

"If the Gonzalez affidavit is to be believed, the United States is a police state run by a dangerous consortium of CIA officers, private intelligence agencies, and White House entrepreneurs."

-- "Spooks" by Jim Hougan

CHAPTER 54

THE FRAGMENTS AND THE X-RAYS

"The forensic pathology panel concluded that there was no evidence that the President or Governor was hit by a bullet fired from the grassy knoll and that only two bullets, each fired from behind, struck them."

The Committee never seriously questioned this evidence, nor did they properly question the neutron activation analysis data: "Further, neutron activation analysis indicated that the bullet fragments removed from Governor Connally's wrist during surgery,

those removed from the President's brain during the autopsy, and those found in the limousine were all very likely fragments from Mannlicher-Carcano bullets."² There is no such thing as Mannlicher-Carcano bullets; Mannlicher-Carcano was a rifle manufacturer. Secondly, this test is precise: The molecular structure of the metal either matches or it doesn't. There is no "very likely." Third: The above sentence intends to leave the loophole that the fragments came from some bullet, but not necessarily the ones the Warren Commission indicated: "It was also found that there was evidence of only two bullets among all the specimens tested--"³ (much of the evidence was found to be missing) "the fragments removed from Governor Connally's wrist during surgery were very likely from the almost whole bullet found on the stretcher at Parkland Hospital, and the fragments removed from the President's brain during the autopsy very likely matched bullet fragments found in the limousine."⁴ Not very likely. The fragments from the Governor's wrist exceeded in weight the amount lost by the "pristine bullet" found on the stretcher. CE 399, or the "pristine bullet," lost only about 1.4 to 2.4 grains, and none of this was from being fired.⁵ That amount was removed by the FBI for the original test. For a bullet to emerge in such perfect condition, it would have to have been test fired into water. The fact that it was in such perfect condition would not be related to its military jacket. The Committee claimed, without foundation, that such a jacketed

bullet could smash bone and flesh and emerge undamaged. This does not explain how the similar bullet to the skull broke up into small bits. And thereby, both the Warren Report and the above collapse, because there can be no such fragmentation from that type of military bullet, nor can there be fragments weighing more than the weight missing from the bullet.

The point is that there were more than three grains of metal in Connally's wrist wounds alone, which exceeded what CE 399 lost, and there was also a portion of bullet which remains lodged in his thigh.⁶

What the Committee had to say here was simply untrue. Further, the writer of the Report is trying to draw our attention to the "almost whole bullet" in each sentence: "The neutron activation analysis findings, when combined with the finding of the committee that the almost whole bullet found on the stretcher at Parkland Hospital as well as the larger fragments found in the limousine were fired from Oswald's Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, established that only two bullets struck the President and the Governor, and each was fired from the rifle found on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository and owned by Oswald."⁷ Oswald may have owned the rifle, or he may not have, but no one has ever established that he fired the rifle, or was the assassin. The above sentence states simply that Oswald owned the rifle. The bullets may have been fired from the rifle, but not necessarily by Oswald. It is far more likely that the bullets

came from other guns, in particular Mausers. Originally, the police found only a Mauser in the building, but this was covered up.* It is unlikely that any sniper would have used such a poor weapon as the Mannlicher-Carcano. The rifle, like so much other evidence, appears to have been planted and the evidence linking it to Oswald fabricated.

→ Double-talk
what the public is getting here is an extraordinary amount of double-talk. The Committee was all but trapped, and they knew it. The supervising operating room nurse at Parkland Hospital, Audrey Bell, stated she had looked at and handled "four or five bullet fragments" taken from Governor Connally's wrist. She put them in an envelope and gave it to government agents. She said that "the smallest was the size of the striking end of a match and the largest at least twice that big. I have seen the picture of the magic (pristine) bullet, and I can't see how it could be the bullet from which the fragments I saw came."⁹

Dr. Guinn, who conducted the neutron activation analysis, found that one of the fragments recovered from the floor of the limousine was gone.¹⁰ He found that a can which had contained fragments that had apparently struck the windshield of the limousine, was empty.¹¹

One fragment specimen, CE 569, could not be tested because it was only the "copper bullet jacket with no lead inside."¹² The Committee believed that it had been fired from the Oswald rifle, but couldn't prove it.

