SLAIN SUSPECTED ASSASSIN 'REAL LOSER'
Wrote Novel About Oswald, Says Orleanian

By DON HUDSON

The American Civil Liberties Union says that 18 years before President John F. Kennedy was killed in Dallas, Calif., in the early months of 1963, an agent now seeking to sell the last few chapters as the basis for a television script.

Lee Harvey Oswald -- the assassin of President Kennedy, then was killed in Russia in 1959, where he wrote a novel about the Marine Corps and a life in the Marine Corps, titled "The Idle War," in which he had a reputation for being the real loser. "I think Oswald became a Communist before he became a Marine, but I believe the Communism of his time was a little more open than in his own time," said Thorneley. "I would have known him had I known his interests in books and bull sessions," said Thorneley. "He was very well read and I read a lot. We'd get together, he and I and six or seven others. We discussed politics and religion and such." Thorneley said a mutual interest in books and bull sessions was what drew him to Oswald. He said he thought communism was the best religion. But there was always this satirical, half-mocking attitude he took. You couldn't tell whether he was really serious or not.

"HE HAD a wonderful sense of humor. I don't think this was ever brought out in what I've been reading about him. He often joked about communism. I remember one time a master sergeant got up on the tailgate of a truck for a lecture of some type. Oswald remarked, in a Russian accent: 'Ah, another collectivist farm lecture.'"

Oswald's favorite book at the time was George Orwell's "1984," a bitter satire on 20th century trends toward totalitarianism, Thorneley said. "I read it at his recommendation."

"HE WAS always drawing parallels between the Marine Corps and '1984,' something I thought funny, seeing as the book is pretty much a slap against communism." Was Oswald the assassin type? "Well, he was very resentful of the military; he was very much the man who would 'play' the part of an 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."

"I saw the picture of his getting shot . . . a man I knew, who was sort of a pathetic individual . . . seeing him get a slug in the belly. This got me. "He was a sort of poor soul."