

BULLET (Connally stretcher?)

(CE 399, XVII, 49)

R, 79/4

"A nearly whole bullet was found on Governor Connally's stretcher at Parkland Hospital after the assassination."

No footnote.

VI, 115 to 134.

In their testimony, nurses Ruth Jeannette Standridge and Jane Carolyn Wester, and orderly R.J. Jimison, who attended Gov. Connally and handled his stretcher, all said they saw no bullet. Darrell C. Tomlinson, senior engineer, who found the bullet, refused to say it had apparently rolled off Connally's stretcher ("I'm not going to tell you something I can't lay down and sleep with at night"), but under persistent questioning admitted that it might have come from that stretcher.

R, 81/1

"Although Tomlinson was not certain whether the bullet came from the Connally stretcher or the adjacent one, the Commission has concluded that the bullet came from the Governor's stretcher."

Tomlinson was not asked to describe bullet in any way, nor is there any indication that at the time he was questioned (Mar. 20, 1964; VI, 128) he was shown the bullet or a photograph of it, for identification.

Tomlinson said he was questioned by FBI latter part of November, and by Secret Service the first part of December. Have not yet found report of either interview, so have not been able to check if he was asked to describe or identify bullet.

XXIV, 412 - CE 2011, FBI report.

"On June 12, 1964, Darrell C. Tomlinson ... was shown Exhibit C1, a rifle slug, by Special Agent Bardwell D. Odum ... Tomlinson stated it appears to be the same one he found on a hospital carriage at Parkland Hospital on November 22, 1963, but he cannot positively identify the bullet as the one he found and showed to Mr. O.F. Wright."

Exh. C1 was shown to Mr. Wright, Special Agent Richard E. Johnson, and James Rowley, Chief, Secret Service; none would identify it. It was identified by Special Agent Elmer Lee Todd, on the basis of his initials on it.

see p. 2

Josiah Thompson, Six Seconds in Dallas, p. 156 and footnote 17, p. 175-6; illustrations, p. 175.

Wright, shown three bullet shapes drawn by Josiah Thompson, picks a sharp-nosed bullet as similar to the one he handled; rejects photos of CE 399 and CE 572 (ballistics comparison rounds from Oswald's rifle); Tomlinson uncertain.

Thompson: "... if Wright's recollection is accurate, then CE 399 must have been switched for the real bullet sometime later in the transmission chain. This could have been done only by some federal officer, since it was in government possession from that time on. If this is true, then the assassination conspiracy would have to have involved members of the federal government and been an 'inside' job."

BULLET (Connally, stretcher?)

CE 399, XVII, 49.

Mr. Specter. . . . I am interested to know whether the metal which you found in /Gov. Connally's/ wrist was of sufficient size so that the bullet which passed through the wrist could not have emerged virtually completely intact or with 158 grains intact, or whether the portions of the metallic fragments were so small that that would be consistent with having virtually the entire 6.5-mm. bullet emerge.

Dr. Gregory. Well, considering the small volume of metal as seen by X-ray, and the very small dimensions of the metal which was recovered, I think several such fragments could have been flaked off of a total missile mass without reducing its volume greatly.

Now, just how much, depends of course upon what the original missile weighed. In other words, on the basis of the metal left behind in Governor Connally's body, as far as I could tell, the missile that struck it could be virtually intact, insofar as mass was concerned, but probably was distorted.

VI, 98

(Dr. Gregory apparently was not shown CE 399 when he gave the testimony above, in Dallas Apr. 23, 1964. It was shown to him when he testified in Washington, Mar. 21, below.)

Mr. Specter. What opinion, if any, do you have as to whether that bullet could have produced the wound on the Governor's right wrist and remained as intact as it is at the present time?

Dr. Gregory. In examining this bullet, I find a small flake has been either knocked off or removed from the rounded end of the missile. I was told that this was removed for the purpose of analysis. The only other deformity which I find is at the base of the missile at the point where it joined the cartridge carrying the powder, I presume, and this is somewhat flattened and deflected, distorted. There is some irregularity of the darker metal within which I presume to represent lead.

The only way that this missile could have produced this wound in my view, was to have entered the wrist backward. /Gives description of missiles in flight, including tumbling./ That is the only possible explanation I could offer to correlate this missile with this particular wound.

IV, 121

" ... one of these Cuban refugees was extorting money from some other Cubans, was making false promises to the Cubans, was a disruptive influence in the Cuban community and was considered by Father McChann to be a 'political Cuban' rather than a Cuban who was interested in receiving any assistance from the Committee. He could not recall the name of this Cuban but he believes the Cuban is still employed at Parkland Hospital."

Letter from James J. Rowley, Secret Service, to J. Lee Rankin, May 5, 1964; report of interview by Inspector Kelley of Rev. Walter J. McChann, April 30, 1964.

XXVI 402

"How provocative is the suggestion that this extortionist and 'disruptive influence in the Cuban community', this 'political Cuban', was an employee at the Parkland Hospital! Might he, for example, have planted that bullet 399 that was traced to nothing except the Mannlicher-Carcano ... ?"

Weisberg, Whitewash II, p. 67

Was this Cuban in Parkland employ 22 Nov 63?