

To Dave Lifton from Harold Weisberg, p.s. of 1/7/80

Search discloses that I have one clear 8x10 print of the FBI picture of the slits in the front of the JFK shirt and that I did not make and file a separate copy of the FBI record of its having made its own photos of the Harper skull fragment.

If you decide you want a copy of the picture I'll have one made at a local photo place with which I have done business if you pay the cost. If you decide that you do want this the picture in Post Mortem is the full thing and this is an enlargement of that. If you want any further enlargement please provide any instructions so it can be done as you want. Otherwise I'd ask for a full 1-to-1 copy of the 8x10.

My best recollection of the Lab's pix of the fragment is that these records are in what are known as EBF's or Enclosure Behind File, ostensibly but not always actually because they will not fit in the regular files. Sometimes they are called "bullies" for "bulky exhibits."

Between Dallas and FBI HQ there are about 40,000 such pages. Of course there is much duplication.

You can use FOIA to request prints. The FBI takes much longer but costs much less than the Archives, where prints may be with what the FBI has transferred there.

I'm not sure but I think there are xeroxes instead of photographic copies in the EBF's provided to me. I'd never be able to find them.

Lyfton

To Dave Lyfton from Harold Weisberg reur 12/23/79

See bcc at bottom

There is virtually nothing I can do until some time next week at the earliest but I will lend you the shirt slit picture. This will have to await the return of the young woman who is helping me and is rearranging the files, mostly for eventual transfer to Wisconsin and when there is time, to give me more room in my small office by removing what is not within my presently planned work. She has removed those pictures and I have no idea where they are refiled, but I believe they are in the basement, where all the FBI materials are. When she returns next week first off we have a calendar call in the King case, which may require some preparation and will take a day. Assuming no other emergencies she'll get on that as soon as she has refiled the horrible mess of records taken from the files for the two just completed affidavits in two FOIA cases on King and one vs GSA. I begin work on another after supper or in the a.m. That is the way it has been going lately. So please excuse the typos because I'll not have time to read and correct this.

When you refer to the weight of 399 gs weighed by the Archives and as the Commission had it the difference is but 0.9 grains. I don't know how tiny the fragment that fell off is but Howard may know. I believe he is the one who discovered it. Thanks for the citations. When the present press is over I'll read those passages and perhaps can find some use for them in ongoing litigation.

The identification of the Serial relating to the Harper fragment can be of use only if the "-53" after the number" is immediately after 62-109060. That would mean only 100 Serials to check. But if the - means the earlier numbers are missing, the work is too great unless I've made a separate copy for subject filing, as I may have.

The "photos made by Webb" part sounds familiar. It also suggests that this or a duplicate may be in or come from what is known as a "bulky," also "RF" or "enclosure behind file."

With luck we'll be able to get to the searches next week, when I'll include this. I'm using a few pre-supper moments not to forget. I'll leave a carbon and your letter for this young woman when she has time.

If the "53" is final numbers unless I have a subject copy made if I'm to do any other searching a copy will be essential. Too many numbers can precede it.

After you make the copies you want of the shirt slit pix please protect it with cardboard and return it. The original is with the copy for the book. The copy is an enlargement. I believe the origin is a contact print of a 4x5 negative. You may want more than one print because the publisher will require one and you may want to do as I have, file the backstopping with the ms.

How much attention are you giving to the Harper fragment, in case we have or come across more that can be relevant? After you phoned it seemed to me that I have seroxes of the photos but I'm by no means sure. Could be other evidence.

Sincerely,

bcc: when he phoned I suggested that he compare the present weight with that the WC used. He appears not to have done this and with him that can be trickery, so I've not told him the obvious, that what Frazier cut off for lead testing of which he did not testify before the WC would seem to me to be heavier than 0.9 grain. This would mean that Frazier did not weigh the specimen only as he received it and it would mean that no significant amount of metal was missing from 399 when it reached the Lab. Also, I find it hard to believe Frazier's deposition testimony, that he did ~~not~~ weigh the specimen on receipt, ~~not~~ after removal of the sample. But, if this is true what he removed has to weigh less than a grain.

140 Beach 135 St.
Rockaway Beach, N.Y. 11694
Dec. 23, 1979

Harold Weisberg
Route 12, Frederick, Md. 21701

Dear Harold,

I thought you might be interested in the following information.

Re: 399

From the Report of the Firearms Panel, starting at page 353 of vol. 7 of the HSCA report;

At paragraph 105; " CE 399---One Fired 6.5 millimeter caliber full metal-jacketed bullet, found on a stretcher...etc. The bullet weight was found to be 157.7 grains. (72) In the same boxas the bullet was a tiny fragment, whih was too small to weigh or otherwise examine."

Footnote 72, on page 415 reads: "The panel noted that Warren Commission determined the weight of CE 399 to be 158.6 grains (Warren report, p.95). The National Archives also weighted CE 399, at the request of the committee and the panel, on Dec. 14, 1978, and found its weight to be 157.7, the same as the panel's finding (HSCA outside contact report, Robert MacClaren, Dec. 14, 1978, JFK Document No. 013672)."

Re Harper fragment from which I was reading was File # 62-109060. In my file, its near another document which has " - 53" after that number; but I can't find another number on this sheet.

In ~~writx~~ handwriting appears, ~~xxxxx~~ "Photos made by Webb."

I'm sure you can locate this easily in your stuff. I am so deluged with tasks that this letter will have to suffice for now, unless you really need a facsimile (for future ref., its my DSL 86A).

~~Thankingcx~~ Hope the above info is useful.

Thinking about it, yes, I'd really like copies of ^{photos of} the shirt slits, if you have an extra set. If not, and you made a set available for a brief loan period, perhaps I can have copies made by Robert G. He will be doing some photo work for me soon, and I could add that. Let me know.

Incidentally, in quoting the above from the HSEA report, I make no claims to thoroughness. There may be more data useful to you there. Just don't know.

Regards,


David Lifton