

TRANSCRIBED MARCH 5, 1968

*Harold W. Wenberg*

(The first section of the tape that can be heard begins with the words "period, close quote". Apparently, there is at least a sentence that is too close to the beginning of the tape)

MRS. CONNOLLY also recalled MRS. KENNEDY saying she had her husband's brains in her hand.

She recalls the presence of two waiting stretchers and a trip into the emergency room with them at a run. She ran along, she said. (148) MRS. CONNOLLY describes her feelings in the hospital.

She saw the frames from the Zapruder film and says she is, "in agreement with the Governor. I am not sure I remember the numbers, so correct me, but I thought at the time that it was at 229 -- it could have been then through the next 3 or 4 frames." (149) This is the beginning of that part of 14 that follows 13 resuming with the notes about the radio logs and OFFICER MACDONALD. I've forgotten exactly what I said, Lou, but I think you'll be able to figure it out. That after the 2 P.M. timecheck and before the 2:04, MACDONALD was called by the dispatcher and in reply he said, "I am enroute downtown to make a statement." In view of the fact that CAROL had the prisoner, CAROL and MACDONALD should have been downtown and free at approximately the same time. This addresses itself to the question of the markings on both the pistol and the bullets. It should also address itself to the conflicts in their statements about who actually seized and took possession of the pistol.

Carroll

A note on the MARKHAM part of the TIPPIT investigation. At 1:51 No. 26, Ptn. HAMMER, said, "We remain out to homicide bureau with a witness to this officer's shooting. About a dozen messages after the 1:59 timecheck, 26 radioed the dispatcher, "See if you can raise somebody over there at TIPPIT's car." 221 (SOMMERS) responded he had just left there and "what do you want to know?" 26 then said, "Go back and get this witness's shoes she left on the hood of the car and we'll be in homicide bureau." 221 replied that Capt. DOUGHTY had the shoes. And after the 2:01 timecheck HAMMER when asked where he was by homicide 305 (DETS. LEAVELLE, BECK and BOIST) said, "I'm at the City Hall fixing to go in the basement." Homicide said he would meet HAMMER there. I note this first to show the length of time MRS. MARKHAM remained at the scene of the crime and second, to note the time it took a police car with all of its prerogatives to go from the scene of the TIPPIT shooting to the downtown area in the event it is possible to make a comparison of this trip to that attributed to ~~swaid~~.

The crime lab car (509) left the scene of the TIPPIT shooting for the Texas Theater at 2:04.

After the 2:04 and before the 2:08 timechecks, No. 75 (SABASTIAN) reported, "I'm still in front of the theater, if anybody wants anybody over here."

After 2:10 and before 2:13, LTN. WALLACE was reported to be at the theater. And then was reported by 384 to be at the Sheriff's Office.

Previously 447 identified as only special service bureau had asked if Deputy Chief STEVENSON was back on the air. Getting no affirmative response, they then asked for LTN. WALLACE. They have not yet identified where they are. Nor, of course, why they wanted these officials.

~~A person leaving a car with a rifle was reported at 5818 Belmont at 2:19. Two patrol cars went to the scene.~~

After the 2:19 check, 474A, special service bureau, was still in the vicinity of the railroad tracks and Cobb's stadium.

**Surv. 113**

Secret Service Agent SAUROS was taken to "the Dallas Morning News" by 113 (C. R. OSBURN) with third platoon officer JOE B. JONES, at about 2:21. They report they were to "remain out on special assignment."

2:23 No. 22 (L. L. HILL) was ordered to join 474 A in the search for a white man carrying a rifle.

Two of the cartridge cases located at the scene of the TIPPIT murder were recovered by 105 (POEN JEZ) who turned them over to Crime Lab, PETE BARNES. (508)

52, identified as unknown, asked about the suspect at Cobbs stadium which of three overpasses it could have been? The dispatchers response was partly undecipherable on the tape but not on the air. He replied only, "he is walking on the..."

After the 2:28 timecheck, 474 A reported "the car we want picked up is on the parking lot in front of this merchandise mart, just North of Cobbs stadium. Asked if it was a 1964 Falcon, he replied, "No, it is a red panel truck with writing on the side." License No. 3E9087.

After the 2:33 timecheck, 75 (SABASTIAN) was ordered to "report back to the Texas Theater and call Operator 10 on a markout."

