

OSWALD MARINE BUDDY CHARGED

T. P. 2/22/68
Perjury Laid to Thornley
in Garrison Probe

A Marine Corps buddy of accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald who denied knowing Oswald when both lived in New Orleans was charged with perjury by the district attorney's office Wednesday in connection with Kennedy death probe testimony.

Free lance writer Kerry W. Thornley, Tampa, Fla., was accused in a direct bill of information of lying in testimony before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury on Feb. 8.

The allegedly untruthful testimony was contained in the charge.

In it, Thornley in effect denied having seen Oswald in a French Quarter restaurant-bar in late September of 1963.

In response to questioning by District Attorney Jim Garrison, Thornley said an acquaintance, Barbara Reid, told him after the assassination that she had seen him and Oswald together in the Bourbon House Restaurant.

However, Thornley testified that he concluded that the meeting could not have been possible, according to the charge.

FALSE CLAIM

Thornley has written two novels dealing with Oswald. He



KERRY W. THORNLEY
Charged with perjury.

has denied ever having seen Oswald again after their Marine Corps days in 1959.

In Tampa, Thornley said the perjury charge is false, and he had a "feeling of futility about going through the rest of my life hailing 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.

Concerning 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 overwhelm-

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ing amount of circumstantial coincidentals."

'DELIBERATELY LIED'

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

"I have neither the resources investigative-wise nor legal-wise to prove that these witnesses were lying," he added.

"I feel a comprehensive investigation would clear me."

He has said that before he left New Orleans in September, 1967, he gave Garrison an affidavit concerning Oswald and his relationship with him at the Marine Corps base at El Toro, Calif.

In a press release following the charge Garrison said that "evidence indicates" that Thornley did meet Oswald in 1963, and that both were "part of the covert federal operation operating in New Orleans."

Garrison described Thornley as the Warren Commission's "star witness concerning Oswald's early 'left wing' orientation."

NEVER 'COMMUNIST'

Garrison said Oswald was never a "Communist," and added:

"Inasmuch as he was sent to Russia as an employe of the United States government, it was necessary to have a major witness testify in great detail to create an early image as a Marxist so that there would not be too much public

curiosity about the real reasons for Oswald's abrupt departures from the Marine Corps to sail to Russia."

Since other Marine acquaintances did not describe Oswald as a "demented Marxist," their testimony was presented in brief affidavits, Garrison charged.

"It is thought provoking that the only one of Oswald's former Marine comrades who testified that he was a 'Marxist' . . . is also the only one who was in personal association with Oswald in New Orleans in 1963 just before he returned to Dallas before the assassination," Garrison said.

Thornley's "associates and pattern of activity," Garrison claimed, "plainly mark him as an employe, like Lee Oswald, of the Central Intelligence Agency."

1963 LINK CLAIMED

Thornley and Oswald had post office boxes in the Federal Building on Lafayette Square, Garrison said.

"Such post office boxes are customarily used by federal employes with clandestine assignments as 'message drops' as well as an acceptable excuse for regular visits into a federal building," Garrison said.

Garrison alleged that Thornley in 1963 was also in the company of "one of the men now charged in connection with the assassination of President Kennedy."

Clay L. Shaw, former managing director of the International Trade Mart, and Edgar Eugene Bradley, of California, are the only persons charged with conspiring in Kennedy's death.

Other persons drew charges including perjury, theft, and intimidation of public witnesses as

a result of Garrison's investigation.

Concealment of CIA involvement in the assassination was successful because "the seven distinguished men on the Warren Commission literally adopted the scenario developed by the assassins," Garrison charged.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS

Questions by Garrison and answers by Thornley cited in the perjury charge follow:

Q. You left the Sheraton Charles the second time on September 20, 1963. Now going back, can you remember about a week afterward where you were?

A. I have been going through this whole September thing so much in my mind . . .

Q. Have you reached some result as to this last week in September?

A. No, the only thing referring to this time period, ever since the assassination Barbara Reed (sic) said mark my words, when the truth of the assassination comes out, and this was within a week after Oswald was killed, and it was in her house one night, and she said when the truth of the assassination comes out it will be a New Orleans based conspiracy it will have right wing elements involved and it will have something to do with Latin elements.

