

JFK Timeline

This timeline is based on 2 books: *Blood, Money, & Power*, Barr McClellan; and *Hit List*, Richard Belzer and David Wayne.

I don't necessarily agree with McClellan's conclusions about who the snipers were and where they were positioned.

[] November 22, 1963 (Friday)

In the pre-dawn hours, Mac Wallace left his father's home near downtown Dallas. He was wearing a dark business suit. Concealed under his jacket was a special rifle with scope, broken down. A pistol rested in its holster under his arm. Inside his jacket pocket were his fake Secret Service badge and ID. He drove his station wagon to meet one last time with Ed Clark, who had driven up from Austin for the meeting with Wallace and an earlier meeting with Murchison. After the brief meeting, Clark returned to his hotel to pick up Thomas for the return trip to Austin.

Thomas' only role on the trip was to keep Clark company and help with the driving. Thomas knew nothing about the details, but he knew something big was in the works. By the end of the day, he had a pretty good idea of what Clark's role in the assassination plot had been. He spent the next week in Washington to stay on top of the investigation, and by the end of that week he knew almost all the details.

Clark stayed in his office the rest of the morning, establishing his alibi.

10:00a Mac Wallace, the second sniper (unidentified; referred to as Junior), and Bill Yates pulled into the parking lot behind the depository, each in his own car. All three appeared to be Secret Service agents, so their presence at Dealey Plaza wouldn't raise suspicion. Junior, like Wallace, carried a disassembled rifle and scope under his business jacket. Yates' role was not as a sniper, but as a guard. It was his responsibility to stand by the rear exit of the depository and make sure no one entered the building. The stairwell there was the exit route for Wallace, so it had to be kept

clear during the operation. Yates looked intimidating enough to assure no one would challenge his authority, especially with his fake Secret Service credentials at the ready.

11:00a Wallace, Junior, and Yates took their respective positions. Wallace's post was the southeast corner window of the depository. Junior's position was in the treed area behind the wooden fence between the pergola (on his left) and the triple underpass (on his right) as he faced oncoming traffic on Elm Street. He may have been there strictly as a back-up sniper, in case Wallace's rear shot didn't get the job done. They understood that JFK was not to leave Dallas alive, no matter what.

11:37a John and Jackie Kennedy arrived at Dallas Love Field. They were greeted by LBJ and John Connally.

11:50a JFK's motorcade departed Love Field, proceeding through downtown Dallas on Main Street; they turned right onto Houston, then left onto Elm Street, passing in front of Dealy Plaza. The lead car included the Dallas police chief, and it traveled about one-quarter mile ahead of the second car in the motorcade, which was the president's limo, with JFK and Jackie in the back seat, and John and Nellie Connally in the front seat. The third car included eight Secret Service agents, followed by LBJ's car, with Lady Bird and Senator Ralph Yarborough. Other cars followed.

12:30p JFK's limo was directly in front of the building housing the Texas School Book Depository. Shots were fired just after the limo had passed the building. As soon as Wallace saw JFK's head explode from Junior's front shot, the sniper headed for the stairwell, leaving LHO behind to face the consequences. Ideally, Oswald would decide to stay and fight and get himself killed by law enforcement officers.

When LHO realized that JFK had indeed been fatally wounded, he walked across the sixth floor to find Wallace. When he saw that Wallace had already fled, LHO realized he was on his own. He took the stairs down to the second floor and managed to calm himself enough to appear casual as he went over to the vending machine and bought a Coke. It worked well enough to fool a police officer (Baker) and the building manager (Truly). By then LHO realized that his real role had been that of patsy, and he left the building.

Wallace took apart his rifle as he hurried down the stairs, and at the bottom he became another Secret Service agent along with Yates. They did encounter one Dallas police officer (Harkness), who readily accepted that they were Secret Service agents and moved on.