The Warren Commission indicated that two or three bullet fragments they had could have come from the magic bullet, but this was unlikely because of their weight. Obviously, what this shows is the destruction of evidence over the years. A secret letter to the Warren Commission from J. Edgar Hoover on July 8, 1964, concerning the spectrographic analysis, said that there were "minor variations" between the fragments. Any variation indicates that different bullets were involved. Again, we must ask why these results have been kept secret.

There is no significance to the neutron activation tests that were conducted in this case, because some of the known fragments have disappeared and Guinn was unable to test one of the fragments he had. For him to say that it was "highly probable" that the fragments and missile he had represented only two bullets is silly, in view of the other evidence that the fragments weighed more than was lost from the pristine bullet, but of course, in any intelligence operation, the idea is to keep each operative compartmentalized away from the next guy with his conflicting information or evidence. This whole thing is an intelligence operation, even the so-called "investigation."

If you take one lump of lead and make 50 bullets from it, they will all have the same atomic structure. The bullets cannot be distinguished from any other bullet made from the same lot. Therefore, more than one rifle using bullets from the same batch could not necessarily be distinguished. Weisberg writes: "Unless

the metal from Connally has *the same* composition as Bullet 399, poof! and the Report is up in smoke. If there is *any* variation in the lead composition of *everything else*--the erroneously accounted for fragments removed from the President's head, the fragments found in the car, the scrapings from the windshield, the traces from the curbstone--*all other lead of which there is any relic*--then this Report has to be the biggest official lie in official history. *All this lead must be of exactly the same composition* or it cannot be claimed that the fatal bullet was fired from 'Oswald's rifle.'" Dr. Charles Wilber wrote that "The precise characterization of a given bullet is still not feasible....It is doubtful that significant information can come from the analytical work done on the Kennedy-Connally bullets and fragments."¹³

The ballistics experts said that the fragments found in the car were fired by the alleged "Oswald gun." How can a fragment that is just a fragment be determined to have come from anywhere, in this instance? It can't. In addition, there is no rational way to determine that those fragments came from the "Oswald window."

The final proofs relied upon by the Committee are that the make-up of the fragments found in Connally's wrist (CE 842) was the same as that of the pristine bullet, which is of course quite possible, but proves nothing except double-talk because the fragments weighed more than the lost weight from the "pristine bullet" (CE 399), and the "wound ballistics expert" said that

when the President lurches backwards in the film, it is a "neuro-muscular reaction."¹⁴ They also thought this backwards movement might be a "jet effect," whereby Newton's law of equal and opposite reactions is overturned. That is, the target will be knocked towards whatever has hit it, rather than away.

The X-rays of the President's head, which are reproduced in Vol. I & VII, p.112 & 110, show (this is actually a left lateral view reversed, see TCI Gary Mack, p.5 June, 1980), as Dr. Humes testified to the Warren Commission, "30 or 40 tiny dustlike particle fragments" of metal.¹⁵ Humes said that the "dust particles"¹⁶ on the X-rays would actually have been smaller because "X-ray pictures...have a tendency to magnify these minute fragments somewhat in size."¹⁷

The Assassinations Committee showed the X-rays to Dr. Norman Chase, who noted that the head wound "was massive, not the kind he would expect from a single, jacketed bullet hitting straight on; it was possibly tumbling or hit on an angle."¹⁸

Commander John H. Ebersole examined the X-rays of the neck at the time of the autopsy, and reported the absence of fractures and metal particles in the neck; which was confirmed by the autopsists.¹⁹

As well, the bullet which is alleged to have struck President Kennedy in the back of the neck, CE 399, we are told by the Clark panel, left particles of lead in the neck,²⁰ and again, the bullet we have--CE 399--is nearly whole, with its jacket

intact, and could not have broken up in such a manner.

