

TRANSLATION FROM FRENCH

"MY SON DID NOT ASSASSINATE KENNEDY"

Exclusive Story by the Mother of Oswald.

(From "Le Nouveau Candide" No. 153, week of April 2 to April 9, 1964.)

This woman bears an accursed name. To the whole world her son is the presumed assassin of President Kennedy. But Marguerite Oswald refuses to believe what the world says.

In her eyes, a mischievous youngster who played hooky in order to go to look at animals at the zoo, a good young man who sent small gifts to her, could not have committed this frightful crime. The Dallas tragedy uprooted Marguerite Oswald. At 55 years of age, this old nurse without resources, this simple woman who has neither experience nor connections, threw herself into an unbelievable enterprise: she wants to proclaim her son's innocence.

To tear down the structure of presumptions raised against Lee Harvey Oswald, she probed her memory, sifted police reports and conceived a strange theory: her son appears to have been an agent of the American Intelligence Service.

We present, without pronouncing any judgment, her arguments, which express perhaps more maternal love than shrewdness.

Even if this was only a desperate appeal of a mother refusing to believe that she gave birth to a monster, this document would deserve to be included in the record. But it contains likewise some disturbing revelations.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1808

The Warren Commission - charged with the investigation of the assassination of Kennedy - has apparently already decided on a verdict of guilt for Oswald. The argument of the mother of Lee Harvey raises questions to which the report of this Commission should give answers, if it is to dissipate once and for all the doubts which still hang heavy over the Dallas affair.

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The Mother of Oswald Says: "MY SON IS INNOCENT." They Doctored a Photo to Ruin Him.

"Lee Harvey Oswald, my son, was a victim of a trap. He was betrayed, killed, and then shamefully calumniated. I am convinced of it today.

"But the American press poisoned the public mind by printing indiscriminately false information furnished by the police and echoing fantastic rumors. The same attitude abroad was demonstrated by a French magazine, which put on its cover a photo of my son holding a rifle in his hand, having this caption: 'With this photo, there is no more mystery in Dallas.'

They Pasted On the Face

"How absurd! Tens of thousands of Texans and millions of Americans own rifles or revolvers. Millions of Americans have their pictures taken with their weapons in hand. This does not mean that they are potential criminals. On the other hand, there is no proof that this rifle was used to kill President Kennedy, or even that it was of the same type as the assassin's weapon.

"Furthermore, if my son intended to commit a political crime or if he already fired at a general, as they claim (1), he was intelligent enough not to leave such a photograph lying about.

Note (1): Lee Oswald is suspected of being the man who last year in Dallas attempted to kill General Walker, one of the heads of the John Birch Society, a rightist-extremist organization.

"Moreover, I doubt the authenticity of this document. My son was very thin since his return from Russia. But he appeared fairly heavy in this photo. I asked some experts. They told me that it seemed to be a composite picture. Apparently, the face of my son was pasted upon someone else's body.

"My daughter-in-law never talked to me about this photo during the weeks we lived together after Lee's arrest. Yet, we discussed the affair interminably, recalling the smallest details. She never made an allusion to this photo.

#### Absurd Stories

"And then, three months later, she appears to have sold this document which could be used against her husband.

"The police minutely searched my daughter-in-law's belongings as well as mine, seizing all our photographs. Why was that one not published immediately? Why would one wait for three months before revealing it? It is curious that this document was put in circulation at the moment when serious doubts were expressed in the Warren Commission and when new testimony tended to establish my son's innocence.

"Newspapers spread the most absurd stories about our family. We were good and loyal Americans. We never had a brush with justice. Lee never was in trouble. My children were and still are patriots. My three boys joined the Army as volunteers. One of my sons has been a career army man for fourteen years.

"I was born fifty-five years ago at New Orleans. My father was of French origin. His name was Jean Claverie; he spoke French all the time. He was one of the first streetcar conductors in the city; those famous streetcars which we see in films. He was a model employee. My mother was of German origin; her name was Dora Stucke. As soon as I completed my high school studies, I started to work as a secretary for a lawyer.

"In 1929, at the age of twenty-one, I married Edward J. Eic (sic). He was a railway porter. He left me after I had my first-born, John Edward, now a sergeant in the Air Force. We were divorced in 1932. The following year I married Robert Edward Lee Oswald, a young man of Irish origin, who was in the insurance business.

#### General's Given Name

"My first born Robert (sic) works today at a brick and cement factory. My husband and I were very happy.

