

y box.

er-Carcano cartridges with  
Western Cartridge Co. manu-  
the panel in CE 139 and des-  
4. (See Figs. 1 and 2.)

r Mannlicher-Carcano car-  
und unloading in the rifle to  
characteristics produced in

erved throughout the exami-  
ence at the National Archives  
ber of the Archives staff ac-  
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y. The panel's materials—  
ired bullets and cartridge  
arm identification section at  
lice Department.

#### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE FIREARMS PANEL, CONCERNING THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

(96) The findings and conclusions were prepared by staff of the House Select Committee on Assassinations based on material submitted by the panel members. The panel has read and accepts those findings and conclusions.

#### KENNEDY SHOOTING

##### *Evidence examined*

(97) The following evidence was examined in connection with the shooting of President Kennedy.

(98) CE 139(71)—One 6.5-millimeter caliber, bolt-action repeating rifle, Mannlicher-Carcano Model 1938, serial number C2766. Attached was an Ordnance Optics, Inc. 4X telescopic sight and an adjustable black leather strap.\* (See figs. 3A and 3B.)

(100) A visual examination of the rifle revealed pitting, rust and copper oxidation to test-firing, which the panel believed should be removed prior to test-firing. Accordingly, a dry cloth patch was pushed through the bore.

(101) The telescopic sight was attached to a mount, which itself was attached to the left side of the rifle. Mounting facilities were not provided at the time of manufacture. Also attached to the rifle were standard iron sights, placed on the rifle at the time of manufacture.

(102) The rifle was test-fired by all panel members, using 6.5-millimeter caliber ammunition of Western Cartridge Co. manufacture. Two bullets were test-fired into a horizontal water recovery tank. Further tests were conducted by loading four cartridges into the CE 375 cartridge clip and inserting it into the magazine of the rifle. The cartridges were worked through the rifle's mechanism and ejected without being fired. When the last cartridge was chambered, the cartridge clip remained in the magazine instead of falling out as it is designed to do.

(103) CE 141.—One 6.5-millimeter caliber cartridge of Western Cartridge Co. manufacture, found in the CE 139 rifle. (See fig. 4.)

(104) CE 351.—One damaged automobile windshield removed from the Presidential limousine. (See fig. 5.)

(105) CE 399.—One fired 6.5-millimeter caliber full metal-jacketed bullet, found on a stretcher in the emergency area of Parkland Hospital. The bullet weight was found to be 157.7 grains. (72) In the same box as the bullet was a tiny fragment, which was too small to weigh or otherwise examine. (See figs. 6A and 6B.)

\*The CE 139 rifle was physically examined and found to be operable. It had not been properly cleaned, maintained or lubricated. The rifling of the barrel was four lands and four grooves, right twist. The magazine was a non-detachable box, clip-fed type, with a 6-cartridge capacity. The trigger pull was determined by the panel to be approximately 3 pounds.

Robt Frazier

Dear Jim,

1/17/80

Attached HSCA VII:365,366 and 415 relate to questions in O.A. 75-226.

Page 366 is included merely because it states up close to Guine, that there was a Q15 specimen when the committee got it. It may not be accurate. It may be no more than loose writing.

Page 365 (105) gives the weight of Bullet 399 as of the time of the committee's receipt of it as 157.7 grains. Page 415 also gives this as the weight when weighed for the committee by the Archives (which refused to do this for me). At the same point what is given as the Commission's weight, 158.6 grains, is not the Commission's but the FBI's. In any event, the difference is slight, 0.9 grains.

Ignoring the weight of the tiny fragment (365) this 0.9 grains has to account for the two samples Frazier removed and I'd be surprised if it does or can.

It is unusual that the FBI provided no before and after weights for 399, for its own records and for the Commission.

On deposition Frazier testified that he weighed it but once, when he got it.

As I recall his Commission testimony, he gave the impression that 158.6 grains was the weight as of after removal of sample, of which he testified to but one when there were two that he took.

A cone is visible where he removed core material. On deposition he testified that he cut off what extruded. He cut off more - what is represented by the cone.

I can't be certain but I am inclined to believe that 0.9 does not account for the metal Frazier removed. If I am correct then there is significant evidence in this.

I'm not saying anything about this to others.

Best,

(106) *CE 542*.—One 6.5-millimeter caliber, bolt-action repeating rifle, Mannlicher-Carcano model 1938, serial No. UC5209. Attached was 4 × Ordnance Optics, Inc., telescopic sight and an adjustable black leather strap. The strap is consistent in length, design, and construction with the strap on the CE 139 rifle. The rifle was purchased by the FBI in order to compare the method of mounting the telescopic sight. (See fig. 7.)

(107) *CE 543*.—One expended caliber 6.5-millimeter cartridge case of Western Cartridge Co. manufacture, recovered from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository. (See figs. 8A and 8B.)

(108) *CE 544*.—One expended 6.5-millimeter caliber cartridge case of Western Cartridge Co. manufacture, recovered from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository. (See fig. 9.)

(109) *CE 545*.—One expended 6.5-millimeter caliber cartridge case of Western Cartridge Co. manufacture, recovered from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository. (See fig. 10.)

(110) *CE 557*.—Two expended 6.5-millimeter caliber cartridge cases of Western Cartridge Co. manufacture, test-fired by the FBI laboratory in the CE 139 rifle for purposes of comparison with CE 543, CE 544, and CE 545. (See Warren Commission hearings, vol. 17, p. 249.)

(111) *CE 567*.—The nose portion of a 6.5-millimeter caliber metal-jacketed bullet found on the right side of the front seat of the Presidential limousine. (See fig. 11.)

(112) *CE 569*.—The base portion of a metal-jacketed bullet found on the floor beside the right side of the front seat of the Presidential limousine. (See fig. 12.)