In reporting the above, Dr. John Nichols writes, "In this writer's experience, identical and similar jacketed bullets do not leave metal fragments in soft tissues when bone is not struck. Even unjacketed lead bullets do not leave metal fragments in soft tissues when bone is not struck."²¹

This means that at the time of the autopsy, no metal fragments were seen in the neck. Further, there was no knowledge or evidence of any wound in the neck from a bullet. Surely the radiologist, Dr. Ebersole, would have seen the fragments then. In 1968, the Clark Panel saw fragments for the first time, just as for the first time the wounds were seen in far different places from where they were reported in 1963.²² When the House Committee interviewed Dr. Chase, he noted the presence of a metal fragment or artifact in the area of the transverse process--definitely not a bone fragment.²³

→ Mistake or fabrication?

The Clark panel found that "Films #8, 9, 10 allowed visualization of the lower neck. Subcutaneous emphysema is present just to the right of the cervical spine immediately above the apex of the right lung. Also several small metallic fragments are present in this region." (p. 13) Stanley Keeton says, "Why Humes was able to discern dustlike metallic particles in the head, but unable to recognize fragments in the President's neck remains a mystery."²⁴ Humes had stated under oath to the Warren

Commission that the X-rays of the neck did not reveal metallic fragments: "...We examined carefully the bony structures in this vicinity as well as the x-rays, to see if there was any evidence of fracture or of deposition of metallic fragments in the depths of this wound, and we saw no such evidence, that is no fracture of the bones of the shoulder girdle, or of the vertical column, and no metallic fragments were detectable by X-ray examination."²⁵ Humes here gives the impression he saw the X-rays during the autopsy. We already know that he never knew the President was shot in the neck, and so his description of the wound as an exit wound in his undated report was obviously fabricated after the fact. Either Humes made a mistake in not seeing fragments, or he made it up.

"One can believe in innocent coincidence, but not when it reaches epidemic proportions and works persistently in favor of the Commission's fixed lone assassin thesis," Sylvia Meagher, one of the first people to research this case, writes.²⁶

Art Smith writes, concerning his interview with Dr. Ebersole "At this point I must now state publicly that the autopsy doctors, Humes, Boswell, Finck, Ebersole and others deliberately falsified their reports and their testimony pertaining to the throat and the head wound." Ebersole had told Gil Delaney of *The Lancaster (PA) Intelligencer Journal* that "He knew...the back of the head was blown off."²⁷

Dr. Ebersole was then forced to retract his statement when

someone from the Navy Department called "to remind him that he was still under secrecy not to discuss the case."²⁸

Gary Mack writes: "It's inconceivable that no X-rays were taken from the back or right side of Kennedy's head. Surely there are others which have never been acknowledged. As for the HSCA misrepresentation of this evidence, I can only believe the Committee conclusions based on those two X-rays are, in fact, not probable."²⁹ For these reasons, the work of the Committee is highly suspect.

When co-author Livingstone showed these X-rays to a radiologist, he noted that an orbit is missing and the whole face is gone. He asked, "Did they blow away his face? Did they sever the head from the body?" and noted that there appeared to be surgery in the temple area.

We have to ask why these X-rays were cropped for presentation to the public by the Assassinations Committee. The cropping removes the jaw--the mandible and the odontoid process --which would have made possible identification by the teeth. The vertebrae that ought to fit into the skull appear to be missing.

Regarding the circular temporal bone area, Chase said it appeared to represent normal skull thinning at that point, but said there could be bone missing, noting the area was "... awfully lucent."³⁰

You can see an air space through the skull in the occipital protuberance area, just where the Warren Commission placed an

entry wound. But the hole is too big for just an entry wound. And that wound was moved in 1968 four inches above where it shows on the X-rays. Doctors whom the authors consulted spotted this "large defect" instantly. This is what the doctors began to point out when they were interviewing Dr. Humes, the autopsist, for the Assassinations Committee.

