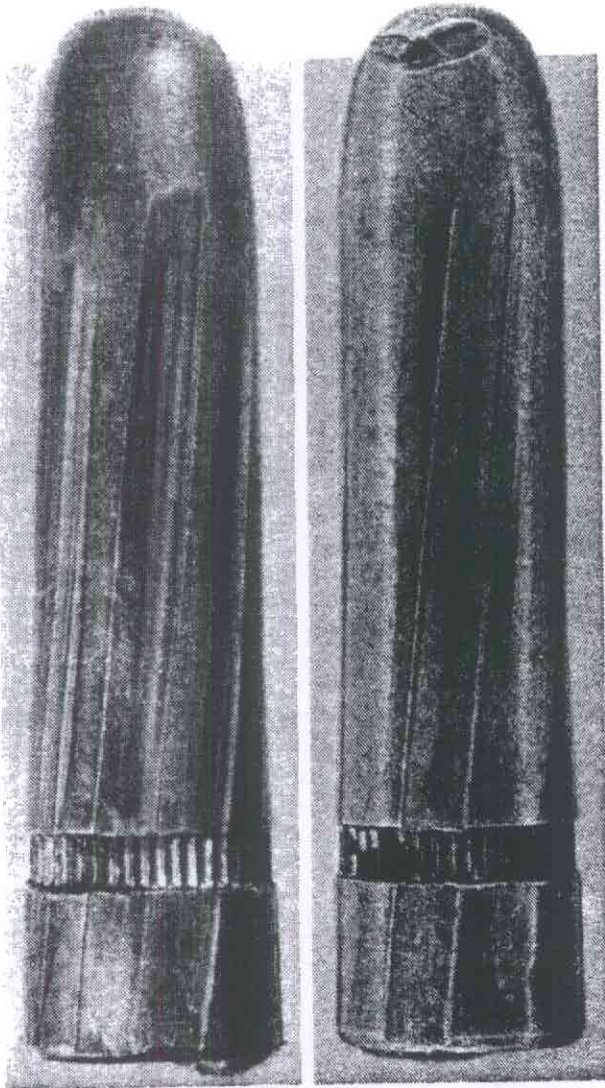


copy to H. WEISBERG

BALLISTICS DISCOVERY BY CALIFORNIA RESEARCHER INDICATES "STRETCHER BULLET THEORY" MAY BE A LIE (BECAUSE WC EXHIBIT 399 COULD NOT HAVE BEEN FIRED FROM THE CE 139 MANNLICHER-CARCANO), AND THAT APPARENTLY A DIFFERENT "EVIDENCE" BULLET WAS SUBSTITUTED BY THE GOVERNMENT!

by
Jack White



CE 399 (WC, XVII 49) CE 399 (HSCA, VII 385*)
At left is the photo of the "stretcher bullet" published by the Warren Commission. It obviously **has more than 4 grooves and 4 lands**. Three grooves and two lands face the camera. At right is a photo allegedly of the same exhibit from the National Archives similar to one published by the HSCA. It obviously **has 4 grooves and lands**. Only one groove and two lands face the camera. (*Photo obtained from National Archives by Walt Cakebread was taken on the same date, 8-23-78, as one on page 385, but shows a different side of the bullet.)

The cornerstone of the Warren Commission Report for more than 30 years has always been the so-called "Single Bullet Theory"...that is, that a single, undeformed 6.5mm round found on a stretcher in a hallway at Parkland Hospital on November 22, 1963, inflicted all non-fatal wounds to President John F. Kennedy and Governor John Connally (a total of 7 wounds, breaking at least 2 bones). This marvelous "Magic Bullet", it was claimed by the FBI, was discharged from a cheap Italian surplus 6.5 mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, CE 139, allegedly owned by Lee Harvey Oswald.

If any part of this "stretcher bullet theory" can be proved untrue, then the entire premise of the Warren Report will, in the words of former Senator Richard Schweiker of the Church Committee, "collapse like a house of cards."

In my opinion, the collapse of the Warren Report is imminent!

We are fortunate that a California researcher possesses a rare combination of knowledge and talents which has enabled him to shoot down the government's famous "stretcher/single bullet theory."

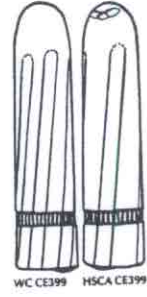
Walt Cakebread of Denair, California, is a 55-year-old power plant supervisor with a good working knowledge of engineering; he is a life-long hunter with a keen interest in and knowledge of guns and ballistics; he studies the JFK case avidly; and most importantly, he has a highly developed sense of visual observation. These talents came together dramatically as he studied the Warren Commission volumes.

In WC Volume III, Walt carefully read the testimony of FBI firearms expert Robert Frazier being questioned by Assistant Counsel Melvin Eisenberg. On page 439 he noted that Frazier described the barrel markings which rifle 139 left on bullets fired in it:

"Mr. Eisenberg. Can you describe the general rifling characteristics which you referred to?

Mr. Frazier. They consist of impressions from **four lands and four grooves**. (emphasis added)

....and additionally from page 429:
..."In this barrel there are **four lands and four grooves**. Each of the raised portions of the barrel will be impressed into the surface of the bullet causing four-we



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call them land impressions—on the bullet, and, in between, four groove impressions.” (emphasis added)

(Some confusion may arise here from Frazier’s terminology; that is, the rifling inside the barrel has lands, or raised areas, separated by grooves, or depressed furrows, in a spiral arrangement which imparts a spin to the bullet. As Frazier points out, these “lands” and “grooves” etch markings onto the bullet which are properly called in ballistics terminology “land impressions” and “groove impressions”. Therefore, the grooves in the barrel produce raised areas on the bullet, and lands in the barrel produce depressed areas on the bullet. This may become confusing to the reader, because raised areas on bullets are commonly, and by definition correctly, called “lands” instead of “groove impressions”; and depressed areas are commonly, and again by definition correctly, called “grooves” instead of “land impressions.” For purposes of this article, lands will refer to the bullet’s raised areas and grooves the furrows, as is common, rather than Frazier’s more technically correct terminology; see Volume III for Frazier’s complete ballistics testimony.) In other words, a rifle barrel with four lands and grooves will produce a projectile with four lands and grooves, regardless of which terminology is used.

Back to Walt’s study of the Warren volumes:

Walt made a mental note of the four-groove/four-land barrel configuration of the alleged murder weapon. Subsequent research by Walt showed that the four-groove barrel is standard for all Mannlicher-Carcano rifles.

