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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1963

Thirty-six Pages

KENNEDY SHOT DEAD

Gunned Down During Drive Through Dallas

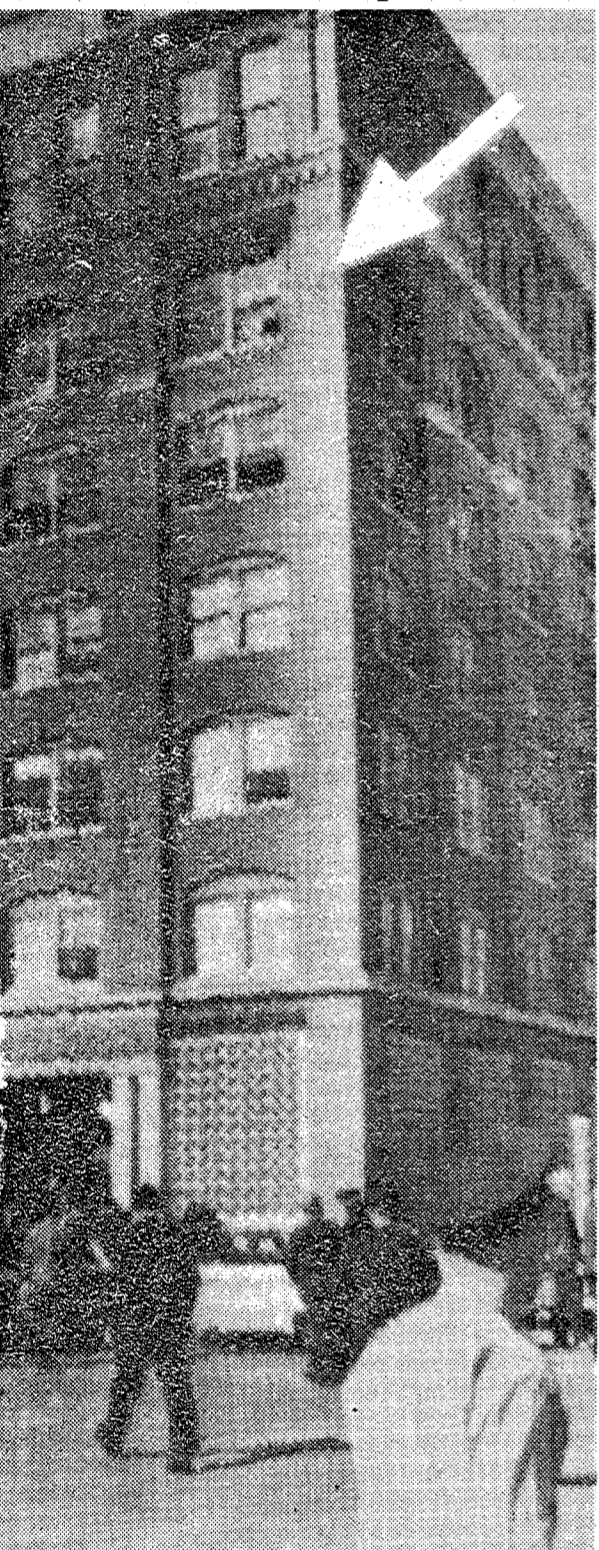
N.Z.P.A.-A.A.P.

DALLAS (Texas), November 22.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY was assassinated to-day. The President was shot as he drove through this Texas city in an open car. The Governor of Texas (Mr John Connally) was seriously wounded. The President died at 7 a.m. Saturday, New Zealand time. After the burst of gun-fire cut down the President, he was rushed to Parkland Hospital, where blood transfusions were given.

Priests were summoned to his bed-side for the last rites of the Roman Catholic Church. The President was cradled in his wife's arms immediately after the shooting. Mrs Kennedy, who was unhurt, sobbed, "Oh, no," as the President slumped back with a shot in his head.

The assassination took place near a three-highway intersection close to the business area of the city. Within seconds of the shooting, Mr Kennedy slumped over in the back seat of the car, face down. Mr Connally lay on the floor of the rear seat.



An arrow points to the window from which the assassin shot President Kennedy in Dallas to-day. —Radio Picture.

Three bursts of gun-fire, apparently from automatic weapons, were heard. Secret service men immediately unslung their automatic weapons and pistols.

Mrs Kennedy and the Governor's wife, who was also in the car, both crouched over the inert forms of their husbands as the car sped towards the hospital.

Vice-President Lyndon Johnson, who now becomes President of the United States, was in the car immediately behind the President.

