

6/18/68

Dear John,

Many thanks for your letter of 6/16 and the picture of CE 544. I no longer have to worry about the loss of metal to the rifling. I've often wondered how much to attribute to that.

If you haven't already ordered your copies of the prints from negatives from the Archives, may I suggest that you ask his certification each is from a pristine negative and of a single exposure through a comparison microscope? While I was talking to one of the men in a different room, Dick looked at some negatives I apologize for failing to. He can give you a statement but I cannot support it. Of course, I can go back and make the examination. It is my recollection Dick said the negatives are really pieced-together negatives. Another alternative, in advance of asking the certification, is to order xeroxes of the negatives. The connecting line might show as black.

Should they for any reason decline the certification, do you not have a vital point in court for their argument they make pictures available, don't they? If they do and it is false, you have an even more telling point. And if their certification is that these are, in fact, made negatives we have made evidence represented otherwise.

If I can find the time, next time I'm in DC I'll go and make the same examination, then be in a position to execute a statement. Also, how can you establish they photographed the printed page? By the screen? I fail to see why the uninspired Archives should go to this extra work and trouble requiring the making of a negative, when they have a negative. Therefore, I wonder about their negative.

Perhaps I misunderstand inexact language we all use in haste, but if you really do intent to copyright something directly from the Archives and with nothing added, you will guarantee that your work will become public domain. Government property cannot be copyrighted, save as an anthology, etc. Be certain to put a combination together and make your explanatory material an integral part of you may run the risk of losing everything. I have already faced this problem in a different way and had expert help in solving it. If you can, handle all the pictures and the text, which will be your own, as a unit and in the application be certain to describe an anthology or you'll be delayed, lose the request, or, if they slip up and grant it, automatically be giving your stuff away with an invalid copyright, which has that effect.

I can see the marks on the head of CE544 with the naked eye. A microscope certainly showed them. Dick has not gotten his Archives pictures because the photographer has not yet mailed them. I have asked that the prints be mailed immediately and the negatives as soon as copied. He was not in. I spoke to his wife.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

CC Bernabei

June 16, 1969

Dick Bernabei, Esq.,
Department of Classics
Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.

Dear Dick:

Attach no significance to Doctor Lattimer's article.

Yes, I have previously pulled 100 bullets with an inertia hammer. These were weighed on an analytical balance and then resealed into numbered cases and fired into mattresses previously flouroscopeped and metal items removed. After recovery they were weighed again and compared to the pre-fired weight. Each was found to have lost 25-29 milligrams or about one-half grain each. This, of course, applies only to this particular weapon and not necessarily to Mr. Oswald's C 2766. A large number of black-white and color transparencies of these bullets are on hand as well as pictures of bullets after being shot thru ribs, wrists, and legs, both singly and in all possible combination. Sixteen millimeter footage is available of the impact of the bullet and reaction of the ribs, wrists, and legs. This was taken at 1,400 frames per second with a Wollensack camera designed for taking pictures of rockets in flight after being shot from pods on airplane wings. This will compoise part of the substance of my book and possibly part of my article in Look.

Enclosed is rear view of CE 544 showing the scratch you called to my attention and which provides evidence of Frazier's mistakes. I am having it copyrighted and intend to have about four similarly copyrighted ~~items~~ in the brief which are out of the Archives. This will stagger the defendants. The pictures of the comparisons of the bases of the ~~balls~~ cases which you drew my attention to arrived also but the Archives had merely taken ~~pictures~~ of the printed plates in the book and were worthless. I have requested prints from negatives.

Yes, please do put me in contact with a person who can provide copies of the Zapruder film.

All the best,

cc: Harold

JN

METRIC 1

