

HSCA Report, Volume XII

Current Section: VI. Accounts of Smoke in Dealey Plaza at the Time of the Shots

[Document View](#) [Table of Contents](#) [PDF Version](#)

Page Size: 100% Page Rotation: Default

[My Last Search](#) [Search](#)

◀PREV NEXT▶ printable page Page 23 (800 pages) Pagelink: 40227

NEARBY PAGES

- <<
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28
- 29
- 30
- 31
- 32
- 33
- >>

street.(348) The policeman then had to leave the area quickly as the motorcade was speeding from the plaza.(349)

(122) Rodgers said the next day Mike Nally came to him and said Nally's uncle had instructed him not to report the story and Nally passed that instruction on to Rodgers.(350)

(123) Based on the data provided by Rodgers, the committee was unable to locate Nally or to identify Nally's uncle.

(124) On August 5, 1978, the committee received information from former Dallas policeman Starvis Ellis that Ellis had also seen a missile hit the ground in the area of the motorcade at the time of the assassination. Ellis said he rode on a motorcycle alongside the first car in the motorcade, approximately 100 to 125 feet in front of the car carrying President Kennedy.(351) Ellis said that just as he started down the hill of Elm Street, he looked back toward President Kennedy's car and saw debris come up from the ground at a nearby curb.(352) Ellis thought it was a fragment grenade.(353)

(125) Ellis said also that President Kennedy turned around and looked over his shoulder.(354) The second shot then hit him, and the third shot "blew his head up."(355)

bullet hit ground

VI. ACCOUNTS OF SMOKE IN DEALEY PLAZA AT THE TIME OF THE SHOTS

(126) Several witnesses have given statements that they saw "smoke" in the plaza that coincided with the gunfire. The committee considered these statements relevant to the question of whether a gunman or gunmen were located somewhere other than the depository.

(127) In a Dallas County Sheriff's Department notarized statement dated November 22, 1963, Austin Lawrence Miller stated that at the time he heard three shots and saw people in the Presidential limousine react, he saw "something which I thought was smoke or steam coming from a group of trees north of Elm off the railroad tracks."(356) At that time, Miller was standing on the bridge of the triple underpass.(357) Miller said he did not see anyone in the area of the railroad tracks.(358)

(128) Miller testified before the Warren Commission on April 8, 1964.(359) At that time, Miller was not asked about his prior statement to the sheriff's department and did not give information about the smoke he had earlier reported.

(129) The committee was unable to locate Austin Miller.

(130) In an FBI interview on March 17, 1964, Clemon Earl Johnson, of Dallas, stated that he saw smoke near the pavilion at the time of the shots.(360) According to the FBI interview report, Johnson told the FBI that he believed the smoke came from a motorcycle, which was abandoned near the spot by a Dallas policeman.(361) At the time of the shots, Johnson was located on the Elm Street viaduct overlooking the Presidential motorcade.(362)

(131) Johnson was not called to testify before the Warren Commission, and he was not located by the committee.

◀PREV NEXT▶ printable page Page 23 (800 pages) Pagelink: 40227

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