

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

200 Maryland Ave. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Telephone 343-1400

EARL WARREN,
Chairman
RICHARD B. RUSSELL
JOHN SHERMAN COOPER
WALE BOGGS
GERALD R. FORD
JOHN J. MCCLOY
ALLEN W. DULLES

J. LEE RANKIN,
General Counsel

JUL 7 1964

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau
of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

On June 30, 1964, you forwarded to the Commission two photographs obtained by your Dallas office from James Underwood, a newsman with KRLD-TV in Dallas. Enclosed herewith is a photograph forwarded to the Commission from Martha Joe Stroud, Assistant United States Attorney in Dallas. We are also enclosing a copy of a letter from Miss Stroud indicating the conditions under which this photograph was obtained.

Since the photographs taken by Underwood purport to indicate the exact point on the curb where this niche is located, we request that your Bureau perform the following investigatory steps:

- (1) Using either the model of the assassination scene or a diagram, please trace the path which a missile would have taken if it traveled from the sixth floor southeast corner window to the point on the curb indicated in these photographs, and then advise us of the approximate frame in the Zapruder film which would correspond to the point at which this missile would have passed over the President's car.
- (2) We would like an analysis made of this mark on the curb to determine whether there are any lead deposits there or any other evidence upon which a conclusion can be reached as to whether this mark was caused by the striking of a bullet.

*in work 2/25
filed in 01-744*

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

[Vertical stamp and handwritten notes on the right margin]

REC-15 3659

2 JUL 8 1964

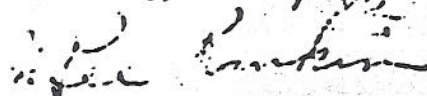
ENCLOSURE
XEROX
AUG 25 1964

[Handwritten notes and signatures]

SEVEN
SIX

- (3) Please determine whether the photograph forwarded to us by Miss Stroud is a photograph of the same curb mark represented in the Underwood photograph. We suggest that Tom Dillard of the Dallas Morning News be shown the spot on the curb from which the Underwood photograph was taken in order to determine whether the two men had photographed the same mark. ✓

Sincerely,



J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

Enclosures (2)

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen (Mr. Malley)
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan (Mr. Lenihan)
- 1 - Mr. Rogge
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Griffith
- 1 - Mr. Shaneyfelt

July 13, 1964

REC-15
airtel 6/10/64 - 3659

ST-107
To: SAC, Dallas (100-10461)

From: Director, FBI (105-82555)

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka
IS - R - CUBA

The President's Commission has requested further investigation regarding the nick in the curb along the south curb of Main Street as shown in the photographs you submitted with airtel 6/16/64. Copies of the Commission letter and the photographs you submitted are attached for your guidance. There is also attached a copy of a letter to the Commission from Assistant United States Attorney, Martha Joe Stroud, Dallas, Texas, and an accompanying photograph of a nick in the curb taken by Tom Dillard of the Dallas Morning News on 11/22/63.

You should first attempt to locate the nick in the curb and sutel the Bureau whether or not you can locate it. Since the nick area, if located, will be analyzed spectrographically in the Laboratory, you are cautioned not to clean the curb area or otherwise make any alterations that would effect such a Laboratory examination. If the nick is located, you will be furnished detailed instructions regarding photographs to be made before removal of this portion of the curbing as well as instructions for removal after the pictures are made. You should determine through contact with appropriate Dallas officials whether or not there is any objection to the removal of a portion of the curbing. For the spectrographic examination, it will be necessary to have the nick and the curbing approximately four to six inches around it intact. The amount of curbing removed beyond this will be determined by the method of removal that is used in order to retain the pertinent area intact.

To locate the nick in the curb on the south side of Main Street, you should use the photograph made by Mr. Underwood taken from the nick toward the sixth floor window of the Texas School

Enclosures (5)

- aloca
- almoat
- alr
- asper
- allicha
- asord
- aloch
- vas
- alo
- acon
- aliven
- oval
- rotter
- ala. Room
- alms
- andy

MAILED 10
JUL 13 1964
COMM-FBI

SHANEYFELT 7336
5/30

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

46619

RECORDED COPY

XEROX
AUG 23 1964

Airtel to Dallas
LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka
IS - R - CUBA

Book Depository Building (TSBDB). If you move along the south curb of Main Street until all objects in view are aligned as they are in the picture, that point should be within inches of the nick in the curb providing Mr. Underwood actually made the picture from the nick as he stated. The best guide to use initially is the lamp post between the two buildings on the right side of the photograph. After that is aligned, other objects can be checked such as the sign on the left and its relation to the steps and the TSBDB as well as the lamp posts on the north side of Elm Street and their relation to specific areas of the TSBDB. Sutel results of efforts to locate the nick on the curb.

