

10/15/69

Dear Dick,

I am interesting 10/9: He rush on notebook

Roffman: Further correspondence with Dr. Gave. I've invited him again, he can see all I have, read the ms, etc. He's great for 16!

399 base: because I haven't gotten copies of H's picture, I presume you haven't gotten that of mine. You will, as you will not be billed.

Brazier: I am only too familiar with the appendix to the Bantam Inquest. Gave for the Hudkins, as I recall it, all is what I found told another of in confidence, and without evil intent on his part it reached Epstein, who was unaware of it and to this day doesn't understand what he published and how utterly his appendix destroys the central conclusion of his book. I have rather recently been in correspondence with the SS and Arch on just that receipt. However, I may have missed your excellent point on the missile, having assumed it to be a fragment. I will carry that further, in a different way, even if my file indicates I earlier asked about it. I just do not now recall. I have made some advances in this area, as the copies I believe I've sent you should show. I have the original holograph and the original certifications and the original of the charts being made for me on 35mm positive but for the moment I want no one to know and no use, for very special reasons. I've told Paul and Gary and Bud alone. I'll have to get out IM and see how I handled the receipt there. I've forgotten. Meanwhile, receipts for the "missile" and its identification in the evidence are the way I think I'll begin. And asking to examine it. I'll be there Friday with Bud, according to present plans I was aware of the reports of the removal of a bullet and I believe I quote them in IM, but I then did not dream there could be such an enormous perjury by so many. Meanwhile, the AG known we are getting ready to sue him, and that could well be included. If we do not get it. Important point.

Mil armo: Recht was quite explicit with me when I was discussing what I found and believed I'd found in the panel report. He said only bone would cause the body fragments. Perhaps, tho, he was assuming if mil armo used.

I have long believed, with no scientific basis, that the dust-like particles could not be produced by hardened armo, because this is directly opposite to the purpose of the convention. But I have never found a source of explicit proof. Do you know any, that I can use in IM II was what you supplied on the rusting of the rifle enable me to go to OUF and? Or the rectangular object, remember also no flaw in floor fossa. Do you theorize jacket only?

NO was to have used "axes but check ned. They could use track only through Dymond's extreme courtesy.

Willis an: 2202. I've used the Hill shoulder, W L and speeches, but I believe showing Willis walking away, having taken his ~~picture~~, is more understandable to the average person. And getting out of the range of the camera entirely. I have black and white contacts of the book prints but the slides are clearer.

Wild, no ver feeding back your own dope! Deal G-man type, JER!

I'll dream of the cigars! Meanwhile, enjoy, enjoy. Thanks for the thought.

Regards,

CC; GS

10 Oct 69

Harold:

Thank~~s~~ for the notebook I asked for. I'll diddle with it for a while and then send it back to you. I have no idea what to look for, so I'll just feel my way around in it until something, or nothing, turns up.

Roffman: I got your gracious letter to him, and think it good. He seems exceedingly knowledgeable on medical matters and may well catch something that we miss-- FM will especially interest him. He has gotten off the notion that all shots originated from the rear, and now I think he will see new things with his new eyes.

399 base: When I see your picture, I'll be able to comment further, but presently it is inconceivable to me that the bullet lost a fragment 2mm in diameter. The only disruptions of the surface that I see result merely from the flow of metal slightly out of the base-- except, of course, for the conical crater. There's no use saying more until I see what you have.

I remember commenting that I would like to see the base of an unfired bullet, but did not expect you to provide it, for I know that yours is not WCC. There must have been something odd about the way I phrased that. A copy of your 399 base photo is what I must see now, but I note from your letter that it is on the way. I'll comment soon after I see it.

Frazier: I agree he will not perjure. On questioning Frazier, there is a possibility that he handled a bullet removed from the body during autopsy. Only a possibility, but it must be explored. News stories for about a month after the shooting said a bullet had been recovered from the body, and I am beginning to think these stories are true. Some are quoted in Meagher's Accessories, pp.134-136, which you should read very well and soon. What pertains to Frazier is contained in a Treasury Dept. letter of 26 November that is published on p.173 of the Bantam edition of Epstein's Inquest. In that letter Robert I. Bouck acknowledges receipt of certain items from Dr. Burkley; the letter acknowledges: "One receipt from FBI for a missile removed during the examination of the body." Of "missiles" (if you want to call them that) removed from the body, the Sibert-O'Neill report mentions only two small fragments from the right side of the brain. These fragments were "placed in a glass jar containing (sic) a black metal top," etc.\* I doubt whether the "missile removed during examination" can be construed as the two fragments that the S-D report mentions. Anyway, if that missile went to the FBI, it went to Frazier. Bouck and Burkley ought to be questioned about this, too.

