

Oswald Shot Dead in Dallas Jail

Single Bullet

Fatal Attack As Police Move Accused Man

A.P. & U.P.

Dallas

Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President Kennedy, was shot and killed while being transferred from one jail to another yesterday, 48 hours after the death of the President.

He had never wavered in his insistence that he was not the President's killer. He died without saying a word.

The man who shot Oswald, Jack Ruby, 52, bachelor owner of two Dallas night clubs, had stepped swiftly through a mass of police and newsmen at a basement garage ramp in city hall.

He rushed up to Oswald and sent a single pistol bullet into his abdomen.

Oswald dropped unconscious at Ruby's feet, within a cordon of escorting police officers.

At least eight police

jumped on Ruby, pushed him back against the basement wall and down onto the floor. They then rushed him upstairs to a cell on the same floor where Oswald had been held since his arrest Friday afternoon.

Live network television cameras had been trained on the scene and the shooting was broadcast as it occurred.

That was at 11:20 a. m., while Oswald was being taken from city hall detention quarters to a permanent maximum security cell in Dallas county jail, there to await trial for the President's assassination.

DEATH

Oswald died at 1:07 p. m. in the same hospital where President Kennedy died Friday, with the same hectic medical activity going on around him, with two of the same doctors working over him who labored vainly to save the President's life.

Ruby had been charged with murder. He gave no motive for the shooting when he was arraigned.

Ruby underwent questioning last night. Police said only that Ruby had "built up a grievance," and did not deny anything.

He was refusing to discuss certain questions until he consulted attorneys.

While Ruby was being led to detention minutes after the shooting, he reportedly told a Dallas policeman: "I did this because I have a deep sense of responsibility to Jacqueline Kennedy. I did it to spare Mrs. Kennedy the agony of a prolonged public trial."

POLICE

Yesterday afternoon, after Oswald died, Dallas police Captain Will Fritz, chief of homicide, said:

"We don't know of anyone else who was involved in it, and as far as we are concerned the case is closed. There is no question in my mind that Oswald was the man who shot President Kennedy . . . We never quit seeking evidence. We have plenty, but if we find other evidence, of course . . ."

Here the officer's voice trailed off and he did not finish his sentence.

District Attorney Henry Wade declared:

"We had plenty of evidence to convict Oswald—fingerprints and everything. But I've told the police . . . that the Oswald case is moot now, and we have to get on with the Ruby case."

(In Washington, the FBI said it would continue its investigation and did not consider the Oswald case closed.)

Ruby owns a strip-tease joint in the heart of Dallas, about four blocks from police headquarters. He also owns a dance hall in another section of the city.

Last night, Bill DeMar, a memory expert, told authorities he saw Oswald in Ruby's club last week.

He closed his stripper club immediately upon word of the Chief Executive's death.

Ruby has been described by friends, acquaintances, and police as an "extremely nervous, quite unbalanced individual."

Word had reached police headquarters, where Ruby had many acquaintances, that he felt a "sense of shame for Dallas."

ASSOCIATE

And a business associate of Ruby told newsmen:

"He felt very badly about the Kennedy assassination and had been saying, 'Oh, that poor family.'"

Ruby came to the scene of Oswald's slaying yesterday in businessman's attire. He was in a neat dark suit with jacket, and had a dark felt hat set firmly on his balding head.

Ostensibly, only police and newspaper reporters were permitted in the basement garage through where Oswald was to be led to an armored car. But Ruby is well known to local police and has been seen around headquar-

ters since Oswald was arrested.

District Attorney Wade said Ruby had ready access to City Hall, and had approached the district attorney during a Friday night news conference, saying:

"I'm Jack Ruby. I own the Carousel Club here."

Wade said he replied that he thought a press club conference was just for newsmen, but that Ruby said:

"Oh, I know all the policemen and all the newsmen too. I just came down to listen in."

And Ruby was seen Saturday afternoon in the crowded third-floor corridors through which Oswald was led for interrogation.

Yesterday, Oswald was led out of a City Hall elevator in the basement, a few steps behind Captain Fritz. His hands were handcuffed in front of him, and detectives held him by either arm.

Ruby had driven up in his car, parked, crossed an area toward city hall, leaped a three-foot railing and worked his way through newsmen and police officials until he was in the front row. More than 60 policemen were in the area.

Then, without warning, in

one confusing incident, as network television recorded the scene, Ruby put the .38 caliber snub-nosed revolver against Oswald's midriff and pulled the trigger once.

A slight smile on Oswald's face vanished and his mouth popped open. A single cry of anguish escaped his lips as his body was twisted slightly by the force of the slug. He hit the pavement and lay motionless, in the midst of the cordon of police officers.

Moving as one man, a wave of police bore the gun wielder face down to the ground.

Moments after he was shot, Oswald was carried inside city hall to await an ambulance. The sounds and confusion of the shooting triggered pandemonium in downtown Dallas and curious spectators raced toward the scene.

The ambulance arrived and sped Oswald to Parkland Hospital. Among doctors who set to work on him were Dr. Malcolm Perry and Dr. M. T. Jenkins, both of whom had watched President Kennedy die beneath their hands.

Dr. Perry said Oswald was "lethally injured" by the time he arrived at the Parkland emergency room ten minutes after he was shot.

"At that time, he was unconscious, had no blood pressure, but made agonal respiratory efforts (dying gasps)," the doctor said, and he "already had lost a considerable amount of blood."

Oswald was given massive transfusions, his chest opened for massage of his heart. But it was all in vain. Thirty-seven minutes after he was shot, he was pronounced dead.

Oswald's Russian wife, Marina, with a month-old baby and her eldest daughter, who is almost 4, went to the hospital. Oswald's 56-year-old mother also arrived. Neither cried.

The two women and the children were escorted from the hospital by Secret Servicemen. One agent held a shotgun in the front seat as they drove off.

There had been reports of death threats circulating in Dallas against Oswald. The decision to go ahead with his transfer in broad daylight was explained by Dallas police chief Jesse Curry, a tall, distinguished official. He told newsmen afterward:

"If I hadn't promised you people I would not take Oswald until this morning, we would have taken him during the night. I told you. I wouldn't back down on my pledge."