
Chapter 6, Final Report
Draft Writeup for Section I. B., Military Records on
Lee Harvey Oswald
July 31, 1998

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B. Military Records

1. Military I.D. Card: Leads provided by researchers Ray and Mary LaFontaine in both an 11/22/92 newspaper article in the Houston Post titled “Oswald I.D. Card May Be Missing Link,” and in their book *Oswald Talked: The New Evidence in the JFK Assassination* (pages 65-90, and 390-391), as well as in a Paul Hoch 3/8/93 “Echoes of Conspiracy” newsletter (pages 5-7), led to the subject of Oswald’s DD-1173 Military I.D. card being assigned to an ARRB staff member on the Military Records Team as a research project. Documents germane to the issues surrounding the DD-1173 I.D. card were obtained from the St. Louis Federal Records Center from the personnel files of other Marines who had served with Oswald (for comparison purposes), and also from the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Army’s Military History Institute. Staff member Douglas Horne wrote a close-out memo on this subject (file series 4.50), titled “Oswald’s DD 1173 I.D. Card,” originally published on August 7, 1996, with a Final Revision Date of February 20, 1997.

2. USMC Records: The Marine Corps was unable to locate in files searched at both USMC HQ in Quantico, and at the Federal Records Center in Suitland, Maryland, any internal investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald (other than correspondence already published in the Warren Report and its volumes) from either the immediate post-defection period (1959-60), or from the post assassination period (1963-4). [The Review Board asked the Marine Corps to search for such records because of allegations made to the HSCA that there had been a “military (*i.e.*, USMC internal) investigation” of Lee Harvey Oswald following the assassination, and because of hearsay concerning a

government damage-control investigation in 1959 or 1960 at MCAS El Toro immediately following Oswald's defection to the USSR.] However, the Review Board was successful in obtaining from USMC Headquarters at Quantico, Virginia USMC Unit Diaries from units in which Oswald served that complement the partial collection of Unit Diaries in the HSCA's records. Together, the ARRB and HSCA Unit Diary records appear to constitute a complete Unit Diary record. Researchers who wish could compare Oswald's in-and-out transfer dates in his personnel file with original entries in the pertinent diaries to see if they correspond.

Finally, in 1997 the Review Board transferred to the JFK Collection the original (paper) copies of Lee Harvey Oswald's USMC Enlisted Personnel File, and Medical Treatment File. [Previously, they had been maintained at USMC Headquarters in Quantico, Virginia, and had only been available in microfiche format via FOIA requests made to the Marine Corps.]
