

Box 82 Squankum Road
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June 19, 1975

Dr. Vincent P. Gulnn
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Dear Doctor:

Thank you for your letter dated June 4, 1975 and the enclosure.

I am a private citizen, a draftsman by trade, who first became interested in the Warren Commission Report back in 1967, after watching a television show in which author critic Harold Weisberg raised some reasonable issues concerning the kind of job which the Government had done. Since that time, I have researched various aspects of the Report whenever time and finances allowed. I have no one particular area of expertise pertaining to my inquiry into the Report.

Shortly after I began my research, I purchased a model 91/38 Mannlicher-Carcano of the type found in the Depository and tested it on the ranges of several gun clubs where I was a member. I had had to use ammunition of Italian manufacture at the time, because none of the Western Cartridge Company ammunition was on the market. During the three hundred rounds or so that I put through the weapon, I learned for myself that it was extremely inaccurate even when fired from the benchrest position. Of even greater interest was the fact that all of the bullets tended to fragment after either passing through the quarter inch fiber board backing on the target or during embedment in the earthen backstop. Since CE: 399 was said to have passed through two men, striking bone in the second, I was at a loss to explain the condition of my own bullets.

Mr. Howard Boker, Production Service Manager of the Winchester Western company informed me that the WCC bullets were based upon designs contained in Italian drawings and that he would expect the Italian and Western bullets to behave about the same. In 1967 I contacted the W. P. White laboratory of Bel Air, Maryland which had conducted some field test for CBS television. From them, I learned that there were actually two types of bullets, one with a copper-nickel jacket and another with a steel jacket. Mr. W. D. Dickinson, of H. P. White, stated that one round had been fired through a fourteen inch green maple tree with no deformation but that he was not sure which type of bullet it was. Next, I wrote to Dr. Alfred G. Oliver of the Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland who had conducted test for the Warren Commission and appeared before them as a witness. He told me that the ammunition which he had used was the kind with a copper zinc alloy jacket (type found with the rifle) and that when it was tested against human skulls, he was surprised to find that it reacted the same as modern day soft nose hunting bullets. CE: 399 was said to have struck a rib and the wrist of Governor Connally and yet emerged relatively undamaged. My suspicions had now been confirmed that CE: 399 was in fact a " plant " having struck no one.

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By handloading my own rounds, and firing them into a material of low resistance (magazines) I found my answer. The average muzzle velocity of the WCC ammo was 2167 feet per second. According to my Hornady Reloading Manual, 32 grains of DuPont 4895 powder would give a velocity of 2100 feet per second. By reducing the charge I was able to recover undeformed bullets with clear rifling marks and on one occasion was able to approximate the condition of CE: 399 itself. In my mind, there is no question but that the bullet known as CE: 399 was actually planted so that it could be traced to the rifle that in turn was traced to Oswald. I had thought that spectroanalysis was a pretty strict science and when Hoover used the term "similar" ~~inferred by the comparison~~ of the fragments and the whole bullet in the FBI lab report, I became interested in the original spectrographs. Several years ago, access to this material had been denied Harold Weisberg in federal court. However, when I ^{requested} this material, Director Kelley offered to sell me copies of the plates for \$161, which I agreeded to. I received three 8"x10" film negatives and three pages of handwritten notes which could barely be read. The film negatives were in black and white and after consulting texts on the matter in my local library, I determined that the original plates must have been in color and that it would be almost impossible to make an accurate reading from these negatives. Another rip-off by the Establishment.

As I am able to read the notes, the specimens contain Tin (2008), Bismuth (05) and Silver (005) and yet you say that the report sent to you stated that no traces were found. I frankly don't understand the difference between the two reports, the 1963 report I have shows traces and whatever was sent to you does not. There also seem to be differences between the stock samples and the Assassination fragments. I noted that on page 3 of the FBI lab report, it states that the lead of Q-4,5,9 and d15 is "similar" to Q-2. Is "similar" as close as one can get with emission spectrography? Also, I have no knowledge of any FBI test performed on the various specimens to determine if blood and tissue residue were present, do you? If CE:399 and the fragments were cleaned before examination, they would be even more suspect. I am sure that they would have picked up some human material, especially the fragments.

In closing, let me apologize for the great delay in answering you letter, I've been rather rushed lately and if you any futher ideas on this topic, I would like to hear them. Most of this technical stuff is Greek to me. Enclosed are some photo prints and xerox copies which you may handle as you wish. Should your KAA data become available for public consumption, I would very much like to obtain a copy. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Emory L. Brown, Jr.

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