

Lee Harvey Oswald, The Lone Gunman

The Motive: Early Life



Lee Harvey Oswald was born on October 18, 1939, in New Orleans, Louisiana, to Marguerite and Robert Oswald Sr., who died of a heart attack two months prior to Lee's birth. Following her husband's death, Marguerite Oswald sent Lee and his two older brothers to live in an orphanage.

Remarried for a few years, Marguerite eventually moved with her children to the Bronx, New York. With his mother working long shifts, the young Oswald was often left to fend for himself. He was eventually picked up and placed in a detention hall, where his social worker described him as emotionally detached, giving off "the feeling of a kid nobody gave a darn about."

Military/Moves to the Soviet Union

In 1956, he joined the U.S. Marines. He was a better-than-average marksman, yet was court-martialed twice in 1958 for having an illegal weapon and displaying violent behavior. Oswald ended his military service the following year and arranged a trip to Moscow, where he informed Russian authorities that he wanted to move to the Soviet Union. After some



debate by government operatives over Oswald's possible role as a spy, he was allowed to stay in the city of Minsk, where he was monitored closely by the KGB.

Oswald wed Marina Prusakova in April 1961. Dissatisfied with the quality of life in the Soviet Union, Oswald returned to the United States in June 1962, bringing his wife and their newborn daughter with him.

Back in the United States

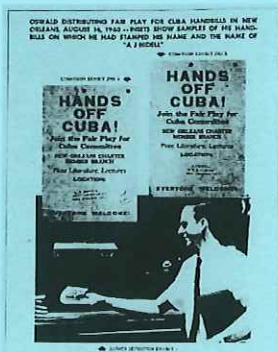
The family set up residence in Dallas, Texas, with Oswald post-office alias of Alek J. Hidell. Around this time, interest in communism transformed into support for Cuba. In 1963, he ordered a .38 handgun via the mail and later rifle. He had Marina take a picture of him with the document that would later be used as criminal evidence, as rifle was eventually identified as the firearm used to President John F. Kennedy.



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In April 1963, Oswald allegedly tried to shoot right-wing ex-general Edwin A. Walker through the window of his home, but missed. After returning to New Orleans by himself for a short stint, in September 1963, Oswald took a trip to Mexico City, where he attempted to obtain passage to Cuba and the Soviet Union to no avail.

Oswald then returned to the states, where he got a job working at the Texas School Book Depository in Dallas. Simmering with anger about Cuba, Oswald learned that Kennedy's motorcade route would pass by his building. He secreted a rifle into the building, took a place at a sixth-floor window and fired the shots that killed the president and injured Gov. Connally, believers say.



The Evidence: Oswald

1. Oswald worked in the Texas School Book Depository and was last seen on the 6th floor. On November 22, 1963: Oswald was seen with a package which contained, he said, "curtain rods."
2. He was the only employee missing after the shooting. On the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository, Deputy Sheriff Luke Mooney finds a snipers nest. He sees 3 spent shells and a diagonal crease across one box which could be a rifle resting place. The employees on the fifth floor confirmed that they had heard shots and even the shell casings drop above them.



3. Oswald was the owner of the gun used in the assassination. The gun was a 6.5 × 52 mm Italian Carcano M91/38 bolt-action rifle with a six-round magazine, Serial number C2766. The rifle was found in the Texas School Book Depository.



4. The bullets used were 6.5 mm (.264 in) 160 gr (10 g) round-nosed fully copper-jacketed bullets normally used in 6.5 mm military rifles. One of these bullets was found on Governor Connally's gurney in Parkland Hospital and two bullet fragments were found in the presidential limousine. All bullets were ballistically matched to the rifle found in the book depository building.



5. Oswald was capable of making the shot. In the Marines Oswald received extensive training in marksmanship. During the first week of an intensive 8-week training period he received instruction in sighting, aiming, and manipulation of the trigger. Oswald, like all Marine recruits, received training on the rifle range at distances up to 500 yards, firing 50 rounds each day for five days. Following that training, Oswald was tested in December of 1956, and obtained a score of 212, which was 2 points above the minimum for qualifications as a "sharpshooter"

6. Oswald flees the Texas School Book Depository and returns to his apartment. After leaving his apartment Officer John D. Tippitt stopped him for questioning. He is witnessed killing Tippitt. With help from witnesses, the police are able to find Oswald in the Texas Theatre and arrest him.

