

Research Papers of  
**John Armstrong**

Collected for his book

*Harvey & Lee*

Box   16  

Notebook   2  

**TAB 33: Classified Passport File**

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January 2011

NAME (Last) (First) (Middle)  
OSWALD, Lee Harvey

BIRTH DATE \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTH PLACE \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE AND DATE OF DOCUMENTS DESIRED (Be Specific - Do Not Use "Entire File")  
Dept's OM 10/28/60 Confidential Case

REQUESTED BY G. W. Masterton  
DATE REQUESTED 4/11/60 CONTROL POINT PT/FEA

REMARKS X-64

PASSPORT OFFICE SEARCH REPORT

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 File Charged To:

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A 4/12  
(searcher) \_\_\_\_\_ (date) \_\_\_\_\_

FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER (OR RM/R) REPORT

No Record  
 File Attached  
 File Charged To:

REMARKS: (name) \_\_\_\_\_ (date) \_\_\_\_\_  
(searcher) \_\_\_\_\_ (date) \_\_\_\_\_

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cc: Mr. R  
Mr. W  
Mr. C  
Mr. R

Form DS-1173  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
PASSPORT OFFICE

File Request Form  
Apr 11, 1960

Requested by  
G. W. Masterton

Date Requested Control Point  
4/11/60 PT/FEA

NAME (Last) (First) (Middle)  
Oswald, Lee Harvey

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Place \_\_\_\_\_

Type and Date of Documents Desires (Be Specific - Do Not Use "Entire File")  
Dept's OM 10/28/60 Confidential Case

Remarks

Passport Office Search Report

Current File  
 Box File  
 Classified File  
 No Record  
 File Attached  
 File Charged to:

(name) \_\_\_\_\_ (date) \_\_\_\_\_  
A 4/12  
(searcher) \_\_\_\_\_ (date) \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Records Center (or RM/R) Report

No Record  
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 File Charged to:

(name) \_\_\_\_\_ (date) \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks:

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Va XVIII

Miss WATERMAN. Yes; I am looking at it.

Mr. COLEMAN. Was it put on the refusal sheet?

Miss WATERMAN. Well, it looks to me as if someone started to handle this for the refusal card, or lookout card as you call it, because the name was typed on.

Mr. COLEMAN. It was written on.

Miss WATERMAN. Written on, yes. I believe that to complete that operation, the designation of the citizenship designation of the Department of State at that time at least, 130, should have been placed on there.

Mr. COLEMAN. What does 130 mean?

Miss WATERMAN. That is the Department's classification of citizenship.

Mr. COLEMAN. By looking at that file, is there anything else that you can examine to be able to tell the Commission whether in your judgment the actual lookout card was ever prepared?

Miss WATERMAN. No; I wouldn't be able to say. I do notice here that the case was called for from the files a few days after it went to file, and that apparently was occasioned by a new communication coming in from our Embassy at Moscow.

Mr. DULLES. Who called for it, can you tell from that?

Miss WATERMAN. Apparently we received—this was called for from—here is a call slip right here. I am looking at it. Which means that something new had been received and we wanted the file again.

Mr. COLEMAN. Could you tell me the number that is on that call sheet? You are looking at file X. It is file X she is looking at?

Mr. EHRLICH. Yes.

Miss WATERMAN. X-64.

Mr. COLEMAN. X-64.

Miss WATERMAN. I might say that in the meantime during the time from November 1959 up into 1960, beginning about early in February 1960, I was replaced in this section or branch by an attorney and a member of the bar, and at this time I was then the assistant of the section, and not the head of it.

Mr. COLEMAN. Well, was the attorney that replaced you G. W. Masterton?

Miss WATERMAN. Yes.

Mr. COLEMAN. I would like to ask you to identify Commission Exhibit No. 983.

Is that a copy of the sheet you referred to, to indicate the file had been called for?

Miss WATERMAN. That is right. A new report had been received and our control clerk, we call her, our person looking after the records in our particular section had made that call slip for the file.

Mr. COLEMAN. Is there anything else in the original file which you could look at to try to advise us whether you think in your judgment a lookout card was ever prepared?

Miss WATERMAN. Well, I wouldn't be able to know. All I could say is it is very surprising, because it seems to me that we had—well, I could not say how many lookout cards and refusal cards on all kinds of subjects. And I can only guess that this file was caught up in some large number of files that were on hand to have refusal cards or lookout cards made, or something of that nature, or that the process of having the card made was interrupted by the receipt of the new material from our Embassy at Moscow.

