

5.24/97

Dear Jim,

Your 5/16 does clarify a bit.

But I ask again, what purpose was served for the FBI or could it imagine would be served by their doing anything to the patched place on that curbstone?

Without some purpose there was no point in doing anything and while the FBI did not often get caught in what it did wrong or get embarrassed, they'd not have done anything like that without a purpose. I see none.

In thinking of these things, and that is not the same as writing about them, it is important to bear in mind that we do not know what rifles or bullets were used. The actuality is that the official evidence proves Oswald could not have fired any of those shots. On the basis of what we know shots came from more than one direction, meaning more than one rifle. It is not impossible that skilled riflemen used their own weapons, those they preferred. And then do not forget that silencers could have been used on some shots.

I am not certain but I think it was Frazier who testified to the scraping of the curbstone. For some reason they did not use Gallagher until it was all over. He was the last witness. I think the best way to find that is to see where the exhibit was introduced. It could have been Shancyfelt, by the way, because he took the pictures. But I think it was Frazier, The exhibit to look for is not the picture but the FBI letter to the Commission.

I can't disagree with your doubts that a spectro plate was made but I am inclined to think they did to see what it would show. We never could get anything in writing on that destruction, if I remember correctly. The DJ lawyer said it. Jim Lesar, who was my lawyer, office 913 F St, #909, Washington 20004 may be able to tell you. If we had it in writing I might have put it in the spectro file in the subject files. Otherwise it is in the case file, with the lawsuits.

That is tricky language, typical of the FBI, where they talk about no copper showing on the shirt and what that can mean. It in fact means that nothing that could leave any trace hit it. The fact is as I learned from Carrico and Perry that the damages to the front of the shirt and to the tie were from a scalpel used by either Bowron or Stencliff under Carrico's direction. Read that part of Post Mortem again. Feel free to use it if you'd like, it or anything I've done.

On the sounds of the shots, is it possible that those sounds were not caused by the firing of the bullets that were used but were sound effects, to hide the origin of the shots or to provide sounds if silencers were used? Is there a limit to what can safely be said about the sounds of those bullets?

With your purpose the attempted coverup of the missed shot when you are here again go over the statements from other sources, like the display people, if you've not done it, the upstairs files on shots, of which there are several, and I think you should make heavy use of CD1, in which it is not mentioned. There are b^ut two references to the assassination itself in CD1, both at the end of Whitewash. I think that you can make much use of the first volume of it. Remember, we are each given the first 100 pages of copying from that archive free. If you have used your allotment get that in another name. It is about but just under the 100 free pages. Be sure you get it with the index itx has.

You are right on what you say about Hoover but there was ~~another~~ ^{another} reason. Check under Edgewood Arsenal in Whitewash and ^{beginning} on page 301 in NEVER AGAIN! and you'll see that the best shots in the country could not duplicate the shooting attributed to Oswald. Who was a ~~diff~~ ^{diff}er at best. Use the Folsom letter I use in WW. It has the citation and you can use it from the volumes.. They had to ignore the missed ~~shot~~ ^{shot} because the best shots in the country could Not duplicate the shooting with three shots and a forth made it even more impossible. The SS and the FBI never acknowledged the missed shot. Even though they knew about it.

It does appear to be bumbling but think the FBI looked that way because of what they were hiding, which made them look that way. They knew what they were doing.

I think it is good to explore all we can explore before we put anything on paper or get it fixed in our minds.

Best to you all,

Harold

Neither the FBI nor the SS would go for the single-bullet nonsense because they knew that was impossible and would expect to be criticized if they said it. So the missed shot for them was the fourth.

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DEAR HAROLD,

I APPRCIATE WHAT YOU ARE TELLING ME AND I AM TAKING IT SERIOUSLY. HOWEVER, THERE ARE SOME FACTS I KNOW FOR SURE.