I think it important that you pursue lines of questioning based on the assumption that a bullet may have been removed from the back during the autopsy. More and more I am beginning to believe that that is what happened.

Time of back wound: I will check what you say about Z283 and comment later. It requires a more careful check ~~than~~ than I can give now

Use of military ammo: Neck area: Without knowing precisely the number, size, and (especially) distribution of fragments in the neck area, I can't say whether either of the two bullets was military type. There are many possibilities, and I can't explore them all. Presently all you can say is that some use of military type bullets is not excluded. I doubt ~~whether~~ any were used, chiefly on grounds of their inefficiency in killing. If X-rays show concentration of fragments just behind the trachea, that would exclude military bullet as source of front-neck wound. I had better stop this, for there would be much guessing about things we don't know. If I knew the distribution of fragments and the rest, then I think I could tell.

2

(2) Head area: Here, too, it's impossible to tell, ~~xxxxxx~~ for I am sure the damage was caused by two bullets. One disintegrated into the dust-like fragments that are described-- this sort of disintegration cannot be produced by a military type bullet. The other (from the rear) apparently broke up into chunks of lead much larger than the dust-like particles. A military bullet can burst that way on striking a very hard substance, but the fragments surely will be large. I doubt whether a military bullet would break on a skull, but I can't say it's impossible. I think it likely that the rear-head bullet was a soft-nose. What makes me think that a "399" was not involved is that the velocity of the 6.5mm M-Cs is very low, and this would greatly tend to diminish the possibility of the bullet breaking up on a skull. It's not that it's impossible, just very hard to believe. Probably Nichols could give you info on what happens. My guess is that a 399 striking a skull might be badly deformed and possibly lose a very few small fragments, but that generally the bullet will remain intact.

Anyway, if a 399 did break up on JFK's head and leave fragments, don't you think that you would have the desired spectro analysis? I think you would.

Consider the possibility that the "rectangular structure" that the Panel saw in the brain is a bullet or (more likely) bullet jacket. I can't imagine what else it can be. They are in trouble even if it's a portion of skull, for according to their version, the skull was blown outward, not inward. The only bone matter that was lost from the back of the skull would be little chips from the cratered inside margin of the rear entrance wound. They are really stuck on a petard over that "rectangular structure". In his N.O. testimony Finck said he didn't see it, which is quite possible, since he arrived later and the thing could have been removed before he got there. They questioned the wrong man in N.O.; they should have had Humes on, for most of the chicanery takes place in his good name, and it is he, not Finck or Boswell, who was close to ~~xxx~~ Specter.

Bruising of suprasternal notch: I'll send you a slide showing Z318 and 315 together. This indicates that JFK's head was driven forcibly down and forward between the two frames. I'll send it in about 2 weeks.

Willis and Z802: I'll make slides of Z199-205, blow-ups showing Willis, but I think the conclusive reference is that Hill's ~~skull~~ left shoulder is directly between Willis and Zapruder at Z802. Reference to Willis' movements as visible in the WC's presentation of the frames is inconclusive. I cannot make proper drawings based on them. I'll send you the slides first; then we can decide whether anything further is needed. This, too, will take a couple of weeks.

Hoover re the dents in ~~xxx~~ cartridge cases: Hoover's explanation to Roffman originates with me. I sent Frazier copies of what I had written and asked for comments (not none). Even with that, my memo dealt only with the case mouth dents, and I did not want to attribute the shoulder dents to the same cause as the case mouth dents. It's possible that ~~they~~ both types of dents were cause by cartridge case ejection-- we know that's true only of case mouth dents, however. I still want to know what caused the dents on the case shoulders, but we will not find out until we get that particular rifle for testing. Anyway, Hoover got his info from Frazier, and Frazier got it from me.

That's it.

SH:U,

P.S. (see reverse)

cc. Schomer

Dir

P.S. I found a delicious Cuban cigar for you and bought you a box of 5 for trial — but they were so good that I smoked them all myself. When I get the chance, and the stamina to resist temptation, I will buy more and try to smuggle them across to you. I have not had H. Uppmann cigars, so cannot make proper comparison. These I have are called REAS, and they are finger-lickin' good — and fairly cheap, too, and in large supply in this area. The only problem is passing them over the border to you, since U.S. customs has imposed embargo on all Cuban products. I'll see what I can do. Meanwhile (yum, yum), I'll smoke them myself.