Mr. COLEMAN. But—

Mr. DULLES. Could I ask one question?

Who would make out lookout cards in the normal process? Would it be quite a number of people, or one particular office?

Miss WATERMAN. I am not sure about that, Mr. Dulles. That was completely another area, and I don't know.

Mr. DULLES. Outside of the Passport Department entirely, was it?

Miss WATERMAN. Oh, no.

Mr. DULLES. In the Passport Department?

Miss WATERMAN. Oh, yes.

Mr. DULLES. Miss Knight could tell us that.

Miss WATERMAN. In the records part of the Passport Office.

Now, at one time I know that the cards were made in a certain area. Then I know that later on, and probably prior to this time, we had been requested not to

forward any kind of classified files to the usual place for having these cards made—we should forward them to the Classified Files Section, which would take it up from there, and give them to the proper person to have a card made.

Mr. COLEMAN. Miss Waterman, it is your testimony that based upon the red refusal sheet that you prepared, and also the operations memorandums which have been marked respectively Commission Exhibit No. 962 and Commission Exhibit No. 963, that you had done all you were supposed to do, and that the file then should have been passed over to somebody else, and a lookout card should have been prepared?

Miss WATERMAN. Yes, yes; that was our procedure at that time at least.

Mr. COLEMAN. Now, after March 28, 1960, and prior to February 1961, in that period, did your department, or did you take other actions in connection with the Oswald case, with the hope that you would finally be able to reach a decision on Oswald, as to whether he had expatriated himself or not?

Miss WATERMAN. I don't think there was too much going on in the file in 1960.

Mr. COLEMAN. Well, I would like to call your attention to—

Miss WATERMAN. But in 1961—

Mr. COLEMAN. Before we get to 1961, I would like to call your attention to the memorandum from Mr. White to Mr. Hazelton, dated July 20, 1960, and the next document, which is a handwritten piece of paper, dated 2-15-61.

Do you have that? Your number should be X-49.

I show you the document which is marked in your file X-49, and it has been given Commission Exhibit No. 965.

Now, is that your handwriting on that document?

Mr. EHRlich. Might I interject at this time? In looking at the originals of these I notice that X-49 is actually two memorandums. They were photostated as one, and thus probably you cannot actually read either one.

Mr. COLEMAN. Well, I am referring to the one on top. Is that your writing "took initial action, action"—

Miss WATERMAN. No; that is Mr. Masterton—the memorandum on the little larger size below was a memorandum, informal memorandum, which I sent to my section chief, Mr. Masterton.

Mr. COLEMAN. Could you indicate what you said in your memorandum?

Miss WATERMAN. Yes; I said, "Mr. Masterton, SCS, is writing to mother on welfare aspect of Lee Harvey Oswald. Last two paragraphs of Moscow dispatch 585, 2-8-61 appeared to be for PPT reply."

I believe that was a letter which had been prepared in SCS—you know what that is.

Mr. COLEMAN. Yes.

Miss WATERMAN. And had been forwarded to our office for clearance, for our initial, before it was mailed, to reply to some inquiry of the mother.

Mr. COLEMAN. Now, on top of that memorandum you read, that you prepared, there is another memorandum, isn't there?

Miss WATERMAN. Yes.

Mr. COLEMAN. Now, could you read that into the record?

Miss WATERMAN. Yes; "SCS. Took initial action on action copy, case of split action. Copy our action to go to SCS."

Mr. COLEMAN. Do you know or do you have any knowledge what they meant about case is split action?

Miss WATERMAN. Well, it has been a long time since I have seen the material. But I believe that the mother, Mrs. Oswald, in writing to the Department, to the Secretary, probably brought up various questions about her son. Now—questions which related to his welfare or physical repatriation, or something of that type, which would come under the jurisdiction of the Special Consular Services, should be answered there. Any inquiries which were about his citizenship or his passport, anything that came within the purview of the Passport Office, should have a reply drafted by Miss Knight's office, or elsewhere in the office.

Mr. COLEMAN. In other words, you are saying that the phrase, split action, on Commission Exhibit No. 965, doesn't mean that—

Miss WATERMAN. The decision was split; no.

Mr. COLEMAN. It just means that different offices in the Department would have to make different decisions, or take different action?