



QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS
KINGSTON, ONTARIO

2 May 68

Mr Weisberg:

I am in touch with Gary Murr By letter and will go to see him early next month. Immediate trip is delayed because his wife is having a baby.

It's very exciting. Murr said that he is interested in forming a Canadian counterpart of the Citizen's Committee of Inquiry. Apparently he has not been able to find or develop sufficient interest to get the thing rolling. I am sure, however, that we can do it together, especially if I can get out and talk to people. There was enormous interest in Kingston, but it was haphazard, undirected.

This Fall I am going to contact friends at other universities in Canada and have them set up lectures for me. That should at least get things started, even though belatedly.

I got no ~~word~~ reply from Similas. No matter, since Murr contacted him personally at about the same time that I wrote. Murr referred to Similas as "odd" and guessed that he would not reply. Murr gave me no information about what he learned from Similas, but I gather that it was not much. I don't know whether he saw Similas' pictures.

No word from Victoria, B.C. I knew when I wrote to "Simpson" that he might be a drunken crank named Smele, but I thought I would give it a try, in any case. However, I cannot understand why the Simpson that I wrote to has not answered and told me that he is not the person in question. I still may pursue it further. "Simpson" mentioned an attorney named Batter and I may drop a line to him.

~~Murr~~ Murr sent me copies of his "Exhibits" on guns, vehicles and Oswald's whereabouts. Very interesting, especially the new information about Julia Ann Mercer.

I found another discrepancy in the Commission's case, but cannot follow up the lead without a Manlicher-Carcano, scope and ammunition. Perhaps you can relay this to someone who can run the tests, for I think that it is quite significant.

The Report indicates ~~that~~ that when the rifle was first sighted in, the bullets fired high and slightly to the right of the point of aim. The Commission tried to turn this feature into an advantage for the rifleman by asserting that Kennedy's movement away from the rifle and down the slope of Elm St. would bring him directly in the line of fire if the ~~xx~~ crosshairs of the scope were laid on his head.

Neither the Commission nor FBI agent Frazier indicated, however, that Frazier fired his test targets not at 88 yards, the distance between the TSBD window and the President, but at 15 yards. CE 548 shows the test target ~~xx~~ into which Frazier and Cunningham fired three shots each. The bullets struck an inch to the right and about three inches high of the point of aim. *Writing on the target indicates it was fired at 15 yards.*

I know a good deal about firearms and ballistics (guns are my hobby) and I am absolutely certain that a rifle sighted in in that fashion would, at 88 yards, throw its shots far high of the point of aim-- I estimate two or three yards high and about 4 inches to the right. Fired from the elevation of the TSBD window, the trajectory would be even higher. I enclose diagrams to explain what ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ happens.

*
Set
note

I cannot locate a drop table on that unusual cartridge, so I cannot even compute its trajectory. Tests are necessary. I am sure that they will throw the bullets far too high to have struck the President, and I doubt whether they would even have hit his car.

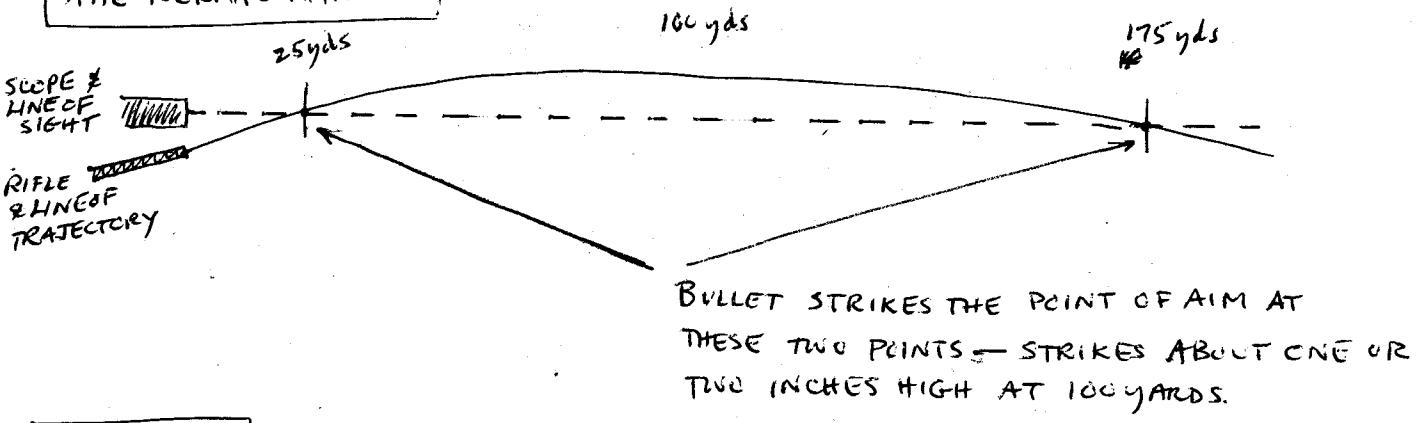
If you can get someone to run the tests, have your rifleman sight in at 15 yards so as to produce a target that corresponds with CE 548. Then let him fire at ~~88~~ about 88 yards. If he can get up to the elevation of the TSBD window, so much the better, for the bullet will ~~xx~~ strike even higher.

I shall write again after I see Murr, and will let you know what plans we make.

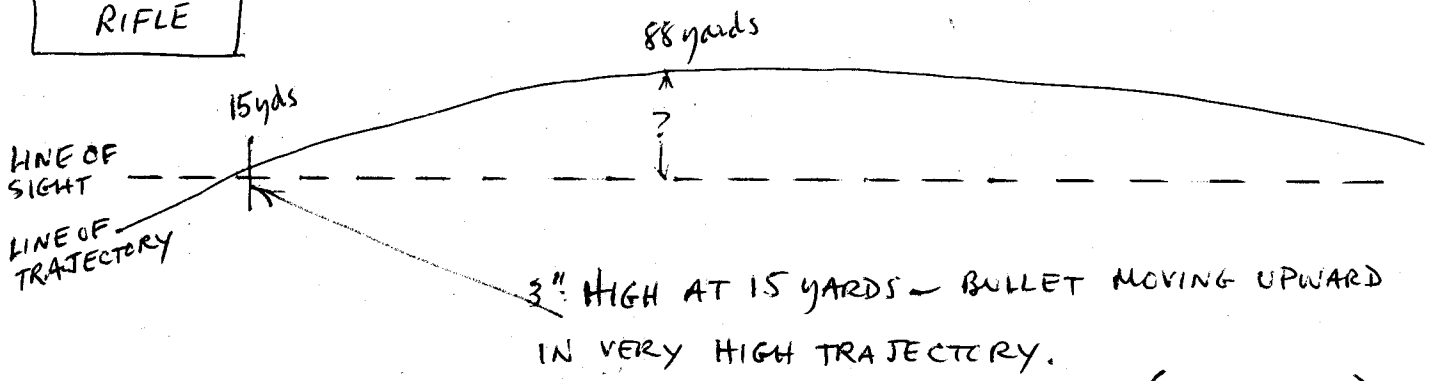
Dick Bernabei

* The reason for this is that at 15 yards the bullet is moving upward in its trajectory — and probably still moving upward, or leveling off, at 88 yards. Dick

RIFLE SIGHTED-IN IN THE NORMAL MANNER



"OSWALD'S" RIFLE



(SEE OVER)

RIFLE FIRED FROM AN ELEVATED
PLACE HAS MUCH HIGHER TRAJECTORY
THAN BULLET FIRED PARALLEL WITH GROUND.

