

2/26/70

Dear Chris,

Your letter of the 23rd reached me faster than most from New York! I'm replying through Gary again because he is unusually pressed for time. Thus, if he is in accord with what I say he need not repeat it, if he disagrees, he can tell you that, etc.

In your note to me you say you have concluded all shots were fired from the Oswald rifle, a single assassin. I disagree on all counts: could not possibly have been a single assassin, Oswald fired no shots, I have no reason to believe any was then fired from that rifle.

In your form letter, on the rose theory, I am again in disagreement, with all but your interpretation of Frazier, which is, substantially, my own. There is, however, a big difference in our conclusions about how the slits and nick were made. I agree, not with a bullet. I remain of the opinion there was a wound of entry in the front, and I am convinced, really certain, the rear so-called non-fatal wound was lower than you place it. I cannot now go into details, but I am expanding writing already done on this aspect. Please believe me when I tell you this is now beyond question. I cannot now tell you how I know.

Having just removed about 400 linear feet of the most abundant multiflora roses, whose stems ran to 40-50' and thicknesses to 3", I am aware of the potential of the species. Gary is a naturalist of some standing who may believe otherwise. Having been chewed and shredded and mangled by them in various ways, more than enough to endow me with a considerable respect for their painful capabilities, I remain persuaded they cannot accomplish what you attribute to them. With respect to the character of the tie nick, it is inconsistent with this cause. I am also intimately familiar with what thorns do to fabric. I have also raised roses for their blooms, and have had sufficient experience with their stems to be satisfied they do not have the murderous capabilities attributed to them.

The finding of the autopsy doctors on the depth of the rear wound is unworthy of serious consideration and is susceptible to other and credible explanation, as I have already done it in work not printed.

Best wishes,

Jim, at present, writing a summary of my conclusions so far - will send copies to "Life", Gary Dick and, of course, yourself. At present, conclusions indicate one assassin only, using Oswald's rifle. "Analysis" which you should receive in about 3 weeks, concludes for Connolly hit at F.224 of Zap film, by the way, you will receive letter to "Life" before "Life" does. I will close now; hope I have not taken up too much of your time.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS LONGBOTTOM

195 CLEMMINGTON ROAD,
DUNDEE,
SCOTLAND.
23rd February 1970.

Dear Harold,

Thank you for your letter of 14th Jan. through Gary. I sent my "Analysis" of Zapruder frames 222 to 244" off to you (copies also to Gary and Dick Sprague) this morning. Have sent a copy to "Life" also - I don't know what they'll think of it.

Enclosed is a copy of letter to "Life" which I will be sending to them so that it arrives some time as "Analysis". Since writing letter I have altered my opinion re brain on right lung - I think it was caused by rose stem, with back wound only 1-2 inches deep. Rose stem theory sounds ludicrous but seems to explain all facts adequately. Other photos showing sharpness of stems are on P.17 of "Life" Dec 16, 1963; and P.8 of "Torch" is passed. I don't know what "Life" or anyone else, will think of rose stem theory, - look forward to hearing your views on this.

195 Clopington Road,

DUNDEE,

Angus,

Scotland.

February, 1970.

Dear Sir,

You should have received, or will receive in the next few days, from me a letter enclosing an Analysis of Zapruder frames 222 to 244 (which appeared in November, 28 1966 issue of "Life International"). That analysis is concerned with the wounding of Governor Connally. This letter is concerned with the wounding of President Kennedy.

The absence of metal traces at the margins of the tears in the front of JFK's shirt and the nick in the knot of his tie indicate that the tears may not have been caused by a bullet. Robert A. Frazier, testifying before the Warren Commission on the examination of the clothes said "I could not actually determine from the characteristics of the hole (in the front of the shirt) whether or not it was caused by a bullet." "It is orientated vertically, and the fibres of the cloth are protruding outward, that is, have been pushed from the inside out." "The hole in the front of the shirt does not have the round characteristic shape caused by a round bullet entering cloth. It is an irregular slit. It could have been caused by a round bullet, however, since the cloth could have torn in a long slitlike way as the bullet passed through it. But that is not specifically characteristic of a bullet hole to the extent that you could say it was to the exclusion of being a piece of bone or some other type of projectile." "In each instance for these holes (in the shirt) the one through the button line and the one through the button hole line, the hole amounts to a ragged slit approximately one half inch in height."

The anterior neck wound was 3-5mm. in diameter, round, with neither smooth nor ragged edges, blood tending to obscure its outline. Behind the wound was a small ragged tear of the trachea on the anterior lateral right side. To the Parkland doctors this anterior neck wound, originally, had the appearance of an entry wound. Subsequently the Autopsy Report and the Warren Commission concluded that it was an exit wound. The wound was not characteristic of an exit wound of a bullet of the type supposedly causing it - 6.5mm. diameter bullet - but one doctor said it might have been caused by a bullet of this type if the bullet made its exit at a very low velocity, such that it only had sufficient energy to just make its exit through the skin. But even in this case, one would expect metal traces to appear on the tears/

tears in the shirt and tie.

The force of the fatal shot(s) knocked JFK back and left against the rear seat of the car (in approximately 0.33 seconds) and he thereafter bounced off the rearseat, falling forwards and down to his left. Between JFK and Jackie Kennedy, on the rear seat, were a bunch of red and pink roses. In the Zapruder frame shown on P.24 of October, 19 1964 issue of "Life International" (the frame number is just beyond f.334) it can be seen that the roses have moved forwards slightly from their previous position as Jackie starts to climb onto the boot of the car. JFK has fallen down to his left onto the roses.

At Parkland Hospital as JFK was being removed from the car some of the roses that were caught in his shirt were removed. Since there were no other tears in the shirt (apart from the back wound bullet hole) and would expect the removal of roses caught in cloth to create tears - due to the thorns - this seems to indicate that the tears to shirt and tie were caused by these roses. Half inch vertical tears appear to be a little large to have been caused by thorns alone. On P.12-13 of "Four Days" - the UPI documentation of the assassination - there is a photo taken at Love Field at the start of the motorcade. The photo shows JFK, Mrs. Kennedy, and Governor Connally. On the rear seat, situated between JFK and Mrs. Kennedy can be seen the red and pink roses. Directed upwards, backwards, and towards JFK are the cut stems of the roses; they appear to be quite sharply pointed at their ends, the stems having been cut obliquely in the normal fashion.

It is possible that when JFK fell to his left after the fatal shot(s) that one of these cut stems made the tears in his tie and shirt. The fact that the nick in the tie was on the left side of the knot whilst the shirt tears were approximately in the midline is in line with this possibility. Not only this, it is feasible that the sharp cut end of a stem actually pierced JFK's throat creating the 3-5mm. puncture wound and possibly creating the small ragged tracheal tear. The sharp end of the stem would not have to penetrate very deeply to create the tracheal tear, the whole oblique part of the end need not have entered the skin (and this would account for the 3-5mm. round hole as compared with the $\frac{1}{2}$ inch vertical slit caused by the whole width of the stem piercing the cloth). Removal of the roses (and stem), at Parkland, would have caused the fibres of the cloth of the shirt to be drawn out as noted by Frazier. The wound in the neck would have the similar appearance to a puncture wound.

The alignment of the nick in the tie, tears in the shirt, anterior neck wound, and tracheal tear are consistent with a cut stem having passed from JFK's left to right.

The Autopsy surgeons, as reported by FBI agents and Secret Service Agents, found the bullet wound in JFK's shoulder to be less than a finger length in depth./

depth, with no bullet in the wound. The 1968 Panel Review of the X-rays and photos from the autopsy noted a few tiny metal fragments in the neck. Thus, it is possible that the shoulder wound bullet fragmented inside the body or the major portion of it fell out of the body leaving a few metal fragments. The Autopsy surgeons did not physically trace the bullet's path through to the anterior neck wound - the path was deduced.

JFK was apparently shot in the shoulder at a point just prior to f.200 of Zapruder film. At f.224-5 onwards JFK can be seen to be reacting to a hit. It is almost certainly a reaction to the shoulder wound, JFK does not reach for his neck but in fact reaches for his mouth (clearly seen in the sequence of f.222 to f.244 in November 28, 1966 issue of "Life International", and the enlarged frames f.236 and f.242 show this quite distinctly). JFK's hands start to fall from his mouth beginning at approximately f.250.

The frame on P.22 of October 19, 1964 issue of "Life International" (probably f.258) shows JFK's hands have fallen well below his mouth, his right hand more so than his left hand; and the knot of his tie is clearly visible - JFK is not clutching his neck or throat.

One can only speculate on a man's reaction to being shot, but it seems quite feasible that JFK was reacting to a bullet which entered his shoulder just above the level of the first rib, about two inches to the right of his spine, pierced the strap muscles, bruised the apex of his right lung, and ended up just behind (or perhaps even hitting) the trachea. (This bullet could then have fallen out of the wound or become lost in the body).

Thus, it is entirely possible, ludicrous though it may seem at first, that JFK's anterior neck wound, the tracheal tear, and the tears in the shirt and tie were caused by one of the sharp ends of the cut stems of the roses onto which JFK fell after being fatally wounded. This theory most adequately explains the nature and alignment of the wounds and the tears and also the absence of metal traces at the margins of the tears in the cloth.

I look forward to hearing your opinion on this theory.

Yours faithfully,

(Mr. C. Longbottom)