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Subject: More on DD 1173-Update

Anne Buttimer was successful in getting NPRC in St. Louis to send her the USMC service record of former 1st LT Ayers, the Assistant OIC of the El Toro separation unit who signed Oswald's DD 1173 I.D. card. A review of his record reveals some information which makes it even more important that this staff interview him once we locate his current whereabouts: a. He was discharged from active duty on 21 November, 1959 (just about one and a half months after Oswald), and upon discharge, his service record indicates that he also received a DD 1173 I.D. card. This was very surprising to me, since the PRAM (USMC guidance on I.D. cards) only directs issuance of other types of cards. (I am still awaiting receipt of guidance used by the USMC on issuance of the DD 1173. My fax request to Mr. Graboske, USMC Archivist, was transmitted on August 22nd; I called him one week later on AUG 29th to verify that he had received the fax, and he said "yes, and I immediately sent out a query asking for someone else in the USMC to research that ," so all we can do on this request is wait a little longer.) Anne has also asked for the Delgado service record, at my request, since he served with Oswald at El Toro, and was discharged from there on 25 November, 1959 (about two months after Oswald); when we get his record, hopefully we will have a second "control" case with which to evaluate the DD 1173 issue. b. Of great interest to me was the fact that 1st LT Ayers, who was assigned as Assistant OIC of the El Toro separation section on 01 July, 1959 (and who was discharged on 21 November, 1959) was granted access to SECRET information on 11 SEP, 1959 (the same day Oswald was discharged, and the formal issue date on Oswald's DD 1173). The entry on access to SECRET information was made in the Administrative remarks section of Ayer's service record. (What level of information he had access to before that is not recorded in his service record.) It is imperative that we ask Mr. Ayers if he remembers why that service record entry was made in his record on that date. Anne asked earlier this week for St. Louis to provide, on a priority basis, the most current known whereabouts of Mr. Ayers. We should know that soon, and I can then finalize a question list and make contact. Until the USMC and/or DOD regulations on DD 1173 issuance from September 1959 are obtained, Delgado's service record is examined, and Ayers is interviewed, this is where we are. There are more questions now than before, but the leads are well worth pursuing. END

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