

The Warren Report, 1964

The Warren Commission was a team of judges and politicians who spent nearly a year studying all the evidence and then presented their findings to the new President, Lyndon B Johnson. They produced an 889-page report. Here are some of the things it said:

1. Kennedy was shot by Lee Harvey Oswald, who had acted alone
2. Oswald fired three shots, in six seconds, using a Mannlicher-Carcano rifle
3. He fired from the 6th floor of the nearby School Book depository
4. The first shot went through Kennedy's neck, then through the chest of Governor Connally (seated in front of Kennedy), and then hit Connally's right wrist, before burying itself in Connally's left leg.
5. The third bullet hit Kennedy in the back of the head, and came out of the right side of the head, blowing his brains out. A "muscle spasm" caused the president's head to jerk back.

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The Assassination Story

On Friday 22nd November, 1963, President John F Kennedy went on a tour of Dallas. He was travelling in an open-top car with his wife, Jackie, and the Governor of Texas, John Connally, and his wife Nellie.

At 12.30pm his car turned onto Elm Street, a wide road that crossed Dealey Plaza. The car slowed to around 15 mph so that the President could wave to all the people who were lining the streets, hoping to catch a glimpse of him. A few people were trying out their new video cameras and recording the exciting event.

As they turned into the Plaza, Nellie turned around and said, "Mr President, You can't say Dallas doesn't love you." The President replied, "No, I certainly can't." These were the last words he ever spoke.

Suddenly shots rang out, echoing around the Plaza. The President first leaned forward, his hands towards his throat, and then slumped backwards. His wife turned to him to try and help, as the car began to speed up. Secret servicemen who had been travelling behind the car ran to help and Jackie Kennedy dragged one of them onto the back of the car before it sped away to the nearest hospital.

The President was pronounced dead at Parkland Hospital, at 1pm. The official cause of death was noted as a gunshot wound to the skull.



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Lee Harvey Oswald

Oswald had been a US Marine but he moved to the Soviet Union (Russia) in 1959. At the time the Soviet Union was America's enemy.

He returned from the Soviet Union in 1962, with a Russian wife. He got a job at the Texas School Book Depository. The day before the shooting he was seen carrying a long package wrapped in brown paper into the building, which he claimed was curtain rods.

After the shooting he ran home and picked up a jacket. He then shot a policeman, Officer Tippett, in the street. Tippett had approached Oswald because he looked like the suspect being reported on the police radio.

After shooting Tippett, Oswald went to a cinema, where he was arrested. Two days later he was being transferred to the county jail when he was shot and killed by Jack Ruby, a local nightclub owner. Ruby was convicted of his murder but later died in prison of lung cancer.



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President John F Kennedy

John F Kennedy had been a naval commander in WW2 before becoming a politician. He was elected President in 1960 at the age of 43, making him the youngest man ever to become president. He is the only Roman Catholic ever elected to this post.

JFK's dad, Joe Kennedy, was a successful businessman who had held a number of political roles. In the 1920s, Joe had worked with Sam Giancana, a famous Mafia boss, and some people think he asked Sam to help JFK get elected.

JFK's younger brother, Robert Kennedy, was JFK's Attorney General and later ran for President, although he too was shot and killed.

JFK was married to Jackie Kennedy. However, he was quite famous for having lots of affairs, most notably with Marilyn Monroe and Judith Campbell Exner, who was also going out with Sam Giancana.



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