

1/2/70

Dear Howard,

Incredibly, your letter of the 20 and 22, postmarked 23, did not reach me until today. I'm running late, have to pick ⁴11 up in a few minutes, so my answer will have to be brief.

Frist, from recollection: my new source has no information on depth of wound but it is definitive on location. Bullet pix: I agree with you. There seems to be a difference and that could be quite significant. I know little about these things, but I ask you to consider whether all or any of it could be accounted for by differences in lighting?

I think you have a major point I believe I missed in the lung-bruising pictures (what this does to Finck's N.O. apologies and explanations!).

I am, of course, anxious to know the result of your Specter interview. At the same time, I urge you to caution with the combine of pathologists because they are friends of your enemy. But utterly scientific, with no opinions, or your doors will close fast, if Specter hasn't already arranged that....I am working another area in the panel I'll show you when you are here. No time for the long explanations, but you should be able to understand from what I've sent. I've already filed the requisite papers.... You will have to learn more about bullets, their types and behaviors. There are different kinds of "frangible" bullets. Essentially, what Dick means is a bullet to kill game or varmints and it doesn't necessarily fly to pieces. Sometimes it just mushrooms. If you got the catalogues I suggested, you can see from them.. Caliber and velocity bear much on what happens, as Dick can explain better than I. I learned it from him. While not an expert, I am inclined to doubt any rifle bullet except, possibly, some 22s, penetrated so little it came out so easily. I stick by the explanation in PMIII....But is it "questionable" that bones were struck? I think it is obvious and beyond doubt, as I have for a very long time, despite the testimony. ...You misquote Hill, I believe. He said six inches below neckline after looking at cadaver, and Kellerman said below that muscle. Check me. Last sentence your 12/22: not hypothetical at all.My picture Summer 1967. Don't worry about the bullet falling apart. Long ago I covered that by asking that they photograph it for me on a scale, with any missing pieces laid on, and they refused, on the ground they must "protect" it, etc. I then asked for any certified weight at any specific time and they refused. When somebody saw the pictures I had them make for me, they understood only too well. This cannot be accident and I think we are covered. Meanwhile, they pretend they cannot find the negatives of what they took for me! They asked for an electrostatic copy and I sent it, to get a print for Dick. Short hair, firm grip.

Have a good year,

CC:RB

December 20, 1969

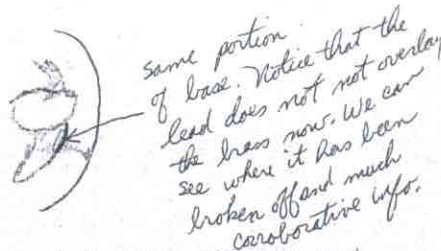
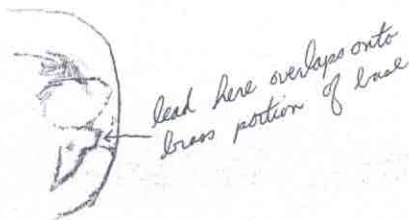
Dear Harold,

The significance of our observation that 399 lost fragments between the taking of our pictures becomes greater and greater. We have a bomb on our hands--one that can explode right in the faces of the scoundrals who block our efforts to seek the truth.

I have had the Archives make two base photos for me so far, one taken previously to the one which you have. Checking my records, I see that the first one was ordred on Jan. 16, 1968 and the second, the one you have, was mailed to me on Sept. 11, 1968. However, in comparing the two, I find that yet another piece of the base is gone! When was your picture taken? The area missing is apart from that in the other pictures. I do not now have the proper facilities to adequately show what is missing but because of its importance especially to your case, I will do the best I can for the time being. I am enclosing an extremely poor copy of the first photo--will try to get better ones but it is the only one on hand. For the most part, I'll have to explain with sketches.

This is a detail of the portion of the base marked "A" on the enclosed picture. Of course, it's clearer on the original.

This is a detail from the second photo which you have. See where the piece of lead has been broken off.



You will probably see the full significance. I hope we are not making too much of this (such as if perhaps the bullet is deteriorating and falling apart which I doubt). Nevertheless, it is quite obviously progressively loosing fragments.

Please write soon on this with additional info on your base picture.

Good luck,

Howard