"Alas, he died in August 1939, of a heart attack, a few days before Poland was invaded by Hitler. I expected a child at the time, the one whom I named Lee Harvey. He was born a few months later, on October 18, 1939. The name "Lee" is traditional with the Oswald family, in honor of General Lee, Commander in Chief of the Southern forces during the War of Secession (sic), a hero for all patriots. Harvey was the name of my husband's mother.

"It was not easy to raise three small children by myself during the war, but my youngsters did not lack anything. Lee was an extremely intelligent child for his age, to the point that parents in the neighborhood were jealous.

#### He Cut Classes

"In 1945, I married for the third time. He was an engineer from Boston, Edwin A. Ekdahl. The two eldest boys were sent to a military college. Lee stayed with me. After my divorce in 1946, I went to join my son Edward, who was stationed in New York.

"We lived modestly. I had to work hard, but Lee was not unhappy. What he, who had grown up in Texas, missed was the great open spaces and the fresh air. He was suffocating in the midst of skyscrapers and under the elevated railroad. He was bored in class, where his comrades were less advanced than he. Fascinated by the zoological gardens he "cut" classes to see the animals in their cages. It was his passion. When it rained, he read in the public libraries.

"New York authorities are very strict with school children who skip classes. In Texas, teachers close their eyes to it. In New York Lee was brought back to school by a policeman and reprimanded. But he stayed away from school again. This time he was taken, as the law demands, and brought before the judge who sent him to a "rehabilitation" school.

"Subsequently they returned him to me and advised me to go back to Texas, for New York was a very hard place in which to live, for a child who needed the open air. Thus, we returned to New Orleans. Not once did Lee cut school and easily earned his high-school diploma.

Recruited by the C. I. A.

"No one has ever told me that he was examined by psychiatrists and that it was discovered that he could be dangerous. What a ridiculous invention! If it were so, why did they return him to me? Why didn't they treat him?

"If Lee was an unbalanced boy, a delinquent, would they have accepted him at sixteen in the ranks of the Aviation Cadet Corps, i. e., in the student pilot corps of the U. S. Air Force? They require from the members of the Cadet Corps moral and physical qualities of future officers. If my son had a tainted medical record, he would not have been admitted among the cadets.

"I am making public, at the same time as this statement, a photo of my son Lee in a cadet uniform stressing the fact that police, who so generously distributed other documents, had this one carefully hidden. No doubt, it did not fit in with the image of Lee they wanted to create.

"Lee was sixteen years old when he wanted to enlist in the Marines. The circumstances in which he chose this elite branch of service,

in my opinion, are in glaring contradiction to reports, according to which, Lee frequented with communists at that time, and was, himself, a 'red' and an admirer of Karl Marx.

"For my part, and taking into consideration what I know about the life of my son, I think that, on the contrary, he was recruited by the C. I. A. (2), that he was sent by this organization to Russia, then to Dallas to infiltrate subversive organizations and - who knows - to expose a conspiracy against Kennedy.

Note (2): C. I. A.: Central Intelligence Agency, American federal intelligence and counterespionage organization.

"This is a theory, but it seems to me that it conforms to my son's conduct from the day in 1954, when he came home accompanied by an officer in uniform.

"This officer told me that the country needed boys like Lee - alert, educated and loyal - and that I should let him enlist in the Marines, despite his youth. I hesitated a little, then gave my consent.

"But military authorities thought later that Lee was a little too young and delayed his enlistment by six months. Lee brought to the house a big volume, 'The Marine Training Manual,' and learned it by heart to such a point, that I teased him calling him 'general.' In my heart I was proud of him.

"At the same time that he studied the Marines' manual, Lee read 'Das Kapital' by Karl Marx. I have never asked him questions on this subject. I was sure that military authorities - who supervised the training of my son - required him to study this work. The Marines are an expeditionary force and I suppose that officers expected to make a type of intelligence agent out of Lee and that they asked him to gather documentary evidence on communism. This is a current practice for candidates for the C. I. A.

A Happy "Marine"

"Sure enough, Lee never told me that he worked for an espionage agency and I never asked him about it. But since when does a secret agent reveal his true profession to his mother? Did the parents of pilot Powers, brought down in Russia while he was at the controls of his U2 reconnaissance plane, know that their son worked for the C. I. A.?"

"No one came forward to say that Lee was an intelligence agent. But is it not a rule in the secret services never to divulge the name of those who work for them? It is possible that even now, in order to track down the real criminals, Lee's superiors keep silent.

