

ASSASSINATION-NARRATIVE

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WASHINGTON, SEPT. 28 (AP)-AT 11:40 A.M., C.S.T., ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1963, PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, MRS. KENNEDY, AND THEIR PARTY ARRIVED AT LOVE FIELD, DALLAS, TEX. . ."

THUS, THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY BEGAN ITS NARRATIVE OF EVENTS OF THAT DAY.

MINUTE BY MINUTE, SOMETIMES BY SECONDS, IT UNFOLDED THE STORY: PRESIDENT KENNEDY HAD SPENT THE NIGHT IN FORT WORTH.

"IN DALLAS THE RAIN HAD STOPPED, AND BY MIDMORNING A GLOOMY OVERCAST SKY HAD GIVEN WAY TO THE BRIGHT SUNSHINE THAT GREETED THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY WHEN AIR FORCE ONE TOUCHED DOWN AT LOVE FIELD. . ."

APPROXIMATELY 10 MINUTES LATER, AFTER A RECEPTION AT THE FIELD, THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. KENNEDY WENT TO THEIR OPEN AUTOMOBILE, A SPECIALLY DESIGNED 1961 LINCOLN CONVERTIBLE, TO BEGIN THE MOTORCADE INTO TOWN AND A LUNCHEON AT THE TRADE MART. IN THE JUMP SEATS WERE GOV. AND MRS. JOHN B. CONNALLY OF TEXAS.

THE MOTORCADE DROVE AT SPEEDS UP TO 25 AND 30 MILES AN HOUR THROUGH THINLY POPULATED AREAS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF DALLAS.

"AT THE PRESIDENT'S DIRECTION, HIS AUTOMOBILE STOPPED TWICE, THE FIRST TIME TO PERMIT HIM TO RESPOND TO A SIGN ASKING HIM TO SHAKE HANDS...ON THE OTHER OCCASION, THE PRESIDENT HALTED THE MOTORCADE TO SPEAK TO A CATHOLIC NUN AND A GROUP OF SMALL CHILDREN."

IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA, THE CROWDS WERE DENSE.

EA45WX

"MRS. CONNALLY, ELATED BY THE RECEPTION, TURNED TO PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND SAID, 'MR. PRESIDENT, YOU CAN'T SAY DALLAS DOESN'T LOVE YOU.' THE PRESIDENT REPLIED, 'THAT IS VERY OBVIOUS.'"

FROM DALLAS' MAIN STREET THE MOTORCADE TURNED RIGHT AND WENT NORTH ON HOUSTON STREET AND HEADED TOWARD THE TEXAS SCHOOL BOOK DEPOSITORY BUILDING. THE CROWD THINNED ABRUPTLY ALONG ELM STREET, WHICH CURVED NEAR THE BUILDING AND WENT DOWNGRADE TOWARD THE TRIPLE UNDERPASS AND THE STEMMONS FREEWAY LEADING TO THE TRADE MART.

"THE FRONT OF THE TEXAS SCHOOL BOOK DEPOSITORY WAS NOW ON THE PRESIDENT'S RIGHT, AND HE WAVED TO THE CROWD ASSEMBLED THERE AS HE PASSED THE BUILDING."

BY HIS SIDE, MRS. KENNEDY TURNED TO HER LEFT AND WAVED.

"AT 12:30 P.M., CSTN AS THE PRESIDENT'S OPEN LIMOUSINE PROCEEDED AT APPROXIMATELY 11 MILES PER HOUR ALONG ELM STREET TOWARD THE TRIPLE UNDERPASS..."

MRS. KENNEDY THOUGHT SHE HEARD A SOUND SIMILAR TO A MOTORCYCLE NOISE AND A CRY FROM CONNALLY.

GOV. CONNALLY RECOGNIZED THE FIRST NOISE AS A RIFLE SHOT AND THE THOUGHT IMMEDIATELY CROSSED HIS MIND THAT IT WAS AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.

MRS. CONNALLY HEARD A FRIGHTENING NOISE FROM HER RIGHT.

ROY KELLERMAN, A SECRET SERVICE AGENT IN THE RIGHT FRONT SEAT OF THE LIMOUSINE, HEARD A REPORT LIKE A FIRECRACKER POP.

"THE DRIVER, WILLIAM GREER, HEARD A NOISE WHICH HE TOOK TO BE A BACKFIRE FROM ONE OF THE MOTORCYCLES FLANKING THE PRESIDENTIAL CAR."

IN THE NEXT CAR, ABOUT FIVE FEET FROM THE PRESIDENT'S, SPECIAL AGENT CLINTON J. HILL HEARD A NOISE, WHICH SEEMED TO BE A FIRECRACKER FROM HIS RIGHT REAR.

ON THE STREET, HOWARD L. BRENNAN, 45, A STEAMFITTER IN HIS WORK CLOTHES, HAD WAITED FOR THE PARADE FROM A RETAINING WALL ACROSS ELM STREET FROM THE BOOK DEPOSITORY BUILDING. HE HAD NOTICED A MAN AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER WINDOW OF THE SIXTH FLOOR.