A White House medical officer said President Kennedy was shot in the right temple.

"It was a simple matter of a bullet right through the head," he said.

The identity of the assassin or assassins was not immediately known but one young man near the scene of the shooting was taken into custody.

A television reporter on the scene said he saw a rifle being withdrawn from a window on the fifth or sixth floor of an office building shortly after the shooting.

The Associated Press of America said authorities believed the fatal shots were fired by a white man.

The murder weapon was reported to be a 30-30 calibre rifle.

Mr Kennedy was 46. He went to Texas yesterday at the start of an intensive political tour.

Senator Ralph Yarborough, who was riding in the third car behind the President, told reporters: "It seemed to me that at least two of the shots came from our right rear."

Senator Yarborough was crying as he gave his eyewitness account.

"You could tell something awful and tragic had happened."

"I could see a secret service man in the President's car wringing his hands in anger, anguish, and despair."

Dallas is considered to be a centre of conservative philosophy and finance.

Here, on October 24, the United States Ambassador to the United Nations (Mr Adlai Stevenson) was spat upon by one heckler and struck by another after making a United Nations Day address.

Badly Hurt

The second man wounded in the assassination, Governor Connally, was reported to be in a serious condition as surgeons operated.

But doctors said his "vital signs were good."

One eyewitness of the shooting said President and Mrs Kennedy were looking at a dog in the middle of the street when the gun-fire came.

"There were three shots. "The President grabbed his chest and fell over his seat and Jackie fell over him," the eyewitness, Mrs Jean Hill, said.

Another eyewitness said that immediately another shot rang out he saw a policeman fall to the ground, pull his pistol, and yell "Get down."

He went on: "A negro man across the street picked up his little girl and ran. A woman nearby fainted."

'Awful Look'

Another eyewitness, Charles Brehm, said he was 15ft away from the President when he was shot.

"He was waving, then the first shot hit him and that awful look crossed his face."

immediately swung out of the line of travel and raced behind screaming motorcycle police sirens to hospital.

The President's body was carried from the hospital, in a wooden coffin, U.P.I. reported.

Mrs Kennedy accompanied the body. About fifty uniformed policemen surrounded the area, driving back hundreds of spectators surrounding the hospital.

The coffin was placed in a white Cadillac hearse and the drapes were pulled.

Traffic Jam

A tremendous traffic jam developed around Parkland Hospital.

White House officials stood sorrowfully, looking stunned, in corridors and in a waiting room.

N.B.C. television said police had taken possession of

a British .303 inch rifle — a make sold in America as a hunting weapon, Reuter reported.

The rifle had a telescopic sight and was found near a corner window of the building from which the shots were fired.

Three empty cartridge cases were on the floor.

N.B.C. radio reported that a car believed to be the getaway car of the assassin had been seized in Fort Worth, Texas.

A suspect had been taken into custody.

Those who saw Mrs Kennedy enter the hospital said she had not been hysterical.

The White House staff said Mrs Kennedy would return to Washington late to-day to be with her children, Caroline, aged 6, and John jun., who will be 3 next week.

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ENLIGHTENED AND FIRM ACTION WAS HIS MARK

N.Z.P.A.-Reuter—Copyright

LONDON, November 22.

JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, son of a former United States Ambassador to Britain, was the first Roman Catholic to become President of the United States. Educated at Harvard University and the London School of Economics, he served with distinction as a naval lieutenant during World War II in the Pacific. He was discharged on medical grounds from the United States Navy in 1946 and worked as a newspaper reporter.

He covered the United Nations conference in San Francisco, the Potsdam Conference and the British elections.

He entered politics in 1946, at the age of 29 as Democratic Congressman from the Massachusetts eleventh Congressional District.

After three terms in the House of Representatives, he decided to run for the Senate in 1952.

The increasing painfulness of a spinal injury sustained when the patrol boat he was commanding was cut in two by a Japanese destroyer off the Solomon Islands in August, 1943, necessitated a serious operation in 1954.

After the operation he was so near death that the last rites of the Roman Catholic Church were administered.

But a few months later, a second operation was performed and he made a slow recovery.

His convalescence kept him away from the Senate most of 1954, but the time was not wasted.

To occupy his mind, during the long, painful months, he wrote "Profiles in Courage."

These were biographical studies of eight American Senators who defied public opinion to stand fast by principles in which they believed.

Best Seller

The book, praised by critics, was an immediate best-seller and won the Pulitzer Prize as the best biography of the year.

