

0. DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT - Story Preface
1. HAPPIER TIMES
2. TO DALLAS
3. LEE HARVEY OSWALD
4. THE MOTORCADE
5. THE ASSASSINATION
- 6. DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT**
7. QUESTIONS
8. BOOK DEPOSITORY EVIDENCE
9. FATAL BULLETS
10. MURDER OF OFFICER TIPPIT
11. OSWALD'S ARREST
12. RUBY KILLS OSWALD
13. THE PRESIDENT'S FUNERAL



Before his funeral, President Kennedy lies in repose in the East Room of the White House. Abbie Rowe took this public-domain photograph which is online via the JFK Presidential Library and Museum.

Lady Bird Johnson's diary [records](#) that Jackie Kennedy was shielding her husband's body when the stricken President's [blood-stained limo](#) arrived at Parkland Hospital. Rufus Youngblood, a Secret Service agent, heard her say:

They've murdered my husband! They've murdered my husband!

Doctors treating the President immediately knew that Kennedy would not survive. In Trauma Room One, Dr. Robert N. [McClelland](#) saw that the President's "head was almost destroyed." He [noted](#) that his "face was intact but not much else."

During the Warren Commission hearings, Dr. McClelland testified what he observed:

As I took the position at the head of the table that I have already described, to help out with the tracheotomy, I was in such a position that I could very closely examine the head wound, and I noted that the [right posterior portion of the skull](#) had been extremely blasted.

It had been shattered, apparently, by the force of the shot so that the parietal bone was protruded up through the scalp and seemed to be fractured almost along its lateral half, as well as some of the occipital bone being fractured in its lateral half, and this sprung open the bones that I mentioned in such a way that you could actually look down into the skull cavity itself and see that probably a third or so, at least, of the brain tissue, posterior cerebral tissue and some of the cerebellar tissue had been blasted out.

There was a large amount of bleeding which was occurring mainly from the large venous channels in the skull which had been blasted open. (Robert N. McClelland, Warren Commission Hearings, Volume VI, page 33.)

A distraught secret service agent was seen beating the back of the President's car. Not since McKinley's death, at the turn of the century, had the country lost its leader to an assassin's bullet.

Soon reporters outside Parkland were [broadcasting](#) that a priest had been sent into the hospital. The President, a Catholic, was read the Last Rites.

At 1:00 p.m. CST, he was pronounced dead. At 1:22 p.m. Kenney O'Donnell [told](#) Lyndon Johnson:

He's gone.

For those alive at the time, the horrific events of the day are burned into one's memory. Who could ever forget Walter Cronkite's emotional [announcement](#) that the President had died?

Reporters were initially [unsure](#) of Vice President Johnson's [whereabouts](#). A decision was made to have the Presidential party quickly leave Dallas for Washington.

Mrs. Kennedy [accompanied](#) her husband's body in the ambulance that brought him from Parkland [to Air Force](#)

One. She arrived at the plane, ascending the stairs alone, at 2:02 CST.

Following a conversation with Bobby Kennedy, LBJ agreed he should be sworn-in as the 36th President of the United States before leaving Dallas. Judge Sarah Hughes was summoned to Love Field to administer the oath.

At 2:40 p.m., Lyndon Baines Johnson, flanked by his wife and Mrs. Kennedy, took the oath aboard Air Force One. At the time, he was fifty-five years old.

When the plane bearing JFK's body arrived at Andrews Air Force Base, Mrs. Kennedy was still wearing her blood-stained suit. It is said she retorted, when urged to change her clothes, "I want them to see what they've done to Jack."

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/DEATH-OF-THE-PRESIDENT-Assassination-of-John-F.-Kennedy>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

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

Media Stream



President Kennedy Lies in Repose at the White House

After President Kennedy's death in Dallas, from an assassin's bullet, his body was flown back to Washington, D.C. aboard Air Force One.

This photograph, by Abbie Rowe, is maintained at the JFK Presidential Library and Museum where curators have provided this description:

View of President John F. Kennedy's flag-draped casket in the East Room of the White House, as the late president lies in repose.

Click on the image for a better view.

Abbie Rowe. White House Photographs. John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston. Public Domain

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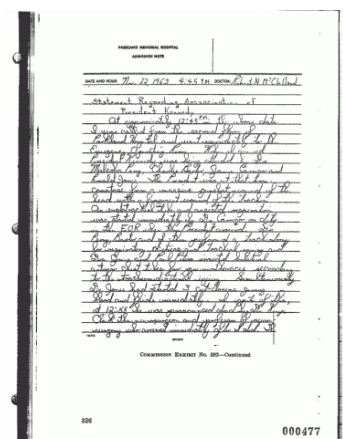
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/President-Kennedy-Lies-in-Repose-at-the-White-House>



The Blood-Stained Limo

Warren Commission Exhibit 353. U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Blood-Stained-Limo>



Hospital Admission Record of President Kennedy

Warren Commission Exhibit 392. U.S. National Archives.

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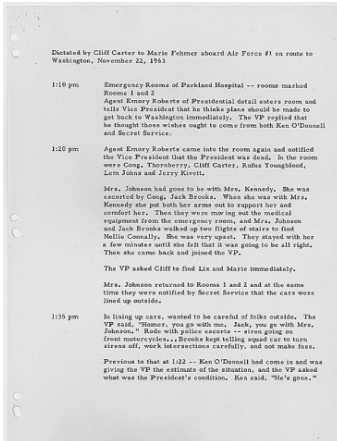
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Hospital-Admission-Record-of-President-Kennedy>



JFK - Entry Wound, Fatal Shot

Illustration online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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LBJ is Told of JFK's Death

Cliff Carter's notes, dictated aboard Air Force One during the return flight to Washington.

U.S. National Archives.

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JFK's Coffin is Loaded on Air Force One

U.S. National Archives. Photo by Cecil Stoughton.

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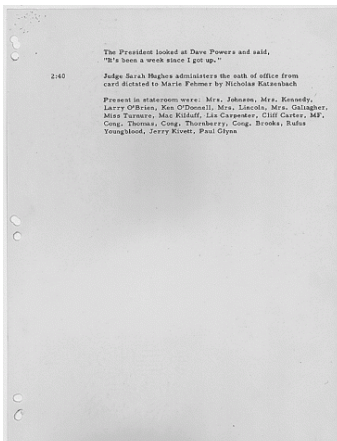


Mrs. Kennedy Boards Air Force One - Alone

Photo by Captain Cecil Stoughton. Courtesy, JFK Library and Museum.

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Time of LBJ's Oath of Office

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Lyndon Baines Johnson Takes the Oath of Office

Photo by Captain Cecil W. Stroughton, JFK's presidential photographer. The public-domain image is online via the U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Lyndon-Baines-Johnson-Takes-the-Oath-of-Office>



Mrs. Kennedy Arrives at Andrews on Air Force One

U.S. National Archives.

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Ambulance with JFK's Remains - Bethesda Autopsy

U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ambulance-with-JFK-s-Remains-Bethesda-Autopsy>



Air Force One Arrives at Andrews Air Force Base

Photo by Captain Cecil Stoughton, the Kennedys' White-House photographer. U.S. National Archives.

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