The log of Channel 1 for the 22nd and Exhibit 1974 ends with the note, "no other pertinent transmissions through 3:00 P.M."

Instead of Channel 1 for Saturday following, Channel 1 for 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Sunday follows.

Just as Channel 1, the main frequency, was to all practical purposes out of service because of garbling at the time of the Kennedy shooting, so exactly was the situation at the time of OSWALD's killing. Following the 10:29 timecheck, there are only two notations of traffic of a specific nature plus a note that various units were checking in and out with routine messages. Then the end of the belt on which the transcription was made is noted at 10:36. At 11:19 the dispatcher called 602, the ambulance, and the ambulance reported it was clear. Transcript then reads, "(Garbled transmission) report to the basement,



Code 3, (emergency red lights and sirens). 108 (PTN. R. J. ROSS) is en route." When, after the 1:22 timecheck unknown asked what the nature of the emergency was, the dispatcher reported simple, "It's a shooting." This is followed immediately by the 11:24 timecheck.

Also note that broadcasts related to the assassination appear in Exhibit 705 but do not appear in 1974, which presumably is complete and total. For example, after the 3:13 check and before the 3:14 280 reports, "I am not able to find MR. SAUROS at Parkland Hospital." He had been asked to locate SAUROS by 4, FISHER. The dispatcher told 280 he last heard of SAUROS en route to the newspaper. There is also traffic relating to the car TIPPIT was driving and its presence at that time (prior to 3:26) on the lot. Information about the citing of armed persons at the air field also was eliminated. As are instructions to 47 (after 3:40) for him and 45 to "remain out with the prisoner." Likewise, and probably of some significance, is the report from 509 (Crime Lab) that he was "clear from Patton and Tenth" at 4:22 P.M.

Between 11:15 and 11:16 in Exhibit 705 24 is reported en route to Parkland and said his assignment was, "We are going to guard the Governor and also investigate prisoner." Is this an investigative prisoner in need of hospitalization and in connection with the assassination?

In this connection, note the lack of calls back by various officers assigned to investigate other suspicious circumstances and persons believed by the police to have been connected with the assassination.

(OTHER SIDE OF TAPE - Tape begins too near the beginning)

...operation, which he did beginning about 4:00. His work consumed 45 to fifty minutes. And he was assisted by two junior orthopedic residents, DRs. WILLIAM OSBORNE and JOHN PARKER. Neither were called to testify. He described the dorsal wrist wound as about 2 centimeters in length, ragged (p. 97) and on the volar surface, about a centimeter and a half in length. After describing debridement, he said, "(Go to the marked portion of p. 98, a little bit down from the top.)

Note especially the implication of "an irregular missile."

And on the kinetic energy of the bullet, "(go to the second marked part).

Two or three metallic fragments were removed and "turned over to appropriate parties for further disposition." They were small and the largest dimension would probably not exceed 1/8 of an inch. (LARRY, for the "unmutilated bullet")

Asked to speculate whether a 6.5 mm bullet could have gone through the Governor's wrist as described leaving the described fragments and still "virtually all of the bullet missile intact, or having 158 grains at that time?" Of course, this means nothing unless the 158 grains is compared with the pristine weight. GREGORY, while saying he is not an expert on ballistics points out he has had some experience but doesn't answer without "some knowledge of how much of the cartridge force might have been behind the missile." SPECTOR again asked a similar question, again referring

to "with 158 grains intact" and all GREGORY will say is the size of the fragments that flaked off might not have reduced its volume greatly. (p. 98). But in speculating about this particular bullet, he concludes, "as far as I could tell...it could be virtually intact, insofar as mass is concerned, but probably was distorted." And he would not speculate on the weight of the fragments.

He saw the thigh wound which he described as "almost round and did not seem to have disturbed the tissues badly." But it "did definitely penetrate and pass through the skin and to the fascia beneath." X-rays did not reveal a missile of any magnitude. The size of the fragment remaining he described as about 1 by 2 millimeters and as "much too small to have accounted for the dimensions of the wound..." about a centimeter in diameter. As to what type of missile would it have taken to produce such a wound, he replied "a fragment of metal approximately the same diameter -- a centimeter, and in general -- round." And a 6.5 millimeter projectile could have done it. (99). He is shown and identifies the report he prepared at the completion of his operation (Exhibit 392) describing the government's treatment and recovery when he is having recalling a date he asks and gets permission to go off the record, following which he said that on or about February 14, the Governor saw him in Dallas when the cast was removed, an X-ray was made, and a new cast applied. A week before the deposition, the Governor was again in Dallas. The cast was again removed and discontinued and further X-rays were made.

