cuba."

On Sept. 13 the Dallas Times-Herald announced that President Kennedy would visit the city Nov. 22.

On Sept. 25 Oswald left here by bus to obtain a Cuban transit visa at Castro's Mexico City Embassy. There he presented New Orleans newspaper clippings about his pro-Castro activities, announced that he was a member of the Communist Party, displayed his Russian work permit, Russian marriage certificate, a prepared statement of his qualifications as a dedicated Marxist and, even in the words of the Warren report, "tried to curry favor."

Told that his visa could not be issued for several months, he left Mexico Oct. 2 for Ft. Worth and Dallas.

On Nov. 9 Oswald wrote his last letter to the Soviet Embassy in Washington, reporting on "my meetings with Comrade Kostin in the Embassy, Mexico City." Again, the Warren report agrees, the purpose was "to ingratiate himself."

On Nov. 19 the Dallas newspapers announced the President's route.

On Nov. 22, a few seconds after 12:30 p.m., (central standard time), Lee Harvey Oswald shot the President of the United States, leaving his wedding ring and his last \$170 on the dresser at home before he went to work on the morning of this premeditated murder.