

12/26/57

Dear Mr. Joy,

Your letters of 12/7 & 13 arrived when I was away. I'm now swamped.

I cannot tell you what I would do with any material I might get from you until I see what it is. I might be able to do nothing. I would not publish it myself but might refer it to another.

Some of it I have already referred to in my public appearance (the upright body is vertical, not inclined). Some of it I disagree with (like the grassy knoll being unsuited for an ambush), and the first shot at Frame 210.

You are wrong about Ramparts and Turner. They would more likely steal anything you might have in which they'd find interest than support the FBI.

My fifth book, on the autopsy and what relates, is and has been written for some time. The sixth and seventh are researched and the writing started. So, I need no new material and I have never used anyone else, save for an occasional reference to what they had done, such as some you may recall.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

5809 E. Rosewood St.,
Tucson, Ariz.,
Dec. 7, 1967.

85711

Dear Mr. Weisburg: Just a question: What would you do with the material I have worked up if I sent it to you? I am not a finagler so you can give me a straight answer.

Actually the detailed analysis etc. of the neck-throat wound takes up about 20 pages, of the "re-enactment" as shown in Comm. Exhibits No. 889, 891, 893 etc. a few pages less. In a condensation I can't do much explaining.

I have been familiar with guns all my life and could do quite well with a small .22 at about the age of 10. From the age of 15 on I began to handle a Springfield and had about 6 years of military experience, in school, college and the army, during all of which I handled the Springfield and did some firing. I did not fire for record since I was in artillery but all my experience was as an officer trainee and officer; thus I had a good bit of theory as well as practice. Naturally, being a gun bug in a small way, the first things I heard over television to attract strongly my attention concerned the gun or guns and the trajectories of the bullets and the wounds.

That bit about the grade of the street... The body was vertical and so assumed by the "calculators" as on page 106 of the Report. A vertical body is so in relation to the earth itself and the slope it may be on does not matter. Thus to so much as think about the slope is a grave error. And grades, angles and what not have been in my business, my profession, for many years. So forget about that 3 deg. 9 min.

I have inspected the site three times, the first time on Jan. 18, 1964. That hedge row of shrubbery at the top of the knoll is a bad place for a sniper. It offers little concealment and no covered way of escape. It is almost as bad as shooting from the overpass, a completely exposed position. The Secret Service might not be as dopey as they were on Nov. 22. The first thing a sniper looks for is a covered spot to shoot from and, of equal or nearly equal importance, is a covered route of escape. The knoll offers little concealment for the shooting and no covered escape route. I don't think a careful planner, as this one was, would even consider the knoll.

No mention was ever made, by voice or otherwise, about an exit or other back wound to the left. Thus the throat wound could not have been inflicted from the knoll unless everybody lied from beginning to end and I hardly see how everybody could have been in on the plot. For this and other reasons I think Dr. Humes finally made the right report however much he may have fumbled at first. It fits and when things fit they are likely to be right.

I have gone over my work time and time again, made half a dozen small plats of the area and about four large ones. I came out with about the same results every time. It is not possible to be entirely accurate but the errors in the Report are so gross that such accuracy is not necessary.

It might have been possible for the gunman to fire the non-fatal shot slightly before frame 210 but each frame accounts for about 0.9 foot so a few frames do not matter. Mr. Kennedy was waving at frame 206 and everything looks okay at frame 207. The motorcycle cops to the left have their faces turned toward the President at frame 212 so we may be sure something has happened in the car. The people do not show reaction in the space of a single frame so reaction at frame 212 indicates 210 as the frame of the shot.

Mr. Altgens said he was about 15 feet from the car at the fatal shot and so it looks. I spotted him on one of my large plats and found it fit. But the Presidential car was more than 30 feet from Altgens if travelling at 11.3 mi. per hr. but the speed was not uniform. It may have been 30 feet from Altgens or 50 feet. If 50 feet away it was at the 5th. stripe on my map and if 30 feet away about the sixth. I personally checked the distance along the curb from ~~the~~ Houston St. to the underpass and counted the stripes. The stripes and spaces are not quite uniform but nearly so and each stripe and space together take up about 41 feet.