Imagine Walt’s surprise, then, when in Volume XVII he came upon a large, clear FBI photograph of CE 399, and to his practiced hunter’s eye he saw that pictured on page 49 **WAS NOT A FOUR-GROOVE BULLET, BUT ONE WITH MORE THAN FOUR GROOVES, POSSIBLY FIVE OR SIX!**

Immediately Walt was at the same time elated, sickened,

and frightened. He knew that he could prove that Oswald did not kill JFK, but as a Navy veteran who considers himself a loyal, honest, hardworking, taxpaying American, he was sickened that his government had lied to him, and he was frightened that his knowledge of this government lie might be dangerous to him and his family. To quote Walt, “....when the full meaning of my discovery hit home, I felt like vomiting, because my mind recoiled at the facts before me...I will be maligned by some for exposing the truth, and I am frightened because I know the Government is not going to let this information become public if they can prevent it.”

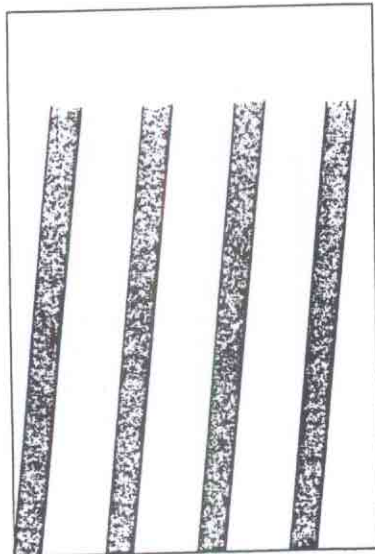
During the past two years, in the course of further research of his discovery, he searched for other information about CE 399. In his study, he turned to the report of the House Select Committee on Assassinations. In the HSCA report, Volume VII, page 385, Figure 6A, he came upon the House Committee’s photograph of CE 399, apparently taken by the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C.

To his astonishment, in this photo the Magic Bullet had transformed itself from the six-(or five)-groove bullet of the Warren Commission into **A FOUR-GROOVE BULLET THAT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE CE139 RIFLE AND THE TESTIMONY OF FRAZIER.**

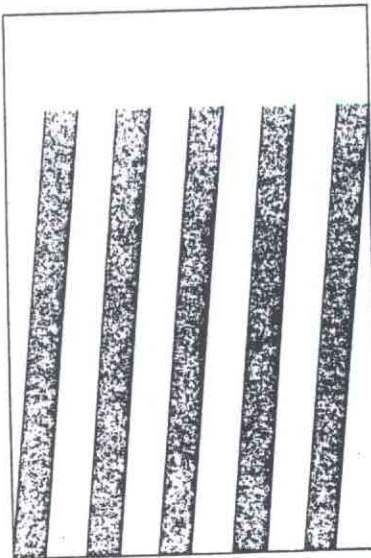
To Walt, this discovery was just as chilling as his first. It meant that the bullet originally pictured by the Warren Commission had disappeared, and that sometime between 1963 and 1978 **THE GOVERNMENT CREATED A NEW BULLET TRACEABLE TO CE139, AND SUBSTITUTED IT AS THE “OFFICIAL” CE399!**

Although side-by-side comparison of the two photos, as at the beginning of this article, obviously shows two different land/groove configurations, Walt has sought during the past two years to come up with other proof to back up what is obvious by mere visual inspection of the two photos. He

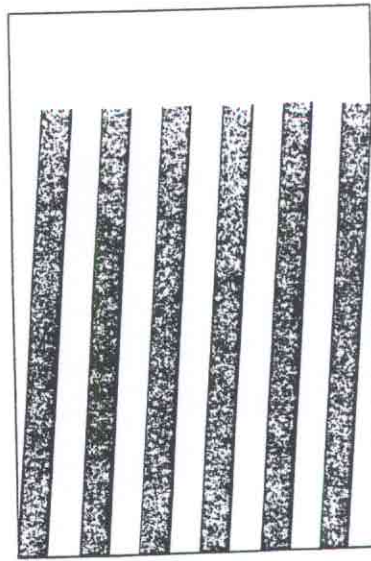
.....CIRCUMFERENCE of 4-groove bullet.....



.....CIRCUMFERENCE of 5-groove bullet.....



.....CIRCUMFERENCE of 6-groove bullet.....



obtained 8x10 photoprints from the National Archives for more accurate study (see reproductions). Using a micrometer, he took measurements to the nearest thousandth of an inch (though measuring a two-dimensional photo of a three-dimensional cylinder obviously does not yield perfectly precise results); he has produced countless mechanical drawings; he built oversize scale models of four-groove and six-groove bullets (he believes the original CE399 photo depicts a six-groove rather than a five-groove bullet) for visual comparisons; he performed numerous calculations and equations (for instance, he calculated that the original CE399 photo showed a bullet having a right-hand twist which would make one revolution for every 7.36573 inches of rifle barrel traveled). Based on the diameters of the bullets, taken at the mid-point to minimize any perspective angle and the slight distortion of the base, he calculated that on the WC photo of CE399, the land width is 30% of the diameter, and on the HSCA version, the land width is 46% of the diameter. This calculation alone is enough to verify what mere visual inspection shows—that the lands are much wider on one photo than the other, far more than any possible “photographic distortion.” (As a longtime photographer, I know of no possible lens/distance combination which could possibly change size relationships on a subject such as this; these photos must be of two different objects, in my opinion.)

Not knowing for sure what to do with the information he had discovered, Walt began contacting various well-known JFK researchers during 1994, showing them his evidence. Surprisingly, without fail, he was rebuffed by all researchers he approached. Some seemed to want his information for their own private agendas (“working on a book”); some seemed to not understand what their eyes told them (“it probably is photographic distortion”); and some seemed to be disinformation agents (“we need to torpedo this f - - - - up idea!). He developed a great distrust of JFK “researchers” in general.

Then, in November, while in Dallas, he showed his 399 evidence to Marina and Ken Porter and asked their advice. They told him, “You should show it to Jack White and get his opinion.”

So Walt wrote me on November 23, enclosing xeroxes of the two photos and some of his calculations. The calculations were unnecessary to me. I nearly fell off my chair when I looked at the two photos. My eyes told me that Walt had made possibly the most important discovery in the 31-year investigation of the case. The photos spoke for themselves. I had looked at them countless times, but always separately. By showing them to me **together**, Walt had forced me to look at them in a fresh way, and I knew he had something! I wrote him immediately and offered to help get his observations out to the research community and general public. His response was enthusiastic.

