

REPORT  
of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: **Mr. Jesse E. Curry**  
**Chief of Police**  
**Dallas, Texas**

**March 30, 1964**  
**Airmail**

This examination has been made with the understanding that the evidence is connected with an official investigation of a criminal matter and that the Laboratory report will be used for official purposes only, related to the investigation or a subsequent criminal prosecution. Authorization cannot be granted for the use of the Laboratory report in connection with a civil proceeding.

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover, Director

Re: **ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT**  
**JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,**  
**NOVEMBER 22, 1963, DALLAS,**  
**TEXAS; MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION**  
**CONCERNING**

YOUR NO.  
FBI FILE NO.  
LAB. NO. **PC-75548 EX 12**

Examination requested by: **FBI, Dallas**

Reference: **Letter from FBI, Dallas on 3/14/64**

Examination requested: **Firearms - Spectrographic**

Specimens:

**Evidence listed on attached page received from FBI, Dallas**  
**on 3/10/64**

- C251 Bullet from Officer Tippit (No. 1)
- C252 Bullet from Officer Tippit (No. 2)
- C253 Bullet from Officer Tippit (No. 3)

Results of examination:

The C251 bullet is a caliber .38 Special copper-coated lead bullet of Winchester-Western manufacture. This bullet weighs 154.1 grains and was fired from a barrel rifled with five lands and grooves, right twist.

The C252 bullet is a caliber .38 Special lead bullet of Remington-Union manufacture. This bullet weighs 154.8 grains. It was fired from a barrel rifled with five lands and grooves, right twist.

The C253 bullet is a copper-coated lead bullet of Winchester-Western manufacture. This bullet weighs 155.7 grains and was fired from a barrel rifled with five lands and grooves, right twist.

A portion of the surface of each bullet, C251, C252 and C253, is mutilated; however, microscopic marks remain on these bullets for comparison purposes. The C251, C252 and C253 bullets were compared with each other and with test bullets obtained from Oswald's revolver, C13, the .38 Special Smith and Tesson revolver, Serial No. 7310213, Assembly No. 65248. No conclusion could be reached as to whether or not C251 through C253 were fired from the same weapon or whether or not they were fired from C13. In addition, it was found that even consecutive .38 Special bullets test fired from the C13 revolver could not be identified with each other. In this connection, it should be noted that the barrel of C13 was designed for .38 S & W bullets and, therefore, it is slightly larger in diameter than barrels designed for .38 Special bullets. Firing of undersized bullets could cause erratic passage of the bullets down the barrel, resulting in individual microscopic characteristics which are not consistent. The barrel of the weapon could also be changing due to the accumulation of lead in the barrel or to wear. That one or both of the above conditions existed is apparent from the fact that consecutive .38 Special test bullets obtained from the C13 revolver could not be identified with each other.

Smith and Tesson revolvers such as C13 are among the weapons producing general rifling characteristics of the type found on C251, C252 and C253.

The lead alloy of the C251, C252 and C13 (the first bullet submitted by the Dallas Police Department in the Tippit case) Winchester-Western copper-coated bullets was spectrographically

examined. This lead alloy was found to be qualitatively similar in composition to the lead alloy of the Western copper-coated bullets in the C51, C52, C55, C56, C57, C58, C59 and C137 cartridges. It is noted that ~~these~~ <sup>these</sup> cartridges were among those obtained from the C15 revolver, Lee Harvey Oswald's pocket and the U. S. Secret Service.

The lead alloy comprising the C232 Remington-Peters bullet was spectrographically examined and found to be qualitatively similar in composition to the lead alloy comprising the Remington-Peters bullets in the C53, C54 and C133 cartridges, the remaining cartridges from the above sources.

Specimens C251 through C253 are being retained in the FBI Laboratory.