

DA Subpenas Oswald Pal

NEW ORLEANS STATES-ITEM

VOL. 91—NO. 182 TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1968 PRICE 10c



—States-Item Photo.
KERRY THORNLEY
Called in probe.

A Marine Corps associate of Lee Harvey Oswald was subpoenaed today by the Orleans Parish Grand Jury in its probe of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Criminal District Judge Matthew J. Conner issued the subpoena for Kerry Wendell Thornley, formerly of New Orleans and now of Tampa, Fla.

THORNLEY WAS questioned extensively by the Warren Commission in its investigation of the assassination. The commission described him as the closest Marine Corps friend of the accused assassin.

Thornley lived here in 1961 at 1824 Dauphine. The DA's office said it wanted to question him about what it called contacts with Oswald during this period.

The subpoena is for an appearance before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury Feb. 8 and 9.

THE REQUEST for the subpoena says the Warren Commission questioned Thornley "for 33 pages" concerning his Marine Corps life with Oswald, but did not question him about knowing Oswald in New Orleans in 1963.

The DA's office claims to have established that Thornley was seen in Oswald's company in the French Quarter and elsewhere before Oswald's final departure from the city in September, 1963.

Lee Harvey Oswald was a Marine Corps associate of Kerry Wendell Thornley, formerly of New Orleans and now of Tampa, Fla. Thornley lived here in 1961 at 1824 Dauphine. The DA's office said it wanted to question him about what it called contacts with Oswald during this period. The subpoena is for an appearance before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury Feb. 8 and 9. The request for the subpoena says the Warren Commission questioned Thornley "for 33 pages" concerning his Marine Corps life with Oswald, but did not question him about knowing Oswald in New Orleans in 1963. The DA's office claims to have established that Thornley was seen in Oswald's company in the French Quarter and elsewhere before Oswald's final departure from the city in September, 1963.

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3,000 books in 1723; the library today contains over 7,000,000 volumes.

AT THE TIME of the assassination, Thornley was working as a waiter in New Orleans. Interviewed by the States-Item on Nov. 27, 1963, he described Oswald as "sort of a poor soul."

Thornley said he served with Oswald in Marine Air Central Squadron 50 at Ft. Tane Marine Air Base, Santa

Fe, and he was impressed with Oswald. He wrote a book based on his earlier life called "The Idle Man" which was published by Harper & Row.

THORNLEY DESCRIBED the Marine Oswald as "kind of the fulfill janitor because he had lost his security clearance for being in the military and had a reputation in the neighborhood of being a real loser."

He supported the Warren Commission's thesis, disputed by Garrison, that Oswald was a Communist. He said, "I think Oswald became a Communist before he became a Marxist."

Thornley said a mutual interest in books and "bull sessions" drew him to Oswald.

HE WAS VERY well read and I read a lot. We'd get together in the afternoon, he and I and six or seven others. We discussed politics and religion and such.

Thornley said he thought communism was the best religion.

"But there was always this satirical, half-mocking attitude he took. You couldn't get together he was really set on it."

ASKED IF HE thought Os-

wald the assassin type, Thornley said:

"Well, he was very resentful of the military; he was very much the man who would 'play' the part of the assassin."

"But, I'm still not sure he committed the assassination. He never showed any tendency toward violence. He was more of a talker than anything else."