“Hallelujah!...I’ve been trying for two years to find someone who would recognize the simple fact presented by the photos of the WC CE399 and the HSCA CE399.” He loaned me the two photos he got from the Archives to assist me in

preparing this article. Still not 100% sure of my trustworthiness, he withheld the bulk of his research from me. But I didn’t need it; the photos spoke for themselves.

However, I did decide to do my own calculations based on the photos. Lacking a micrometer, I used a steel ruler marked in 32nds of an inch. I performed calculations, using the diameter (width) of the bullets and the old reliable high school geometry formula $\pi \times d$ (3.1416 x diameter) to find the circumferences of the pictured bullets. I then drew flat plan views of circumferences and lengths of the 4-groove bullet, as well as 5-groove, and 6-groove, using the same groove angle as seen in the photos (see schematic illustrations, which are not to perfect scale and are for demonstration purposes only). Enlarging these schematic drawings and wrapping them around a cylindrical mailing tube and adding a tennis ball “nose”, I created 3 dummy “bullets”, complete with lands/grooves/cannelures. When I viewed these three-dimensional “bullets” through the viewfinder of my camera, I knew that Walt and I were right. There is no way that “photo distortion” can account for the differences in these two photos. I have only one minor disagreement with Walt’s findings. Based on his study, he thinks the WC photo depicts a six-groove bullet; my study leans more toward a five-groove bullet (provided that some rifles may have five grooves, which I have no way of knowing). But regardless, we both agree...there is no way that the bullet pictured on page 49 of Volume XVII is a **four-groove** bullet.

Neither Walt nor I are expert enough to translate measurements of a three-dimensional cylindrical object in a flat photo to compensate for perspective and distance and possible “lens distortion”. But we know there are people who are expert at such, including gun experts, mathematics experts, computer experts, etc.; therefore we are publishing this information to challenge every researcher to use the greatest expertise available to prove (or disprove) whether these two photos depict the same or different objects.

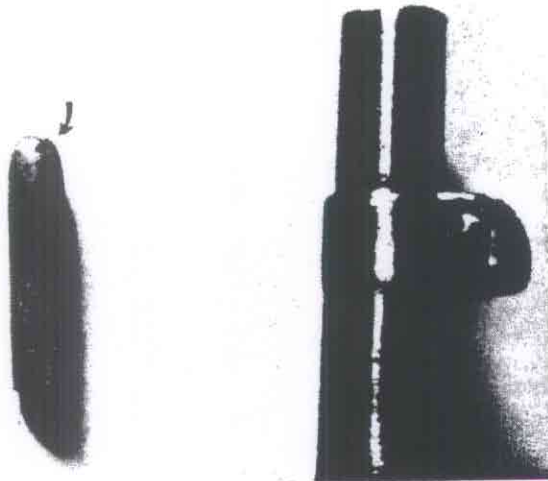
As a test, Jim Marrs took the two photos, totally without identification, to an expert local gunsmith and asked if they showed the same bullet. The reply was, “No, this one has four grooves, and this one has more!”

No doubt a computer expert could scan the images into the right graphics program to produce three-dimensional scale models and resolve the question. A solid geometry whiz probably can use the right measurements to interpolate measurements from the cylinders and create an accurate scale drawing. If you want to try your own mathematical calculations to check the number of grooves on the two reproductions at the beginning of this article, here’s how:

- (A) measure the diameter (width) of the bullet at the centerline of the photo
- (B) calculate the circumference using **diameter x pi** (3.1416)
- (C) measure the width of a groove at the centerline of the bullet photo
- (D) measure the width of a land as near as possible to a point where it crosses the centerline of the bullet photo and appears to be relatively flat to the camera

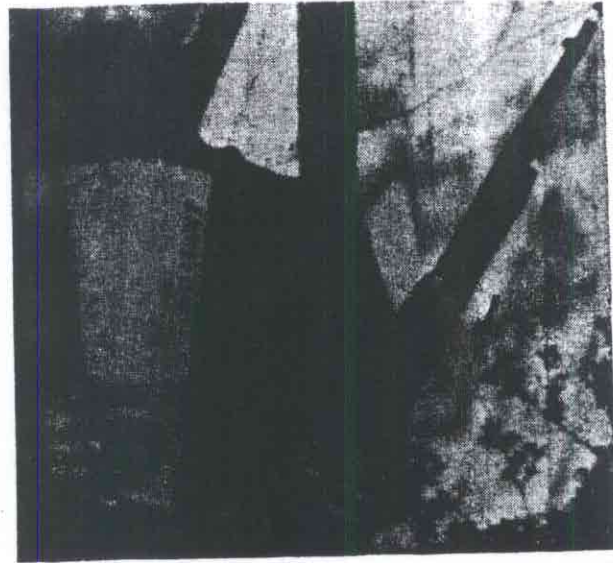
(E) add together your land and groove measurements
 (F) to find the number of grooves on the bullet, use this formula: **C divided by G+L equals number of grooves**...that is, the bullet circumference divided by the sum measurement of groove plus land measurements yields the number of grooves/lands.

Walt also noticed several other interesting anomalies which support the notion that these are two different bullets. For instance, the Warren Commission reports that the CE399 bullet weighed **158.6 grains**. But when the HSCA weighed the same alleged bullet, it weighed **157.7 grains**. Notice from the photos, however, that the HSCA399 has had three scrapings carved from the nose of the bullet for spectrographic analysis. Perhaps it is somewhere in the vast amount of testimony, but Walt and I know of no record which says that the 399 Warren Commission bullet was weighed **before** or **after** the specimens were carved out, what the weight was of the specimens, and what the bullet weight was after the spectrographic specimens were taken. If no explanation exists for this weight difference, then these must be two different bullets.



This brings up another interesting point. About 1976, researcher Fred Newcomb furnished me numerous photos of the CE139 Mannlicher-Carcano to assist in my study of the rifle photos at that time. Among these photos, apparently taken by the FBI, was one which showed the end of the gun barrel along with the CE399 bullet. Pictured is clearly a four-groove bullet...but the **single** carved-notch on its nose is completely dissimilar to the **triple** notch on the photo shown by the HSCA! Is there a record of additional samples being taken from the bullet nose by the HSCA? If so, was the bullet weighed before and after additional samplings? Somewhere, there should be a complete scientific record accounting for these manipulations. Are the weight differences the result of these spectrographic scrapings, which accurate procedures should have recorded, or were there two different bullets?

