

## ANTI-CASTRO GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

544 CAMP ST.

HSCA VOL. 10

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### SUMMARY

The HSCA determined that there were several suspicious circumstances connecting 544 Camp St. to actors in many conspiracy theories. There were only a few tenants of the building during the early 1960s; those tenants are briefly profiled. The HSCA faults the Secret Service and WC for failing to discover the significance of the offices in that building and the connections between Ferrie, Banister, anti-Castro activity, and Lee Harvey Oswald. Guy Banister is profiled in detail, especially regarding his participation in anti-Castro activity. These activities, the Committee concludes, probably led to Banister and Ferrie becoming acquainted and likely working together in anti-Castro endeavors.

The possibility that Lee Harvey Oswald may have known Banister is raised at this point, since a connection could be made through both Ferrie and Cuban exiles. Associates of Banister are questioned as to whether he knew Oswald; the HSCA concludes that Banister was at the least aware of Oswald. Banister's secretary, Delphine Roberts, after originally stating that Banister had never met Oswald, later states that Oswald was in the office at least twice and had once brought Marina. Both she and Jack Martin give versions of the "pistol-whipping" incident involving Banister and Martin that resulted in Martin talking to the police about David Ferrie and his links to

Oswald. Evidence that Martin and Ferrie did not get along (thus giving Martin motive to implicate Ferrie) is introduced. **Attempts by the Committee to trace Banister's private files are detailed.** The HSCA decided that while the contradictory nature of some of both Roberts and Martin's testimony made the reliability of their comments undeterminable, their testimony (especially Martin's) was somewhat legitimate and thus significant.

The HSCA concludes that while no direct evidence exists to link Banister and Oswald, it is not implausible to expect that they were at least aware of one another, given the circumstances described above. Direct links exist between Ferrie and Banister, and the HSCA believes a strong possibility exists that Ferrie and Oswald knew each other. Several reasons for this conclusion are listed, including their simultaneous service in the CAP and their mutual interest in Cuban politics. Finally, the Committee concludes that it cannot determine whether Oswald and Ferrie had any contact after Oswald left New Orleans in September 1963.

## BACKGROUND

544 Camp St. was an address of the Newman Building in New Orleans. The other address, for the entrance on the other side of the building, was 531 Lafayette St. Lee Harvey Oswald stamped "544 Camp St." on the leaflets he handed out for the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in August 1963. 531 Lafayette St. was the address of Guy Banister's detective agency. In addition, 544 Camp St. had been rented out in 1961-1962 by the Cuban Revolutionary Council (New Orleans chapter). Since Banister was known to have had connections to both David Ferrie and anti-Castro activity, the HSCA determined that further study of 544 Camp St. and the activities that took place in and around that address warranted further study.

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- 123-124 Summary of the original Secret Service and WC investigations of 544 Camp St.
- 124-125 Summary of other tenants of the building at the time in question.
- 125-126 The HSCA faults the WC and Secret Service for not being thorough in their investigations of 544 Camp St. and its occupants.
- 126-127 Biography of Guy Banister.
- 127-128 Banister's connection with David Ferrie.

128-130 Possibility of Banister and Oswald having known each other or worked together in anti-Castro endeavors.

130-131 Attempts to trace Banister's personal files.

131-132 Conclusion: it is plausible that Banister and Ferrie knew Oswald; at the least, they were aware of his actions. It is probable that Ferrie at least knew of Oswald and may have been acquainted with him.

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