The X-ray that purports to show the face has an apparent air space below an eye which radiologists stated almost instantly to Livingstone was not normal. We are given the impression that this is the right eye, but if this X-ray is also reversed, it is therefore beneath the left eye. This X-ray is JFK exhibit F-55.⁹¹ In the picture shown on page 111 of volume 7, a radiologist immediately said that there appeared to be an entry wound in the left eye-temple area. In any event, these X-rays show damage to the skull which is nowhere clarified by the evidence.

The Clark panel found that there was a large fragment at the base of the skull. "There is, embedded in the puter table of the skull close to the lower edge of the (entrance) hole, a large metallic fragment which...lies 25 mm. to the right of the midline. This fragment...is round and measures 6.5 mm. in diameter."⁹²

This very large piece was not mentioned in the autopsy report, although such a large fragment would have been seen on the X-ray had it been there at the time of the autopsy--as were the "Thirty or forty dust-like fragments" in the autopsy report.

It would also appear that this fragment was probably the base of a bullet. If we also have the base of a bullet in the front seat of the limousine, we have far too many bullets fired. The fact that this fragment was not noted in the autopsy report is more than strange, and another indication that the X-rays are forged.

A little-known but fine book by Howard Roffman called *Presumed Guilty*, published by Fairleigh Dickenson University Press, and in London by the Associated University Presses, 1975, makes some telling points that should have been addressed by the Assassinations Committee. The fact that they were not demonstrates the basic dishonesty of the Committee, as well as a deliberate intent to cover ^{up} ^{2 words} the true nature of the conspiracy in this case.

6.5 mm. is the diameter of the alleged bullets allegedly fired by the alleged assassin. Howard Roffman says, "The bullet from which was shaved this substantial fragment upon entrance could not have been covered with a hard metal jacket, such as copper alloy. Such a fragment is, in fact, a not infrequent occurrence from a lead bullet. Rowland Long, in his book *The Physician and the Law*, speaks of the penetration of lead bullets into the skull and asserts: 'Not infrequently a collar shaped fragment of lead is shaved off around the wound of entrance and is found embedded in the surrounding scalp tissues.'³³

"The Commission's case against Oswald requires full-jacketed

ammunition to have been used to inflict the wounds of President Kennedy. The presence of the 6.5 mm. metallic fragment in the margin of the skull entrance eliminates the possibility that a full-jacketed bullet entered through this hole. Such a fragment located at that site is indicative of a lead or soft-nosed bullet," Roffman writes.³⁴

Forensic pathologist Halpert Fillinger said, "You can appreciate the fact that a jacketed projectile is going to leave very little on the (bone) margins because it's basically a hardened jacket, and it's designed so that it will not scrape off when it goes through a steel barrel. One can appreciate the fact that going through bone, which is not as hard as steel, may etch or scratch it, but it's not going to peel off much metal. In contrast to this a softer projectile might very well leave metallic residues around the margins..."³⁵

Nowhere is there any evidence of copper in the skull or the limousine. When a copper-jacketed bullet breaks up, it leaves fairly large fragments, but it does not leave dust-like particles. The lead core is chemically hardened to prevent just that from happening.³⁶

Roffman points out that perhaps more of the dust-like fragments of metal were lost from the head when brain matter was blasted away and later oozed out in the car and at Parkland.

We find no lateral X-rays of the neck, so there is no accurate way to see the alleged fragments in that area. But the

very fact that the Clark Report alleges that there are fragments in the neck shows that they could not have come from the magic bullet found on the stretcher--CE 399. The copper jacket of that bullet was intact.³⁷

The fact that there are no lateral X-ray views of the neck again points to the true nature of this conspiracy.