Another seeming anomaly which Walt noticed, which



LATE ISSUE!

6.5 ITALIAN CARBINE

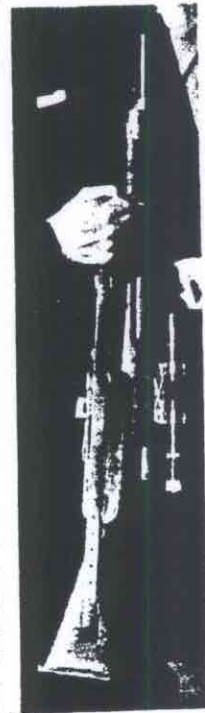
Only 36" overall. Weighs only 5 1/2 lbs. Shows only slight use, lightly oiled, test fired and head spaced, ready for shooting. Turned down bolt, thumb safety, shot, clip fed. sight, fast loading and fast firing.

C20-T... Specially Priced... **\$12.88**

C20-T... Carbine with Brand New Good Quality 4X Scope—1/4" diameter as illustrated... **\$19.95**

E20-T7... 6.5 mm Italian military ammo with free 6-shot clip, 108 rds. \$7.50

also had been pointed out to me by several other researchers, is the possible sling-swivel discrepancy between the CE139 rifle and the rifle pictured in the fake CE133A-B-C "backyard photos". There is no doubt that the rifle which was photographed in Dallas being carried by Lt. Day had the rifle strap-rings or swivels on the left-hand side of the rifle, one near the butt between the heel and toe, and one near the metal band around the stock and barrel about two inches ahead of the forward end of the finger groove. I have seen Mannlicher-Carcanos with this sling configuration; however, I also have seen Mannlicher-Carcanos with the sling attachment rings/swivels in the bottom position instead of the side...that is, the rear ring is on the bottom of the stock, near the toe about halfway between the butt and comb, and the forward ring is on the bottom of the stock, just behind (or part of) the metal band around the stock and barrel. The point of this is what Walt and others had noticed...that the rifle in the "backyard photos", as well as the rifle advertised by Klein's (see illustrations), has a **bottom** strap attachment swivel



ring, not a side swivel!

If it is true that the sling rings of CE139 are differently configured than the rifle in the backyard photos (whether the photos are fake or genuine), then the backyard pictures are totally invalid as proof of a connection between Oswald and the rifle found in the depository!

Walt also points out the problem with the missing clip for the rifle, which has been well-covered by Craig Roberts, Richard Bartholomew, Walter Graf and others. It is well known among researchers by now that the Mannlicher-Carcano (despite Frazier's testimony to the contrary), that a clip is essential to loading and firing the gun. As a practical matter, it cannot be single-loaded, and if it could, it could not be rapid-fired. The clip, which holds 6 rounds, falls out of the magazine-well when the final round is chambered. No clip was among the original evidence. A clip later was presented as having been found, but no chain of evidence supports this. Besides, original Mannlicher clips were brass, and the clip in evidence was black stamped metal, and according to Craig Roberts, this type of black clip was manufactured exclusively for the CIA on a Marine Corps Purchase Order only after 1963. As Roberts demonstrates in his lectures, the clip cannot be loaded into the magazine with fewer than 6 rounds, yet we are told that the rifle fired just 3 rounds and the final one was chambered when found. What happened to the first 2 rounds and the clip?

Walt, an experienced rifleman, also presents the results of test-firing a Mannlicher-Carcano: "...The bolt is difficult to close, and even more difficult to open after firing. Using a full six-round clip the first round loads good, the second round loads fair, the third round loads poor, and each succeeding round becomes increasingly difficult, and frequently the final round will not chamber at all!" With only four rounds (numbers 3-4-5-6) in the CE139 rifle, according to Walt's tests, the undependable clip loading mechanism would have performed "poor and worse", making it in his opinion "impossible to load, aim and fire the rifle three times in 5.4 seconds."

Other interesting incidental information Walt has discovered regarding the gun includes several things I had never noticed:

- In WC XVII, page 56, CE 401, is an interesting notation on Ruth Paine's 1963 daily calendar. There is a star on the date March 20, and in the margin a corresponding star with the notation "LHO purchase of rifle." What does this mean?!!! Did she know in advance of the order to Klein's, or is this an "after the assassination" notation? This needs an explanation.

- On page 945, WC XVI, is a photo (CE349) of the chrome molding above the windshield of the limousine. "The photo reveals a bullet hole in the chrome immediately to the right of the 1.62-INCH wide sun visor support bracket. The bracket width provides a convenient scale to determine the diameter (caliber) of the bullet that made the hole. The hole is 29% of the 1.62"-wide bracket, or .463". This bullet hole was produced by a .44 or .45 caliber bullet, not by a

6.5mm (.264") bullet," according to Walt.

- CE 353 on page 948 of Volume XVI is a photo of the back seat of the limousine. Walt thinks it shows a bullet hole in the upper portion of the right side of the seat-back which would correspond to the exact location of the entry wound in JFK's back. If this is indeed a bullet hole, Walt speculates that passage through the cushion might have slowed the bullet sufficiently to cause the shallow wound in JFK's back first described by Dr. Humes during the autopsy, before the "single-bullet" theory was decided on. It needs to be determined whether the apparent defect in the seat back photo is indeed a bullet hole, as Walt thinks. My opinion is that photos such as the Jim Towner and Phil Willis slides clearly show the seat back to be several inches lower than the alleged JFK back wound...unless the back wound is lower than we were told.

- Photos of the "hidden" CE139 rifle being discovered on the Sixth Floor under a stack of cartons show that the floor underneath the boxes is the old "tongue-and-groove" wood planking, not the new plywood that Bonnie Ray Williams made very clear in his testimony had already been laid "all along the West wall from the NW corner to the SW corner" (CE 483), yet Detective Studebaker drew a precise diagram showing where the rifle was found (15 feet 4 inches from the north wall and 5 feet from the west wall). This conflict between Studebaker and Williams regarding the flooring needs to be resolved, or even more doubt is cast on the discovery of the Mannlicher-Carcano (Mauser?).

