

COMMISSION EXHIBIT 399

Commander J.J. Humes, Medical Corps, US Navy, Director of Laboratories of Naval Medical School, Bethesda. Vol. II, p. 375.

Q. Could /Exh. 399/ have made the wound on Governor Connally's right wrist?

A. I think that that is most unlikely. ... Going to Exhibit 392, the report from Parkland Hospital, the following sentence referring to the examination of the wound of the wrist is found: "Small bits of metal were encountered at various levels throughout the wound ... " The reason I believe it most unlikely that this missile could have inflicted either of these wounds /through President Kennedy's head and Governor Connally's wrist/ is that this missile is basically intact; its jacket appears to me to be intact, and I do not understand how it could possibly have left fragments in either of these locations.

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Q. /Could this bullet, 399/ have been the one to lodge in Governor Connally's thigh?

A. I think that extremely unlikely. The reports, again Exhibit 392 from Parkland, tell of an entrance wound on the lower midthigh of the Governor, and X-rays taken there are described as showing metallic fragments in the bone, which apparently by this report were not removed and are still present in Governor Connally's thigh. I can't conceive of where they came from this missile.

Lt. Col. Pierre A. Finck, Medical Corps, Chief of Wound Ballistics Pathology Branch of Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. II, 382.

Q. Based upon your examination of that bullet /Exh. 399/, do you have an opinion as to whether in its current condition it could have passed through President Kennedy /through the neck/ and then inflicted the wound in the back and chest of Governor Connally?

A. Yes, I do. This is a bullet showing marks indicating the bullet was fired. The second point is that there was practically no loss of this bullet. It kept its original caliber and dimensions. There was no evidence that any major portion of the jacket was lost, and I consider this as one bullet which possibly could have gone through the wounds you described.

Q. And could it have been the bullet which inflicted the wound on Governor Connally's right wrist?

A. No; for the reason that there are too many fragments described in that wrist.

Dr. Robert R. Shaw, Professor of thoracic surgery; chairman of the division of thoracic surgery, University of Texas Southwestern Medical School; chief of thoracic surgery, Parkland Memorial Hospital. Operated on Gov. Connally's chest wound. IV, 113. Was shown Exh. 399 (IV 112).

Q. Dr. Shaw, assume if you will certain facts to be true in hypothetical form, that is, that the President was struck in the upper portion of the back or lower portion of the neck with a 6.5-mm. missile passing between the strap muscles of the President's neck, proceeding through a fascia channel striking no bones, not violating the pleural cavity, and emerging through the anterior third of the neck, with the missile having been fired from a weapon having a muzzle velocity of approximately 2,000 per second, with the muzzle being approximately 160 to 250 feet from the President's body; that the missile was a copper jacketed bullet. Would it be possible for that bullet to have then proceeded approximately 4 or 5 feet and then would it be possible for it to have struck Governor Connally in the back and have inflicted the wound which you have described on the posterior aspect of his chest, and also on the anterior aspect of his chest?

A. Yes. ... As far as the wounds of the chest are concerned, I feel that this bullet could have inflicted those wounds. But the examination of the wrist both by X-ray and at the time of surgery showed some fragments of metal that make it difficult to believe that the same missile could have caused these two wounds. There seems to be more than three grains of metal missing as far as the - I mean in the wrist. ... I feel that there would be some difficulty in explaining all of the wounds as being inflicted by bullet Exh. 399 without causing more in the way of loss of substance to the bullet or deformation of the bullet.

Dr. Charles F. Gregory, Chairman of the Division of Orthopedic Surgery, University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. Operated on Governor Connally's right wrist. IV, 127. Was shown Exh. 399 (IV 121).

Q. Dr. Gregory, could all of the wounds which were inflicted on the Governor, that is, those described by Dr. Shaw, and those which you have described during your testimony, have been inflicted from one missile if that missile were a 6.5 millimeter bullet fired from a weapon having a muzzle velocity of approximately 2,000 feet per second at a distance of approximately 160 to 250 feet, if you assumed a trajectory with an angle of decline of approximately 45 degrees?

A. I believe that the three wounds would have occurred from a single missile, under these specifications.

Q. Assume, if you will, another set of hypothetical circumstances: that the 6.5 millimeter bullet traveling at the same muzzle velocity, to wit, 2,000 feet per second, at approximately 165 feet between the weapon and



the victim, struck the President in the back of the neck passing through the large strap muscles, going through a fascia channel missing the pleural cavity, striking no bones and emerging from the lower anterior third of the neck, after striking the trachea. Could such a projectile have then passed into the Governor's back and inflicted all three or all of the wounds which have been described here today?

A. I believe one would have to concede the possibility, but I believe firmly that the probability is much diminished.

Q. Why do you say that, sir?

A. I think that to pass through the soft tissues of the President would certainly have decelerated the missile to some extent. Having then struck the Governor and shattered a rib, it is further decelerated, yet it has presumably retained sufficient energy to smash a radius. Moreover, it escaped the forearm to penetrate at least the skin and fascia of the thigh, and I am not persuaded that this is very probable. I would have to yield to possibility. ....

Q. What would your assessment of the likelihood be for a bullet under those hypothetical circumstances to have passed through the neck of the President and to have passed through only the chest of the Governor without having gone through either the wrist or into the thigh?

A. I think that is a much more plausible possibility or probability.

Dr. George T. Shires, Chairman of the Department of Surgery, University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. Operated on Governor Connally's thigh. VI, 109, 110. Testimony given in Dallas; apparently was not shown Exh. 399.

Q. ... What is your professional opinion, if you have one, as to whether Governor Connally's chest injury, wrist injury, and thigh injury were caused by the same bullet?

A. Well we all thought, me included, that this was probably one missile, one bullet.

Q. When you say "we all thought," whom do you mean by that?

A. Dr. Shaw, Dr. Gregory - as we were reconstructing the events in the operating room in an attempt to plot out trajectory as best we could, this appeared to be our opinion.

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Q. Do you think it possible that, assuming a missile being a bullet 6.5 mm. with a velocity of over 2,000 feet per second, and the distance between the weapon and the victim being approximately 160 to 250 feet, that the same bullet might have passed through President Kennedy, entering his back near the midline and emerging from his neck, and then entering Governor Connally in the back and emerging from his chest, into his wrist, through his wrist and into the thigh?

- A. I assume that it would be possible. The main thing that would make me think that this was not the case is that he remembers so distinctly hearing a shot and having turned prior to the time he was hit, and in the position he must have been, particularly here in Figure 5, I think it's obvious that he did turn rather sharply to the right and this would make me think that it was a second shot; but this is purely conjecture, of course.
- Q. Well, is there anything, aside from what he told you, that is, anything in the characteristics of the wounds on President Kennedy and the wounds on Governor Connally which would lead you to conclude that it was not the same bullet?
- A. No - there is nothing. It could have been - purely from the standpoint of the wounds, it is possible.