

Haverford College
Haverford, PA.

June 8, 1969

Mr. Marion Johnson
Warren Commission Archives
The National Archives
7th at Constitution Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Johnson,

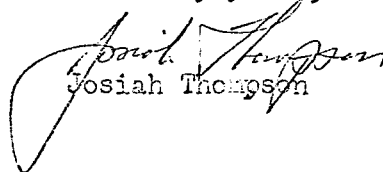
Professor Richard Bernabei of Kingston, Ontario has written to me stating that his recent examination of CE 557 in the Archives disclosed that one of the case mouths is dented. This bewilders me more than a little, since both my memory and my notes of my examination of the cases in January 1967, disclosed no indication of any dent in the mouth of either case, although I had noted two smaller dents on the case shoulders. I am very desirous of comparing notes with other individuals who saw the same cases -- especially those who viewed the cases close to the time of my own examination (January 1967) and prior to publication of Six Seconds in November 1967. If the Archives keeps such records, I would be very grateful to know the names of these researchers and also the dates on which they viewed CE 557. I would also appreciate you sending to me 8" by 10" prints from any negatives you have of this exhibit, together with (if possible) the dates on which these photos were taken. The photo charges may, of course, be made to the account that I still maintain at the Archives.

In this letter Professor Bernabei noted going through the Archives photos of CE 557 and finding one "that was taken for a Philadelphia resident who evidently wished to compare the case mouth dents on CE 543 and Frazier's test." I am more than a little intrigued as to who this "Philadelphia resident" may be, since, although working in the same part of the case, he has never gotten in touch with me. Could you send me his name, the date on which he viewed CE 577, and (if possible) his address?

Finally, may I ask your assistance in clearing up some confusion concerning the cases designated CE 543, 544, and 545? (1) Lt. Day testified (4H254) that he scratched the name "Day" on the "small end of the case where the slug would go" with a diamond point pencil on CE 544 and 545. Later he changed his testimony, claiming that he had found the word "Day" on all three cases. Is this correct? Is the word "Day" visible on all three? (2) Do the FBI designations C6, C7, and C 38 appear anywhere on the cases themselves, or were these designations written only on the containers of the three cases?

I thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,


Josiah Thompson