

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved or Interviewed

Field	Office	File No.
ORIGIN	New Orleans	CO-2-34,030
TYPE OF CASE	STATUS	TITLE OR CAPTION
Assassination of President	Continued	Lee Harvey Oswald Assassination of President Kennedy
INVESTIGATION MADE AT	PERIOD COVERED	
New Orleans, La.	11/23/63	
INVESTIGATION MADE BY		
SA Gerrets and SAIC John W. Rice		

DETAILS

LEADS

Kerry Thornley, who served in U. S. Marine Corps with Oswald at El Toro Marine Base, Santa Ana, California, in 1959, was interviewed at request of Dallas Office. He said B. A. (Bud) Simco, of Orange, California, also served with Oswald and may know other friends of the subject.

DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

At 7:30 PM on 11/23/63 long distance telephone call was received from SA Robert A. Stewart, Dallas, requesting that Kerry Thornley, white, male, age 24, a waiter who resides at 1824 Dauphine Street, New Orleans, be interviewed. He advised that Thornley served in the Marine Corps with Oswald at El Torro, California, and that he had been in Mexico recently.

Inquiries at 1824 Dauphine Street by SAs Anthony E. Gerrets and A. G. Vial during the evening of 11/23/63 disclosed that Kerry Thornley had been residing at that address for only approximately two weeks. He was reported to be a waiter at an unidentified restaurant in New Orleans and wears a tuxedo when working.

Canvass of numerous restaurants finally disclosed that Thornley is presently employed at Arnaud's Restaurant, 813 Bienville Street, where he was interviewed during the late evening by SA Gerrets and SAIC John W. Rice.

Thornley advised that he had served with Oswald in Marine Air Control Squadron #9, El Toro Marine Base, Santa Ana, California, for a few months during the early part of 1959. He said that Oswald was very intelligent and extremely well read; that he spoke Russian, which he understood he had learned while stationed in Japan;

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Chic		SPECIAL AGENT	DATE
Dallas	2cc		12-2-63
Los Angeles	2cc	APPROVED <i>John W. Rice</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
New Orleans	cc		
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that he subscribed to "Pravda" and had also read books written in Russian. He said Oswald professed to be an admirer of the Communist system, sometimes jokingly, although he felt at that time that Oswald was not a Communist. He said he had not seen Oswald since 1959, but that he had heard about his defection to Russia subsequently. He said he and Oswald had something in common in that both are atheists and enjoy reading. He said Oswald was very much interested in George Orwell's book entitled "1984" which is said to be a bitter satire on 20th Century trends toward totalitarianism. He further advised that Oswald apparently was emotionally unstable, and that he resented military discipline; that he heard that Oswald had poured beer on the head of a Marine Corps Sgt. while in Japan. He said Oswald did not have many close friends; that he was very witty and satirical in conversation, and that he operated best in a crowd; that he had a good sense of humor.

He said that Oswald criticized the capitalist system, and once mentioned that the leaders of the two ideologies should "fight it out on a personal basis".

He said he had never heard the name A. J. Midoll, and did not know if Oswald had used that name as an alias.

Thornley further advised that he had written a draft of a novel, the principal character being a former Marine who defected to Russia. He said that he had considered looking up Oswald in order to obtain information concerning his experiences in Russia as material for the final chapter of the novel, but that he had not done so.

Thornley was questioned concerning his visit to Mexico. He said that he left New Orleans in May, 1963, and went to the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Thornley, 10041 Scott Avenue, Apt. 9, Whittier, California; that he worked in Whittier and vicinity, and returned to New Orleans by bus, via Mexico; that he was in Mexico for approximately six days - three days in Mexico City - on a sight-seeing tour. He indicated that he knew nothing about Oswald having been in Mexico.

Thornley said that E. A. (Bud) Simco, who resides on Wayfield Street, Orange, California (listed in telephone directory), also served with Oswald in the Marine Corps, and that he may be able to furnish further information, and possibly furnish names of other friends of Oswald. He said that Simco and Oswald were on friendly terms. He also said that a Colonel Poindexter was the Commanding Officer at the base the early part of 1959.

Following our interview with Thornley, he was interviewed by a newspaper reporter in New Orleans, and a lengthy article appeared in the New Orleans States-Item on 11/27/63. He was also interviewed by WDSU TV, New Orleans.

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS

Copies of this report are being furnished the Los Angeles Office with request that B. A. (Bud) Simco, address shown above, be interviewed in Orange, California, for whatever pertinent information he may be able to furnish concerning Oswald. He should also be questioned as to whether or not he knows Alek James Kiddell, or A. J. Kiddell, which may be an alias of Oswald.

Further investigation is being made in New Orleans in an effort to develop additional information relative to Oswald's activities and associates in New Orleans.