In 1956, he suffered his only political defeat when he narrowly missed the Democratic nomination for Vice-President.

But his surprising strength in the balloting, combined with his graceful acceptance of defeat, made a favourable impression on both Democratic leaders and the nation-wide television audience.

In 1960, he won the Democratic nomination for the Presidency and conducted a strenuous campaign, chiefly by stressing the

need for dynamic, forward-looking policies at home and abroad.

In his inaugural address in January, 1961, he appealed as President to his countrymen and to people everywhere to join in a "struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease, and war itself."

To this aim he pledged the energy of his Administration.

During the first one hundred days—a crucial period for any new Administration—he sent to Congress a programme for Federal aid for education and several proposals for stimulating the economy.

Main Aims

During his Presidency, he had pressed for such measures as a cut in taxes, aid to economically distressed areas, affected by industrial changes, an extensive housing programme, medical care for the aged, and stronger civil rights legislation.

He had given official recognition to cultural achievement by the appointment of scholars and other intellectuals to his Administration.

In international affairs, he had continued United States efforts to ease tension in Berlin, insisted on a neutral and independ-

ent Laos, and had repeatedly called for an effective nuclear test ban treaty.

He had striven for a general disarmament treaty, and had given support to the developing and newly independent nations of Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

He proposed an alliance for progress—a 10-year programme for the co-operative economic and social improvement of Latin America, adopted at Punta Del Este, Uruguay, in 1961—and created the peace corps of volunteers American technicians and teachers to serve in developing countries.

During his Presidency he sought to strengthen United States relations with the Western countries by meeting their leaders both in Washington and in their own capitals.

One of his first acts as President was to meet Mr Khrushchev in Vienna.

He paid State visits to Canada, Britain, France, Austria, Venezuela, Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico.

In October last year he took swift action to remove Soviet rockets from Cuba.

For a while, the world trembled on the brink of war, but President Kennedy's firmness prevailed and the Russians agreed to remove their rockets.

As President, Mr Kennedy took full responsibility for all the Administration's decisions.

"Each man must decide for himself the course he will follow," he wrote in his book.

He did not change that stand.

The past, he said, "cannot supply courage itself. For this each man must look into his own soul."

Stop Press

President Kennedy was married in 1953 to Jacqueline Bouvier.

They have two children—Caroline, born in 1957, and John, born in 1960.

A third child was born prematurely in August this year, but died shortly afterwards.

President Kennedy, a Bostonian by birth, was of Irish extraction.

He was the second of nine children born to Joseph P. Kennedy, who became wealthy through banking, investment and other business activities.

His father was Ambassador in London from 1936 to 1946.

Roses in the Blood

N.Z.P.A.-A.A.P. DALLAS, Nov. 22.

A yellow rose bouquet lay on the blood-spattered floor of President Kennedy's famous bubble-top car after he was shot to death to-day, United Press International reported.

The bouquet had been presented to Mrs Kennedy earlier in the day.

Arrested Man Lived in Russia

N.Z.P.A.-A.A.P.

DALLAS (Texas), November 22.

POLICE have arrested a man employed at the building where a rifle was found after President Kennedy's assassination, British United Press reported.

Had Pistol

The man, reported to be married to a Russian, shot dead a police officer as he was chased into a Dallas cinema.

The Associated Press of America named the man as Lee H. Oswald, aged 24.

Oswald was armed with a pistol when he was finally overpowered.

After he was subdued he said: "Well, it's all over now."

After being questioned for two hours, Oswald denied any connection with the murder of President Kennedy or the policeman.

in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas, A.P. said.

A large crowd had congregated around the theatre and saw the arrest.

Police had to hold the crowds back.

Police said Oswald was an employee in the building where the rifle was found following the President's assassination, British United Press reported.

Oswald had defected to the Soviet Union in 1959, it was later learned.

He returned to the United States last year. He has a Russian wife and a child.

him and his family exit permits to return to America.

Oswald was later identified as chairman of a "fair play for Cuba committee."

He became the prime suspect in the assassination of the President.

Shot Dead

Oswald had been chased into the cinema by two policemen.

The officers, J. Tippit and M. Macdonald, had received a tip that the President's assassin might have gone into the cinema.

Tippit was shot dead as he ran into the cinema, British United Press said.

Macdonald, grappled with the man and they sprawled over theatre seats.

He received a four-inch slash across the face before he overpowered the man.

While in Russia he apparently became disillusioned with life there.

Soviet authorities gave

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