

MARK LANE

HB

MAIN STREET EXCURSION - FIRST TRIP

My name is Mark Lane. For the past two and a half years I have been investigating the circumstances surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy. Less than fifteen minutes after the shots were fired in Dealey Plaza, the Dallas Police broadcast Lee Harvey Oswald's description. Within one hour thereafter Oswald was arrested by the Dallas Police. Within forty-eight hours Oswald was dead.

Oswald was not tried. He was merely convicted and executed. Shortly after Oswald's arrest the Dallas Police, the Secret Service, the FBI, the Dallas Sheriff's office, and the Dallas District Attorney's office proclaimed Oswald's guilt with absolute certainty. On the very day of his arrest the investigating and police agencies said that Oswald was the assassin, and that he acted alone. The statement that Oswald was the lone assassin, so precipitously arrived at, cast more discredit upon the agencies than upon the accused. And then, less than two days after his arrest, Oswald was shot to death in the basement of this building, the Dallas Police and Court Building.

We are on Main Street, Dallas, following the route taken by the Presidential motorcade on November 22nd.

(background conversation)

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

This is the Dallas Police and Court Building. Lee Harvey Oswald/in the basement of that building after having lived just forty-eight hours in custody in the Dallas Police Department's hands. was shot to death

This is Main Street, Dallas. We are following the route taken by the Presidential motorcade on November 22nd. As the limousine drove down Main Street, with the President seated extreme right hand rear portion of the car, his wife (background conversation)

This is the route taken by the Presidential limousine on November 22nd, as it drove down Main Street toward Dealey Plaza, toward the Book Depository/area. As the limousine moved down toward Main Street, the President smiled and waved to the assembled crowds on both sides of the street. Building

For Lee - ahem - For Lee Harvey Oswald was not tried. He was condemned by the prosecuting authorities, granted no opportunity to secure counsel to represent him, condemned by the Commission appointed by President Johnson, popularly referred to as "The Warren Commission". And the Warren Commission, as well, denied Oswald the right to be represented by counsel. Oswald was not tried; merely convicted and executed.

Shortly we will be talking with a number of witnesses to the assassination of the President and to peripheral events. You will hear the witnesses. In a sense, then, this will be the only trial that Lee Harvey Oswald will ever have.

(background conversation)

Just ahead of us is Dealey Plaza. And past Dealey Plaza, the Triple Underpass. (The) Presidential limousine made a right turn here at Houston Street. And just ahead was the Texas School Book Depository Building. The first version of the events released by the authorities indicated that the limousine was right here when the first shot was fired. This was based upon the only hard intelligence available to the authorities at that time: the statements by the doctors at the Parkland Memorial Hospital that the wound in the President's throat was an entrance wound. If indeed Oswald was the assassin, and was there on the sixth floor of the Book Depository Building and the limousine was here when the first shot was fired, how could Oswald have been the assassin? How could he have inflicted the wound from the front from the back?

(background conversation)

Take 2 - Main Street Excursion

(Go real slowly and then park in front of the Book Depository - in front of the Sheriff's Office)

We are approaching Dealey Plaza now, as the Presidential motorcade did. Just ahead is the Plaza, and past the plaza, the Triple Underpass. This is Houston Street and we are about to make a right turn onto Houston, and then left in front of the Book Depository Building onto Elm.

(background conversation) (Take-whatever it is)

We've now turned onto Houston. The first hard evidence that ~~was~~ was available to the authorities came from the doctors at the Parkland Memorial Hospital. And each of the doctors who had examined the President stated that the wound in the President's throat was an entrance wound. And so, said the authorities, based upon the information known to us, the position of the assassin on the sixth floor of the Book Depository Building and the nature of the wound, an entrance wound, we can determine where the limousine was when the first shot was fired - right here, on Houston Street. But of course the four to five hundred witnesses in Dealey Plaza knew that the limousine was not here when the first shot was fired. And the motion pictures and still photos taken later revealed quite clearly that the limousine was approximately here, well past the Book Depository Building. The question then remains: how could Oswald have shot the President from the front from the back.

(background conversation)

~~(Pick up the Main Street sign if you can, too, please)~~

Take 25

(background conversation)

We're continuing down Main Street, and Dealey Plaza's just ahead. As did the Presidential limousine, we will make a right turn onto Houston Street and then a left onto Elm from the Book Depository Building.

The first hard intelligence ~~that~~ ^{which} reached the public came from the doctors at the Parkland Memorial Hospital. They said the wound in the front of the President's throat was an entrance wound. The President had been shot from the front and from above. The bullet entered his throat and ranged downward into his chest, and did not exit. Based upon that intelligence, the authorities said the ~~max~~ limousine was here, facing the Book Depository Building, and that Oswald had fired from the sixth floor of the Book Depository Building. The known facts about where the assassin was located - the sixth floor of the Book Depository Building - and the wound, an entrance wound inflicted from the front and from above, was the basis for placing the limousine here. But the fact remains that the limousine was here on Elm Street, well past the Book Depository Building before the first shot was fired,

as every witness in Dealey Plaza has indicated, and as the films and photographs - motion picture films and photographs - show, without doubt.

