

... the sixth floor.

ANNOUNCER: This CBS NEWS INQUIRY, "The Warren Report," will continue in a moment.

(ANNOUNCEMENT)

ANNOUNCER: A CBS NEWS INQUIRY, "The Warren Report," continues. Here again is Walter Cronkite.

CRONKITE: We come now to our fourth question for tonight: Was Oswald's rifle fixed from the building? To answer this one the Commission placed major reliance on physical evidence found within the building. Three shells, later identified as fired from Oswald's rifle, were found forty-two minutes after the shots. Ten minutes later a rifle was discovered.

RATHER: The rifle was found on the sixth floor in the stairway between some cartons by Detective Weitzman. And this rifle was the one that plagued the Warren Commission. It was the rifle identified as Oswald's.

bullets. It is, of course, not necessary to use bullets to practice operating the bolt. And it is equally true that practice is not the only procedure that will mark a shell. Firing, for example, does exactly the same thing.

A footnote at this point refers to something totally unrelated, four photographs of Oswald following his arrest. But there is a letter from J. Edgar Hoover on the bullets buried in the very last of the 26 volumes (26H49-50). Of these empty cases, Hoover reported one had marks indicating it had been loaded and extracted at least three times and "three sets of marks on the base of this cartridge case which were not found (on the others) or any of the numerous tests obtained" from the rifle. Of a second casing, it had been "loaded into and extracted from a weapon at least twice", and there are two marks connecting this casing with the rifle, Hoover says, but it is not possible to determine whether these were made on the same or different occasions. The inference is clear: It could have been just one entry into this weapon. And the same was true of the third casing.

And even with the live bullet, there were additional marks which "were not identified with" the rifle!

Is it not surprising that the Report completely fails to indicate that by the best science available all three empty cases and the live bullet were connected with another rifle? Nor is this surprise lessened by the failure of the Report to say whether the empty shells had been fired from another rifle. Could they have been reloaded following fire from another rifle and marked by merely being placed in the Mannlicher-Carcano, or vice versa?

Then there is the question of how the casings were loaded. Bullets of an entirely different character in this casing were readily available in Dallas. There is evidence only that Oswald did not buy any. This is proved in another of the Commission's burials, like the others reproduced in facsimile, in greatly reduced size. It is Exhibit 2694, an unsigned, undated, unidentified document bearing no letterhead. The tables of contents of these volumes are usually less informative than they might easily be. In this case, even less than usual is revealed. The listing is "Report of investigation of possible target practice of Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas, Tex., area (CD778, pp.5-23)" (26H58-68).

What relates to the investigation of target practice reports its illegality, and no evidence that Oswald ever did practice target shooting. But during the course of this investigation, presumably by the FBI, the sources of ammunition of this type in the Dallas area are generally indicated and some specific investigations reported. The rifle, according to one dealer, had been imported by "boat loads" and had a wholesale value of but \$3.00. At two specified sources, this type of cartridge loaded with an entirely different type of bullet, hunting or soft-nosed bullets, was found. At one of these, "On March 26, 1964, two boxes, 20 rounds each, of 6.5 M/M Mannlicher-Carcano, Western Cartridge Company, ammunition were obtained for forwarding to the Laboratory of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. One box loaded with a hunting load (soft nose) was obtained from John Thomas Mason, and the other, which was a military load, was obtained from John H. Bringer" (26H64).

The other source identified the Crescent Firearms Company as the

had them when, what he did. First there was testimony, money and more affidavits, w only two of the empty cases tile ground for more faulty

Involved were Captain J. C. Day, of identification debaker. In an affidavit a third shell, "I told Detect checked for prints to leave and to bring one of them to here in the office, as we been bought. When Detective Bureau, he returned the one Several days later, I believe of the FBI called me at home that the Commission wanted longed to Oswald. (Hardly pointed until two days later these things to the FBI."

The possibility that t hand, especially in the abs to have been considered by to all the police agencies should have been thoroughly

As of the date of its G2766 rifle to Oswald. This identified the permanship under the name of "Hidal" to Oswald's earlier Dallas From that moment on, however port, this particular rifle not associated with Oswald but was unable to distinguish the Chairman said De Mohrenschildts, equal apartment before the more positive identification of Oswald did not understand and Marina were trapped in garage, the normal storage floor, wrapped in a blanket ing his weapon. If the time of the assassination of this rifle, it is not clear the question of general Report contains no indication locked or whether the door open to strangers or if they were away or visiting Paines on at least one unprotected. During the Paines drove off while the