

nant—it either is pristine or it is not pristine. This is a damaged bullet and is not pristine. It is deformed; it would be very difficult to take a hammer and flatten it to the degree that this is flattened. This is a partially deformed bullet with a heavy jacket."⁶⁹

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Yet CE 399 is not fragmented or crushed. In reconstructions, firing shots into a variety of items, the Warren Commission was unable to duplicate a bullet in the same condition. The Commission test bullet most often cited by critics is CE 856, in which a bullet was fired into a cadaver's wrist to simulate Connally's wrist wound. CE 856 emerged with a badly smashed nose.⁷⁰ Since the bullet that did the actual wounds to both men also had to pass through the President's neck, the Governor's chest, and then into his thigh, it seemed to indicate that the stretcher bullet could not be the single bullet.

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"Nonsense," says Dr. Lattimer. "What that actually shows is that the Warren Commission did not conduct the proper experiments. They fired a 6.5mm shell traveling at over 2,000 feet per second directly into a wrist bone. Of course you are going to get deformation of the bullet when it strikes a hard object at full speed. If Governor Connally's wrist had been hit on the straight fly by that bullet, CE 399, the bullet would be in much worse shape, and so would his wrist. What the Warren Commission did not understand was that the bullet slowed as it passed through the bodies, and it never hit a hard surface, like bone, on its nose. First it went through Kennedy's neck. When it exited the President, it began tumbling [rotating] and that is evident by the elongated entry wound on the Governor's back [the bullet entered sideways]. It continued tumbling through his chest, and struck a glancing blow to his rib, knocking out several inches. The gaping exit hole under his right nipple shows the bullet left his chest sideways, entered his wrist while tumbling backwards, and exited with just enough strength to break the skin on his thigh."⁷¹

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Dr. Charles Gregory, the treating physician at Parkland for Connally's wrist and thigh, agreed that based on his examination of the wrist's entry wound, the bullet had been tumbling and entered backward. That the entry wound was large and had an irregular surface, the way in which the muscles were damaged, and that the bullet had picked up organic materials like threads