An inhumanly massively muscled figure such as is shown in Comm. Exhibit No. 385 may have its uses for showing something about muscles but serves mainly to confuse in this case. But the 8 or 10 degree angle shown is too large and the exit point of the massive arrow is too low. This is, doubtless, part of the deliberate fake along with that absurd "calculation" of the angle. In any case, even 10 degrees is a very long way from even the false 17 deg. 43 min. 30 sec. "calculated" and I am sure the FBI is not quite that ignorant and stupid so...I call it deliberate falsification.

The dimensions are given in the autopsy report for calculating the horizontal angle of the wound. The Commission completely disregards this angle. They did not dare do otherwise.

Study the Exhibits No. 891, 893, 895 etc, Photographs Through The Rifle Scope. If everything is as it should be, the bullet stays within the vertical plane marked by the vertical crosshair and strikes approximately in the plane of the horizontal crosshair. Exhibit 893 shows the vertical crosshair almost entirely to the right of the President's neck so a bullet so fired could not inflict the neck wound. And so on.

There is a photograph on the inside of the front cover of the Bantam edition of the Report which is described as: "Two FBI men re-enact the assassination in Dallas May 24, 1964, for the Warren Commission." This photograph gives a tip-off as to the actual angle of the wound, the vertical angle. The angle of the dashed line, supposedly the trajectory, in that photograph above the ~~horizontal~~ is almost exactly $6\frac{1}{2}$ degrees as measured by a protractor.

Sometimes one finds a photograph on which he can measure anything in the plane of the photograph if he can develop a scale. In the Nov. 24 issue of LIFE is a color photograph taken by a bystander which shows the Presidential car as it turns the corner down the Elm Street incline. The President is shown very clearly and his front is about 30 degrees toward the camera from the side view. The shoulder wound was placed equidistant from three points, the neck wound, the mastoid process and the point of the shoulder. In this photograph each of those $5\frac{1}{2}$ inch lengths would be about equally foreshortened. If this photograph were enlarged about two or four times its actual size as shown it would be possible to spot on it the wound and measure the vertical angle. Of course the photograph is of the left side but the wound location and dimensions would be identical. So far I have found no pictures from the right except the Zapruder film. Maybe I'll have to get your book of photographs.

Sincerely,


Whitney Joy.

P.S. Zapruder film frames 315 to about 331 show the head wound quite clearly as a white, V-shaped blaze opening out toward the front from a point above and back of the ear. In the last two or three frames to 334 the head is too far forward and down to show the wound clearly.

W.J.

5809 E. Rosewood St.,
Tucson, Arizona, 85711
Dec. 13, 1967.

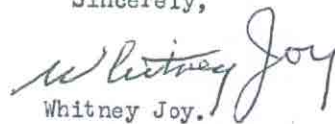
Dear Mr. Weisberg: Here is something that did not occur to me when I wrote my recent and rather long letter. You suggested trying Ramparts with my article and went on to say that their expert, on ballistics and small arms, I suppose, is a man named Turner who was formerly with the FBI.

I have noticed over the years that only now and then does an ex-FBI man have anything to say against that organization. Instead they generally support it. I am afraid that, since Mr. Turner is ex-FBI and probably still its supporter, he would not care for my analysis for it shows that the re-enactment of the assassination as set up in Dallas by the FBI on May 24, 1964, is not correct, that it is not a re-enactment at all but an entirely new crime that did not happen. All this is, of course, a trifle technical and they, no doubt, depended on this fact to prevent most people from noticing and keep those who did from saying anything. It takes this analysis and the facts that go with it to complete the destruction, from an intellectual standpoint at least, of the Report. Of course there is, most likely, no way to compel anybody to take further action.

Your own criticism of the Report is massive and, though I believe there are some errors, they are insignificant in the mass of factual material. If they are, in fact, errors, they amount to only a very small portion of your work. Epstein also has some errors but again a small portion of the book and the same may be said of Mark Lane.

I would like to know what you would do with what I could send you. It may be helpful if you and I could get together in some way.

Sincerely,


Whitney Joy.

