

Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
6/1/75

Dear Mr. Griffith, JW

Your letter of the 9th did not come until yesterday. it is postmarked the 23. You sent it to our old address. Forwarding also took some time.

I find it very interesting in several ways. Rather than return it with criticism you ask for I'd like to keep it on file and ask you to go into further.

I'm sorry the too many things I try to do make adequate reply to this long and well-thought out a combination of fact and theorizing impossible. I realized when I started to read your letter last night before going to bed that I would not be able to reread all 13 pages, so I returned to the beginning and made marks to attract my attention today.

If in the haste that controls all I do I donot give you some basic fact, assuming suppressed official documents to be true, I'd like you to think over within the confines of your theory, please remind me.

First of all, only two aspects of your theory are strange to me. These are the hydrostatic pressure (which makes good sense) and the M16. The approach I took to my JFK work did not require looking into rifles and ammo. I was satisfied from the first that Oswald fired no shots and that his or allegedly his Mannlicher-Carcano was not even used. Time and much work has fortified both beliefs. I also believed that no medium-velocity rifle would have been used, or ammo of that kind. Nor did I believe that a heavy bullet would be used for so short a range. I was convinced when, like you and everyone else, I saw how compact an area Dealey Plaza is. They also I become more certain that the use of a scope would have been unwise.

My work on the King assassination required that I carry this simple reasoning further. I'm not an expert but I did some research. I then decided that for both jobs something like the Weatherby would be an ideal weapon. I then became convinced that a high-velocity, small-calibre combination was used in ~~with~~ the JFK case and was originally planned in the King case. From the "emington-Peters catalogue I learned that 4,000 fps is no big deal.

I was not aware of the characteristics of the M16 and did not consider any would be readily available.

I also did not believe that any assassin would used hard-jacketed ammo. Why? Foolish and selfdefeating.

What you quote of Wecht is not his work. It is mine, from a reading of the autopsy material made in secret for the DJ in 1967. I encourage you not to be impressed by his redentials because he did not understand this document and I had to explain it to him, everything except the medical terms. He was the expert in that court proceeding for which I did the basic work. His improvisations are insane.

Assume these medical facts in terms of what you have written me and something all except one friend of mine has ignored. Last first: a dispersal of dustlike particles of metal on a straight path near the right temple. The do not extend far from the temple.

Aside from the major flaw in the right skull there are cracks only. X-rays show no holes elsewhere, not on the left side in particular, not in the floor of the fossa. Along with this, no metal in the left hemisphere. Take the coning in the read skull to be as the testimony shows it. But the 100 mm, which Wecht actually missed, is not with scale provided. My inquiries is that such X-rays would not be less than 3/4 scale. So, the actual coning-mark placement is 100 mm up from the alleged point or 2/4 of that. Also please conjecture for me whether you think it probable that with any kind of fragmenting ammo and an explosion of other than something like the M16 ammo no particles of any size would be likely in the left hemisphere of the brain. Even military rounds and more with the kinds of fragments ~~recovered~~ recovered, all 5.

By the way, I've already written a book on this, so I ask you to keep it confidential until -fi- I can print it.

Trajectories aside, assume the anterior neck wound to be of entrance. The rear one to have been an inch to the right of the third thoracic vertebra. Assume or/and reject a single shot causing both but know that there was metal of unreported size and quantity in the ~~thoracic~~ thoracic area. Assume also that the anterior wound was a little higher than described officially (where there are no measurements, remember).

Assume no damage to the spine of the magnitude you describe.

What would you come up with then? I'd like to know. I think you have explained the cracking in the skull to me.

You refer to "the DED found several M-16s (as well as a B.A.R., vases of hand grenades & ammunition) in a shed belonging to Jack Ruby after he was arrested." I don't remember this. Do you have the proof?

Is more than one kind of .223 ammo available for the M-16?

I have the formerly withheld page of Jackie's testimony and it holds none of what you suggest. They were not interested in and did not want any testimony about the wounds. It was mostly her language as well as their omissions that were hidden.

I know of no JFK photos or X-rays taken and Parkland and believe none were.

When you talk about the "destructiveness" of the .223 do you mean that the combination of high energy and projectile design and behavior make it an effective dum dum? Are you talking about explosive nature, too?

I find your theorizing about possible points of origin interesting but I also think that we know too little about body and body part positions to project backward. I do find it more than interesting that you theorize the possibility of a shot or shooting from the area I call the south grassy knoll. It had certain distinct advantages and some disadvantages. No parking lot meant more privacy. #gress was more difficult, though. Either over the stockade fence, which would attract attention, or by the trucks, where there were people.

On the north knoll there are two elevated sewer openings, leading to a 15" pipe that leads into large ones. That large flat area had to be drained in wet weather. One of these, 30" square, is behind that fence and up against it.

You reflect knowledge in excess of what the Army taught you. Would you care to say more about yourself?

Could you theorize about a downward deflection inside the body say on striking bone in the thoracic area or from any other cause if you can suggest one?

Do you know of any special-purpose training with M-16s, as men for special jobs? Special ammo for it? I've heard of a speak type that had to be accounted for, every round after Vietnam assignments.

If you want to keep copies of what you write, would you please make a carbon? This is interesting and aside from being able to refer to it I'd like it as a future reference, as in an archive.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg