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GA

INTERIOR

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Roll 1, Take 1 MR. HOLLAND

Q. Mr. Holland, on November 22, where were you?

A. On November the 22 I was standing on top of the Triple Underpass, waiting for the parade and the President's car.

Q. What time did you arrive on the Underpass?

A. Well, I arrived about 11:45, or close to noon. Two policemen was talking to me and asked me, one of them, if I would come back up there and identify the people that had any business or had a right to be up there.

Q. They would be railroad employees?

A. They would be railroad employees, and I told him I would.

Q. And what was your position with the railroad company?

A. Track and signal supervisor for the Union Terminal Railroad.

Q. How long have you been with the Union Terminal?

A. Twenty-seven years.

Q. And before that were you with another railroad?

A. I was with the Santa Fe thirteen years and ten months. I've put in forty-one years of railroad service in the signal department.

Source: Wisconsin Historical Society, USMss, 117AN "Rush to Judgment" Box 60, Folder 1



Q. And did you hear any shots on November 22?

A. I did.

Q. How many shots?

A. Four.

Q. Is there any question in your mind that you heard four?

A. No. No question in my mind.

Q. You're certain it was four?

A. I'm certain they were four. It is possible they could have been five, but I am certain of four because I'm familiar with fire-arms. I own rifles, shot-guns, pistols. I've hunted all my life, and I'm familiar enough with guns to count the reports.

Roll 1, Tape 2

Q. Mr. Holland, are you sure that you heard at least four shots?

A. Ain't no doubt in my mind that I heard four shots. Now three of the reports were real loud, similar to -- well say a shotgun. And the other report - to compare it - would be like a .45.



Q. Did you look in any particular direction?  
when you heard the shots?

A. Yes, I looked over to where I thought the  
shot came from, and I saw a puff of smoke  
still laying underneath the trees - about like  
you would toss a fire-cracker out and it would  
go off and still leave a puff of smoke.

Q. And where was that puff of smoke, sir?

A. The puff of smoke was about 30 or 40 feet  
from the fence, the picket fence, out under  
some green trees.

Q. You saw this puff of smoke behind the wooden  
fence on that grassy knoll?

A. I saw the puff of smoke in front of the wooden  
fence . The report sounded like it came from be-  
hind the wooden fence.

Q. And what did you do then, sir?

A. Well, immediately after the President's car  
came under the Triple Underpass, under me, where  
I was standing right over it, I immediately ran  
around the fence to see if I could see someone  
a-leaving the scene, and there was two or three  
of the boys that was on the overpass with me went  
around with me. And we got to thread our way through



the cars, so many of them parked there - well it took us, oh, a minute or maybe a minute and a half to get around to this particular spot.

Q. And what did you see when you arrived behind that wooden fence?

A. Well, the first thing we looked for was somebody a-leaving there, and then we started looking in the cars, and under the cars, and the only evidence that I could find that anyone was there was somebody was a-walking backwards and forth between the fence and a bumper on a station-wagon that was parked there and it looked like there was about a hundred foot-prints in addition to the bumper on the station-wagon. And also two muddy footprints on that station-wagon's bumper.

Q. Mud foot-prints?

A. Mud foot-prints...something just like you would wipe your feet off on a bumper, that is you know it was kind of wet that morning. We had a little rain, and that was the only foot-prints we could find around. Most of the rest of that place was gravel, but that's about the spot where I saw the smoke and heard the shot or report of a shot.

Q. Would you say, Mr. Holland, that the mud foot-prints on the bumper appeared as if someone was



standing on the bumper?

A. Definitely, yes.

Q. At the time the shots were fired, sir, did you see any police officers move in any particular direction?

A. Well, about the time that shot was fired, the Secret Service man in the President's car stood up with his sub-machine gun and pointed at that exact spot.

Q. At the wooden fence?

A. At the wooden fence. And a policeman threw his motorcycle down in the middle of the street and run up the embankment with his pistol drawn.

Q. Was he running toward the fence?

A. He was running toward that particular spot. And also another motorcycle policeman right behind him tried to ride up the embankment on his motorcycle, and it turned over about halfway up the embankment. And he got out - got off his motorcycle and left it laying there and run on over to the fence with his gun in his hand.

Q. Mr. Holland, the Warren Commission, in its Report, stated that the bullet which hit President Kennedy went through the President and then went on to hit Governor Connally. From



your observations, is that what actually happened that day?

A. No. It was not. The President was hit apparently through the back and he raised his hand up similar to that. Governor Connally turned to his right, and ~~knocked~~ then turned back to his left like that and about that time Governor Connally was shot - the second report and knocked him down on the floor board. Definitely wasn't the same shot that hit the President first.

Q. And then did you hear another shot?

A. And then I heard another shot, and that's the one that came from under the trees, and immediately after that, I'd say it was within a second or two seconds a louder report that hit the President, and when the President came under the Overpass, where I was standing, the car momentarily stopped when Mrs. Kennedy was getting out of - climbing over the back. The man in the car behind her got out of the car and run up there and pushed her back in the seat, and the President was laying in the seat, more on his stomach and with his foot upside down sticking out the back of the car - over the car seat or over the edge of the car.

Q. On the right side?

A. On the right side, and his head and shoulder was laying on the edge of the seat.



Q. Mr. Holland, the Commission states on page 76 of its Report, "Holland, for example, immediately after the shots, ran off the overpass to see if there was anyone behind the picket fence on the north side of Elm Street, but he did not see anyone among the parked cars". In other words, the Commission states that the force of your testimony would show that noone could have been behind the wooden fence.

A. Well I can't understand that because they was hundreds of cars parked in that area, and, as I said before, we had to thread our way from the railroad track to this particular spot through those cars, and there definitely could be people behind that fence .

Q. I'm going to have to ask you that again, I'm sorry.

Roll 2, Tape 3

A. Well I can't understand that statement from the Warren Commission because it's possible that there could have been a half a dozen people behind that

Q. The Commission said, Mr. Holland, that no-one saw any suspicious activity behind the fence. They said that Patrolman Foster saw no suspicious activity,



and then went on to state the same was true of the other bystanders, many of whom made an effort after the shooting to observe any unusual activity. Holland, for example, immediately after the shots, ran off the overpass to see if there was anyone behind the picket fence on the north side of Elm Street, but he did not see anyone among the parked cars."

A. Well, immediately after the last shot, that they're - the Warren Commission is - speaking about, after the last shot and the President's car came under the Triple Underpass, under where I was standing, and momentarily stopped, and the instant they left that particular spot, that's when I run around the fence. But it's possible there could have been three or four people around there that wasn't observed because that particular spot was just a sea of cars, and it would have been very easy for anyone to sit down over there or stand up without being observed, because there was a picket fence in front of them, there was cars all around behind them, and it's possible that there could have been maybe a half a dozen people standing over there without being observed because everybody was watching the parade .



Q. Mr. Holland, can you understand the Commission's statement that, since you ran behind the picket fence immediately after the shots were fired and you did not see anyone there, that it therefore was impossible for anyone to have been there?

A. I can't understand that statement, that it would have been impossible for anyone to be over there behind the fence because it certainly was possible. There was people all around in the vicinity of that particular spot. Most of them was below the picket fence on the sidewalk, and some of them was up in that little pavilion, which would have been very easy for anyone to have walked over behind those cars, unobserved, at that particular time.

Q. How long would you say it took you to get behind the wooden fence/ from the time the last shot was fired?

A. I would say not over two or two and a half minutes from the time the last shot was fired and the President's car came underneath the Triple Underpass, and we worked our way through those cars to this particular spot.

Q. In that two and two and a half minute time, Mr. Holland, it is possible that anyone who might have



been behind the wooden fence could have escaped unobserved by you?

A. It's possible, because, as I said before, there was so many people around that pavilion that anyone could have walked over there and mixed with the crowd unobserved because there was so much excitement and everybody was running to and fro that it's possible they could have walked over there unobserved and been one of the bystanders.

Q. The Commission also stated, as you know, Mr. Holland, that the same bullet that hit Governor Connally first struck President Kennedy. Based upon what you observed from that position, just above the street on the overpass, is that possible?

A. No. No, that -- Warren Commission is in error on that, because I was a eye-witness to that the same bullet that hit President Kennedy did not hit Governor Connally. At the first bullet, the President slumped over and Governor Connally made his turn to the right and then back to the left, and that's when the second shot was fired and knocked him down on the floor board. And it would have been impossible for him to turn had the



bullet hit - the same bullet hit him that went through the President's neck.

Q. Was Governor Connally no longer visible by the time the third bullet was fired?

A. No, he was laying down in the seat and he was not visible, except to the ones that was up on top of that triple underpass.

Q. And did you see the effect of the next bullet which struck President Kennedy?

A. I saw the effects of the next bullet that struck the President, because it flipped him over almost on his stomach, and the side of his head - and his head was laying on the edge of the seat. And, as I said before, he was laying <sup>more</sup> ~~about~~ on his stomach and his feet was hanging out of the - over the car - edge of the car, upside down.