(background conversation)

The limousine was approximately at this point when a bullet was fired which struck the President and threw his body directly to the left. A portion of the President's skull was, in fact, found slightly to the rear and to the left of the limousine, indicating that the shots came, not from the rear, but from the right, from behind the wooden fence.

(background conversation)

Most of the witnesses in Dealey Plaza believed that the shots were fired, not from the Book Depository Building but from that wooden fence, in front of and to the right of the limousine. We will be speaking with a number of those witnesses.

Oswald, of course, was not tried, merely convicted and executed. In a sense, then, this will be Lee Harvey Oswald's only trial, and you will be the jury. (Repeat) In a sense, then, this will be Lee Harvey Oswald's only trial, and you, then, will be the jury.

(cut)

Among the most curious events (~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~) authorities was the fact that within fifteen minutes after the shots were fired, the Dallas police were able to despatch Lee Harvey Oswald's description.

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They have never been able to come up with a satisfactory (clearing throat) The Commission has been unable to come up with a satisfactory explanation of how it was possible to know that Oswald was the assassin long before there was any evidence ^{which} ~~that~~ pointed toward him. The Commission finally hit upon the testimony of Howard Brennan. Mr. Brennan, a middle-aged steam-fitter with failing eye-sight, testified that he was seated here on this concrete decorative wall (noise) Mr. Brennan, a middle-aged (Take it again) Mr. Brennan, a middle-aged steam-fitter with failing eye-sight, testified that he was seated here on this concrete decorative wall as the limousine passed by. He said he was facing in this direction toward Houston Street, ^{that} ~~and~~ after a shot was fired, he glanced up quickly, he said, to the sixth floor of the Book Depository Building and there he saw a man fire ^a ~~the~~ shot. Brennan said, in his affidavit filed that day with the Dallas Sheriff's office, the man he saw fire a shot was standing at the window. The Warren Commission conceded that neither Oswald, nor anyone else, could have been standing at the window and firing, since the window was half-closed and the bullet did not go through the window. Therefore, said the Commission, Oswald was sitting on the floor or kneeling on the floor as he fired from the sixth floor

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window. And thus this puzzle confronts us:
 how could Brennan, with one glance to his left,
 up 120 feet, from his perch on this concrete wall...
 And so this question confronts us: was it really
 possible for Brennan to glance upward one hundred
 and twenty feet from where he was seated, think the
 man he saw was standing, when in fact the man was
 sitting on the floor, or kneeling on the floor, and
 nevertheless be absolutely accurate in assessing the
 height of the man he saw in the window. This is a
 puzzle which the Commission never confronted and nev-
 er solved.

If Brennan was not the source for the infor-
 mation dispatched by the Dallas police between 12:34⁴⁴
 and 12:45 pm, the question then remains: ^{do} how did they know...
 If Brennan was not the source for the Dallas Police information... (No)

If Brennan was not the source for the Dallas
 police broadcast which carried Oswald's description,
 the question remains: why did the Dallas police want
 Oswald at 12:45 before any evidence pointed toward
 him.

the question remains... Noise... The question then re-
 mains: if Brennan was not the source of the Dallas
 police information, why did the Dallas police want
 Oswald before they had anything on which to base...xx

(background conversation)

the window was open just a few inches from the bottom, if Oswald or anyone else was standing firing a rifle, the bullet would have penetrated the glass - the glass was not broken. And so the Commission was forced to conclude that Oswald was sitting on the floor..... And ~~that~~ so the Commission was ~~forced to conclude~~ - and so the Commission - and so - and so the Commission was forced to conclude that Oswald was seated on the floor or kneeling on the floor when he fired from the sixth floor. Brennan thought the man was standing. The Commission said no, he was kneeling or sitting. Nevertheless Brennan was able to estimate the height of the man with unerring accuracy, the man who he thought was standing while he was, in fact, sitting. This unlikely explanation was adopted by the Commission. But, if Brennan was not the source of the broadcast of Oswald's description, the question remains: why did the Dallas Police want Lee Harvey Oswald when there was no evidence at that time pointing (XXXXXXXXXX)

Cut

Why did the Dallas Police want Lee Harvey Oswald fifteen minutes after the assassination when there was no evidence at that time which pointed toward him?

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Howard Brennan, a middle-aged steam-fitter who testified that he has failing eye-sight, told the Warren Commission that he was seated here, on this concrete decorative wall as the motorcade passed through Dealey Plaza. After Mr. Brennan heard a fire-cracker - or a sound which he thought was a fire-cracker, he glanced up to the sixth floor of the Book Depository Building

(take that again)

Howard L. Brennan, a middle-aged steam-fitter who testified that he has failing eye-sight, told the Commission that he was seated here, on this decorative concrete wall, one hundred and seven feet away from the base of the Book Depository Building. Brennan said he heard the first shot; he thought it was a back fire. Naturally, therefore, he glanced upward to the sixth floor of the Book Depository Building. Brennan said that he saw a man at the window. Brennan also said that since he felt he was in the line of fire, he jumped back over the concrete wall seeking protection. There is a pool of water here, behind the concrete wall, and since Brennan remained dry through that experience, it ~~seems~~ ^{remains} unlikely that he actually did jump
(XXXXXXXXXX)

Brennan also signed an affidavit in which he said when he glanced up to the window, he saw a man standing there, standing at the window firing a rifle. But since