

IllumiNet Press  
P.O. Box 746  
Avondale Estates, GA 30002

Rod  
4/29/91

DEAR MR. WEISBERG,

Please find enclosed a copy of  
The Idle Warriors by Kerry Twentley.

I would like to make a GIFT OF  
the book to you in appreciation of all  
the Research you have done and made  
available to the public. I hope this  
will make a welcome addition to your  
collection!

Sincerely  
Ron Bonds

**IllumiNet Press**  
**P.O. Box 746**  
**Avondale Estates, GA 30002**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Re: *THE IDLE WARRIORS***  
**Contact: Ron Bonds**  
**404-378-5531**

**WHAT WAS LEE HARVEY OSWALD REALLY LIKE?**

Twenty-five years after the tragic death of President John F. Kennedy, people still question the guilt or innocence of accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald. After years of obscurity, *THE IDLE WARRIORS* (IllumiNet Press, \$10.98) surfaces to shed light on the enigmatic figure, Lee Harvey Oswald.

This book by Kerry W. Thornley, a Marine Corp buddy and friend of Oswald's, gives rare new insight into the character of the man who defected to the U.S.S.R. and returned to become an infamous part of history. Hidden away in the Warren Commission files of the National Archive since 1965, *THE IDLE WARRIORS* provides accurate information on what Lee Harvey Oswald was really like, as well as a picture of what it was like to be a Marine in Oswald's unit, Marine Air Control Squadron 1 (MACS 1).

When he defected to the Soviet Union in 1959, Oswald, portrayed here as the kibitzing wise-cracking Johnny Shellburn, provided the novice author Thornley with the perfect subject for a novel.

David S. Lifton, author of *BEST EVIDENCE*, sums it up best in his introduction to *THE IDLE WARRIORS*: "History is fortunate that someone who knew Oswald was intrigued enough to write a book about him -- before November 1963".

After 25 years of obscurity!

# THE IDLE WARRIORS

KERRY W. THORNLEY

## What was Lee Harvey Oswald really like?

- Never Before in Print!
- 8-1/2 x 5-1/2 paperback
- 216 pages
- \$10.98
- ISBN: 0-9626534-0-3
- Publication Date: June 17, 1991

In 1962, Marine Corp. Pvt. Kerry W. Thornley wrote a novel about a fellow Marine who defected to the USSR. Little did he know that his friend, Lee Harvey Oswald, would be the man to kill President John F. Kennedy. Through the fictional character Johnny Shellburn, *The Idle Warriors* gives rare insight into the mind of the man who committed one of the most infamous crimes of this century. Subpoenaed by the Warren Commission and stored for 25 years in the National Archives, this manuscript finally emerges from obscurity!

### From the Introduction to *The Idle Warriors*:

Kerry Thornley's manuscript, *The Idle Warriors*, has a special meaning for me. First, it provides an accurate picture—through the vehicle of a novel—of what it was like to be a Marine in Oswald's unit, Marine Air Control Squadron One (MACS 1), at the height of the Cold War in 1959. Here we have Oswald, as the fictionalized Johnny Shellburn, portrayed as the kibitzing wise-cracking fellow that Kerry knew, just months before Oswald defected to the Soviet Union.

Oswald's defection was an important event in Thornley's life....

Thornley knew exactly what his first book would be about—a Marine who became sufficiently disillusioned with his country, as a result of peacetime service in Japan, and decided to defect to Russia. *The Idle Warriors* was born; and the manuscript, complete with its pre-assassination portrait of Lee Harvey Oswald, was finished well before the events of November 1963.

Reconstructing the truth—whether about a crime, or a historical event—can indeed be difficult. It all comes down to the evidence. And on the question of what Lee Harvey Oswald was like during the time he was in the Marines, Kerry provided just that: a valid eyewitness account. History is fortunate that someone who knew Oswald was intrigued enough to write a book about him—before November 1963.

—David S. Lifton  
Author of *BEST EVIDENCE* (Macmillan, 1980)

“After a quarter-century of theory, Lee Harvey Oswald remains the central mystery in the Kennedy assassination. A crucial part of the puzzle is his service in the Marine Corps and his subsequent defection to the USSR. Was he an oddball Russophile, an intelligence operative, or both? Kerry Thornley's novel provides the unique perspective of a fellow Marine who knew Oswald well, and found him interesting enough to write about before November 22, 1963.”

—Paul L. Hoch  
Co-Editor of  
*THE ASSASSINATION:  
DALLAS AND BEYOND*

### Available June 17 from:

IllumiNet Press  
P.O. Box 746  
Avondale Estates, GA  
30002-0746  
(404) 378-5531

“*The Idle Warriors* is well known to many students of the Kennedy assassination, as its author was in the Marine Corps with Lee Harvey Oswald. It should be of considerable interest not only to buffs, but to the public in general. Remarkably, the first draft of the book was completed before November 22, 1963.”

—Bud Fensterwald  
Director, Assassination Archives and Research Center

# Garrison Cites Tampa Man

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Kerry Thornley of Tampa, a Marine Corps buddy of Lee Harvey Oswald, was charged yesterday with perjury before the Orleans Parish grand jury in its Kennedy assassination probe.

Thornley, 29, was accused by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison of lying before the jury when he testified that he had not been with Oswald here in September of 1963.

In Tampa, Thornley said the perjury charge is "false" and said he has a "feeling of futility about going through the rest of my life bailing myself out of debt over this thing."

He said he probably would not fight extradition and would ask for a public defender to represent him in court. In response to the charge, Thornley said there is either a conspiracy afoot to "frame me" by someone with a large amount of money, or the grand jury was misled by "an overwhelming amount of circumstantial coincidences."

