

12/4/69

Dear Dick,

Your letter of the 27th, postmarked 28, and your 28 to Howard both arrived today, rather long trip. It looks very much as though they may have been tampered with. I was able to peel the flap off the one mailed in Glen Burnie. Examination seems to show ridges where the adhesive is, as though applied by a coarse brush. This peeled like rubber cement that had not been given a drying period. The same seems true of the second, so I enclose both.

We were in DC today and got the COUP and xeroxed. I'll be sending a copy to Paul who'll be making reduction copies (approx 3¢ per two pages, on a single sheet). I've asked him to make one for you if you request it. Although the text is "completed", I would appreciate your noting of any errors or areas of dispute or disagreement. If you get it. About 300pp. I still have notes to do, appendix to finish.

I'll be sending you a copy of Curry. Mary is sending me a second copy. I'll forward Postal Union (slow)

Stamps sent, gratefully!

I'm dissatisfied Ralph is not "Frenchy" as I am that "Frenchy" isn't. That was all contrived. Brown: why not ask Dempsey to write you what he knows, encouraging him to tell you all that inspires admiration?

I have revised question of your 399 picture at Archives. No response yet. They have told me they do not have original or anything else on OE 391. Does this intrigue you? None of the new materials of the autopsy supplement! Nor the original

There will now be two suits: on King/Rey, restricted to British record, and a second on what we'll sue for on JFK. Final determination not yet made here. We'll file the first as soon as we get responses to two letters I drafted for Bud to send to close possible loopholes, legal escape hatches, that is. I think it is the second that will interest you more, and I will keep you posted.

Your letter to Howard: fibres-Frazier excellent authority on this. He swore to it. Citation NW....There is more on non-fatal I cannot tell you by mail. I have confirmation of my analysis, interpretations, and some of the documents you may remember. No doubt at all, beyond doubt. Also suppressed.

Deal*I have the deepest doubts. I know the story. You do not know JG is you can credit this. I believe what was overheard was overheard wrong or misunderstood.

Work has kept me from taking care of mail. Gotta catch up tonight and 11 a.m. because Bud is coming Sat and I must also prepare for that tomorrow, so please excuse haste. But the goodies were gone before the announcement arrived!

Thanks, best,

27 Nov 69

Dear Harold:

I am almost caught up on things except for answering a few letters and finishing Dempsey interview. Whew!

Stamps for cigars: Send 5¢ stamps. I can then just slap on one for each ounce of weight.

A friend is going to N.Y. City this weekend and will mail you a package from there.

Finck: By now you have my comments on N.O. testimony. Hope it's O.K. Later I shall send the testimony to Roffman and he can copy what he wants. I have already sent him Frazier's, but have not received comment from him.

Double head-hit: We shall have to talk on this. I am absolutely convinced of it and so is Gary and others-- even before Thompson botched up the issue. There is much more to be said than Thompson says.

Ray's "fat man": I have not yet gotten onto this, but shall soon make inquiries. Presently there is nothing I can say that I have not already said. If McRae gives substantial indication that the story is true, I shall probably go directly to Toronto police about it-- there seems no place else to go. If story is true, I doubt that they would deny it, though they might hedge in other ways. If they hedge, I may be able to press others who can press them.

Editing of Z: I'll withhold conclusions until I get greater certainty about Mary Ferrell's observations. I got my info on this from Gary who talked with Mary in Dallas.

Curry's book: I had no knowledge of this. By all means please arrange to have a copy sent to me, and tell me where to send money. I do not know where to begin in getting this, for I have no bibliographical reference, so I leave it to you to arrange getting me a copy.

If true, story of fragment "from the arm of Connally" answers another question that I could not settle on the basis of available info. JC had a large (50mm) wound on entrance in the wrist and relatively small exit wound. I surmised that only a portion of the missile that entered his wrist exited, and I think now I was right. The large entrance and small exit makes no sense otherwise, and the presence of several small fragments in the wrist made it all the more likely. I had supposed that the large fragment had dropped from his wrist before he was operated on.

Anyway, I am most anxious to learn more about this. The size you mention is about what I had supposed.