1. I GREW UP ON A FARM AND A RIFLE WAS PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE. HUNTING AND TARGET SHOOTING WAS TAKEN FOR GRANTED. THE MAIN PLACE I DID TARGET PRACTICE WAS UNDER A COUNTRY BRIDGE THAT WAS NEXT TO OUR FARM. FROM THIS EXPERIENCE I HAVE WITNESSED MANY RICOCHET MARKS ON CONCRETE.
2. ON 11/22/63 THE FRESH MARK THAT I WITNESSED ON THE CURB WAS NOT A HOLE. IT WAS AN ABRASION THAT TOOK 1/8TH TO 1/4 INCH OF THE SURFACE OFF THE CONCRETE. IT WAS IDENTICAL WITH EVERY RICOCHET MARK I HAD WITNESSED AS A YOUTH. IT WAS FRESH AND IT WAS FROM A RIFLE BULLET.
3. IN EXAMINING THE CURB IN THE ARCHIVES I HAD AN ORIGINAL DILLARD PHOTO FOR COMPARISON. I USED 5 DISTINCT FLAWS SHOWING IN THE PHOTO TO COMPARE TO 5 DISTINCT FLAWS IN THE CURB AND GOT A PERFECT MATCH.
4. THE CURB IN THE ARCHIVES HAS SOME WHITE WAVY MARKS ON THE SIDE OF THE CURB AS SHOWN IN SHANEYFELT EXH. 34. SHANEYFELT EXH. 30, HAS THE SAME WAVY MARKS. THIS IS THE PHOTO TAKEN OF THE CURB ON 8/5/64, JUST BEFORE IT WAS REMOVED FROM THE STREET. BY THIS COMPARISON, THE BLOW UP I SENT TO YOU IS WITH-IN 1/2 INCH OF THE ORIGINAL POINT OF IMPACT.

THE BULLET THAT HIT THE CURB COULD NOT HAVE HIT AT MORE THAN A TWENTY DEGREE ANGLE IF SHOT FROM THE HIGHEST POINT AVAILABLE IN DEALEY PLAZA. ANY RIFLE BULLET, REGARDLESS OF CALIBER WILL RICOCHET AT THIS ANGLE.

IF THE CURB WAS SCRAPPED BY THE FBI TO GET A SAMPLE, WHERE CAN I FIND EVIDENCE OF THIS PROCEEDURE?

IS THERE ANYTHING IN WRITING ABOUT THE DISTRUCTION OF THE SPECTRO PLATE? I AM STARTING TO HAVE DOUBTS THAT A SPECTRO WAS EVER DONE.

I AM NOT PLANNING TO HAVE ANY LAB WORK DONE, ONLY PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY.

I UNDERSTAND ABOUT HOOVER NOT ORIGINATING CORROSPONDENCE WITH HIS SIGNATURE ON IT. THE QUESTION I WAS MAKING, WAS ABOUT THE ABSENCE OF COPPER FROM THE HOLE IN JFK'S SHIRT AND WHY RANKIN WAS QUESTIONING IT.

I AM STILL CONCERNED ABOUT THE SOUNDS OF THE SHOTS. THE FIRST SOUND WAS FLAT, LIKE A FIRECRACKER. THE LAST TWO SOUNDS REVERBERATED LIKE A RIFLE SHOT. THERE WAS NO ECHO TO ANY OF THE SOUNDS. WITNESS AFTER WITNESS HAS MADE THE SAME INITIAL REPORT OF THIS, REGARDLESS OF WHERE THEY WERE

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POSITIONED IN DEALEY PLAZA. I AM SURPRISED THAT THROUGH THE YEARS NO ONE HAS ADDRESSED THIS FACT. IT COULD HAVE SOME DISTURBING IMPLICATIONS.

I AM ENCLOSING A COPY OF A LAB REPORT ON THE CURB THAT I HAVE. I AM SURE YOU HAVE IT, BUT I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE.

THE WHOLE BASIS OF MY BOOK IS THE FBI'S ATTEMPTED COVER-UP OF THE MISSED SHOT. ONE OF THE THOUGHTS I HAVE HAD FOR YEARS IS THAT AFTER HOOVER ANNOUNCED SHORTLY AFTER THE ASSASSINATION THAT ALL BULLETS HIT KENNEDY AND CONNALLY AND HIS EGO WAS SUCH THAT HE WAS NEVER WRONG AND DO ANYTHING TO PROVE IT INCLUDING A COVER-UP OF THE MISSED SHOT. AND, HIS CONTROL WAS SUCH THAT HIS AGENTS WOULD DO ANYTHING TO NOT CONTRADICT HOOVER THAT THEY WOULD CONSPIRE TO THIS COVER UP. THIS WOULD BE A SIMPLE SOLUTION. HOWEVER, THERE ARE TOO MANY OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES FOR IT TO BE THAT SIMPLE. THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THIS MISSED SHOT THAT WE WILL PROBABLY NEVER KNOW. THIS IS WHY I AM DIGGING SO HARD TO FIND EVERY TRACE IF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE MISSED SHOT. ON THE OTHER HAND THE FBI'S HANDLING OF THE INVESTIGATION WAS SUCH A BUMBLING MESS OF WITHHELD AND DISTORTED INFORMATION THAT NO SOLID CONCLUSION COULD BE REACHED AND WILL NEVER BE REACHED. OR A COMBINATION OF EGO, BUMBLING, AND COVER-UP TO PROTECT SOME UNKNOWN INTEREST. I DID NOT MEAN TO RAMBLE, BUT I HAVE MANY THOUGHTS TRYING TO FIND A FORMIDABLE DIRECTION.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be the name 'Jim', written in dark ink.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: Lee Harvey Oswald; aka
15-R-C

