

H. P. WHITE



LABORATORY
RESEARCH · DEVELOPMENT ENGINEERING

BOX 331, BEL AIR, MARYLAND 21014
TELEPHONE: TERRACE 8-6550

20 February 1970

Mr. Emory L. Brown, Jr.
Route 4, Box 82
Squankum Road
Farmingdale, New Jersey 07727

Dear Mr. Brown:

Reference your letter of 15 February, the telescopic sight on the Oswald rifle appeared to be mounted between 1 and 2 inches to the left of the axis of the bore. If the scope were mounted parallel to the axis of the bore, the bullet would go between 1 and 2 inches to the right of the aiming point. If, however, the scope were adjusted to hit the aiming point at 100 yards, the bullet would be to the right at the muzzle and would approach and insect the line of the sight at 100 yards, then would go to the left thereafter.

I tried to make it clear in my previous letter that the aiming error appears to be far greater than that of the rifle when the target is moving. In the test for CBS with shooters picked at random, one target had the shots quite closely spaced and could be covered by the area of the hand, while others were more widely spaced and some were misses.

Regarding the terminal characteristics of the bullet, it was demonstrated repeatedly that the bullet could pass through 5 inches of gelatin, then through 12 inches of gelatin, then through 3 inches of gelatin with tempered masonite inserted, and would be only slightly deformed. This was with the same ammunition that was used in the Presidential Assassination and essentially duplicated the results of the tests reported by the Warren Commission. You must understand that the bullet was decelerated by passing through 17 inches of gelatin so that upon striking the hard masonite, it would deform only slightly. If it had struck the masonite at the full velocity, the results would undoubtedly have been different.

The jacket of the bullet could, I think, have considerable effect on its performance at the target. We know that jacket materials vary in thickness and that the jacket in the more common military ammunition for the 6.5 Carcano is made of steel and has a thin copper plating. It was probably this type that we fired through the 14-inch maple tree.

Mr. Emory L. Brown, Jr.
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If you do not already have it, I suggest that you obtain the report of "The President's Commission on the Assassination of John F. Kennedy". It is available from the Superintendent of Documents. This book has much more information on the rifle than could be repeated here. The numerous appendices contain even more information.

Very truly yours,

H. P. WHITE LABORATORY



W. D. Dickinson

WDD/ss

EMORY L BROWN, JR.
ROUTE 4, BOX 82
SQUANKUM ROAD
FARMINGDALE, NEW JERSEY 07727

General Correspondence No. 92

February 15, 1970

H. P. White Laboratory
Box 331
Bel Air, Maryland
21014

Attention: Mr. W. D. Dickinson

Dear Mr. Dickinson:

Reference is made to your letter of February 12, 1970.

Concerning the type of telescopic sight employed, it is my understanding that one on the "Oswald Rifle" was of a class designed specifically for use on rifles of the .22 caliber category. Also, using the side-mount, the scope can not be centered along the parallel axis of the bore and thus, by my own test and in the opinion of the National Rifle Association, this fact will not allow the rifle to be fired accurately. I am wondering what scores you obtained for CBS?

I was somewhat surprised by the statement that you fired a bullet through a 14 inch tree and it did not fragment. I fired a 6.5 carcano missile through a 6 inch bundle of newspapers at fifty yards and the recovered bullets were extremely mutilated, in most cases, only the base portions being intact. My ammunition was of Italian manufacture but I don't suppose there could be that much dramatic difference in bullet construction between it and those made by the Western Cartridge Company. However, you would agree with me, that such a round or rather a missile from such a round would definitely completely penetrate the neck or trunk of a human body within the ranges of the Assassination, right?

Sincerely yours,

General Correspondence No. 92

H. P. WHITE



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RESEARCH · DEVELOPMENT ENGINEERING

BOX 331, BEL AIR, MARYLAND 21014
TELEPHONE: Terrace 8-6550

12 February 1970

Mr. Emory L. Brown, Jr.
Route 4, Box 82
Squankum Road
Farmingdale, New Jersey 07727

Dear Mr. Brown:

Reference your letter of 9 February on the caliber 6.5 x 52mm Carcano rifle, we have no report and will have to resort to general comments.

First, the rifle is not particularly accurate by ordinary standards but its inherent accuracy is far better than that of aiming in our tests for the CBS study of the Warren Commission Report. The telescopic sight sold by Kleins was not of high grade but its use certainly increased the probability of hitting at the ranges in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Regarding the penetration, our experience with CBS demonstrated that the bullet could have passed through the President's neck, Governor Connelly's chest and wrist in succession and sustained very little damage. As you know from the Warren Commission Report, the bullet that entered President Kennedy's head did break into fragments. We fired the bullet through a 14-inch green maple tree, which indicates that it did not fragment under these circumstances. This particular bullet may have been one with the more common steel jacket rather than the cupro-nickel one on the ammunition used in the Kennedy assassination.

Very truly yours,

H.P. WHITE LABORATORY


W.D. Dickinson

WDD/ss

— General Correspondence No. 92 —

EMORY L. BROWN, JR.
ROUTE 4, Box 82
SQUANKUM RD.
FARMINGDALE, N. J. 07727

February 9, 1970

H. P. White Laboratories
Bel Aire, Maryland

Gentlemen:

A reply from the Secretary of the National Rifle Association of America has referred me to you, in regards to obtaining ballistic information on the Model 91/38 Mannlicher-Carcano " short rifle " caliber 6.5x52 mm.

First of all, I would like some comments as to the general accuracy of this type of rifle using the fixed iron sights and then, with telescopic sight of the type sold by Kleins Sportings Goods several years ago, if such has ever been tested.

Secondly, I would like some information as to the affect tissue penetration has on the military jacketed bullet. Does this round possess great penetration potential and does the missile tend to " fragment " or remain intact?

If any of the above requested information is already in a prepared form or report, I would be glad to pay for photocopies of the relevant pages.

Sincerely yours,