

3-27-68

AFTERMATH OF THE ASSASSINATION: STATION WAGON -AMBULANCE

Lee Bowers, Jr., when he testified mentioned three cars milling behind the stockade fence; one was a 1959 white and blue Olds station wagon. In his statement to Elkins of the DSO on the 22nd of Nov. he did not, or Elkins did not, mention the Olds station wagon.

S.M. Holland testified that he noticed a station wagon behind the fence with footprints behind it. He has subsequently suggested (to Thompson for one) that someone climbed into the trunk compartment of this car and was driven away.

Researchers who have studied certain of the assassination pictures believe they discern a station wagon behind the fences. (Some think a man is seated on top of this station wagon, or jeep or car.) There does seem to be a vehicle behind the walls there.

Holland's station wagon would not be the one pictured, from his drawing, since his would be along the Elm Street fence and the other would be at the top of the knoll just behind the concrete building and between the picket fence and the stone wall. Holland also claims to have inspected this station wagon and has suggested that if anyone was in the trunk compartment he would have been driven away later, presumably when the heat was off.

Station wagons don't have trunks, they have rear entrances and storage space which may be used for various things. Thus it would seem that Holland's story may have been invented to cover and explain away the entrance of a man into the rear of a station wagon. This man would have been immediately driven away.

Most ambulances are station wagons. An ambulance-station wagon would make a good getaway car. A station wagon without a red light on top, but with a siren and sidelights could quickly become an ambulance. It would seem reasonable, in view of the peculiar testimony on the station wagon behind the fences, and the ambulance described running loose on the way to Parkland in the radio log of Ch. 1 about 12:34, that the assassins had placed such a station wagon at the top of the knoll, as a getaway car, or ambulance, in case it was needed. The dispatcher did tell Sgt. Burkhardt at Parkland that the ambulance expected was one which had to do with the shooting downtown involving the President.

That this "ambulance" may have been somewhat difficult to recognize as such is indicated by the question of D.L. Pate, a patrolman sent to watch for the ambulance. "Was APB supposed to be following it?" It appears that Pate may have arrived in time to see an accident squad car traveling behind a station wagon which he could not definitely determine was an ambulance. The dispatcher informs Pate he does not know if APB was following. However, Patrolman Hawkins, APB, calls in shortly to ask the dispatcher: "Numerous people asking questions, can you give us some information?" "Was he shot or what?" And the dispatcher answers: "Wounded the President." In the Sawyer version of Ch. 2, Hawkins is told to call Operator One from Parkland. Operator One would be a telephone extension in the dispatcher's office. This is not carried in #705 of #1775. It appears the dispatcher has information for Hawkins

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which he doesn't want to put on the air.

Hawkins testified that he was working an "accident" at the time of the assassination. It was on Industrial somewhere. He is vague about the time. It seems he was working this "accident" from the time of the assassination until he left to go the scene of the Tippit shooting. The radio logs however tell us he was at Parkland, shortly before one o'clock. This indicates that he was the APB following the "ambulance" which Pate inquired about. (Hawkins later shows up as an arresting officer of Oswald in the Texas Theatre. His name appears in Jack Ruby's notebook.)

Another interesting point is that when the "ambulance" was running to Parkland the dispatcher asked all "emergency equipment" to stay off Industrial. This "emergency equipment" would seem to be the ambulance in question. The dispatcher adds, "35, did you receive?" And #35, J.M. Lewis answers "I've got it." Lewis is supposed to be a radio patrolman. It appears however that he must have been the driver of the "emergency equipment". Otherwise he would be an escort for it.

Curiously enough just as the Tippit affair begins on Ch. 1, and right after we have two calls to "78" or from "78", it is unclear, #35 comes right in and gives his number but no message. It appears that the numbers #78 and #35 given right at that time would be a signal that the Tippit affair is starting and under control.

While looking for the ambulance going to Parkland, the dispatcher calls 601 ambulance. It announces it is at the "market". ~~xxxx~~ An "Unknown" comes in and says, "We are at Parkland!". Later #601 announces it is at Parkland and "standing by." At some point the person carried away from the assassination scene in the ambulance-station wagon may have been transferred to 601 ambulance. Or there may have been two men in 601 ambulance, one using the ambulance number 601 and one using the number #35. In which case "601" ambulance would have been the station wagon itself, and there would have been no transfer.

It appears, however, that the "car" carrying the third victim of the shooting at the triple underpass stopped somewhere briefly. For one thing, the dispatcher lost it. For a second, there is a most peculiar call on Ch. 2 at 12:40. A three wheeler with the number #295, J. Price, comes on the air in answer apparently to a query from Batchelor about the President's condition. Price says "Believe the President's head was practically blown off." The dispatcher ignores him for a call or two, then calls and is told by Price to "disregard what I said. It's not for me to say." On Sawyer Ex. A Ch. 2, when Price is asked "Where did you get your information?", Price replies "I was at the car." This mysterious and astounding message is dropped from the subsequent versions of the log #705 and #1775. No wonder. For it is impossible for

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Price to have been at the President's car at any time from 12:30 when he was shot to 12:40 when he had already been at some car and found out, second hand it appears, that the President's head had been blown off. Price was a three wheeler assigned to the Trade Mart with the notation "After". This would mean that Price was a member of the Trade Mart pool that was to appear at the Trade Mart after fulfilling some previous assignment along the motorcade route, after the motorcade has passed his point. It goes without saying that a three wheeler was not at the President's car at the time the shots were fired and he was hit in the head. Nor could Price had been at Parkland by the time the President arrived and was taken into the hospital since he was neither part of the motorcade itself; nor did any of the Trade Mart crew join the motorcade as it passed at high speed on the way to the hospital, most especially not in time to lead it there and be there in time to see the President's head, which was immediately covered by Hill's coat. In addition Price's doubtful language "Believe the President's head was practically blown off", "Disregard what I say, it's not for me to say", seems to mean that Price was at some other car by 12:40 where he was told the President's head was blown off, and told on good authority.

It appears that "the 6ar" Price refers to was the car carrying the third wounded person and that he there received the information that the President was hit in the head. Who would be in a better position to tell Price this by 12:40?

It seem likely, in view of Price's statement, that the "car" or "station wagon" or "ambulance" carrying the third shooting victim at the assassination site, stopped briefly at Market Hall or the Trade Mart. It then appears to have gone on to Parkland followed by Hawkins, who was unsure just what had happened and had to be told on a private line by the dispatcher.

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