

Hemming was born on March 1, 1937 in Los Angeles, California. At the time of the JFK assassination he was twenty-six years old. He joined the Marine Corps at the age of sixteen in April 1953 (using a false birth certificate) but was soon discharged in late summer 1953, then enlisted legally of age in April, 1954 and was finally discharged in 1958. He then joined Castro's Cuban Revolutionary Army, serving between February 1959 and August 1960 (about eighteen months). During part of that time he was running an air base in Castro's rebel air force until 1960.

After being arrested twice by Castro's forces under suspicion of counter-revolutionary activity, he was jailed, somehow got out, and lived in Havana where he was "underground" with both Major William Morgan's group and with anti-Somoza Nicaraguans for three months. Morgan was ultimately executed by Castro forces for being a U.S. intelligence agent plotting against Castro's life. It was in a Havana safe-house that Hemming met the anti-Somoza Nicaraguans, who later switched to backing Somoza. (Hemming told me that later he became involved in covert operations in Nicaragua.)

Hemming left Cuba in 1960 for Mexico City, spent two weeks there, and returned to California where he contacted a CIA "Double 0" in Los Angeles and reported to him what he had learned thus far in Cuba.

Hemming was a *very* unusual teenager. I didn't learn this until after the second interview. He told me that as a youth he read an English/German version of Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, thus learning to read German. And amazingly, as reported in *The Los Angeles Times*, at the age of fourteen Hemming had formed his own paramilitary operation consisting of a gang of five teenagers who accumulated an arsenal of twenty-nine rifles and handguns and three thousand rounds of ammunition by burglarizing three sporting goods stores in Los Angeles. They practiced guerrilla warfare in the Mojave Desert near Los Angeles, planning to become a young "John Dillinger gang" and commit a "blitz of robberies" in the San Marino and Alhambra areas. Fortunately the youthful gang was rounded up by the police and their adventure was ended. During this period Hemming would wear a Nazi youth uniform with a swastika emblem.* When I asked Hemming about these escapades he smiled

*Hemming told me this story was inaccurate. One sporting goods store was burglarized twice to get their weapons. He said he posed for a photo wearing a Nazi Youth uniform only once as part of a plan to establish his cover as a right-wing youth for future use. (This was similar to Oswald's perhaps posing as a Marxist as a teenager by reading Karl Marx.)

wryly, "If you think I did *before* I was following instructions from military

In May 1961, after I took over a group of guerrillas, the group included Frank Hemming said he persuaded me to take him. The new group was for CIA penetration and reconnaissance in Central America. Additional American officials (including me) were seen as threatening guerrilla warriors.

The enterprising Hemming was in the Florida Everglades and in the Florida Keys with other teenagers in guerrilla warfare. Hemming's group took part in the assassination team. He later dropped his suggestion that he may have been that the team showed up in the assassination of Roy Hargraves, and was under investigation. Some reports think the CIA's penetration operation was directed to him. Others think the CIA had no intention to the CIA and

Newspapers in the United States as a handsome giant with a beard and an Australian brown hair (sunbleached). Hemming says 212 pounds and two heavy machine guns. Hemming says that "this Rambro" me that he missed 700 Hundred, the elite, but that as part of his background he could fly almost all

*I suspect that this was another

wryly, "If you think that was dangerous, you should know what I did *before* I was fourteen years old"—disarming bombs using instructions from military manuals, as an example.

In May 1961, after returning to Miami from Cuba, Hemming took over a group called the Anti-Communist Legionnaires. This group included Frank Sturgis (of Watergate fame), with whom Hemming said he parted company and took part of the group with him. The new group under Hemming soon was named Interpen. According to Hemming, the purpose of Interpen was "long range penetration and reconnaissance intelligence work," mainly in Latin America. Additionally, Interpen offered protection services to Latin American officials (one service was for these officials to use Interpen as a threatening force to keep political foes in line), and trained guerrilla warriors.

The enterprising Hemming relocated in May 1961 to a new site in the Florida Everglades until 1962, then moved to No Name Key in the Florida Keys where he trained Cubans and American volunteers in guerrilla warfare and assassination techniques.* It was Hemming's group that was first suspected by Jim Garrison of being the assassination team that killed President Kennedy, but Garrison later dropped his suspicion for reasons not understood. One reason may have been that when Garrison started his investigation Hemming showed up in work boots and work clothes with his associate, Roy Hargraves, and volunteered to help Garrison conduct his investigation. Some researchers think that this was the beginning of the CIA's penetration into Garrison's investigation to undermine him. Others think the opposite: that Hemming turned Garrison's attention to the CIA and kept it away from Carlos Marcello.

Newspapers in Miami and New Orleans described Hemming as a handsome giant who looked like Errol Flynn, sporting a neat beard and an Australian bush hat. He was 6 feet 6 inches tall, had brown hair (sunbleached blond), and weighed 230 pounds (Hemming says 212 pounds). He was reported as being capable of firing two heavy machine guns from the hips at the same time, cowboy style. (Hemming says that this was "no big deal—not necessary" and that "this Rambo cowboy stuff" was an insult to him.) He told me that he missed qualifying by two points for the Presidents One Hundred, the elite, top military rifle marksmen in the U.S. He said that as part of his basic training for qualifying in Special Forces he could fly almost all types of aircraft, maintain the aircraft; operate

*I suspect that this was another Hemming "cover" for CIA-sanctioned operations.

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