

U 399

2/24/77 Trayler

Q Could you look at the bullet, which is Exhibit 399, again, and tell me where on that bullet such fragments might have come from?

A They would have come out of the base of the bullet, because the lead has been squeezed out of the base; it was squeezed out considerably, even more than it appears now, because some metal has been removed for examination, but the side of the bullet is flattened, and considerable lead could have been squeezed out of the base.

Q How much -- did you weigh that bullet originally?

A Yes, I did.

Q Do you recall how much it weighed?

A No, I don't.

Q How much weight might have been removed from that in firing?

A If you want expert testimony, you're going to have to pay expert fees. Otherwise, I'll answer anything concerning these papers, but before I testify to any interpretation of any scientific matter, analysis of any results, or consultations or depositions, I expect you to pay extra witness fees, and I have a standard fee established for it.

Q Did you -- you have testified that you weighed the bullet; am I correct?

A Yes, sir, I weighed it. In fact, furnished all this material.

Q And you furnished it to whom?

A To Mr. Weisberg.

Q The reports on the weighing? Did you --

And you weighed it before any tests or examination were conducted on it?

A I believe so; yes. That's the usual procedure.

Q Did you weigh it again later?

A No, I didn't, not as far as I know. I don't recall weighing it again.

Q Now, I believe you indicated that there had been a sample removed from the bullet, from the base of the bullet?

A I think there was some spectrographic analyses by other Examiners, and they used part of the lead in the base of the bullet.

Q Someone other than yourself removed --

A Yes, sir.

Q -- the material from the base of the bullet?

A Yes.

Q And was there any other material removed from that bullet for purposes of scientific examination?

A Well, there may have been some copper; I don't know.

I did not make the exam.

Q Could you take a look at the bullet again?

A (Witness examines exhibit.)

Q Does it appear as though there might have been a sample removed from the nose of the bullet?

A There either is an area there that was not there when I first received it -- this appears to be an area that was not there when I first received it.

Q Didn't you in fact testify before the Warren Commission that you removed that sample?

A No, sir, I did not, because I did not remove it.

Q Did you testify that a sample had been removed?

A Yes, sir.

Q Did you also inform the Warren Commission that a sample had been removed from the base of the bullet?

A I believe so. I don't recall what my testimony was, but if they had asked about it I would have said yes.

Q And if they had not asked it, would you have volunteered?

A No. You don't volunteer questions when you're being asked.

Q Did you weigh the bullet again after the samples had been removed from it?

A As I said just a while ago, I did not, as far as I know.

Q If you had weighed it again, you would have made a report on what that weight would have been?

A Not necessarily.

Q How could you have testified to the weight lost in the course of the firing of the bullet if you did not make such records?

A What records are you referring to now?

Q Records of the weighing of the bullet.

A I testified that I did weigh the bullet when I received it. That's the only weight that's pertinent.

Q Well, is not the weight of the bullet, minus the samples, also relevant to the question of how much the bullet actually weighed before it was fired?

A No.

Q Is it not relevant to the question of the amount of metal that it lost in the course of the flight attributed to it?

A Is "what" not relevant? I don't understand your question.

Q The amount of material, the weight of material removed from the bullet for purposes of scientific examination?

399

Fryer 2/24/77

77

Q All right.

I have one final area, I think, before we cease. Actually, I want to return again to this question of the weight loss from the bullet.

I think you testified before the Warren Commission as to the maximum weight of that -- of that bullet, based on an average of what similar bullets weighed.

A I believe I did. Of course, that doesn't mean that that bullet actually weighed that amount. This is a way to approach something, not having the original.

Q I understand --

A You average other bullets, but they may not be typical. They could be a little more or a little less.

Q And I believe you also indicated in your testimony that the maximum weight loss was about two and a half grains.

A It's possible; I don't recall.

Q Now, how could you testify to that without knowing the weight of the matter removed from the bullet?

A The matter has nothing to do with it.

Q Well, suppose --

A I weighed the bullet before anything was removed from it.

Q Suppose the material removed from the bullet, mean-

Freyler 2/24/77

78

ing the material removed for scientific examination -- the two spectrographic samples removed, and the loss of the -- from the weight of the bullet in firing, exceeded two and a half grains?

A Oh, I'm sure it did. I'm sure it did; they took more than -- they probably took that much, two and a half grains, out of the bullet in the spectrographic analysis.

Q Well, that --

A The point -- my point is, I weighed the bullet when I got it. That fixes its weight, period.

You can take half the bullet, and it has nothing whatsoever to do with the original weight of the bullet. You get the original weight of the bullet by going back to the gun, not the other direction.

The original weight of the bullet is an approximation based on taking other similar bullets, weighing them, averaging them, seeing what is the maximum weight, and you get an approximate figure for the maximum weight.

The weight when received -- I don't recall the exact figure, but you say two and a half or two and three-quarters grains less, would be the amount of weight the bullet is supposedly has lost from the time it was fired and the time it was recovered.