Rt. 7, Frederick, Md. 21701 12/4/67

Dear Mr. Joy,

Thanks for your letter of 11/30.

Suppose the shot were fired, as I am confident it was, before 11:15
210. What would that do to your belief about the angles? I am not defending the
FBI report but asking:

Humes did know about the tracheotomy. See WHITWASH II. He never burned his
notes. He burned the first draft of the autopsy. The notes are simply suppressed.

On your neck angles, have you considered the street grade, about 4%?

With respect to your belief about the source of the shot, have you carefully
examined the Altgens picture and what I have written and suggested about it?

I do hope you can get the articles published. Have you tried Remperts?
Their expert is named Turner. He is a former FBI man.

Good luck and thanks.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

5809 E. Rosewood St.,
Tucson, Arizona.
Nov. 30, 1967.

Mr. Harold Weisburg,
Hyattstown, Md.

Dear Mr. Weisburg: Whether I said that I have a couple of articles, one about 7,000 words and the other about 5,000 words analyzing, first the vertical and horizontal angle of the wound and second the re-enactment, I would like to dispose of I don't know but I have them. So far I have tried two magazines ^{which} have published a great deal of material on the assassin ^{but} they were not interested. Maybe I should have sent sketches but I didn't. Now I am trying two other magazines ^{which} have recent articles on the subject. If I have any luck I am going to try to publish a book with at least that much material that I have found nowhere else. I was interested in the case from the beginning but a couple of ulcers got to me about that time so I had a bad year or two and a dangerous operation, in case I didn't mention it, and so didn't really get into the case until after that CBS whitewash of last June. I wrote a letter to Walter Cronkite and told him that review was about as cheesy as the pair of Maggie's drawers Oswald was accustomed to have waved at him from the rifle pits but he had gone on vacation and someone else wrote to say something to the effect that I was one of the very few who criticized. Most people who can read don't, I suppose. But then I found out that the truth of the Report is in the critics (all but two or three) and in the testimony and documents, published and unpublished.

Where the FBI went off half cocked right off the bat was with that "45 to 60 degree angle" thing. I used to live in Dallas but that was quite a while ago. A friend of long ago who is still there avoids me now. However, I inspected the site, Dealey Plaza around the Book Depository, so I can say flatly that there is no place around that spot from which a shot could be fired to make a hole at an angle of even 45 degrees downward in the President's back. Mr. Kennedy would, when his back was turned, have been farther from the foot of the building than the roof of the building is so... those angles are out. You see, I am an engineer with a lot of experience in such matters as well as a lot of knowledge about literature so...

I liked what you had to say about the autopsy in general, it was sloppily handled, but when Dr. Humes exclaimed, as I have heard he did, "So that's it!" when he learned what the Dallas doctors had done, to me it meant that he not only knew then what had happened to the throat but knew his way ahead. He probably burned his notes because, having been made under a misapprehension, they were probably seemingly a bit silly and a proud man of sound reputation could be pardoned for doing as he did. Anyhow, that was the pattern I had gathered from the earliest television reports. Thus I rather think the official autopsy report is correct and Dr. Boswell is reported to have seen the X-rays and said they supported the report. Then Dr. Humes reported bruises on the right pleura (lung cavity membrane) and also on the apex of the right lobe of the lung which show the passage of the bullet about $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 inches in from the entry in the neck-shoulder juncture. I also thought the neck wound an exit wound and that the rather flabby flesh of the neck would flop back after the passage of a bullet rather farther than firmer flesh would. The entry wound was 4x7 mm, indicating a large angle to the right but the 4mm shows that the firmer flesh expanded back about 2mm. after being pushed aside by the 6mm. bullet.