Meanwhile, Junior disassembled his rifle, tucked the pieces inside his jacket, put his jacket on (he had removed it so it wouldn't interfere with his shot), and, like Wallace, resumed his role as a Secret Service agent. He encountered a police officer (Smith), who accepted that Junior was Secret Service without even asking to see his credentials. The three men (Wallace, Yates, and Junior) saw each other briefly at the parking lot, then went their separate ways. Anyone who saw them at this point would likely not question them, because men well-dressed in business suits did not fit the perceived profile of a presidential assassin. Within ten minutes, they had all disappeared from the scene.

1:00p JFK was pronounced dead at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. LHO, who had left the Depository building, arrived at his boardinghouse.

. . . LHO entered a movie theater (without buying a ticket) several blocks from where Tippit had been shot. After a brief struggle with Dallas police officers, LHO was arrested.

2:00p LHO arrived at Dallas Police headquarters. A search of the depository was underway. Evidence found on the sixth floor included: three empty cartridge shells (in the southeast corner of the building by a window overlooking Elm Street); (in the same area) the *sniper's nest*, consisting of a carton of books with three other cartons stacked beside it, providing a place to aim a rifle; a rifle (found behind a stack of boxes near the stairwell on the northwest side of the floor).

2:38p LBJ was sworn in aboard Air Force One with Jackie standing by his side and the coffin holding JFK's body in the rear of the plane. Immediately after being sworn in, Air Force One Departed Love Field for Washington, DC.

[] November 24, 1963 (Sunday)

11:20a As LHO was being escorted to a police cruiser waiting to take him from Dallas' city jail to the county jail, Jack Ruby (on live television) fired one shot, hitting Oswald in the abdomen. Ruby was immediately arrested. LHO died a short time later at Parkland Hospital.

[] March 14, 1964

Jack Ruby was found guilty of killing LHO, and sentenced to death. (The conviction was later overturned.)

[] September 25, 1964

The Warren Commission completed its work and published its report, concluding that LHO had acted alone in the murder of JFK, and Jack Ruby had acted alone in the murder of LHO. They found no evidence of a conspiracy in either murder. They had rushed their work because they were being pressured to wrap it up well before the November election. The nation was eager to put it all behind them and move on. The lone nut theory allowed them to do that. For a while.

[] January 3, 1967

Jack Ruby died of cancer in jail while waiting for a new trial on the murder of LHO.

[] January 22, 1972

LBJ died at his home in Texas.

[] April 7, 1975

Nelson Rockefeller begins investigation of CIA participation in assassinations.

[] June 9, 1975

The Church Committee begins to hear testimony regarding CIA and mafia cooperation in assassinations.

[] June 19, 1975

CIA plot to assassinate Castro is revealed in New York Times and Chicago Tribune.

Members of Church Committee arrive in Chicago to escort mafia kingpin Sam Giancana to Washington, DC for his testimony before the committee.

9:00p Two men (described as law enforcement officers) are seen by neighbors outside Giancana's home (in Oak Park).

11:15p Three surveillance cars leave Giancana residence.

11:30p Giancana is murdered in the basement kitchen of his home while he is frying sausages.

[] June 20, 1975

Chicago Tribune reports allegations that Giancana hit was approved by CIA.

[] June 21, 1975

Chicago Tribune reports that Giancana's residence had been under surveillance the night he was assassinated.

[] June 24, 1975

Johnny Roselli appears before Church Committee.
(Giancana had also been scheduled to testify that day).

[] July 30, 1975

Jimmy Hoffa disappears. Reliable sources tie Hoffa to Carlos Marcello and Santo Trafficante. They also implicate Hoffa in JFK murder.

[] 1976

Church Committee findings lead to formation of House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) to investigate new leads.

[] July 28, 1976

Johnny Roselli is murdered (the day after he is warned to leave Miami).

[] Winter 1976-Spring 1977

House Select Committee on Assassinations continues its work, deciding to call Chuck Nicolletti (Giancana associate), and George de Mohrenschildt as witnesses.

[] March 29, 1977

Both Chuck Nicoletti and George de Mohrenschildt die. Both are probably murdered, although de Mohrenschildt is reported as a suicide on the same day he was scheduled to testify before HSCA.