

REPORT
of the

FBI
LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Malley

Mr. J. J. E. Curry
Chief of Police
Dallas, Texas

March 31, 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.

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

John Edgar Hoover, Director

YOUR NO.
FBI FILE NO. 62-109060
LAB. NO. PC-79846 BX HB

Examination requested by: FBI, Dallas

Reference: Letter from FBI, Dallas dated 3/14/64

Examination requested: Firearms - Spectrographic

Specimens:

Evidence listed on attached page received from FBI, Dallas
on 3/16/64

MAILED 3
APR 3 1964
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1 - FBI, Dallas (100-10461) Enclosures (6)

Note to FBI, Dallas on Page 4.

- Tolson
- Belmont
- Mohr
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

ENCLOSURE
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NOTE: One copy of each of the three photographs and an itemized list are being attached to yellow file copy of this report.

(continued on next page)

PLH ITEM #679

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

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FD-70640 EX

(continued on next page)

PLH ITEM #679

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-Peters manufacture. This bullet weighs 154.0 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, C15, the .38 Special Smith and Wesson revolver, Serial No. V610210, 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 C15. In addition, it was found that even consecutive .38 Special bullets test fired from the C15 revolver could not be identified with each other. In this connection, it should be noted that the barrel of C15 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 C15 revolver could not be identified with each other.

Smith and Wesson revolvers such as C15 are among the weapons producing general rifling characteristics of the type found on C251, C252 and C253.

The lead alloy of the C251, C253 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 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 C252 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 C138 cartridges, the remaining cartridges from the above sources.

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

Note to FBI, Dallas:

This report confirms and supplements the teletype report sent to your office on March 26, 1964.

The President's Commission has been advised by letter dated March 27, 1964, of the results of the examinations set forth in this report. Therefore, your office does not have to prepare this information for dissemination to the Commission.

The President's Commission was also furnished with photographs of the three bullets and it therefore will not have to be furnished photographs by your office. Attached for your use are two copies each of the three photographs.