Back to the 4-groove/6-groove bullet photos, there is an easy way to determine whether some sort of perspective or foreshortening caused by photo lenses/distances plays any role in the apparent differences in the two photos. An appropriate photographic test could determine whether the 4-groove bullet now in the National Archives could possibly be photographed in any manner to make the bullet appear as it does in the Warren Commission version. That is, using lenses of at least 3 different focal lengths, an expert should photograph the bullet affixed to a turntable, turning it one degree for each exposure, from at least 3 different distances. If any of these exposures match the Warren Commission exhibit, then we are looking at a photographic anomaly. But if all the test photos look like (or similar to) the HSCA exhibit, then we have two different bullets posing as CE399, the magic/stretching bullet.

I hope someone can prove that what Walt and I see in the photos is true. Unless someone can prove that we are wrong, I say it is time to officially declare the death of the Single Bullet Theory and The Warren Report. We believe that after realizing that the "Stretching Bullet" could not have been fired from "Oswald's Mannlicher-Carcano", someone in our government has compounded the "big lie" by creating a "substitute" CE399 which can be traced to CE139, and then putting it in the National Archives in place of the "Stretching Bullet".

What do you think?

* * * * *

Researchers comment on CE399 ballistics:

Not wishing another controversy such as followed my disclosure of John Armstrong's finding of the "Bledsoe document" (see November Fourth Decade), I decided to circulate a draft of this article for review among a number of JFK researchers (most of whom responded) with a promise to condense/excerpt their comments in an addendum to the article, which follows:

JIM MARRS comments:

"I would not publish the article until it can be proved that apparent differences in the two bullet photos are not the result of some photographic anomaly. After all, we are looking at photos, not bullets, so it must be determined whether a four-groove bullet can be photographed to appear to have more than four grooves. However, when I showed the photos to a gun expert, he said that one bullet had four grooves and the other had more than four. That's what it looks like to me, too, but after the way the authenticity of the Bledsoe story was attacked by certain persons, I think we need to prove this one beyond any doubt before going with it."

J. GARY SHAW comments:

"...CE399 was found to be in a somewhat *flattened* condition. As such, some distortion would occur in the lands and grooves of the bullet (compression in some areas and expansion in others). Therefore, any photographic comparison of the alleged two different bullets would have to be done *only* from those photographs which have been taken from identical angles relative to the flattened surfaces of the subject bullets. Secondly, IF there was indeed a substitution made, I cannot believe that whoever was responsible for such chicanery would have been so careless as to use an incorrect type of missile. And, also, since Walt's research has shown that a four-groove barrel is standard for *all* Mannlicher-Carcano rifles, then how are we to suppose that the five (or six) lands and grooves were created on this bullet which is made only (emphasis by Shaw) for the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle. I am not saying Walt is wrong...(but) before running with it...I feel certain that the WC and HSCA made numerous photos of CE399 from all different angles...my suggestion is to obtain copies (of all photos taken) for comparison study."

(Author's note: I contacted Walt about Gary's two main points, that is, concerning distortion of CE399, and Gary's statement that Mannlicher-Carcano ammunition can be fired only in a Mannlicher-Carcano rifle. Walt provided answers to both questions. Regarding flattening...

"...A 160-grain 6.5mm bullet is 1.2" long and has a diameter of .264". By dividing the length by the width, a ratio of 4.54:1 is found. Now, using the same method on the photo of WC CE399 that appears on page one of your article, we find the bullet length is 6.5" and the width is 1.437. This gives a width-to-length ratio of 4.52:1. Since the two ratios are reasonably close, I believe we could say there is

very little distortion of the physical dimensions of CE399."

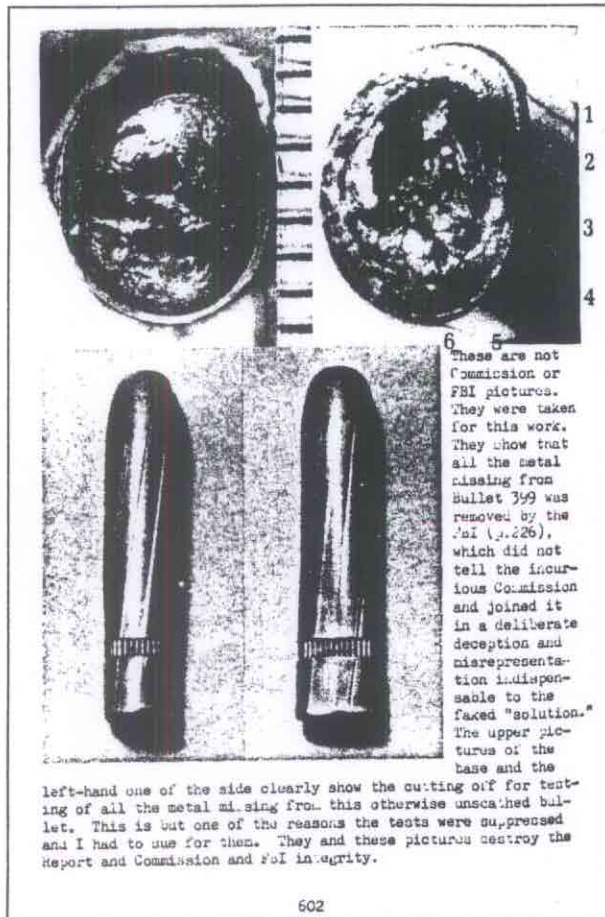
Regarding Gary's requirement that the bullet could have been fired only from a Mannlicher-Carcano, Walt gave me a short lecture on ammunition, complete with pages copied from the "Hornaday Handbook" on ammunition. Here's what Walt told me:

"...Gary is wrong about this bullet having to be fired from a Mannlicher-Carcano. A distinction must be made between a bullet, i.e. projectile, and a cartridge, i.e. the brass cylinder which contains the charge (explosive) in its closed end and the bullet in its open end. The Mannlicher-Carcano CARTRIDGE can be fired only in a rifle chambered for this CARTRIDGE, but the BULLET (projectile) can be used in many different cartridges. CE399 is a 160-grain 6.5mm bullet (projectile). There are at least a dozen different makes of rifles that will fire this bullet. Several of them are manufactured with six-groove barrels."