"The fact remains that, when he became seventeen years old, Oswald enlisted in the Marines and was sent to camp where he specialized in electronics and aviation. The Chief of Staff of the Marines sent me a diploma, told me that I should be proud to be the mother of Lee Harvey Oswald and suggested that I frame the diploma and hang it on the wall.

"Lee was always very happy to be in the Marines. All his letters showed his enthusiasm. When he was on leave he wore his uniform all the time. He repeated on every occasion how proud he was to be a Marine. He sent me money from time to time and presents from foreign countries such as the Philippines and Japan. If he had difficulties in the service, I never knew anything about them. His 'bad conduct' seems to me an invention. The fact was that he was promoted to the rank of corporal.

"I wish to straighten out another error here. The press stated that my son appeared to have been decorated as a champion carbine marksman. What a fib! It was not my son but his battalion which was decorated. It was a collective decoration for the whole team. There is nothing to prove that Lee was the best shot of the battalion or even that he was an excellent marksman.

A Bed in the Kitchen

"After returning to California from Japan, Lee often telephoned me. Thus he learned that I had an accident. I wanted to hide it from him, so as not to worry him. I was then a department manager in a store at Fort Worth, Texas. A big glass demijohn fell on me from above and I was seriously injured. I had to go to a hospital, for an X-ray examination, and all this cost so much. I was not insured. I had to sell my furniture. I lost my job.

"Lee sent me a telegram saying that he had been in contact with the Red Cross concerning me. Later on, in September 1959, he came home. He had an emergency discharge because of my illness. This procedure is called 'dire (need) discharge' (discharge because of necessity).

"I put a bed in the kitchen and Lee slept there.

While Reading a Newspaper

"Next morning he said to me: 'Mother, I made a decision. I am going to work on a cargo boat. I wish to engage in export and import. I would not be able to earn enough money here.'

"On the third day he said good-bye to me.

"I was stunned by this sudden departure. And now I think that it was impossible for him to decide like this, in one night, to go to Russia. He must have received an order.

"Lee left me one hundred dollars. One week later he wrote to me from New Orleans that he was shipping out on a boat going to Europe.

"It was only in November 1959, when reading a newspaper, that I learned that my son was in Moscow and that he wanted to renounce his American citizenship.

"Borrowing some money I got together the sum necessary to take me to Washington in order to obtain my son's address. They gave it to me: it was Hotel Metropole. I wrote to him and he replied: 'Mamma, please send me some money.' With the return mail I sent him a check for twenty dollars. He wrote to me for the second time in June, 1961, to tell me that he had just gotten married.

"Afterwards he wrote to me more often, telling me about his life, his wife, a new-born child, and small daily problems. He wanted books, shaving soap, razor blades; but he also sent me some presents: a shawl, some figurines, and many photos. He never talked about politics and never about his plans.

"Later he wrote asking me to help him return to Texas. I took some steps without success. Where did Lee find money for a trip? At the U. S. Embassy in Moscow which gave it to him and returned him his passport, which seemed logical if Lee was an intelligence agent.

"It appears that the Soviets conveyed to the American Government my son's file. But they denied me the right to consult this file. I am going to the Soviet Embassy myself shortly in order to ask the Russians for this file. It proves, I am sure, that the communists discovered that Lee was an American agent.

#### A Colonel's Niece

"My son, his wife and little daughter lived with me for over a month after their return. Marina Nikolaevna was pretty and charming. I always had good relations with her. It is not true to insinuate that there was coldness between us or that Lee went to live elsewhere because of that. Lee was always independent as are we all in our family.

"Marina has never repudiated the Soviets. She has never renounced communism. She was born at Arkhangelsk but grew up in Leningrad where she went to school. Her father and mother are dead but she has an uncle, a retired Red Army colonel. She went to the university. She is a doctor of pharmaceuticals (sic).

"I have to destroy here two legends. The first one alleges that Lee learned Russian because he was a Marxist. Lee learned Russian during his service in the Marines. His teachers were military men and the course was a part of military training.

"According to the second, Lee did not want Marina to learn English. It would be ridiculous for a husband to forbid his wife to learn the language of a country where she lives.

"The fact is that Marina spoke English badly, but she did speak it, and so we could chat together all day.

"She told me that she loved Lee deeply, was attached to him forever, and devoted to his child. However, there were moments, it is true, when she talked of returning to Russia. One time I saw her come in with a black eye. 'It was Lee who did this to me,' she confessed to me.

"Lee told me that he adored his wife. He did not earn much; however, he bought her a gold ring with a ruby, ruby being Marina's birth stone. Lee often occupied himself with the baby; pampered her; told her stories. He was a very good father.

