

3

ROLL "GB"

MAJOR WILLIS

Page 1 of 7

GB

Reel 5 Take 9

Q. Major Willis, upon November 22 you were in Dealey Plaza with your camera, weren't you?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you took a series of color slides as the Presidential limousine approached Dealey Plaza?

A. That's correct.

Q. Do you recall when you took that slide, sir?

A. This first slide was taken of the motorcycle escort - uh - preceding the Presidential car -uh - about a block down Main Street from the County Court House approaching Dealey Plaza.

Q. About a block before the car reached Dealey Plaza?

A. That's right.

Q. And when was this one taken?

A. This slide was taken in front of the County Court House approaching the intersection of Houston Street and Main just before the Presidential car was to make a right-hand turn onto Houston.

Q. And this one, Major?

A. This close-up - uh - is made in front of the County Records Building and - uh - Jail, across from the Court House just as they had made their right-hand turn onto Houston Street, and the arrow points to President - now President Lyndon Johnson -

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

uh - in the car, and the Secret Service car in
them
between/was left out in the turn.

Q. And this one Major Willis?

A. This one I ran about half a block - uh - up
Houston Street, and it is taken - uh - before they
were going to make their left turn onto Elm Street
in front of the - uh - Textbook Building. They're
now in front of the jail.

Q. And this one appears to be taken just before the
President was shot?

A. Yes, sir, this close-up was made directly in front
of the Textbook - Textbook Depository Building - uh -
as you can see, Mrs. Kennedy is smiling and the Presi-
dent had raised his hand and that was his last wave - uh -
just three seconds before the first shot.

Q. And this one appears to be taken just about the time
that the first bullet struck the President -

A. Yes, sir. As you can see, the - Mr. Zapruder, whose
pictures appeared in Life Magazine is standing on the
ledge in this picture, across the street, and the War-
ren Commission used this slide and his to determine that
the first bullet/ struck at that moment.

And
Q./This was taken not long after the shots were fired,
I take it.

A. Yes, sir. This was taken after the shots were all com-
pleted and you can see people still down on the ground

where they had falled for protection.

Q. And at this point they seem to be running forward

A. Everyone is running down to the Tripää Underpass - uh - and that bus - uh - has the Capital Press Corps in it, and - uh - everyone realizing that - what had happened: they're all running fast at this point.

Q. And when was this picture taken, this picture showing the front of the Book Depository Building?

A. Well, having realized where those shots came from, well I thought it might be important to take some pictures of people coming out of that building, and - uh - so I took it immediately afterwards.

Q. And the Commission published a number of these pictures just as you took them, of course -

A. Yes, sir.

Q. -but this picture, which you've ^{just} shown us here, seems to have a gentleman standing at the lower right-hand corner of the picture. As that picture was published by the Commission, however, more than half of the man's face was cropped off, as you know.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. But this is the way the picture was actually taken, ~~mm~~ isn't it?

A. The picture was actually taken - uh - with his head -

uh - you're speakin' of the gentleman with the receding hairline and the sun-glasses?

Q. That's the gentleman, yes.

A. His full head appears -uh - in full, as they were originally taken.

Q. But not, of course, in the Warren document.

And this last picture, sir, -

A. This last picture is taken of the building showing the temperature - 68⁰ - on the electric sign on top, and I wanted this one before they closed the window where the shots evidently came from and, as you can see, the arrow points to the textbook box that - uh - he was allegedly holding his rifle on, for steady. And - uh - that's why I took that one.

Q. Going back to this other picture, for just a moment, we have been informed that a number of agents of the FBI and the Secret Service have taken the position that that gentleman in the lower right-hand corner, whom you described a moment ago, bears a striking resemblance to Jack Ruby. You've heard that, I suppose?

A. Yes, I've heard it.

Q. Has any FBI or Secret Service agent ever told you that he thought the man looked like Ruby?

A. (interrupting) No, sir. No, sir. No one has.

Q. No.

Q. Do you think that man bears a resemblance to Jack Ruby?

A. Well he very definitely has a resemblance. I wouldn't - uh - make a statement because I have no but everyone who has seen the film says there is a resemblance. But there are a lot of people who resemble others.

Reel 5 Take 10

Q. Major Willis, on November 22 you were in Dealey Plaza with your camera, and you took some remarkable photographs. I understand that you have copyrighted those photographs and they have never been published in America.

A. That is correct.

Q. I wonder, Major Willis, if you would be good enough to describe to us and for us, the photographs which you took.

A. I'll be happy to: The first photograph shows the motorcycle escort preceding the Presidential car coming down Main Street, approaching the intersection of Houston and Main. uh - The next picture shows the Presidential car as it is about to make a right-hand turn onto Houston Street. It is across from the old County Courthouse on the one side and the Records Building on the other. The next slide shows the Pres-

idential car with Mrs. Kennedy smiling and the President waving to the people on the sidewalk as they had made the right-hand turn onto Houston Street in front of the County Records Building. The arrow on the rear fender of the Presidential car points to the face of President Johnson, smiling, and the escort car between those two was left out of this slide in the curve . In that way I was able to get now President Lyndon Johnson. The next slide shows - uh - the Presidential car followed by the Secret Service car - uh - in front of the County Jail Building as it approached Elm Street before they were to make a left-hand turn, and this next slide is a close-up of a radiant Mrs. Kennedy smiling, and the President showing his happiness at the reception, making his last wave before the first bullet struck him just three seconds later. And the building in the background here is the textbook Depository from which the alleged Oswald shots were fired. And this slide, perhaps the most important, was used by the Warren Report -uh- the Warren Commission to determine that that was the exact moment the first bullet struck. My pictures, along with those of Mr. Zapruder, who is seen standing in the background on the ledge over there, were used simultaneously to determine when that first bullet struck, and the arrow point to the President's head. The next slide shows the people realizing some tragedy

Has occurred - uh - you can see them fallen to the ground as if lookin' for protection in some manner. This slide shows the bus with the Capital Press Corps and, at this point, the people are all running down to the Triple Underpass well aware what has happened. And the next slide is of the police officers and the crowd - uh - in front of the Text-book Depository having been fully aware that the shots must have come from that building because I was right across the street when it happened-uh- I thought/^{that}if I photographed the crowd, it might be of some help. And the last slide shows the building with the temperature at 68 degrees on top of the building on the electric sign, and the arrow points to the still-open window that Oswald allegedly fired the shots from. And -uh-the box of text-books is clearly seen in the open window where the rifle was restin'. And - uh - at that point I took my film out to Kodak, near Love Field, and - uh - already had them out there at the time that the Presidential plane took off. And I turned them over to the Secret Service afterwards.