Francois Schrim (per Dempsey): A Hungarian. Professional soldier and mercenary. Served as French paratrooper in Vietnam and Algeria. Involved ~~XX~~ in a holdup of a gunstore in ~~Montreal~~ Montreal. Proprietor was shot and killed in the holdup. Schrim and others tried and convicted; now serving jail terms. Dempsey said Schrim was very cool under fire and probably was not responsible for the shooting, but got involved with inexperienced hot-heads who ~~panicked~~ lost their heads (all that crossing out of words is because I can't spell the past tense of "panic". Good grief!). The motive for the robbery (can't

spell "robbery" either) was not money; they wanted guns and ammo.

Skinny Ralph: Dempsey did not say much except that he ~~is~~ is not "Frenchy". I did not press for further info, since with that matter out of the way I did not have much interest. Dempsey said ~~XXXX~~ Slachter was not a "soldier" type; did not take to military training and was not good at it. Good at wheeling, dealing, and other useful talents, but not interested in physical things, either through laziness or just lack of excitement.

Bob Brown: Dempsey knew him; apparently admired him. I did not go for much info on him-- my fault, for I had many things I wanted to cover. If I see Dempsey again (I want to), I'll ask for more.

Finck (re your 13 Nov letter to Roffman): I agree with your advice, that Finck knows much, but was in on the tail end of cover-up, after some important things had happened to the body first. Finck may not have direct knowledge of all shenanigans, but he has to know plenty.

Too bad you can't go after Humes. He is the best target, as you know. The one who knows most, and is most likely to fold under questioning. Is Boswell out of reach, too?

That covers matters dealt with in your recent correspondence. I do not have much more to say.

I have not yet received 399 base photo from Archives. I wrote to Simmons (sent you a copy, I believe) but got no action yet. Don't know what else to do. If they don't send, I shall have to ask you to send me your copy, for I am climbing up the wall in anticipation.

When you have an estimate of the time your suit will go to court and how long it will last, please tell me. If possible, I would like to be there.

Still,

Dick

cc Schoener

for Weisberg

28 Nov 69

Howard Hoffman
Philadelphia

Dear Howard:

I have your letter of 24 November, and letter to Harold and me concerning shirt slits.

Glad you got Frazier N.O. testimony in good shape. Copy what you wish. Later I shall send you a copy of my note to Weisberg on this; they are not extensive, but you may find some things useful.

I'll send you Finck's N.O. testimony later, after I learn whether Harold is going to comment on the notes I sent him. Presently I need the testimony for reference if he replies in detail. Keep Frazier's testimony as long as you have immediate use for it, but return it when you are finished; there is no great rush for me, but I would like it back after you have gotten what you want out of it. Same for Finck's, after you get it.

No blood on 399: This is important, as you indicate, but consider other things also:

No fibers on 399: fibers often become embedded in or attached to bullets that pass through them. It's one of the things a firearms examiner always looks for, and often finds.

No fiber imprint on the nose of 399: This is probably more important than the two features mentioned above, for it involves a permanent feature of the bullet-- something that cannot be easily removed. When a bullet passes through fibrous material arranged in a pattern (as woven cloth), and the material has solid matter behind it against which it is pressed, then the pattern of the cloth is usually imprinted on the nose of the bullet-- sometimes the pattern is very distinct, sometimes not. I am not sure whether this happens regularly ~~xxx~~ with full jacketed bullets, for their noses are much harder than lead tipped bullets, and I have not run tests. But I think it a very important thing to consider.

Front neck wound: an exit wound showing characteristics of an entrance wound can result only from the passage of a bullet of very low velocity; very, very low. As you indicate, all the characteristics of this wound are typical of entrance. My feeling, exactly; I do not at all doubt that this is entrance.

An important question arises; one that I cannot answer. At what point was the shooter stationed? We have got him in front of the car, but should he not be visible in Willis 5 and/or Metzner 3? This was always puzzled me, for I would expect to see him. At least those pictures might allow us to eliminate certain locations. Think carefully on this matter, for although I have no answers, I think it important.

Zone of abrasion: I suggest you use some other means than the goat skin to illustrate this, for ~~xxx~~ I do not see it in that picture, and I know what I am looking for. What you sent is some illustration that clarifies verbal description, and the goat skin pictures do not. They illustrate the relative difference in size and shape in entrance and exit, but I do not see that they have bearing on the zone of abrasion.

