

listics Association, finds the condition of CE 399 "entirely consistent" with a bullet that inflicted the seven wounds on the two men. "It's a long bullet [1.25 inches] and I would expect it to be flattened on the side, just like you had squeezed it in a vise."⁷⁶

Ballistics experts have calculated the speeds at which the bullet would have entered and exited each wound on the President and the Governor. The 6.5mm slug left Oswald's rifle at 2,000 feet per second and hit Kennedy at the base of the neck between 1,700 and 1,800 feet per second. Passing only through flesh, the bullet lost another one to two hundred feet per second and hit Connally at 1,500 to 1,600. It left his chest and entered the wrist at 900 feet per second. Anything above 700 feet per second is enough to shatter bone. When it left the wrist it was near 400 feet per second, just enough to break the skin and imbed itself into his thigh.⁷⁷

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Larry Sturdivan, a scientist at the Army's weapons training center at Aberdeen, said such a missile will "not deform because the pressure, due to the lower velocity, is never high enough to deform the bullet."⁷⁸

"That's the key to understanding why CE 399 emerged in whole condition," says Dr. Baden. "I have seen similar bullets that have inflicted gunshot wounds. The bullet was traveling slow enough that, while its speed and density were still greater than the bone it was hitting, it was not moving so fast as to deform seriously the metal jacket. People want an absolute re-creation of CE 399 in tests, but that is impossible. I have seen cases of machine-gun fire at a stationary person, and the bullet paths and injuries produced are never duplicated. There can be minute differences in the manufacture of the ammunition, the condition of the gun that fires it, and the slightest contraction of any muscle on the victim can cause the bullet to take a different path. Re-creation tests on dead bones may not be as helpful, since they can be different than live bones. Bullets react differently to bones with blood going through them as opposed to bones that are dry. The minutest difference in distance between two bullets fired can affect the path of the bullets, the injuries, and the damage to the bullet. Trying to re-create CE 399 is an exercise in futility."⁷⁹

Although a complete re-creation of CE 399 may be impossible, the question of reduced velocity and damage to the bullet can be

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