

8/22/69

Dear Dick,

Your mailings of the 18th and 19th are very helpful. Thanks. The names of those involved in the Haiti case are those reported in the US. They are mostly from the Cuban mercenaries. It is rather surprising that Howard Davis, an experienced pilot, was not the pilot of the plane (if he were not), for he had such a function in earlier days. Hall, Howard and Hemming also told me he had been Raul Castro's pilot. Possibly he was being shielded from authorities, if he had some kind of existing problem.

Your point on the next fragments (8/17) is excellent. Of course, all of tend to think and argue in terms of the characteristics of the projectile the government postulates, and we know there is no proof any such was really used. I am, in general, familiar with the performance of the very light hollow-points, like 22s. Some time ago, an experienced man was telling me about more logical calibers. I did not then know they came so light. I am slightly familiar with the 22 Horney, but I had not known of the .247s, etc. Perhaps some time you will come across an illustration for one of the projectiles you have in mind like that enclosed with your 8/18 to John. I think this would go well as an appendix in P, III.

No major part of a single 6.5 could be an appreciable part of a 22, for example. But this is, without explanation, enough to sustain a perjury charge against all three doctors. Can you imagine how I felt when I discovered that rottenness in their report to Clerk?

The point about the blood on the short front is good and obvious. I do not recall whether I mentioned it in PMIII.

Lil has just begin retyping the COUP add. At the moment, + cannot afford to xerox any copies, though I do want to. She is making an extra copy, however, and I'll be able to mail that around, to fastest readers first, hoping also that each will make separate notes, by page number, of corrections, suggestions, etc. But you will there see how I handle Alice and the ballistics, etc. I don't recall whether I have the Sight-O-Line in. The local shop told me about it (without estimating its accuracy).

Either Paul or Gary, I think the former, raised the point we do not really know the weight of 393 when it reached Washington. Or was it you? I've been after the Archives to take a picture on a scale and they refuse to, which is, perhaps, better than if they would - as they should, were they honest. I'll make no use of Roffman's stuff without his okay, but at some point I'd like to add it to PM, with the pix I have.

Your point about corner traces on the jacket: would this not be true regardless of direction projectile?

Correst presumption on Braden. Itek: I have a copy of one of their studies, Gary has a copy of the earlier one. The one I read hastily but fairly carefully is from Alice! I lov it! I'll put it on paper when I get a chance.

Your point on the figure-8 fault is exciting. Even I can see it! Pretty sharp of you.

Sending Gary excerpt on neck fragments in 8/17. He has been "unbagged" on it but we all need to know more. Thanks again,

H

17 Aug 69

Harold:

Back from the wilds after a relaxing week, but fruitless fishing. I ended up doing all the work for my nimrod brother-in-law. But the weather was good and I had a good time.

No answer yet to Keating letter. I know that I laid it on thick in my letter to her, but I was hoping to stick pins in her conscience.

I sent a copy of Roffman's letter to Nichols, but as yet have gotten no reply. Roffman says he learned of the incident from Thompson and later got confirmation from Marion Johnson. I have a letter from Thompson related to another matter, but in it he mentions getting his photos in (I think) February, 1967. I'll check that. I think it useless to try to tap Thompson for help. He is in Europe now, and has never been very co-operative anyway. I agree: the term "flake" does not diminish the incident.

I found an article that mentions those arrested with Dempsey. Will send it later. They are:

- Rene J. Leon
  - Charles Smith
  - Howard Kenneth Davis
  - James Carlin
  - Martin Casey
  - Dunbach
  - Simpson
  - Edsens
  - Kolby...
- } HATIAN'S
- } ONLY LAST NAMES GIVEN
- }.....(this must be Ed Kolby)

Huie's shooting: You seem to understand the sighting-in process, so I'll say no more. True, pump action cannot be bore sighted with the eye, but can be done fairly accurately at the store with an instrument like the Sight-O-Line (I said Line-O-Sight before)-- within 4 inches of the target at 100 yards. Without at least sighting of this kind, Huie's feat is impossible. Even with it, you can't be sure of zero until you shoot. The term "liar" may be too strong between you and the public, but not between you and me.

I hope you get Foreman good. Huie seem to me not much more than a scared or greedy punk in this matter-- over his head in a pond with fish who can gobble him whole. But Foreman is something else, a crocodile doing the thing he likes best.

Fragments in neck: I tend to think along lines of a small, light, fast bullet nothing at all like 399-- one of the so-called "varmint calibers"-- that bursts on contact with the right front quadrant of the trachea. That's a guess, but a good one, I think, for such a bullet seems also to have struck JFK in the head. The Autopsy Report's reference to "no major part of a bullet" has no meaning. All those fragments in the neck may total the weight of a small bullet and constitute several ~~small parts~~ minor parts which, put together, make a whole bullet. The varmint calibers range in ~~six~~ weight from 50 to 100 grains. Notwithstanding Wecht's statement, bullets of this type can and usually do burst on contact merely with flesh-- they do not have to hit bones to fragment. A bullet like 399 must strike bone to fragment (it was designed to remain intact, in accordance with international agreements dealing with warfare), but the soft nose or hollow point varmint calibers do not have to strike bone to fragment (they ~~WERE~~ are designed that way, and such ammo is illegal for warfare). So understand: fragments do not mean bones were hit (it could have that meaning only if it were known that the fragments were made by a bullet like 399-- with hardened lead and a full metal jacket). I'll dig up a photo to show you this. In spite of my admiration for Wecht as a forensic pathologist, I think

he does not understand this case very well. I think he would be exceedingly competent in listening to arguments and approving or disapproving them, but I don't think he has considered all the aspects of the evidence available.

Evidence from traces on the tie and shirt would be definitive only if they showed traces of metal. The absence of metal tells absolutely nothing and I think it unwise to base any conclusion whatever on it. I would consider the absence of blood significant, however; if a projectile passed out of the neck and touched the shirt and tie, blood on the projectile would be wiped onto the surfaces contacted. The presence of blood would have no meaning, for it could have dripped from JFK's wounds. So if spectro shows no blood, that means no exiting ~~projectile~~ projectile. That's what spectro can show.

In a recent letter to Schoener I outlined what I regarded as the two possibilities regarding the back wound; both involve a front-neck entrance:

(a) JFK struck in the front-neck by a bullet that burst and sent a large fragment out the back,

(b) JFK struck first in the front-neck by a small bullet that burst and did not exit, leaving several "minor" fragments. Struck second by a bullet in the back that did not penetrate deeply.

I favor (b) because of Frazier's testimony that hole in jacket showed copper traces and because Glen Bennett said he saw JFK hit in the back (Bennett was not looking at JFK when the first shot was fired).

I have written to Itek for their work on Nix/Life. I don't have the address handy and can't send it now. I understand, however, that they are sold out.

Unless I hear otherwise from you, I assume that the Braden mentioned in the ~~letter~~ copy of the letter that you sent me is the Braden who was arrested in the Dal-Tex after the shooting. If more develops on this, please keep me informed

Still,

*Lick*