As Walt points out, Gary's question is based on the natural assumption that ammunition is always purchased fully assembled and ready to fire. But for economy, personal preference or other reasons, it is common for many gun users to obtain the three components (bullet, cartridge, and gunpowder) separately, from readily available sources, and to assemble their own ammunition. Indeed, the "Hornaday Reloading Handbook" (numerous xeroxed pages of which Walt sent me) shows that this identical bullet can be loaded into cartridges which will fire in a 6.5 Swedish MAUSER, and a 264 Winchester Magnum, among others. The 6.5 caliber is the requisite dimension for compatibility. Walt points out that bullets may be round-nosed or pointed, lead-tipped or metal-jacketed, and the location of the cannelures and the metal composition may vary according to the manufacturer, but the basic fact is that any 6.5 bullet can be used in any 6.5 cartridge case. It is the cartridges which must be matched to the rifle, not the bullets. Walt theorizes that CE399 may have been fired from a six-groove MAUSER, thereby matching the first reports of the type of gun found. "The mistaken designation of the rifle as a "Mauser" to someone [Jack Ruby?] thus caused "someone" to know what kind of bullet needed to be planted, and "he" planted the 6.5mm Mauser bullet [six grooves] instead of a 6.5 Carcano bullet [four grooves]." It certainly is a plausible theory.

However, Gary's comments about the flattened surface of the bullet, and Walt's counter-argument led me to remember the only good photos I could recall which show this flattening, on page 602 [see reproduction on next page] of Harold Weisberg's excellent "Post Mortem", published in 1969. It was obvious to me that Walt was assuming that the CE399 bullet was reasonably cylindrical for its entire length. But Harold's photos of the bullet, which he had made of the alleged actual exhibit at the Archives, portray the bullet from two views 90 degrees apart; plainly the upper two-thirds of each view match closely in width [diameter], with almost no distortion; but the base, or bottom one-third, flares out in one view **40 percent wider** than in the other view. Plainly, this possibly could have some effect on the photography of

the lands and grooves. It is not clear from these two "side" views of the bullet whether either of them more nearly matches the WC version or the HSCA version. From two views Harold publishes of the base of the bullet, the base is compressed into an oval-like shape, flatter on one side than the other, with a "width" [diameter] one direction which is 25 percent greater than the other direction. One of these views of the base, however, is extremely interesting: the base is photographed at a slight angle so that the "side" of the copper jacket also is sharply visible, including the demarcations of the lands and grooves. The jacket area seen comprises approximately one-half of the circumference of the round, and clearly one can count SIX LAND/GROOVE SURFACES. Since we see three lands and three grooves on the half of the bullet facing Harold's camera, clearly there would be a total of twelve land/groove surfaces altogether, or SIX LANDS AND SIX GROOVES. This means that the bullet Harold photographed in the Archives could not have been fired from the FOUR-groove CE 139! - J.W.)



"Post Mortem" p. 602, shows distortion of base of bullet. View of base at upper right shows 6 land/grooves on half the bullet (note numbers added by author), or a total of 12 for the full bullet circumference, which means the round was shot from a SIX-groove rifle.

JIM FOLLIARD comments:

"...Congratulations to you for getting right on this story! Congratulations to Walt for good work, especially for not taking anything for granted! It is good to see examples of intellectual integrity, especially in the face of obstacles like Walt had to face. All-too-typical is his experience with other researchers. I am glad he persisted. My only questions really just anticipate questions from people who would make the same assumptions I did (taking for granted that all photos of 399 showed the same bullet):

1. Can you definitively rule out the possibility that the WC version and the HSCA version are not different views of the same bullet? Are we certain that lands and grooves are consistent and equal on the entire circumference of a bullet?
2. Someone is bound to say, "If this were so, the experts would have noted it long ago." It's a variation on the 'Everyone-knows-that' fallacy.
3. This looks like all the more reason that CE139 and CE399 must be physically, directly examined by qualified researchers.
4. Possible alibi by Blakey, Rather, et al: a photo of a test bullet somehow got mistakenly mixed in with photos of the "real" bullet. ('Just one of those unfortunate screw-ups. Human error.')

(Author's note: I asked Walt about Jim's question regarding lands and grooves being consistent and equal on the entire circumference of a bullet. His answer:

"The answer is an emphatic YES. There has never been a rifle manufactured with unequal rifling dimensions. The distance from the center of one land to the center of the land preceding it and the land following it is always equal." - J.W.)

BRIAN EDWARDS (Lawrence KS police officer) comments:

"...I am surprised that no one had discovered such an obvious error before now. It is quite apparent that CE399 that appears in the Warren Report and CE399 HSCA are not the same bullet. When viewing one side of a spent bullet (a police officer) counts the lands and grooves that are visible, and then doubles that number, which would give the total for that bullet...With respect to Warren Commission apologists, this is going to be very difficult for any of them to disprove. Let them...try to defend what has already been put in evidence. Their evidence is 'locked in' and will be impossible to dispute. This is outstanding work! Incidentally, I showed the two bullet photos to our police department ballistics expert, and he said the photos obviously showed two different bullets."

CRAIG ROBERTS (Tulsa OK police officer) comments:

(Author's note: Roberts, a leading Marine Corps Vietnam sniper and veteran Tulsa police officer, is author of several books about gunmanship and Vietnam, as well as two books on the JFK assassination, and is a widely-sought lecturer before police conventions, SWAT teams, and JFK groups. At the time no more familiar with the JFK assassination than the average person, in 1986 he happened to be attending a

police convention in Dallas and like any tourist visited Dealey Plaza. As a trainer of snipers and police marksmen and a student of ambush planning, he saw immediately that the government's (the same government which had made him an expert on such things) official story of the assassination had to be a lie. He immersed himself in studying the case, and became an expert on the gunmanship areas of the assassination, particularly the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, its operation, its history and its ballistics. He has owned numerous Mannlichers, and currently possesses two—a 6.5 and a 7.35, as well as a collection of Carcano clips and ammunition. He was one of the first researchers to recognize and lecture on the problems relating to the problem of the rifle clip and its function in the operation of CE139 – J.W.)

"I've given the article regarding the 6.5 bullet mis-match a going over and find it quite significant...I must agree, with my knowledge of ballistics, bullets, etc., that Walt is on to something. I have examined both my 6.5 and my 7.35 Mannlicher-Carcano's and BOTH have only four lands and grooves (with a right hand twist). A round-nosed 6.5 bullet fired from such a barrel would resemble the HSCA (VII385) bullet, not the CE399 of the Warren Commission (as pictured in your article). The Warren bullet appears to have six lands and grooves. The only 6.5 rifle I have heard of that is supposed to have six lands and grooves is the Japanese Arisaka Type 38 (Sniper Version). My reference books have this rifle, but do not mention the rifling or twist, but other knowledgeable friends have told me of this six-groove 6.5). (I've never heard of any barrel with five grooves.)