The photographers, James Underwood and Tom Dillard, may be of assistance to you in locating the nick in the curb. In this regard, you should interview both photographers and submit letterhead memoranda in compliance with Item 3 of the attached letter from the Commission. For your further information, Item 1 of the Commission's letter is being handled by the Laboratory. Item 2 will be handled by the Laboratory depending upon whether or not the nick in the curb can be located after which you will be furnished further instructions relative to submission of the piece of curbing. The Laboratory will also make a comparison of photographs to be made after the nick is located, with photographs made by Underwood and Dillard as requested in Item 3.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan (Mr. Lenihan)
- 1 - Mr. Rosen (Mr. Malley)
- 1 - Mr. Rogge
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Jevons
- 1 - Mr. Frazier
- 1 - Mr. Heilman
- 1 - Mr. Griffith
- 1 - Mr. Shaneyfelt

August 12, 1964

By Courier Service

REC-15

116A 3659

REC-READING ROOM
FBI
AUG 12 3 12 PM '64

X8977-4668X

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to your letter dated July 7, 1964, requesting additional examination of the mark appearing on the curbing on the south side of Main Street near the triple underpass at the assassination site in Dallas, Texas. This mark was located and was found to be 23 feet, 4 inches from the abutment of the triple underpass. The Laboratory comparison of the mark as it now appears with the photographs made by James Underwood, a newspaperman for KRLD-TV in Dallas, and Tom Dillard, a photographer for the Dallas Morning News, establishes they are photographs of this same mark. Four copies of the results of the interviews with Mr. Underwood and Mr. Dillard are attached.

In response to your inquiry, assuming that a bullet shot from the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository Building struck the curb on the south side of Main Street at the location of the mark described above and assuming it passed directly over the President, the bullet would have passed over the President at approximately frame 410 on the Zapruder film. This is 97 frames after the shot that struck the President in the head which is frame 313. At 18.3 frames per second, this represents a lapse of time of 5.3 seconds between frame 313 and frame 410. Based on a direct shot from the sixth floor window to the curb on Main Street, this bullet would have passed over the center of Elm Street at an elevation of about 18 feet from the street level. It is noted that in frame 410 of the Zapruder

XEROX
25 1964

51 AUG 11
COMM-FBI

REC-READING ROOM
AUG 12 10 10 PM '64

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

62-109060

Dallas (100-10461)

LS:emh (13)

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

64 AUG 27 1964

REC-15
ENC 11
Rogge 5730
JW
D

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

film, Mrs. Kennedy has returned to the seat beside the President and Secret Service Agent Hill is about midway from the back bumper to the President crawling across the trunk lid.

The piece of curbing containing the mark was removed on August 5, 1964, and examined in the FBI Laboratory. This curbing has been designated as Item C321 by the Laboratory. Small foreign metal smears were found adhering to the curbing section within the area of the mark. These metal smears were spectrographically determined to be essentially lead with a trace of antimony. No copper was found. The lead could have originated from the lead core of a mutilated metal-jacketed bullet such as the type of bullet loaded into 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano cartridges or from some other source having the same composition.

The absence of copper precludes the possibility that the mark on the curbing section was made by an unutilized military-type full metal-jacketed bullet such as the bullet from Governor Connally's stretcher, C1, or the bullet or bullets represented by the jacket fragments, C2 and C3, found in the Presidential limousine. Further, the damage to the curbing would have been much more extensive if a rifle bullet had struck the curbing without first having struck some other object. Therefore, this mark could not have been made by the first impact of a high velocity rifle bullet.

It was also determined from a microscopic study that the lead object that struck the curbing causing the mark was moving in a general direction away from the Texas School Book Depository Building. Assuming this mark was made by a fragment of a bullet

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

from the assassin's rifle, the evidence present is insufficient to establish whether it was caused by a fragment of a bullet striking the occupants of the Presidential limousine, such as the bullet that struck the President's head, or whether it is a fragment of a shot that may have missed the Presidential limousine.

This completes the request in your letter dated July 7, 1964. The piece of curbing is available in the FBI Laboratory. A photograph of the mark on the curbing before removal and a photograph of the curbing after removal are attached.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (3)