Q. And was that the bullet which struck the President's head?

A. That was the bullet <sup>that</sup> ~~which~~ struck the President's head. (Pause) ... make a statement of ... because it's just what I think.

Q. Well what do you think? You were a witness who had as good a view of that scene as anyone in Dealey Plaza - where do you think the shots came from?

A. Well I know the shots came - the first shots came



from back up close to Houston Street. I also know where that third shot came from.

Q. Where did that shot come from?

A. From behind the picket fence.. . close to the little plaza.

Q. Is there any doubt in your mind that that shot came from behind the .....

A. There's no doubt in my mind. There's no doubt whatsoever in my mind, and the statement that I made in the Sheriff's office immediately after the shooting, and the statement I made to the Warren Commission - and I made it very plain there was no doubt in my mind but what there was a fourth shot. The third shot . . . the report wasn't near as loud as the other three shots, but there was definitely a shot fired from behind that picket fence.

Q. And did you make that statement for the first time to the Sheriff's office on November 22?

A. I don't recall whether I did, or not. I was . . . by that time I was pretty nervous and I am not easy to get excited or - but seeing two people get killed, and one of them being our President - well, it kind of shook me up. But I made it plain to the Warren Commission, and I think I made the same statement in the Sheriff's office



that there was a fourth shot - I won't be positive for that.

Q. On November 22, Mr. Holland, did you tell the Sheriff's office, in an affidavit you signed that date, that you saw a puff of smoke come from behind the picket fence?

A. I'm certain I did. I don't remember I made the statement and I told them if I remembered something else that I would come back and talk to Mr. Bill Duck<sup>e</sup>r, The Sheriff of Dallas County .

Q. Did you also tell the Warren Commission that, when you went behind the wooden fence, you discovered twelve or fifteen policemen there at that time?

A. Yes, immediately after I got over there, there was - twelve or fifteen people, and I presume they were detectives, Secret Service, and I know there were three or four policemen in uniform.

Q. Behind the fence?

A. Behind the fence.

Q. Mr. Holland, is there any question in your mind that four shots were fired on November 22, at least four shots? And then what did you do? What did you see when you arrived behind the fence?

Roll 3 Tape 5

Q. Mr. Holland, you were on the overpass; you were



probably in the best position of any witness on November 22. In your view, did the Warren Commission present all of the facts regarding the assassination of President Kennedy?

A. Let me say this - the Warren Commission, I think, had to report what they wanted the world to believe when they read the Warren Commission. As you know, as well as I know, that everybody in the world was reading the Warren Commission and it had to read like they wanted it to read.

Q. You mean they had to prove that Oswald did it alone?

A. They had to prove that Oswald did it alone.

Q. Do you have some doubts about that conclusion, based upon what you saw -

A. Based upon what I saw, I have some doubts, because I still think there was a second party, because there was definitely four shots fired. And between the second and the third shot was the lesser report, we'll say similar to shotgun and a .45. I would say about like a .38 target pistol. And that's what it sounded like to me - the difference in the reports of the two guns.

Q. In effect, Mr. Holland, the Warren Commission published just a very small portion of your testimony, and used your testimony as proof that no shots



could have come from behind the fence. Did they accurately and fairly use your testimony?

A. If they used, <sup>my testimony this proves</sup> it's proved they are wrong. Because <sup>^</sup> my testimony - and I made it very clear - that there was a fourth shot fired, and one of those shots came from behind that picket fence. And there's no doubt in my mind - and never will be - because I was on the spot, I saw the smoke - heard the report, and saw the smoke - from behind that fence, and I don't see how that they could doubt that there was a fourth shot fired.

Q. Was it the general feeling, would you say, Mr. Holland, among the police officers and others, at the moment that the shots were fired, that some - at least one shot came from behind that wooden fence?

A. I don't know the feeling of the policemen - I didn't talk to any of the policemen - but I know the feelings of about six or eight of us that run around there to find out what was happening, and if we could find any evidence of someone being around there. There was about six or eight of us boys from the Union Terminal run around there to find some evidence that there was someone around there. Of course, as I've said before, anyone that was <sup>there</sup> ~~ik~~



could have melted into the crowd because he didn't have over thirty . . . thirty feet to walk to get back with that crowd in front of that fence.

Q. How many men on the overpass with you ran behind the

4 Taps 6

Q. Mr. Holland, were you the only man on the rail-under road ~~overpass~~ who ran behind the wooden fence after the shots were fired?

