

12-23-66

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Let me refresh your memory of our meeting by saying that I was the "butcher in a room full of surgeons" at the CCI meeting Wednesday, December 21st.

Enclosed are several specimen bullets. I've numbered them so that I can give some of their background. The bullets are Western Super-X 22 longs, fired through a Savage Over and Under. The barrel of the piece is fairly new, perhaps 100 rounds have been fired through it.

As an interesting sidelight, although I hunted extensively as a youth, several of my experiments went awry because I missed a block of soap from fifteen feet away. I used to be considered a better than average shot some eight years ago. The rifle was sighted in one year ago, firing about 3/4 of an inch low and 1/4 inch to the left, (I ran out of ammo before completing the sighting-in last year), at a standard 50 foot range. To support my previous reputation for marksmanship, I once hit a flying hawk at about 250-300 yards with a 22 rifle, and on another occasion, knocked a crow down at 300 yards, both times with iron sights. It is my personal opinion that both hits were complete flukes, because in several years of hunting at least a couple of times a month, I found that myself and my companions missed far more often than we connected.

Bullet number one was fired into a telephone directory from about 15 feet. Please notice that the lead appears to have flowed away from the impact, producing very distinct marks I call flow lines, which are oriented with respect to the plane of travel.

Bullet number two was fired into a box of mixed flannel scraps and paper strips, the kind commonly used as packing. The box was an ordinary lightweight cardboard box, 12 inches long. Nine bullets were fired into this box, and except for one which travelled through a previously made passage, all stopped at or before the end of the box. Please notice that there are flow lines on this bullet going in the opposite direction of the bullet's original orientation.

Bullet number three went through a 4 1/2 inch block of soap and stopped in the box of scraps. Notice again slight flow lines as on bullet number two. May I also state this is the most perfect bullet I have been able to recover.

Bullet number four was fired directly into the telephone book, and is included because the flow lines run in several different directions.

Aside from the obvious conclusion, that I could not cause a bullet of one third the mass and one half the velocity of Oswald's supposed bullet to stop its flight without severely marking and deforming it, I want to draw another conclusion here. I take it, by reading the digest of the Report and examining the photos of exhibit 399, that although the bullet is full copper-jacketed, I assume that the butt is not copper covered. Again, from my reading, the bullet is supposed to have struck the Governor's wrist butt first. It would seem then, that the bullet would at least exhibit flow lines on the butt end, flowing away from the butt toward the front. As a matter of fact, I would expect the bullet to have mushroomed at that contact, because considered butt-first, it would be a soft-nosed bullet, which are notorious for their great tendency to mushroom.

In a sense, I may be beating a dead horse by harping away upon the condition of the magic bullet, but I think that this is a very important point, because it is proof of deliberately manufactured evidence, evidence which had to be prepared beforehand. It is thus proof not only of a conspiracy, (as it was planted after Oswald was in custody), but of a deliberate attempt to implicate Oswald. For those reasons, I think that it is very important, and since it is a simple and obvious piece of evidence, and one which lends itself to reenactment and duplication. Also, and perhaps as important, it lends itself to visual presentation as a means to educate the public. It isn't necessary to read involved accounts of time trials, etcetera to get the message, just to look at a picture of the bullet compared to a picture of a bullet which has actually been fired into something with a little resistance.

I cannot afford to buy a Carcano right now, and try to do exact duplications, but if you run across anyone who is, I certainly would like to be put in touch with him.

By the way, according to expert testimony about the alignment of the scope, Oswald was aiming at Jackie! It is not possible to allow "Kentucky windage" with a scope, especially on a moving target, well, its possible, but I personally don't think I could hit the broad side of a barn under the best of conditions, trying to hold eight inches away from the target through a scope. As a case in point, the two fluke shots I mentioned earlier would have been absolutely impossible with a scope, because I had to hold so far above the target it would not have been visible at all through a scope!

Well, keep up the good work and good luck to you.

Bob Weiszmann
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