File #
Lab. #

Examination requested by: J. Lee Rankin, Pres Comm.

Examination requested: Firearms

Date received: 8/5/64

Result of Examination:

Examination by: Shoneyfelt
Hulman
Frazier

Slight lead residue on curb
corner which could be bullet (lead) or
core of MC - previously mutilated -
non-positive bullet - very little
damage to concrete

Specimens submitted for examination

Curb and Section from South
Side of Main Street

C321

J. EDGAR HOOVER WRITES J. LEE RANKIN ON AUGUST 12, 1964 ABOUT THE LAB REPORT ON THE CURB.

THE ABSENCE OF COPPER PRECLUDES THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE MARK ON THE CURBING SECTION WAS MADE BY AN UNMUTILATED MILITARY-TYPE FULL METAL-JACKETED BULLET SUCH AS THE BULLET FROM GOVERNOR CONNALLY'S STRETCHER, C1, OR THE BULLET OR BULLETS REPRESENTED BY THE JACKET FRAGMENTS, C2 AND C3, FOUND IN THE PRESIDENTIAL LIMOSINE. FURTHER, THE DAMAGE TO THE CURBING WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE EXTENSIVE IF A RIFLE BULLET HAD STRUCK THE CURBING WITHOUT FIRST HAVING STRUCK SOME OTHER OBJECT. THEREFORE, THIS MARK COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE FIRST IMPACT OF A HIGH VELOCITY RIFLE BULLET.

Shawnefelt
J. EDGAR HOOVER WRITES J. LEE RANKIN ON MARCH 18TH, 1964 TO ANSWER A QUESTION ABOUT THE LAB REPORT ON PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S SHIRT.

4. WOULD NEUTRON ACTIVATION ANALYSES SHOW IF A BULLET PASSED THROUGH THE HOLE IN THE FRONT OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S SHIRT NEAR THE COLLAR BUTTON AREA AND ALSO IF A BULLET PASSED THROUGH HIS TIE? NEUTRON ACTIVATION IS A SENSITIVE ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUE TO DETERMINE ELEMENTS PRESENT IN A SUBSTANCE. DURING THE COURSE OF THE SPECTROGRAPHIC EXAMINATIONS PREVIOUSLY CONDUCTED OF THE FABRIC SURROUNDING THE HOLE IN FRONT OF THE SHIRT, INCLUDING THE TIE, NO COPPER WAS FOUND IN EXCESS OF THAT PRESENT ELSEWHERE IN UNDAMAGED AREAS OF THE SHIRT AND TIE. THEREFORE, NO COPPER WAS FOUND WHICH COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO PROJECTILE FRAGMENTS.

IT IS NOT FELT THAT THE INCREASED SENSITIVITY OF NEUTRON ACTIVATION ANALYSES WOULD CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE ORIGIN OF THIS HOLE AND FRAYED AREA.

SIGNED ~~J. EDGAR HOOVER~~

IF MR. HOOVER IS CORRECT IN BOTH OF THESE STATEMENTS, THEN BOTH THE BULLET THAT HIT THE CURB AND THE FIRST SHOT THAT HIT PRESIDENT KENNEDY WERE NOT MILITARY-TYPE FULL METAL-JACKETED BULLETS SUCH AS THE BULLET FROM GOVERNOR CONNALLY'S STRETCHER. EITHER MR. HOOVER IS WRONG IN ONE OF HIS LETTERS TO MR. RANKIN OR TWO TYPES OF AMMUNITION WERE USED DURING THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY. THIS CAUSES BIG PROBLEMS WITH THE TRUTH AND VALIDITY OF THE WARREN REPORT.

THE MARCH 18TH, 1964 LETTER IS IN VOL XX, PAGE 2.