A. No, there was about four or five of us out of the group that was over on the overpass - is about four or five of us run around there - three men right alongside of me, and myself are trying to get through the cars and the bumpers, over them; and there was about sixteen or eighteen people on top of the overpass with me of our employees, and I've talked to each one of them, and they all agree that there was a fourth shot fired. I don't know what statement they made to the Warren Commission, if all of them made the statement, but certainly the ones that was with me, that run around that fence, realized what was happening.

Q. Have you had occasion to talk with the men who



were on the overpass who ran with you after the shot behind the wooden fence, regarding where they thought the shots came from and what they saw regarding ~~the~~ smoke?

A. On several occasions we talked about it.

Q. And what have they told you?

A. They told me the same thing that I told you that they was definitely a shot fired, and they saw the smoke, and neither one of us said anything to the other. We just all started runnin' around that fence as a unit.

Q. One last question, Mr. Holland. The Warren Commission, after taking your testimony and the testimony of others in Dealey Plaza concluded that there is no credible evidence to indicate that the shots came from any place beside the Book Depository Building. What is your comment on that conclusion?

A. Well that's their privilege of makin' any statement in the Warren Commission that they want to. But I still maintain that I was right There's definitely a fourth shot, and they was definitely a shot fired from behind that picket fence.

(background conversation)

Q. Mr. Holland, the Warren Commission, after tak-



Roll "GA"

MR. HOLLAND

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ing your testimony, and the testimony of many others in Dealey Plaza who agreed with you, nevertheless concluded that there is no credible evidence to show that the shots came



Reel 6 Take 11

Q. Mr. Holland, is this the exact spot you were standing on November 22nd?

A. Correct. This is the exact spot/I was stand-<sup>that</sup>in' on on the 22nd, during the parade.

Q. And - where did you hear that third shot come from?

A. The third shot came - right behind that picket fence - right under - between those tr - two trees, right over there.

Q. About how far from the other end - the far end - of the picket fence would you say?

A. I would say about between 20 and 25 feet.

Q. And is that where the smoke was drifting?

A. The smoke was driftin' out under those two trees.

Q. Underneath the trees

A. It kindy hung there just like a - for a few seconds - long enough that you could see that it was a puff of smoke.

Q. And then what - And then what'd you do?

A. Immediately after the President's car came under-<sup>a-runnin'</sup>neath this overpass - the four of us broke into a run around this fence to find out if we could see anybody leavin' there

Q. Can we walk this way now - that you went on the 22nd?

A. Yeah, we can walk thataway right now.

Q. Fine.



Reel 6 Take 12

Q. Is this the exact spot you were standing on on

November 22nd, Mr. Holland?  
(background talk)

A. That's correct.

Q. Is this the exact spot you were standing on on

November 22nd, Mr. Holland?

(.....wait till that train goes back)

Q. Is this the exact spot you were standing on on

November 22nd, Mr. Holland?

A. That's correct. This is the exact spot that I  
was standing November 22nd, waitin' for the parade.

Q. And where did you hear that third shot come from?

A. Right over about 20 or 30 feet near the end of  
that little picket fence.

Q. And where was the smoke that you saw?

A. It drifted right out underneath those green trees,  
those two trees -

Q. Yes? From behind the fence?

A. From behind the fence.

Q. About how far from the far end of the fence would  
you say the smoke was?

A. Well the smoke was out from the fence - about 30,  
about 30 feet out from the fence.

Q. Yes, and how far from the far end <sup>up</sup> of the fence was it?

A. About 25 ~~xx~~ 30 feet.

Q. Uh - huh.

A. From that corner



Q. And what did you do after you heard those shots?

A. Immediately after the President's car came underneath the underpass where I'm standing - they was four of us run around to find out whether we could see anyone a-leavin' the area/<sup>from</sup>where we thought the shot came from.

Q. Can we walk that way now to see where you walked on the 22nd?

A. We can.

Q. Thank you.

(background conversation - get the camera in front of us etc.)

Take 14

Q. This is the way you went on the 22nd of November?

A. Yeah, but a lot faster.

Q. Yes

(background conversation)

A. This is the ro -

Take 15

Q. This was the direction you walked on the 22nd?

A. This was the direction, but a lot faster I'll guarantee - when we-going around this corner.

Q. Trying to see what you could see there?

A. We were tryin' to see what we could see 'n ...

Q. You made this sort of a right turn here?

A. We made this right turn an' ... jumped this steam line.

Q. This pipe over here.



A. This pipe (xxxxxxxx) One man right behind me jumped and another man jumped right on top a him.

Q. Fell on top of him?

A. Fell on top of him.

Q. And then we come up to this wooden fence here where it begins.

A. Then we came up to the wooden fence -

Q. And then did you go over it? (two men speaking at same time)

A. and started ta -threadin' our way through/the sea of cars - they were parked bumper to bumper, and we were jumpin' bumpers and over the hoods -

Q. And then over the fence here?

A. And then over the fence, right here.

Q. Shall we?

A. I didn't step over it; I jumped over this one.

Q. Yeah.

(hold it, hold it, hold it - there's somebody right down here)

Reel 6

Take 16

Q. Is this the spot that you came to?

(background conversation - Wait until I wave before you get started. OK? OK.)