(113) *CE 572*.—Two fired 6.5-millimeter caliber full metal-jacketed bullets, test-fired by the FBI from the CE 139 rifle and designated as K1A and K1B\*. (See fig. 13.)

(114) *CE 573*.—One 6.5 millimeter caliber metal-jacketed bullet recovered from the residence of General Walker in April 1963 after an attempted assault. (See fig. 14.)

(115) *CE 575*.—One brass cartridge clip with a six-cartridge capacity, stamped "SMI 952," removed from the CE 139 rifle. (See fig. 15.)

(117) *CE 840*.—Two lead-like fragments\*\* recovered from the rug underneath or in the area which was underneath the left jump seat of the Presidential limousine. (73) The panel found that each fragment weighed 0.5 grain. Because of their minute size, no further examinations were conducted on this exhibit. (See fig. 16.)

(118) *CE 841*.—One round metal box containing lead residue recovered by the FBI from the inside surface of the windshield of the Presidential limousine. Because of the small size of the sample, further examinations were not conducted. (See hearings before the Warren Commission, vol. 17, p. 840.)

\*The two test-fired bullets were used as standards for comparison with the class characteristics on CE 300, found on a stretcher at Parkland; with those on CE 507, the bullet nose portion found in the limousine; and with CE 569, the bullet base portion found in the limousine.

\*\*The FBI originally recovered three particles. In 1970, an independent researcher brought to the attention of the National Archives that one of the three fragments was missing. The Archives has been unable to locate it.

(119) *CE 842*.—Four lead-like fired as having come from Governor that the largest fragment weighed were too small to weigh. Because no further examinations were conducted.

(121) *CE 843*.—Three lead-like Kennedy's brain during the autopsy their combined weight is 0.7 grams fragments, no examinations were conducted.

(122) *CE 853*.—One fired 6.5-millimeter bullet, fired through a goat at the Commission to ascertain the characteristics of subsequent loss of velocity. The panel of this bullet was not practical. Commission, vol. 17, p. 819.)

(123) *CE 856*.—One fired 6.5-millimeter bullet, test-fired through a cadaver Commission to ascertain the characteristics and its loss of velocity on impact examination of this bullet was not conducted. Warren Commission, vol. 17, p. 856.

(124) *CE 857*.—One fired 6.5-millimeter bullet, test-fired into a skull at the Commission to ascertain the characteristics of the bullet that the jacket had been seen also found that fruitful examination. (See hearings before the Warren Commission, vol. 17, p. 857.)

#### Findings and Conclusions

Was the CE 141 cartridge report fact loaded into that rifle?

(126) The CE 141 cartridge was a test cartridge No. 4, which had been fired. The panel found a correspondence between the characteristics produced by the magazine of the CE 139 rifle on the CE 141 unfired cartridge. (See fig. 20.)

(127) In the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle of a concave ramp located at the front of the magazine, the smooth insertion of the cartridge into the magazine is chambered by moving the bolt. The cartridge case slides up the loading ramp. The loading ramp is a machined-steel surface. The panel found that the individual microscopic identifying characteristics of the magazine follower, which is a separate part of the rifle, are the same as those of the individual microscopic identifying characteristics of the CE 141 cartridge in the magazine.

(52) HSCA staff interview of Richard Leder, Nov. 10, 1977 (JFK Document No. 003331).

(53) FBI report, Aug. 2, 1977, p. 1-2 (JFK Document No. 001931).

(54) Ibid.

(55) Ibid.

(56) Ibid.

(57) See reference 52.

(58) Ibid.

(59) HSCA outside contact report, Bill Mason, Apr. 20, 1977 (JFK Document No. 001285).

(60) Ibid.

(61) Edward Jay Epstein, "Inquest" (New York: the Viking Press, 1966), p. 79.

(62) Mark Lane, "Rush to Judgment" (New York: Holt, Reinhardt and Winston, 1966), pp. 78-79.

(63) Robert Sam Anson, "They've Killed the President" (New York: Bantam Books, 1975), p. 76.

(64) Ibid.

(65) Sylvia Meagher, "Accessories After the Fact" (New York: Random House, 1970), p. 103.

(66) Ibid.

(67) Josiah Thompson, "Six Seconds in Dallas" (New York: Berkeley Medalion Books, 1976), p. 193.

(68) Ibid.

(69) See reference 62, p. 114.

(70) Incoming correspondence, National Archives, Dec. 13, 1977 (JFK Document No. 004053).

(71) The "CE" designations of the Warren Commission were used by the panel.

(72) The panel noted that Warren Commission determined the weight of CE 399 to be 158.6 grains (Warren report, p. 95). The National Archives also weighed CE 399, at the request of the committee and the panel, on Dec. 14, 1978, and found its weight to be 157.7, the same as the panel's finding (HSCA outside contact report, Robert MacClaren, Dec. 14, 1978, JFK Document No. 013672).

(73) HSCA incoming correspondence, National Archives, July 8, 1970 (JFK Document No. 010170).

(74) WCH, vol. 5, p. 61.

(75) Over 100 rounds of ammunition were fired in the CE 139 rifle. Warren report, p. 193.

(76) Ibid.

(77) Ibid.

(78) Joseph E. Smith and S. H. B. Smith, "Small Arms of the World." (City Stackpole Books, 1969), p. 475. Also see: Joseph E. Smith and W. H. B. Smith, "Book of Rifles." (Harrisburg, Pa.: Stackpole Books, 1963), pp. 301-302.

(79) See reference 87.

(80) See reference 72.

(81) H. P. White and Burton D. Munhall, "Center Fire American and British Pistol and Revolver Cartridges." (Washington, D.C.: Combat Forces Press, 1950). (JFK Document No. 010739).

(82) Ibid.

(83) Ibid.

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