→ Evidence of Substitution

"Pathologists could present no evidence to substantiate the 'conclusion' that the gaping defect was an exit wound." By this, Roffman means that the large hole across the right side of the head may or may not have been an exit wound. It would appear that a bullet may have entered from the front in the same place. "The evidence does not establish that it was the rear-entering bullet that produced the explosive wound to the right-front of the head, nor is there currently any evidence to preclude the possibility that the head was in fact struck by two separate bullets from different directions."³⁸

The skull was extensively damaged, with numerous fractures, and "Dr. J. Thornton Boswell, assistant to Dr. Humes at the autopsy, has confirmed to a private researcher that a large area of skull was present in the mid- and low-temple region, although none of these fractures had broken the skin."³⁹

Roffman writes, "The size and extent of the gaping defect, and the associated fracturing and fragmentation of the skull, are indicative of a high-velocity bullet's having struck the head to

produce this damage."⁴⁰ Many researchers and doctors have agreed.

"FBI ballistics expert Robert Frazier called the velocity low."⁴¹ Two thousand feet per second is considered medium velocity, and 3000 is a high velocity bullet, which can go up to 4100 fps. The Mannlicher-Carcano was probably travelling at 1800 fps. "To produce this kind of effect (there was great damage to the head and extensive bullet fragmentation in the brain), you have to have a very high-velocity projectile, and the Carcano will not stand very high bolt pressures," Dr. Fillinger told Roffman.⁴²

The Warren Report (p. 83 of the *N.Y. Times* edition) tells us that both the nose and the base of a bullet were found in the front seat of the limousine. These fragments weighed 44.6 grains and 21 grains respectively (a whole bullet weighed 160 grains). Where did they come from? This certainly wasn't the magic bullet which had allegedly struck both victims and came out in pristine condition, without any blood or other matter, which it would have to have collected, had it passed through a body. The two fragments were covered with blood and gore and had to be cleaned. Did they have a military jacket?

Had the nose of this bullet found in the front seat passed through the head of the President, struck the chrome over the windshield of the car and fallen into the front seat, as appeared to be the case, it could not have described such a trajectory if it came from the sixth floor window. The shot had to have come

from a low level in relation to the car.

The Clark panel found a large shimmering object in the brain which would seem to be a bullet. Why was this not noted at the time of the autopsy?

The autopsy report notes that thirty or forty dust-like fragments of metal are seen on the X-rays of the skull and brain, as well as two larger pieces measuring 7x2 mm and 3x1 mm. No other fragments are mentioned. All of the above were in the brain, and the two larger pieces were on the surface of the "disrupted right cerebral cortex." Nowhere is there any mention of the two very large fragments first seen in the X-rays available to the Clark Panel, both embedded in the skull. These large fragments in the skull simply could not have been there without being commented upon and removed, and could not have been missed on any X-ray. During an examination of the scalp, we should think the large fragment on the outside of the skull would have been seen and removed for analysis. Ordinarily, the scalp is carefully combed in the search for wounds during an autopsy.

The proof in this case lies here: A military jacketed bullet cannot shave off such a collar-shaped fragment as is now claimed to be imbedded in the President's skull, which was not seen at the autopsy or in the X-rays at the time, and such a bullet will not leave a trail of metal particles as is now seen in X-rays of the neck. Only lead bullets will do this. For this reason, the slides of the margins of the wounds are missing from the

evidence, because a military jacketed bullet will not leave a residue around the edges of a wound, and if a lead residue was in fact present, then the bullets could not have come from the alleged murder weapon.

All this demonstrates conclusively that the X-rays have been substituted.

Newsweek, (August 15, 1964) wrote of the frustration of journalists and researchers concerning the autopsy evidence even then: "The whereabouts of these photographs and X-rays remains one of Washington's most puzzling mysteries. A diligent two-month inquiry...has failed to turn up a single government official who can, or will, give a simple answer to the question: 'Where are the Kennedy autopsy photos?'"

Jacob Cohen, writing in *The Nation* at that time, said that no one with any interest or involvement in the case could see the photos.

The pictures were probably missing because they were being switched. They wouldn't turn up again until the conspirators could claim that the memories of witnesses had faded or were mistaken. Fortunately, what the witnesses saw then they will never forget.