

FBI re bullet holes



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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November 2, 1977

HARRY L. HUFFORD
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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Mr. Hal Marshall, Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation
1110 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California

Dear Sir:

In the course of an inquiry by the office of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors into certain aspects of the physical evidence at the Senator Robert F. Kennedy assassination, questions have arisen concerning certain FBI photographs. These photographs, purportedly taken by Special Agent Greiner and numbered E-1, E-2, E-3 and E-4, are captioned "bullet holes".

If these were, in fact, bullet holes, it could be inferred that more than one gun was fired in the pantry during the assassination. Mr. Allard Lowenstein, Ambassador to the United Nations, among others, has maintained that a possibility exists that another assassin was present. Mr. Lowenstein and other critics of the official version have referred to the above photographs as representing the official opinion of the FBI inasmuch as the captions are unequivocal in stating "bullet holes".

If the captions had said possible, probable, or apparent bullet holes, one could assume that no precise examination had taken place at the time the photographs were taken. However, the captions would lead one to believe that a determination had been made by someone with the requisite knowledge and skills.

The dilemma we are faced with is that the photograph captions are being used as evidence of the official FBI position in the absence of any other official stated position.

If more bullets were fired within the pantry than Sirhan Sirhan's gun was capable of holding, we should certainly find out who else was firing. If, in fact, the FBI has no evidence that the questioned holes were bullet holes, we should know that so that the air may be cleared.

275

Mr. Hal Marshall

-2-

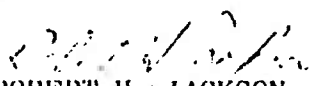
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It is therefore requested that the official position of the FBI regarding these bullet holes be relayed to this office.

Thank you for your cooperation.

~~Very truly yours,~~

HARRY L. HUFFORD
Chief Administrative Officer


ROBERT H. JACKSON
Investigator

HLH:RWJ:tlg

276

FBI document / pointing
bullet holes

D-5 Interior view of kitchen serving area looking south showing ice machines. The x marks on floor reportedly show locations in which the injured came to rest. The x shown on floor to far left, reportedly is the location that Senator KENNEDY had fallen after being shot.

→ E-1 View taken inside kitchen serving area showing doorway area leading into kitchen from the stage area. In lower right corner the photo shows two bullet holes which are circled. The portion of the panel missing also reportedly contained a bullet.

→ E-2 A close up view of the two bullet holes of area described above.

→ E-3 Close up view of two bullet holes which is located in center door frame inside kitchen serving area and looking towards direction of back of stage area.

→ E-4 Close up view of upper hinge on door leading into kitchen area from back of stage area. View shows reported location of another bullet mark which struck hinge.

F-1 Interior view behind stage and speakers platform area looking in westerly direction and showing entrance to stairway which leads down to the Casino level and the Ambassador Ballroom.

F-2 View taken from Casino level or Ambassador Ballroom floor level showing base of stairway which leads up to Embassy Ballroom.

View taken from Embassy Ballroom floor level in a north westerly direction which shows fire door leading to Casino level. See photos 10 and 11.

View taken from Embassy Ballroom floor level in a north westerly direction which shows fire door leading to Casino level. See photos 12 and 13.

INTERVIEW OF WESLEY HARRINGTON, 8441 FENWICK STREET, SUNLAND, CALIFORNIA, RESIDENCE PHONE 352-1713, BUSINESS LOCKSMITH L.A. - 629-4321 HILTON HOTEL, MALE CAUC, 55, INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY LT. FRANK PATCHETT AND INVESTIGATOR PHILIP SARTUCHE ON 12-12-75, 1445 HOURS

Subject indicates he was employed at the Ambassador Hotel as a carpenter from February 8, 1962, until October 10, 1975. Subject reported for work on June 5, 1968, at 0800 hours, and some time thereafter during the A.M. hours, he went to the pantry area. While in the pantry area, he was briefed as to the occurrence that had taken place earlier. His attention was directed to the center post of the pantry doors that lead to the Embassy Room and he noticed what appeared to be two bullet holes approximately 6 to 8 inches apart and 4 feet up from the floor. Subject looked into these holes but could see nothing. Subject has knowledge regarding the construction of the center post due to the fact that in 1963 he replaced the post (a 4x4 fir) with pine casing. This had been done since the previous post was destroyed due to the constant banging from the bus carts. Subject opines that the holes were not made from counter sunk nails due to their size and the method in which they were shaped. To the best of his knowledge he saw no other holes in the casement.

278

INTERVIEW OF DWAYNE WOLFER, CHIEF FORENSIC CHEMIST, LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT ASSIGNED TO SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION DIVISION. INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY INVESTIGATORS GORDON McDEVITT AND PHILIP SARTUCHE ON 12-16-75, 0930 HOURS.

Subject indicates that on June 5, 1968 he was employed as a Los Angeles Police Officer assigned to Scientific Investigation Division, Firearms Unit. In his capacity as criminalist he was so directed to the Ambassador Hotel to conduct the appropriate scientific examination. In doing so, he performed an examination of the two pantry doors, the adjoining door casings, and jams. This examination was conducted visually and with the aid of scientific instruments that are included in a portable kit. These instruments include, but not limited to, microscope, probes, magnifying glass, etc. Subject recalls that portions of wood were removed from the right hand side of the doors (identified by standing inside the Embassy Room pantry looking out towards the rear stage area). Subject examined these pieces of wood at the scene and found no holes he could attribute to a bullet. The wood was taken to S.I.D. where it was further examined by fluoroscope. This examination determined there was no bullet in the examined wood. Subject recalls examining two separate pieces of wood, but is unable to identify either piece as having come from the center post of the doorway.

The portions of wood that were removed were done so by carpenters employed by the Ambassador Hotel.

279