EA46WX

SOON AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S CAR PASSED, BRENNAN HEARD AN EXPLOSION LIKE THE BACKFIRE OF A MOTORCYCLE. BRENNAN RECALLED:

"WELL, THEN SOMETHING, JUST RIGHT AFTER THIS EXPLOSION, MADE ME THINK THAT IT WAS A FIRECRACKER BEING THROWN FROM THE TEXAS BOOK STORE. AND I GLANCED UP. AND THIS MAN THAT I SAW PREVIOUS WAS AIMING FOR HIS LAST SHOT."

IN THE PRESIDENT'S CAR--"THE PRESIDENT'S HANDS MOVED TO HIS NECK. HE APPEARED TO STIFFEN MOMENTARILY AND LURCH SLIGHTLY FORWARD IN HIS SEAT. A BULLET HAD ENTERED THE BASE OF THE BACK OF HIS NECK SLIGHTLY TO THE RIGHT OF THE SPINE. IT TRAVELED DOWNWARD AND EXITED FROM THE FRONT OF THE NECK, CAUSING A NICK IN THE LEFT LOWER PORTION OF THE KNOT IN THE PRESIDENT'S NECKTIE..."

KELLERMAN HEARD THE PRESIDENT SAY "MY GOD, IM AM HIT," AND SAW BOTH OF THE PRESIDENT'S HANDS MOVE UP TOWARD HIS NECK.

CONNALLY FELT SOMETHING STRIKE HIM IN THE BACK.

"THE FORCE OF THE BULLET'S IMPACT APPEARED TO SPIN THE GOVERNOR TO

HIS RIGHT, AND MRS. CONNALLY PULLED HIM DOWN INTO HER LAP."

AT THE FIRST NOISE, MRS. KENNEDY TURNED.

"ON TURNING SHE SAW A QUIZZICAL LOOK ON HER HUSBAND'S FACE AS HE RAISED HIS LEFT HAND TO HIS THROAT. MRS. KENNEDY THEN HEARD A SECOND SHOT AND SAW THE PRESIDENT'S SKULL TORN OPEN UNDER THE IMPACT OF THE BULLET. AS SHE CRADLED HER MORTALLY WOUNDED HUSBAND, MRS. KENNEDY CRIED, 'OH, MY GOD, THEY HAVE SHOT MY HUSBAND. I LOVE YOU, JACK.'"

AFTER THE FIRST SHOT, KELLERMAN TOLD THE DRIVER: "LET'S GET OUT OF HERE; WE ARE HIT."

HE RADIOED TO THE LEAD CAR, "WE ARE HIT. GET US TO THE HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY."

"AS HE ISSUED HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO GREER (THE DRIVER) AND TO THE LEAD CAR, KELLERMAN HEARD 'A FLURRY OF SHOTS' WITHIN FIVE SECONDS OF THE FIRST NOISE. ACCORDING TO KELLERMAN, MRS. KENNEDY THEN CRIED OUT: 'WHAT ARE THEY DOING TO YOU?'"

EA47WX

FROM THE CAR BEHIND, HILL HAD RACED FORAARD ON FOOT WHEN HE HEARD THE FIRST SHOT AND HAD REACHED THE PRESIDENT'S CAR WHEN HE HEARD THE SECOND.

"AT THE INSTANT THAT HILL STEPPED ONTO THE LEFT REAR STEP OF THE PRESIDENT'S AUTOMOBILE AND GRASPED THE HANDHOLD, THE CAR LURCHED FORWARD, CAUSING HIM TO LOSE HIS FOOTING. HE RAN THREE OR FOUR STEPS, REGAINED HIS POSITION AND MOUNTED THE CAR."

BETWEEN THE TIME HE ORIGINALLY SEIZED THE HANDHOLD AND THE TIME HE MOUNTED THE CAR, HILL RECALLED THAT MRS. KENNEDY HAD JUMPED UP FROM THE SEAT AND APPEARED TO BE REACHING FOR SOMETHING. HE PUSHED HER BACK INTO THE SEAT.

"MRS. KENNEDY HAD NO RECOLLECTION OF CLIMBING ONTO THE BACK OF THE CAR."

THE PRESIDENT'S CAR RACED THROUGH THE STREETS UP TO 70 AND 80 MILES AN HOUR TO PARKLAND HOSPITAL, FOUR MILES AWAY. DOCTORS HAD BEEN ALERTED AND WERE READY WHEN THE CAR ARRIVED THERE AT ABOUT 12:35 P.M.

FOR A MOMENT, MRS. KENNEDY REFUSED TO RELEASE HER HUSBAND, WHOM SHE HELD IN HER ARMS ON THE BACK SEAT OF THE CAR.

"AT 1 P.M., AFTER ALL HEART ACTIVITY CEASED AND THE LAST RITES WERE ADMINISTERED BY A PRIEST, PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD. GOVERNOR CONNALLY UNDERWENT SURGERY AND ULTIMATELY RECOVERED FROM HIS SERIOUS WOUNDS."

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