Dr. Humes said that the bullet entered "just over the clavicle" and it made its exit through the lower trachea rings. FBI Exhibit 60 shows that the bullet nicked the collar band though comment tries to make it something else, about one eighth inch to the left of the midline of the throat. The collar band is, of course, at just about the level of the top of the collar bone in front. Now "just over" the collar bone in the back to "just even" with the collar bone in front with a square shouldered man not overly fleshed such as Kennedy was makes a drop of about 5 to 6 tenths of an inch or a trifle more while travelling $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. If the drop is 6 tenths, the

*of the angle, Magazine report
corrects it*

vertical angle is $6\frac{1}{2}$ degrees. It may be $5\frac{1}{2}$ or it may be $7\frac{1}{2}$, hardly more.
That terribly overdrawn Commission Exhibit No. 385 shows about 8 or 9 degrees but Dr. Humes said it was not accurate and not to scale which is quite obvious to one accustomed to such things. I think the point of that so-called artist's arrow is too low though he probably didn't mean anything. In any case, even if one accepts that angle as accurate, and Humes said it was not, it still knocks the tar out of the Report for the angle up to the sixth floor window is 21 degrees 34 minutes according to the Commission's own measurements and you can't shoot at a man through open air when he is only 59 yards or so away from an ~~angle 21 degrees~~ elevation of about 60 feet above him and punch a hole in him only $6\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 or even 10 or 12 degrees *slope*.

As for the horizontal angle: The point of entry was $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the point of the right shoulder. Mr. Kennedy, according to a local tailor and by comparison with other people I know, ^{was} about $18\frac{1}{4}$ to $18\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the shoulders from point to point. Half the smaller width is $9\frac{1}{8}$ inches and to that must be added the $1/8$ inch to the left of midline at which the bullet made exit. Subtract from the resulting $9\frac{1}{4}$ inches the $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the point and the result is $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches which is *left* the distance in horizontal projection of the two wounds apart from back of shoulder *to* front of throat. Thus I have an angle the sine of which is $3\frac{3}{4}$ over $5\frac{1}{2}$ which is an angle of 43 degrees. Thus Mr. Kennedy was shot from a point about $6\frac{1}{2}$ degrees up and about 43 degrees or more to his right. I know the exact spot and it is by far the best sniper's hideout in the whole area. It is, of course, not 60 feet up but very much less. At the ranges of this assassination, the bullets were travelling at very flat *angles*.

I was struck by the ballistics aspects of the case from the first and I could have said with the late Robert Ruark who knew about such things: "The ballistic ~~Send~~ makes no sense."

The so-called re-enactment doesn't re-enact anything but sets up a new crime altogether. That is shown by the Photographs Through the Rifle Scope. Bullets nearly always, if the ammunition, rifle and what not are in normally good shape, fly in the vertical plane marked by the vertical crosshair... and if truly fired, strike at the level of ~~of xxxxxxxx~~ marked by the horizontal crosshair. I have been shooting more or less since the age of about 10 and have about seven rifles, three pistols and a double barreled shotgun in the house. One of my rifles is a Springfield 30-06 which is about the same size and heft and external dimensions, others for that matter, as the 7.65 mm. German Mauser. The two guns look quite a lot alike. I also own a 7.35 mm. Mannlicher-Carcano which is externally almost if not quite exactly like that 6.5mm. and the gun is a midget compared to the Springfield or the ~~7~~ Mauser. There are several calibers among the Mausers but all I know about range from 7mm. to 8mm. and look pretty much alike. Thus I have never believed that those Dallas clowns, Weitzman, Boone and Wade made any mistake in the gun they found in the first place. They just ran in a ringer when the FBI dug up the gun they can't prove Oswald ever owned. De Moreschild saw a rifle of ~~the~~ type in Oswald's apartment in April of 1963 as you know but he could not identify a particular gun. You just don't look at a gun and say off hand "Yes, that's the one." You have got to look at the serial number or other mark that distinguishes, to you at least, that gun from all others. Thus Marina could never have identified that gun no matter how many times she says so. The Commission never had a case against Oswald as far as the shooting of Kennedy is concerned and he couldn't have hit anything with that gun and its buster sight and worn and pitted interior of the barrell and no practice at all. Moreover, the crime the Commission set up is a fake and the angle the FBI, presumably, figured near the bottom of page 106 of the Govt. Printing Office edition of the report is... well, the best one can say for those clowns is that they didn't know what they were ~~a~~ doing.

Well...that ought to be enough out of me for the time.

I'd actually prefer to give the article away to get them published - but any one can move they might bring.
Sincerely,
Whitney Joy
Whitney Joy, P.E. (Ret)