

December 7, 1969

Dear Harold,

I have just found something so shocking that I am completely confounded. I doubt whether my poor typewriter will be able to take the fury with which I type this letter.

I was casually reading the report written by the auto sy docs when they reviewed the photos and X-rays. I saw something which knocked me over.

Remember what I said about Finck's position at the autopsy and the head wounds. As a background, note this part of Humes' testimony:

"A careful examination of the margins of the large bone defect at that point, however, failed to disclose a portion of the skull bearing again a wound of--a point of impact on the skull of this fragment of the missile, remembering, of course, that this area was devoid of any scalp or skull at this present time. We did not have the bone."(2H353)

Humes went on to say how he found the portion of an exit wound on one of the pieces of skull submitted to him.

Now catch this part from the report of Jan. 20, 1967. It's from page 4 where the gaping head wound is discussed. They mention the pix and X-rays of the bone fragment showing half an exit wound and then there is this shocker about pictures of the entire head:

"Photographs Nos. 17, 18, 44, and 45 show the other half of the margin of the exit wound....Photographs Nos. 44 and 45 also show that the point of exit of the missile was much larger than the point of entrance, being 30mm. (1.18 inches) in its greatest diameter."

WELL BLOW ME DOWN!!! This has got to be it!!! First off, it's perjury on Humes' part and we know of it thanks to Humes. There was part of an "exit" wound there--ar some wound in some way apart from the massive defect.

But wait! That is not all. Catch the number of the photos- 44 and 45. Now check what the Panel says about them.

"Photographs 1,2,44 and 45 show the frontal region of the skull and a portion of the internal aspect of the back of the skull. Due to the lack of contrast of the structures portrayed and the lack of clarity of detail in these photographs the only conclusion reached by the Panel from the study of this series was that there was no exiting bullet defect in the supra-orbital region of the skull.

Oh brother. I just don't know what to make of it. First off, we may now have an explanation of why that series was so unclear in the version studied by the Panel. (By the way, the indication "JB" in the Panel's inventory refers to the number given that photo by Boswell. It holds only up to #18 after which all numbers are the same. Remember Humes said pix 17, 18, 44, and 45. Panel says 1,2,44,45 but it lists 1 and 2 as 17JB and 18JB.) Secondly, the Panel seems to say there was no exiting defect where the other says there was one--was it an entering defect? And how was it there after the brain was removed? Something is rotten in Denmark.

I view the autopsy in a new light, now. Not as if I did not regard it with the utmost suspicion before. But now, oh God, where will this crap end. I never realized just how much they are keeping from us. I could tear my hair out with rage! Perhaps you can make some sense out of it. I will study it more but I had to write

you about it now.

This also has an effect on dear Dr. Finck's position at the autopsy. He must have seen this too. It means that samples could have been taken of the tissue around this hole.

Am really terribly rushed but had to get this one off.

Still

*Howard*

cc. Bernabei