

Consecutive Dialogue

Audio recording of the English court interpreting exercise seven, consecutive dialogue. You will hear part of the examination of an expert witness in court. The exercise is broken up into several segments. After each segment you will have time to reproduce the whole segment in English, in your own words.

Exercise 7

Q. And tell us generally what you've done since February of 1993, what your duties consist of.

A. Basically my duties are the examination and comparison of firearms or cartridge case components back to an individual firearm. That comprises probably 80 per cent of our work. I also do tool mark identification, which is the identification of a particular tool to a mark made on a soft surface, such as, a window frame or a safe or what have you.

Q. Can you estimate the number of actual cases you've been involved in since you started working in this field in February of 1993?

A. I do approximately 140 cases a year. So I would guess, over a thousand.

Q. All right. Have you previously testified as an expert in the fields of firearms, ammunition and tool mark identification in courts?

A. Yes, I have.

Q. And what courts and how many times have you testified as an expert in the field?

A. Approximately 200 times. I don't know the number offhand.

Q. Those are my questions with respect to Mr. Brown's expertise.

The Court: Mr. Darrow, any cross-examination on the qualifications?

Mr. Darrow: Just a few questions.

Q. As I understand what you've now said is that you also have studied wound identification?

A. Yes.

Q. And trajectory and rifle range type of studies that are associated with weaponry?

A. Yes.

Q. Thank you, those are my questions.

The Court: The Crown seeks to tender Mr. Brown as an expert in the area of firearms and tool mark examination. I find that he is such, and as an expert, he can express expert evidence in that area.

Q. Mr. Brown, in this particular case, you had occasion to examine certain pieces of ammunition that were sent to you by Constable Sanders of the Prince William R.C.M.P. detachment?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. All right. Would you take Exhibit 7 first, Mr. Brown?

A. Yes.

Q. Would you examine that item? Did you receive it from Constable Sanders?

A. Yes. It bears my case number, date of receipt, which was October 20 and initials.

Q. All right. Exhibit 8, can you tell us if you also received that on the 20th of October?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. And what about Exhibit 9?

A. Exhibit 9 also bears my case number, date of receipt and initials.

Q. All right. And I understand you received those items personally from Constable Sanders the 20th of October?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. All right. And you examined those items. Can you tell us what were the results of the examination?

A. Your Honour, may I look at my work notes?

The Court: Mr. Darrow, any problem?

Mr. Darrow: I have no problem.

The Court: Thank you.

A. Court Exhibit 7 was one lead fragment. Exhibit 8 was one portion of copper bullet jacket, and Exhibit 9 was one copper fragment.

Q. Dealing individually with Exhibit 7, which you've identified as a lead fragment, what can you tell us about that particular fragment?

A. It was the lead core. It appears to be the lead core of a bullet weighing 86.3 grains. There were no identification markings on the fragment. It's just a lead fragment.

Q. All right. Tell me what your examination of Exhibit 9, which you've identified as a copper fragment, revealed.

A. It's one copper fragment, consistent with a copper bullet jacket, and the total weight of 2.49 grains, relatively small, no identifiable marks on it either.

Q. All right. Let's turn then to your examination of Exhibit 8, the copper jacket. Can you tell us how did you examine the copper jacket? What did you do to examine that item?

A. I examined it microscopically and made several measurements of it.

Q. All right, And exhibit 7 and 9, you also examined them microscopically?

A. That is correct

Q. All right. With respect to Exhibit 8, the copper jacket, what, if anything did your microscopic examination of the copper jacket reveal?

A. I determined it was a 38 calibre bullet or portion of a copper bullet or a bullet jacket. It bears rifling characteristics of six lands and grooves with a right hand twist.

I then measured the lands and groove impressions on the bullet and basically fed the data into our database of rifling characteristics and I produced a list of probable types and makes of firearms that could have fired that bullet.

Q. I should have asked you, because you're using terms that I'm not familiar with and members of the jury may not be familiar with, you indicated the characteristics you noted on the copper jacket. Would you explain what each of those characteristics mean?

A. When a rifle is produced, there's a series of groove cuts in the barrel. They spiral down the barrel, and between these grooves is a raised portion and that's known as the land.

Basically when a bullet is fired through the barrel, the bullet is embedded in the land and this causes the bullet to spin and it's forced down the barrel and aids in its flight when the bullet leaves the barrel.

It's designed to spin the bullet to stabilize it in flight, and from these lands and grooves measurements and the calibre, we have a database of approximately 17,000 different firearms.

The database characterises firearms by calibre, lands and grooves, numbers and width of the lands and grooves, direction of twist, and from that, I produced a list of probable types of firearms.

Q. All right. When you say, "calibre", what does that mean?

A. The diameter of the bore of the firearm.

Q. Can you tell us in your opinion that the firearm that fired the copper jacket was a .30 calibre weapon?

A. It is a .30 calibre weapon or firearm.

Q. And were you able to match the copper jacket to a firearm?

A. No. I could not.

Q. That simply means that you were not given a firearm by the R.C.M.P. as a result of testing which you conclude was likely the probable source of that copper jacket.

A. No, I was not.

Q. All right. Now, I understand that you also examined various items of clothing.

A. That's correct.

Q. To try to determine, a possible range from which a firearm was fired?

A. That's correct.

Q. Which may have left particles or residue on the clothing, is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. All right. Just before you view the clothing, would you tell us what tests were done to try to make this range determination and how you go about doing that test?

A. When a firearm is discharged at a target at a close range, not only the bullet strikes the target. There is partially burnt propellant that is also ejected from the muzzle, and at close range, this is deposited on the target in a pattern. The pattern varies with the distance. At very close range, it's a very dense pattern. It's very concentrated. The further you get away from the object, the propellant or partially burned propellant disperses so you get a larger pattern but it's less dense.

1183 Words

Examples of scoring units in consecutive interpreting English to test language

Scoring unit example	Type with explanation
which is the identification of a particular tool to a mark made on a soft surface	Words or phrases likely to be omitted due to their position
can you estimate the number of actual cases	General vocabulary
you've been involved in	Grammar
tool mark identification	Specialized terminology/phraseology
I don't know the number offhand	Idiomatic language
you had occasion to examine	Register (formal or informal language)
certain pieces of ammunition	Words or phrases adding precision or emphasis
ammunition	General vocabulary
it bears my case number	Register (formal or informal language)
Constable Sanders	Numbers and names
which you've identified as a lead fragment	Phrases or clauses that may be structurally complex
can you tell us about that particular fragment	Words or phrases adding precision or emphasis
the total weight of 2.49 grains	Names and numbers
let's turn then to your examination	Idiomatic language
could have fired that bullet	Grammar
this causes the bullet to spin as it's forced down the barrel	Words or phrases likely to be omitted due to their position
lands and grooves measurements	Specialized terminology/phraseology
which you conclude was likely the probable source of that copper jacket.	Phrases or clauses that may be structurally complex