

Dr. Gary Aquilinet
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6/13/93

Dear Gary,

Thanks for the copy of the fine piece of work Wallace Milam did on the size of the JFK assassination bullet fragments.

First I tell you that because I believed he had not been given the actual exhibits to examine I asked George Lardner to ask Guinn that question when he left the House assassins hearing room. He had no soon^{er} stated that none of the fragments matched its official description and that he had made the tests without validating the specimens when Dave Lifton interrupted to ~~be~~ change the subject and he persisted in talking so that the result is that nobody could follow up on the very significant admissions Guinn had made.

Under "observations" Wallace asks, "where did any of the material carried to Guinn originate?" I suggest two answers. First, what was taken to Guinn was with the Commission's other evidence and the Archives sent that, not something it had substituted. And while I do ~~not know~~ where it originated, I have always believed that Frazier took much more than was needed from the base of 399. And even then kept that secret from the Commission, rather the results of the NAAs. When we deposed Frazier in CA 75-0226 he testified that he weighed each item just once, on receipt, and never weighed any specimen he cut off for testing.

Now while only about a millimeter in size of a specimen was needed for spectrographic examination and that much could have been scraped off with a fingernail, he cut a fairly large ~~chunk~~ chunk and has no knowledge of what happened to what was not used.

And of course the specimens' weights cannot ^{be} weigh more with the passing of time.

If what Guinn examined were all so close on testing, really identical, that would be the case if the FBI created new "specimens" that nobody knew or could know about.

I'll send a copy of this to Wallace.

Thanks and best wishes,

Harold

Harold Weisberg

SIZE OF BULLET FRAGMENTS EXAMINED

Common designation	FBI des	Frazier weights (mg)	FBI NAA weights (mg)	Guinn weights (mg)
large bullet fragment from front seat area (CE 567)	Q2	2900 ¹	41.8 25.2*	50.5
front seat fragment copper jacket only (CE 569)	Q3	1365 ¹	**	**
large brain fragment (CE 843)	Q4	107 ¹	13.0 21.5	41.9
small brain fragment (CE 843)	Q5	9.7 ¹	3.8	5.4
Connally wrist fragments (CE 842)	Q9	32.5 ¹ ##	2.3 2.3	16.4 1.3
fragments from rear seat area (CE 840)	Q14	58.5 ¹ 45.5 ¹ 45.5 ¹ 2	10.9 8.5 4.7	33.8 33.4

- 1-- Frazier stated weights in WC testimony in grains. Weights converted here to milligrams.
- 2-- Frazier¹ told WC that small portions had been taken for spectrographic examination
- *-- FBI took fragments from original specimen for NAA, so numbers of pieces of metal often vary from Frazier's count.
- **-- Specimen was jacket only and did not contain enough bullet lead for analysis. Both FBI and Guinn declined to attempt NAA on this exhibit.
- ##--FBI Agent Robert Frazier's testimony concerning CE 842 contains some unusual statements. For example:
- "....this [CE 842] is a small fragment of metal which weighed one-half grain [32.5 mg] when I first examined it in the laboratory. It is a piece of lead and could have been part of a bullet or core of a bullet. However, it lacks any physical characteristics which would permit stating whether or not it actually originated from a bullet." (5 H 72)
 - "Commission Exhibit 842...was delivered to me in the FBI laboratory on November 23, 1963, by Special Agent Vincent E. Drain of the Dallas Office of the FBI, who stated he had secured this item from Capt. Will Fritz of the Dallas Police Department. I do not know where Captain Fritz obtained it." (5 H 72)

Size of Bullet Fragments

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- a. Frazier testified about a large number of metallic fragments. ~~This is the only case in which was he was not specific that the specimen was bullet lead.~~ Some of the fragments were smaller than these.
- b. Clearly, some of CE 842 was gone at the time Frazier testified. Presumably this was for spectrographic analysis.
- c. Frazier is not aware of a chain of possession from Parkland Hospital's operating room to Captain Will Fritz.

OBSERVATIONS

1. It appears that Dr. Guinn was certainly correct when he stated that none of the fragments matched in weight the fragments tested 14 years earlier by the FBI. Not a single fragment can be seen as being the same (or even virtually the same) in size.
2. Note also that every fragment Guinn examined had grown in size since 1964, an obvious impossibility. This renders absurd HSCA's "explanation" that the different sizes were due to FBI's testing.
3. Data indicates that the FBI disposed of some fragments--from Q2 and Q4-- after testing.
4. There is a mystery concerning Q9. Photographs of the exhibit (842) appear to show 3 and perhaps 4 small fragments (17 H 841). Frazier speaks of a fragment gives just 1 weight. Yet the FBI did NAA on 2 fragments of the same weight. Guinn tested two fragments of widely different size (one being 10 times larger than the other. One of Guinn's fragments was 8 times larger than the FBI fragments, the other slightly smaller.
5. It must be kept in mind that Dr. Guinn testified that he had been told by Mr. Gear of the National Archives that no other fragments existed there. One might take Q4, for example, and ask: What became of the fragments which the FBI found weighed 13.0 and 21.5 mg? Or better still, from whence came the fragment Guinn found to weigh 41.9
6. For that matter, where did any of the material carried to Guinn originate?