He is then shown GREGORY Exhibit No. 1 (20H32-6) (p. 100). He says upon looking at diagram 1 the entrance wound on the forearm was on the back rather than the front, a reversal of the representation on the diagram. He corrects it. He then asks if angular declination of the chest wound is approximately correct and his answer is a qualified yes because he thought the point of entry might have been marked a little high. (this was none of his operation) He does not disagree with the location of the wound of exit as did DR. SHAW and the inference in each case is that they were trying to get a less deep angle to conform to the theory they knew the Commission wanted to develop. On diagram 3 the wrist and thigh wounds are accurately depicted and the chest ones are "more closely into line with their actual position."

Asked about the angle reflected in diagram 4, he had the same reservation, as with diagram 2.

Then shown diagram 5, a trajectory through a seated man, he says, "this is consistent with the point of entry which is depicted on the side views showing the angle of declination." Actually, this one seems to show a higher point of entry and a steeper angle. He then points out that the angle could be very simply altered by the motion of a few degrees. He then says he believes it possible for one bullet to have inflicted all the wounds.



He is then asked, "What destruction was done on the fifth rib, DR. GREGORY?"

Of course, he had no personal knowledge of this and could only quote DR. SHAW and DR. SHAW was to appear twice before the Commission and its staff. But he said "from conversations with DR. SHAW and I believe his medical reports bear this out, that fifth rib was literally shattered by the missile." (101) He continued: (the marked part at the top of 102)

He does not believe that GOVERNOR CONNOLLY was hit by two bullets but admits the possibility. He pointed out that "a high velocity missile in flight does not tend to carry organic material into the wound which it creates...an irregular missile can carry debris into a wound and such debris was carried into the wound of the wrist. I would have suspected that an undistorted high velocity missile striking the wrist would not have carried material into it."

This explicit testimony resulted in the concoction of a theory when he was before the Commission that the bullet simply reversed itself in flight and went through the wrist and into the thigh back forwards. The bullet that hit the Governor in the right forearm he said was either one of lower initial energy or partially spent. If a missile with a velocity of 2,000 ft. a second hit the forearm, it would have been "likely to blow it very nearly off..."

He is then asked to speculate if one bullet could have passed through the President, hitting only soft tissue and then done all the damage to Governor CONNOLLY (p. 102).

He merely conceded the possibility. Asked "What will your professional opinion be...whether or not that actually did happen in this situation?" He said, "I really couldn't formulate an objective opinion about that." He also thought that after passing through the President, the bullet "would very probably have begun to tumble." He described tumbling as end over end motion. And his conclusion: Go to the place mark with the bracket just above the middle of 103. And asked to speculate again about the bullet hitting both, he again replied: Go to the second place marked with a bracket below the middle.

He had been previously interviewed by a Secret Service Agent named WARREN and briefly by a member of the FBI (103).

The nature of this deposition also required that DR. GREGORY be called before the Commission as he subsequently was to do what mending could be done.

GOVERNOR CONNOLLY's injuries -- trajectory and thigh wound.

Deposition of DR. GEORGE T. SHIRES, March 23, 1964, 6H104-13.

He is a professor of surgery and chairman of the Dept. of Surgery Southwestern Medical School, University of Texas. With two previous tours of active duty in the Navy, first as research investigator at Bethesda and second, as associate surgeon, U.S. Naval hospital ship HAVAN (104).

He was in Galveston at the time of the assassination. DR. SHIRES immediately returned, arriving in Dallas while the chest procedures were in progress. He did not initially see the chest wounds (105). Hence he declined to identify which was of entry and which was of exit. Ditto with the wrist wounds even though he saw them while they were being prepared for surgery. He said he didn't examine them in detail. He described the thigh wound as a 1 cm punctuate wound. He explored the wound and thought it was "either a tangential wound or that a larger fragment had penetrated or stopped in the skin and had subsequently fallen out of the entrance wound." The fragment was not removed from the femur. This fragment is 1 to 2 millimeters in diameter. It is of very slight weight.