"It appears that somewhere along the line, the conspirators discovered their error and had a bullet fired from the TSBD Carcano, then placed it in the evidence archives to make sure it matched the weapon. My question is, why did they not make the switch earlier, before the WC report, or even use a bullet fired from the TSBD "throw-down" rifle for the "stretcher bullet"? ...I think Walt has a great case and should press ahead, and I wish him better luck than I have had with the various ballistics information I have produced (other researchers, except you, Jim Marrs and Gary Shaw, don't seem to give a damn)... I hope my comments help, and if any so-called researchers give you any grief, point them my way and see if they want to argue with me! We'll see what they are really made of."

JOHN JUDGE comments:

"I like the info in your ballistics story, and I am sending a copy of it to everyone on the COPA Executive Committee. Cyril has also sent a copy of it to Herb MacDonell of our Ballistics Committee. If Herb thinks there is something significant about the photos, as Cyril and I do, I'm in favor of COPA doing something with it, if it can be verified. I don't have any scientific ability, but common sense convinces me that I am looking at photos of two different bullets. I think it will visually convince people (that the Warren Report is

wrong), and I think that the opinions of the Executive Committee will likely be positive."

TOM WILSON comments:

"I don't want to oversimplify what I can do with "Image Processing with Computer Analysis", but I have much experience in establishing, in court, very similar situations to this. It will be very time-consuming, and I don't want to tackle this just so someone can knock it down with, 'Oh, that photo was mislabeled'. If you want me to do it, let's do it right; I must have certified photographs to work with that have been authenticated by the National Archives or FBI to be official photographs of the actual exhibit (the stretcher bullet, CE399) for both the Warren Commission and the HSCA. If you can also get other photo views, also authenticated, then that is even better. With such photographs (not halftones), I can tell you emphatically that we will be able to establish beyond a shadow of a doubt whether the photos show the SAME, or DIFFERENT, bullets, as well as evidence to show distortion, and, most important, metal loss. Let's assume 'they' then say that one of the photos is mislabeled. Enough evidence will be compiled to say with absolute certainty, 'Give us the bullet that the mislabeled photograph represents, and we will help you prove that the mislabeling is correct, and we can put this matter to rest.' If you or Walt will obtain authenticated photographs for me to work with, I volunteer to perform this computer analysis because I have such a high regard for you."

JIM DIEUGENIO comments:

"...I think it is quite important. I am sending someone to the Archives to check on the actual exhibit now. I do have some reservations:

1. I think you or someone else should do the photographic experiment you outline in your article to see if it is just a visual anomaly (I doubt it myself).
2. I also thought of one the same points Gary Shaw mentions. If all Carcanos have 4 lands and grooves, why would the conspirators plant a bullet with 6 lands and grooves at the scene? This raises some hard questions.
3. This leads to the other point expressed by other responses, the fall-back position on this may be that the WC photographed the wrong bullet for its exhibit. I would not be surprised by this at all.

"Some of Walt's other points are very interesting—the sling ring placement on the rifle, etc. It's good to have someone going through the WC volumes at this late date. Obviously they have not all been scoured yet for the gems there. Bottom line, I say go with the article after the photo tests you propose."

JOSIAH THOMPSON comments:

"...Why would anyone plant a 6-groove bullet if Oswald's rifle carved only four grooves? I have a Mannlicher-Carcano made in the same gun factory as Oswald's within a month of the time his was made; it carves

bullets with four lands and grooves...Oswald's rifle likewise carved bullets with four lands and grooves...What do bullets fired from Oswald's rifle look like? (...In preparing my book "Six Seconds in Dallas", published in 1967, I collected numerous photos of CE399, as well as CE572, which were rounds fired from Oswald's rifle...)...I checked the photos in my file of CE572, the firearms ID rounds fired from Oswald's rifle. They clearly have four lands and grooves. (This undermines) the hypothesis that anyone switched a four-groove bullet for a six-groove bullet sometime after November 1963 and before HSCA went to work. We're now left with the hypothesis that some really stupid conspirators dropped a six-groove bullet at Parkland Hospital when Oswald's rifle produced bullets with four grooves. On this hypothesis, Frazier either lied or was mistaken in saying that CE399 had four grooves when the bullet he was looking at had six. How many lands and grooves does CE399 have? I dug back in my files for photos of CE399. (I am enclosing)...copies I made from black and white prints."

(Author's note: Tink enclosed about 20 photos which were typical of those published in his landmark masterpiece "Six Seconds"; all of his photos depict a four-groove bullet; none show a six-groove bullet. I am not publishing these, but you may refer to his book on pages 146, 151, and 152 as being typical of the photos he sent. All apparently are the same bullet that was photographed by the HSCA, including the "triple" notch carved out of the nose. Also included were numerous photos of test bullets, all four-grooved. -J.W.)

"You will have to judge for yourself, but for my money it isn't even a horseshoe. Like CE572, CE399 has four lands and grooves...(After I copied the photos I sent you,) I found an additional photo of CE399 taken under my direction by Arthur Schatz of Life Magazine in 1966. It shows that CE399 has four lands and grooves. I am enclosing a (xerox) of it." *(Author's note: This photo, the copy of which was of too poor quality to include here, was very similar in viewpoint to the base view in Weisberg's "Post Mortem" which clearly is a six-groove bullet. The Life photo is clearly a four-groove bullet.)* "As to other issues in your article: 1. Regarding your photo of CE399 and the tip of the rifle...reflections (may) tend to hide the second gouge out of the tip of the bullet (and because the photo's viewpoint does not show all the gouge, I think this photo is inconclusive.); 2. With regard to the (swivel differences) my rifle and all photos of the Oswald rifle have a side swivel on the left-hand side of the rifle. You are the expert (on what the backyard photos show.); 3. With regard to the alleged hole in the seat in CE353, I don't see any hole. A glossy of CE353 from the Archives should resolve the question...The other points you mention are intriguing, and I have nothing worthwhile to say about them...Thanks for once again igniting my curiosity."

ROBERT GRODEN comments:

"Thank you for sharing this discovery with me...My first thought was that those responsible for the cover-up could never have been so careless and sloppy, but there are count-

less sloppy errors such as this. Just look at Posner's hunk of trash. The first test I tried was to view my duplicate (a Mannlicher-Carcano round fired into a swimming pool from a rifle like CE139) of the current (Archives) magic bullet, which has only four lands and grooves, through different focal length lenses from 28mm to 205mm, to see if any possible focal length would give the viewer the ability to see farther around the circumference of a bullet. The test proved that there is virtually no change anywhere within the range. Both of the photographs (in your article) would have been taken well within the range of these extremes. In more than thirty years of photo analysis, I have never seen any mechanical situation that could account for this phenomenon.