THOUGHTS RECALLED

Q. What do you recall thinking about this last week in September?

A. Let me tell you first how I got on to thinking about it to begin with. She said she had seen me sitting with Oswald in my little corner of the Bourbon House, where I sat whenever it was empty, and she had said to me a couple of times 'you have a nice voice,' or something like that, I did not know her too well but I had seen her around and I had been introduced to her casually, we weren't friends or anything. She was sitting up at the bar and I was sitting down here and somebody was on my right and she said I am sure you were sitting there with Oswald, I am positive it was Oswald, because I never forget a face, I have been a casting

director and I never forget a face. He was very neat and he was sitting there and talking to you and I made that comment to you about your voice—and I remember the incident, I was sitting there one day, I was talking to somebody and Barbara did make a comment about my voice, and the reason I think it was not is because first of all that night she was talking to me and we decided after talking about two hours, that she was so sure of herself, and all of this travel pattern had emerged and I am saying Barbara is suggesting, she is saying, well maybe you didn't recognize him, he came walking in and of course there is always the other consideration that I was revising the book at that time and he could have come walking in, and she convinced me that this is what probably happened, he came walking in and sat next to me and we were talking to her and she made this comment on my voice and

she went back to her conversation and I want back to mine . . .

'CAN'T REMEMBER'

Q. Did she see you with Oswald?

A. I don't think she did because the next day I started asking people. . . .

Q. You don't think so?

A. I don't know whether it was Oswald, I can't remember who was sitting there with me, I don't think it was Oswald for two reasons, the first thing is if I could remember who it was then I could say definitely, in view of the fact that. . . .

Q. I understand those facts, but in view of the fact that you were writing a novel about him, I should think you would recognize him.

A. Yes, this was Barbara's theory.

Q. Was her theory right?

A. I don't know. First of all, the next day I started saying to people Barbara is sure she saw me with Oswald in the Bourbon House. That is the first thing. I kept asking people.

'DID NOT ASK'

Q. Did you ask them if they saw you at the Bourbon House with Oswald?

A. No, I did not ask them, how would they know. Barbara was there. I said Barbara is

sure she saw me at the Bourbon house with Oswald, I don't know whether it is true or not but she is sure she saw me there and she has convinced me that she saw me. And everybody said, "Oh, Barbara Reed gets involved with everything that happens."

Q. Is it possible that you were with Oswald at the Bourbon House?

A. I don't think it possible. For here is the other reason. I remembered this thing that happened after she turned away and after she went back to conversing with this person at the bar and I felt obligated to explain to this person sitting with me that is Barbara Reed, she is a character around here, to somebody who did not know Barbara she is a witch or something like this, and I felt that there was a barrier to my explaining this to this person and this could only have been one of the Cuban waiters at the Sheraton-Charles, and the only barrier would have been a language barrier, why did I feel that this was a barrier, and on the basis of that—that is all I know. On the basis of that I am sure I was not with Oswald, but Barbara is sure I was.

'BECAME CONVINCED'

Q. All right, have you finished giving me the basis for getting to what you were doing the last week in September?

A. That is, the only thing I don't know what I was doing.

Q. . . . Are you sure that you never saw Lee Harvey Oswald in New Orleans in 1963, for a while you seemed to be on the fence.

A. No, the only time I ever thought I did was when Barbara Reed was so sure about it, and I became convinced, but I am sure I did not see Oswald and recognize him in New Orleans of 1963.

Q. You are telling me there was a point when she had convinced you that you were with Oswald?

A. Yes, she convinced me, certainly, there was the two hours or so she was talking to me and she said, Kerry, what must have happened was this, you must have walked into the Bourbon House and he must have walked in, you must have seen that his face was familiar.

but not recognized him out of uniform and all this stuff, and he must have sat down next to you . . . she was so certain, so positive . . .

Q. Did it seem to you that was possible?

A. It seemed to be possible, when she got all through, until the next day and people began to say Barbara Reed connects herself with everything that happens, then it seemed impossible . . .

Q. Does it seem possible now?

A. Well, no, it doesn't seem possible to me unless I was drugged or something . . .

D.A. Presents Views to Dutch Interviewer

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, who seeks to prove a conspiracy in the assassination of President Kennedy, has told a Dutch interviewer that "The next U. S. president who tries to put the brakes on the war machine" will be slain.

The Netherlands Television Foundation quoted Garrison as telling the interviewer, Willem Oltmans, that Kennedy was killed by "elements" of the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency — CIA—and that they tried to cast suspicion on others, "This manner of organizing a murder is standard procedure with the CIA," Garrison said.

Garrison, who has claimed several times previously that the CIA was involved in the assassination, was quoted as saying he had to speak out in Europe "because it is impossible in America."

"The U. S. press is controlled to such an extent by the CIA that we no longer can say the truth. They throttled us," he was quoted as telling the interviewer for broadcast on the program "Panoramiek."

The Television Foundation quoted Garrison as saying he assumed President Johnson knew of the CIA's alleged involvement because the Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination, was comprised of persons Garrison said were favorable to the CIA.