Many witnesses, Thornley declared, apparently "deliberately lied" in testifying that they saw him with Oswald in restaurants and other places.

"I have neither the resources investigative-wise nor legal-wise to prove that these witnesses were lying," he said. "I feel a comprehensive investigation would clear me."

Oswald, named by the Warren Commission as the lone assassin of President John F. Kennedy, was shot to death two days after the assassination in Dallas, Nov. 22, 1963.

Thornley, now a free lance writer, served in the Marines with Oswald at El Toro, Calif., during 1959. He told the Warren Commission their friendship ended when they had a short argument one day over a parade starting time.

The charge yesterday detailed the testimony of Thornley before the grand jury Feb. 8 and the questioning by Garrison.

In it, Thornley denied meeting in New Orleans with Oswald. In reply to Garrison's questions, the witness said he had been told by Barbara Reid, a French Quarter resident, that he had been seen with Oswald in the Bourbon House Restaurant.

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## THE IDLE WARRIORS

### KERRY W. THORNLEY

• First Edition of 1,000 copies

• Introduction by David S. Lifton, Author of *Best Evidence*

• 8-1/2 x 5-1/2 quality paperback, 216 pages

• Never Before in Print!

• ISBN: 0-9626534-0-3

• \$10.98

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Around the Nation

# Garrison

NEW ORLEANS — A man who was a friend of Lee Harvey Oswald when both were in the Marine Corps was subpoenaed yesterday by District Attorney Jim Garrison in his investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy.

Kerry Wendell Thornley, formerly of New Orleans and now living in Tampa, Fla., told the Associated Press he did not plan to honor the subpoena unless he was formally extradited.

Thornley said he knew Oswald about three months when both were stationed at the Marine Air Base in El Toro, Calif. He was questioned closely by the Warren Commission about his Marine Corps life, but not about any possible contacts with Oswald in New Orleans.

Garrison said he wants to explore that period, and that his office had established that Thornley was seen with Oswald in the French Quarter before Oswald's final departure in September, 1963. The Warren Commission concluded that Oswald acted alone shot President Kennedy in November, 1963.

The subpoena grants Thornley immunity from arrest for any past offenses during his stay in New Orleans.

# Oswald's Widow Testifies

NEW ORLEANS — (AP) — The widow of Lee Harvey Oswald says she does not believe she helped District Attorney Jim Garrison's assassination probe by testifying before the Orleans Parish grand jury.



MARINA

But Assistant District Attorney James L.

Alcock thinks her testimony was useful. Marina Oswald, now Mrs. Kenneth J. Porter, testified for three hours.

The Warren Commission said Oswald was the lone assassin of President John F. Kennedy. Garrison says several men, including Oswald, were involved in a conspiracy that originated in New Orleans.

Mrs. Porter, who was ordered here by a state judge in Dallas, Tex., for questioning, lives with her second husband in the Dallas suburb of Irving.

She married Oswald after he visited her native Russia following his discharge from the Marine Corps.

Also testifying was Kerry Thornley, of Tampa, Fla., a Marine Corps buddy of Oswald. Garrison contends Thornley saw Oswald when they both lived in New Orleans, at the time Oswald was allegedly plotting the Nov. 22, 1963 assassination.

## Probe and Perjury

NEW ORLEANS—District Attorney Jim Garrison charged Kerry Thornley, a Marine Corps buddy of Lee Harvey Oswald, with perjury before a grand jury in his investigation of an al-



United Press International  
KERRY THORNLEY  
... statement rejected

leged conspiracy to kill President Kennedy.

Thornley, 29, now a freelance writer, was charged with giving "false and untrue testimony" Feb. 8 when he denied having been with Oswald here in the summer of 1963. The charge was filed in the Criminal District Court, where a warrant will be issued for his arrest.

In Tampa, Thornley denied the charge but said he would not fight extradition.

Garrison said in a bill of information that the Warren Commission had "used

Thornley to create a false picture of Oswald as a Communist . . . His testimony prevented anyone from examining whether Oswald might have been sent to Russia as a U.S. agent, which he was."

## Issues New Subpena

# Tampa Writer Lied, Garrison Charges



Kerry Thornley  
... knew Oswald

NEW ORLEANS — (UPI) — New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison issued a subpoena Tuesday for a freelance writer living in Tampa, who he said failed to tell the whole truth when testifying before the Warren Commission.

The subpoena, the fourth in a recent series in Garrison's probe into the assassination of President Kennedy, was issued for Kerry W. Thornley who lived in New Orleans for about three years during the early 1960s.

Garrison said Thornley's testimony before the Warren Commission that he never saw Oswald after their duty together in the Marines was false.

"In September of 1963 Kerry Thornley was closely associated with Lee Oswald at a number of locations in the city of New Orleans," Garrison said. "To say that Mr. Thornley failed to tell the whole truth and that there was not the slightest effort to elicit from him the whole truth is an understatement."

Thornley, who moved to Tampa in October, said he was "a little surprised" that he had been named in a subpoena, but said he knew Garrison wanted to talk to him.

Thornley said he has found out that both he and Oswald were in New Orleans for about two weeks at the same time, and both had been to the same bar during that time.

"But I never saw him," Thornley said. He said Garrison obtained his information from a woman named Barbara Reed, who believes she saw him in the Bourbon House in New Orleans with Oswald.

Thornley said Miss Reed is known to practice witchcraft in New Orleans and said he was not surprised that she was working with Garrison.

# THE IDLE WARRIORS

## KERRY W. THORNLEY