

0. THE MOTORCADE - Story Preface

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This image, by White-House photographer Cecil Stoughton, depicts the presidential motorcade as it passed through Dallas on November 23, 1963. The exact location of this scene is Main Street at Griffin Street. Public-domain image online via the JFK Presidential Library and Museum.

Leaving the crowds at Love Field, JFK got into his bubble-top Lincoln limousine. The weather was beautiful by this time, and Kennedy wanted to acknowledge the crowds that had gathered along the motorcade's route.

The top of the limo was off and its windows were down. The car, bearing license number "GG 300," was dubbed "X-100" by the Secret Service.

The President would travel to the Trade Mart where he was scheduled to give a speech. Everyone in and around Dallas knew the motorcade's route since it had been widely publicized. Crowds along the streets were estimated at eight to eleven people deep.

As the motorcade turned on to Elm Street, Abraham Zapruder, a local businessman, waited with his Bell and Howell 8mm camera. He had found a great place to stand (scroll down 60%) - on top of a concrete plinth. His secretary, standing behind him, would provide support since Zapruder sometimes suffered from vertigo. He waited for the President's car to reach his line of sight.

On the sixth floor of the School Book Depository building, the alleged assassin, Lee Oswald, also waited. A new employee of the depository warehouse, Oswald would soon have an excellent view of the President's car. (Follow this link to see a live webcam shot from "the sniper's perch.")

With him Oswald had a powerful Mannlicher-Carcano rifle (which he had purchased from a mail-order ad published in *American Rifleman*) plus several 6.5 mm cartridges. It is believed he carried the hidden rifle to work in a paper sack.

As soon as he could see the President's limo, which was traveling at about 11.2 miles per hour, Zapruder aimed his camera at the car and recorded the President's visit. Oswald, meanwhile, allegedly aimed his rifle at the same moving target.

At about 12:30 p.m. CST, according to the official account, Oswald took his first shot.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-MOTORCADE-Assassination-of-John-F.-Kennedy)

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-MOTORCADE-Assassination-of-John-F.-Kennedy>



Motorcade in Dallas - JFK Assassination

The President's motorcade, in Dallas, was a well-publicized event. People lined the route for miles as JFK and Mrs. Kennedy were driven through the city.

This image, by White-House photographer Cecil Stoughton, depicts the motorcade as it passed through Dallas on November 23, 1963. The exact location of this scene is Main Street at Griffin Street.

Click on the image for a better view.

Cecil Stoughton. White House Photographs. John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston. Public Domain

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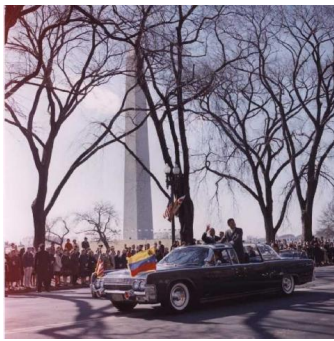
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Motorcade-in-Dallas-JFK-Assassination>



JFK - Two Minutes Before the Shooting

U.S. National Archives - unknown photographer.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/JFK-Two-Minutes-Before-the-Shooting>



X-100 - JFK's Limo

U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/X-100-JFK-s-Limo>



JFK En Route to Dealey Plaza

U.S. National Archives.

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Motorcade in Dallas

U.S. National Archives.

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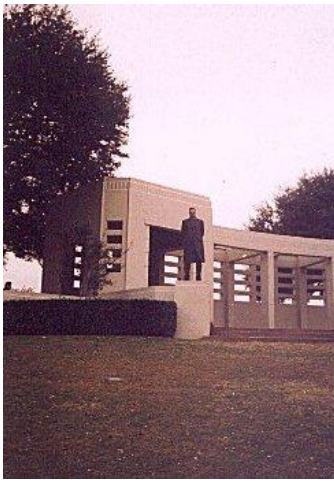


Abraham Zapruder's Camera - JFK Assassination

U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Abraham-Zapruder-s-Camera-JFK-Assassination>



Zapruder Plinth - JFK Assassination

Photo, courtesy The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza.

PD

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Zapruder's Line of Sight - Filming JFK Assassination

U.S. National Archives

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Zapruder-s-Line-of-Sight-Filming-JFK-Assassination>



Lee Harvey Oswald's Rifle

U.S. National Archives, image 33-3289a.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Lee-Harvey-Oswald-s-Rifle>



Rifle Ad - Oswald Used to Purchase Weapon

U.S. National Archives.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Rifle-Ad-Oswald-Used-to-Purchase-Weapon>



Oswald's Rifle Scope

U.S. National Archives.

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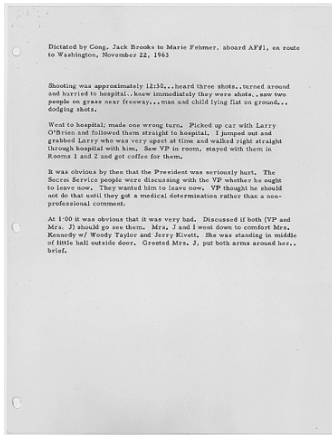


Paper Wrapping for Oswald's Rifle

U.S. National Archives

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View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Paper-Wrapping-for-Oswald-s-Rifle>



Time of Assassination - 12:30 P.M. Central Standard Time

Memo dictated by Congressman Jack Brooks aboard Air Force One, 22 November 1963. U.S.

National Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Time-of-Assassination-12-30-P.M.-Central-Standard-Time>



Zapruder Filming with His Camera

Dallas Police photo, U.S. National Archives

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View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Zapruder-Filming-with-His-Camera>



JFK - Minutes Before the Fatal Shot

Photo online, courtesy U.S. Library of Congress.

LOC image: LC-USZ62-134844.

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View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/JFK-Minutes-Before-the-Fatal-Shot>