"Later they left me. I did not see Lee and Marina again for almost a year. He had finally found a job in a factory. Marina cried with joy. 'Thank your God, Lee is working,' she said to me.

"On November 22, 1963, at three thirty, I was returning to my home in Fort Worth, having finished my work. I was then employed as a nurse. I was driving in my car. I turned on the radio. They announced the death of Kennedy. I was upset because I admired the President. And then there was this frightening shock: the arrest of my son."

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Next Week: "THE DAY BEFORE MY SON'S MURDER,  
A POLICEMAN SHOWED ME A PICTURE  
OF RUBY AND ASKED ME:  
'DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?'"

(Copyright "Le Nouveau Candide" and Arnaldo Mondadori, Milan.)

Captions of pictures appearing in this form:

Page 1 (from left to right):

1. "For Marguerite Oswald, her son Lee is innocent. He was betrayed and calumniated."
2. "At fourteen, Lee Oswald preferred walks in the neighboring zoo to school."
3. "In the eyes of his mother, Lee Oswald at the age of 18 was a well-behaved young man, affectionate and industrious. There was nothing unbalanced about him, she said."

Page 5:

1. "Lee Harvey Oswald at 18, in his uniform of the U. S. Air Force cadet. This photo was entrusted to us by Oswald's mother. According to her, police had good reasons to keep it secret."

A statement in large type under this picture: "THIS PORTRAIT PROVES THAT HE WAS AN ADDITIONAL PATRIOT."

2. "Mother Oswald was a nurse. She was dismissed after her son's arrest."

A statement on the left of the picture: "HE WAS NOT UNBALANCED AS THEY SAID."

3. "At 17, Oswald enlisted in the elite Marine Corps."

Statement on the left of the picture: "A CHAMPION MARINE-MAN OF THE RESERVE? THIS IS FALSE!"

Statement on the right of the picture: "HE READ MARINE ACT 10, BUT ON ORDERS."

frame it." <sup>4</sup> "His diploma was sent to his mother so that she could

Page 6:

"At 11, Lee Oswald (on the bottom, smiling) attended a school at Fort Worth, Texas. His teacher judged him very intelligent."

DL 100-10461  
JPH:EL  
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The following investigation was conducted by SA JAMES P. HOSTY, JR.:

On October 18, 1963, Dallas Confidential Informant T-1 advised that in March, 1963 ROBERT L. OSWALD of 7313 Davenport Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas, moved from Fort Worth to Box 32-C, Malvern, Arkansas.

On October 18, 1963, Mrs. EDITH SHANNON, 2701 Mercedes Street, Fort Worth, Texas, advised that she could not recall LEE OSWALD or his wife when they lived at 2703 Mercedes Street, Fort Worth, Texas.

On October 18, 1963, Mrs. M. M. BOYD, 2705 Mercedes Street, Fort Worth, Texas, advised that she could not recall LER OSWALD when he resided at 2703 Mercedes Street, Fort Worth, Texas.

On October 29, 1963, a pretext interview by a Special Agent of the FBI at 2919 West Fifth Street, Irving, Texas, reflected that Mrs. BUTH PAINE resided at 2515 West Fifth Street. Mrs. PAINE was separated from her husband, MICHAEL R. PAINE. It was determined that Mrs. PAINE was employed at St. Mark's School, Dallas, Texas, on a part-time basis as a teacher of the Russian language and she had a Russian born woman living with her. This Russian born woman gave birth to a girl about a week ago and Mrs. PAINE was taking care of this woman. It was determined that the husband of the Russian born woman visited his wife at this address periodically but did not reside there.

On October 31, 1963, Mrs. DOROTHY SMITH, Irving, Texas, Credit Bureau, advised that they had a credit record for MICHAEL R. PAINE and his wife RUTH PAINE, who resided at 2515 West Fifth Street, Irving, Texas. Mrs. SMITH advised their credit was satisfactory and that Mr. PAINE was employed by Bell Helicopter Company in Fort Worth as a Design Engineer. Mrs. PAINE was employed as a housewife.

On October 31, 1963, Mr. EDWARD T. OVIATT, Assistant Head Master, St. Mark's School of Texas, Dallas, Texas, advised that Mrs. PAINE was a satisfactory employee and was loyal to this country and he considered her to be a stable individual. Mr. OVIATT stated that Mrs. PAINE was employed on a part-time basis as a teacher of Russian language. He also advised that he had recently learned from