Conclusion: In my experience, there is no single cause, or combination of causes, that can account for seeing more than a maximum of 50% of a three-dimensional object. You simply cannot see around corners with a direct view. Since the single lens of the camera cannot see more than half of the bullet at any one time, three lands or three grooves appearing in the same photograph show that the bullet had more than two of each per side (emphasis added), which is the maximum that can be seen at one time on (half of) a four land/groove bullet...(Of some other Archives photos of CE399 which I have, one is a close-up of the base of the bullet, from which...) I have made the observation that my photograph of the base of the bullet (also) appears to display more than four lands and more than four grooves.

Conclusion: Both of the historical Warren Commission views of CE399 (the one in your article and the one in my files) are incompatible with bullets fired through the C2766 CE139 Mannlicher-Carcano placed in evidence, and CE399-WC (pictured in your article) does not appear to be the same (emphasis added) bullet as CE399-HSCA.

I congratulate both you and Mr. Cakebread for presenting this exciting new addition to the volume of evidence showing that Lee Oswald was in fact framed, and that there was a conspiracy."

WALT CAKEBREAD comments:

"Jack, you've done a damned good job with the information you had. I've got even more proof of this that I did not furnish you. I would like to submit a revised closing paragraph to your article:

"I believe I have used solid reasoning in reaching my conclusions about the bullets. If anyone can see where we have made an error that would negate our conclusions, we sincerely would like to hear from you. Unless someone can prove we are wrong I say it is time to stop the defamation of Lee Harvey Oswald and remove the stigma of shame from his children and grandchildren. When the truth is known, it may be that Lee Oswald is an honest-to-goodness American hero. It is time to (force a reopening) of the investigation, erase a big lie from our history books, and restore the pride of being an American in one nation, under God, as the Pledge of Allegiance says."

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(Author's Postscript: Among the researchers the first three

drafts of this story were circulated to for comments was greatly respected forensic authority Dr. Cyril Wecht. In two long-distance conversations he responded enthusiastically to the seeming discrepancy of the two bullet photos and volunteered to show them to several forensic experts whose opinions he respected. A summary of our phone conversations was included in all but this final draft. Cyril requested that I delete his comments after the receiving an opinion of the two photos at the beginning of the article from his friend Herbert MacDonell, Director of the Laboratory of Forensic Science in Corning, New York. Cyril wrote, "In light of what (Herb says) I should like to withhold any comments...I believe the best thing is to simply say nothing. Please delete my response."

Not wishing to be accused of withholding an expert opinion contrary to the thrust of this article, I present the following quotes from the two-page letter from Mr. MacDonell to Dr. Wecht, dated January 27:

"...these are reportedly the same bullet. If so...they must be opposite, or nearly opposite sides...there is a defect on the nose of the bullet but it is not shown in the second photograph. Obviously, the bullet must have been photographed from a different angle. Simply stated, if the camera was not moved, the bullet was rotated." [Author's note: Evidently Mr. MacDonell did not read the article carefully. The Warren Commission bullet was photographed by the FBI for the Warren Commission in 1963 or 1964. The HSCA bullet was photographed fourteen years later (8-23-78) by the Washington Metropolitan Police Department at the request of the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Mr. MacDonell apparently does not understand the the main premise of this article, that is, that the bullet was photographed for the Warren Commission at the time of the assassination and then was then returned to the National Archives; by the time it was photographed by Prof. Blakey and company years later, it seems that numerous photographs of it depict a different bullet than the one pictured in the Warren Commission volumes. - J.W.]

"Obviously, if these are photographs of the same bullet, there are striations clearly evident on the land to the left, and somewhat less distinct on the land to the right. Although it is desirable to have a bullet travel through a barrel without 'yawing', it is common to find striations on only one side of a bullet proving that it occurred...This is what happens to a bullet if it 'bottoms' along a land with a rifled barrel. There may be no corresponding striations produced on the opposite side of the bullet as that side is furthest away from the barrel at the time. This is a common occurrence and is easily recognized by those familiar with internal ballistics." [Author's note: The Washington Police photographer photographed the bullet furnished from the Archives by the HSCA from various viewpoints, as this article earlier states. In fact, the HSCA report publishes a view of the bullet taken from the opposite side as the one published at the beginning of this article, and it shows no striations such as Mr. MacDonell suggests. Indeed, it clearly shows a four-groove

bullet, and is completely dissimilar to the WC bullet. If the opposite side of the HSCA bullet had shown 'striations' or appeared to be similar to the WC bullet, I would not have bothered to write this article! - J.W.]

"Photographic procedures used to show striations in the grooves of a fired bullet require lighting from an acute angle to the land and groove impressions of the bullet. Photographic procedures to show the bullet as evidence would employ direct, or normal [90 degree], flat lighting. While this produces an excellent photograph, it would not show the shallow striations shown by the former lighting. This is not a photographic 'artifact' but is simply the result of the lighting method employed." [Author's note: Examination of page 49 of WC XVII clearly show that the FBI photograph of WC CE399 is totally shadowless and obviously photographed with a diffuse single frontal light source, probably on a light table, and is precisely the type of lighting which Mr. MacDonell says would be used to show the bullet as evidence. It definitely is not the acute side lighting which he says would be required to show striations. Incidentally, the HSCA photo on page 385 of Volume VII appears to have used the same lighting procedure used for the WC photo, that is-flat, single-source, diffuse frontal lighting with the bullet on a light table to eliminate shadows. So the lighting of the two photos appears to be virtually identical, even though made 14 years apart.

Finally, Cyril had furnished Mr. MacDonell the second draft of this article, which did not include the photo of CE399 from Harold Weisberg's "Post Mortem" book, which clearly shows a six-groove bullet, and is included in the final draft printed here. I asked Cyril to ask Mr. MacDonell about Harold's photo, but MacDonell was unable to give an expert opinion, since Cyril did not furnish him with a copy of the third draft which I had sent, and MacDonell did not have a copy of "Post Mortem". However, Mr. MacDonell did offer a personal observation about the photo in his letter to Cyril as follows:

"...I do not necessarily believe that what he has published is accurate, as I know Harold (Weisberg) and am aware of how he presents data."

Such an observation and accusation about a photograph not examined and based wholly on personal bias certainly seems improper for a man of science who expects us to rely on his other opinions. - J.W.]