Q. Is this the spot that you came to just after you heard the shots, Mr. Holland?

A. This is the spot that I came to after I worked my way around to this partic - particular spot. This is the spot where I came to. I found foot-tracks all over the - behind this car- mud on the bumpers, and this was



where I saw the smoke from the third shot.

Q. Right driftin' out around here?

A. Just driftin' out underneath these trees.

Q. I see. And when that shot hit the President as he passed by this lamp-post, did you see the effect of the shot upon the President?

A. I saw the President knocked completely over -

Q. Away from us?

A. In the car, to his left, from me.

Q. I see.

A. Just to the left of that lamp-post.

(OK. Want to cut it? Because we gotta - don't you see those guys?)

Reel 6      Take 17

Q. Is this the spot you came to when you heard the shots, Mr. Holland?

A. That's right. This is the spot that I came to after I worked my way through the cars, over the bumpers, 'n over the hoods - (xxxxx) worked my way into this spot.

Q. What did you find here?

A. A lot of foot-prints behind this car, mud on the bumpers, and I looked around to see if I could find some empty shells, or any evidence of a shot being fired and the bullet shell being rejected from the gun.

Q. And you came here because this is the area from which the smoke drifted, is that right?



A. This is the area from which the smoke drifted and I heard the shot from this particular spot.

Q. And where did you see the smoke?

A. Er - right out about 20 or 30 feet from these trees - just driftin' right under these green trees.

Q. And did you see the effect of that third shot upon the President?

A. I saw the President shot about that time. Ah couldn't say it was that particular shot that hit him, but at about that time that I - that I saw the smoke from the bridge. Well it knocked him over to his left down in the car.

Q. Away from here?

A. Away from here.

Q. And about where was he in rela- where was the car, the President's limousine, in relation to the lamp-post?

A. Just a little to the left of that lamp-post we're lookin' at.

Q. Is this the direction you walked in after you heard the shots, Mr. Holland?

A. This is the direction I ran in. We wasn't walkin' - we were running.

Q. And then when you reached this <sup>pipe</sup> ~~point~~, what did you do?

A. We jumped the pipe, jumped over the pipe, and started a - workin' our way thru the cars, over the bumpers, over



the hood (s) of the cars, to work our way to the spot that we saw the smoke and heard the shot.

Q. And were there more cars here on the 22nd than there are today?

A. They were bumper to bumper - ~~ME~~ - just a sea of cars; you couldn't hardly get through 'em.

Q. How long did it take you to get to the wooden fence, would you say?

A. From the time I left around there to- to I got to this spot would be about maybe two minutes, maybe two minutes and a half.

Q. And that was because you were impeded by the cars?

A. That's because we had to climb over the cars, and through 'em, and we was impeded by the sea of cars that was out here.

Q. Mr. Holland, did you remain behind here for a while when the police officers were searching the area?

A. Approximately fifteen minutes, before I had to go back to my office.

Q. And did you notice how the police searched the area?

A. Well, they searched it pretty thorough-  
OR

Q. Did they search?

A. And they was about - when I left here, they was about forty or fifty people around here searching, - when I left to go back to my office.

Q. Did they look into the trunks of the parked cars?



A. Not while I was around.

Q. Did they look under the cars?

A. They looked under the cars; I did myself. And I scraped around in the leaves a-lookin' for - / a spent -uh- shell. I looked in the cars when I first got over here. I looked under the cars - at least I didn't think about lookin' in the trunk or suggestin' it-for several days later I ..... figured a man could fire a shot and get in the trunk of a car and pull the lid down, and never be noticed. And after the car started movin' out, he coulda pushed the back of the (xxxxxxx) and got up in the front of the car and drove off like anyone else.

Q. Would you say that just after the shots were fired for a period of at least ten or fifteen minutes in Dealey Plaza, the police concentration was here behind the wooden fence.

A. That's right. The most of the concentration was right behind this wooden fence.

(background conversation - ... that's fine, that's just fine.

Holland: I am kindly glad we got that .....)

Reel 8      Take 19