Photographs
President John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Kennedy arrive at Dallas’ Love Field, Friday morning, November 22, 1963. AP Photo.
The President’s motorcade travels down Main Street in downtown Dallas. AP Photo from an original negative.
The motorcade makes its way slowly through the thronged streets of Dallas, preceded by the lead car and immediately followed by the presidential limousine. AP Photo.
President John F. Kennedy waves to the crowds approximately one minute before he is shot, just before 12:30 p.m. This is one of the last professional pictures made of the President while he was still alive. AP Photo by James W. “Ike” Altgens.
The presidential limousine, followed closely by the follow-up car, before it turns left onto Elm Street. Special Agent Clinton J. Hill rides the left front running board; Agent Bill McIntyre rides the left rear running board. AP Photo.

New York General Desk Messages and Stories:
- Urgent to managing editors: obit sketch moving
- Wirephoto caption addition
- Updated Kennedy reaction, first page
- Tom Drygard on Lee Harvey Oswald (New Orleans)
- Soviet news agency Tass reaction (New York)
- Stock market prices story (New York)
- Police Commissioner recalls JFK visit (New York)
- Night Lead, JFK Family (Hyannis Port)
- The Rev. Martin Luther King’s reaction (Atlanta)
- Former presidents mourn
- Berlin grieves (Berlin)

Cover Images:
President John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Kennedy in their motorcade approximately one minute before the President is shot. AP Photo by James W. “Ike” Altgens.

Exhibit Checklist
Photos of “A” Wire Copy Edited for the Teletypesetter Circuit (titles are first words of text):
1. PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS SHOT
2. TODAY, JUST AS HIS MOTORCADE
3. OH, NO! THE MOTORCADE SPEED ON
4. PHOTOGRAPHER JAMES W. ALTGENS SAID
5. DALLAS—SECOND ADD PRESIDENT SHOT
6. BELL SAID KENNEDY WAS TRANSFERRED TO
7. OF THE CAR
8. BLOOD STAINED BUT BREATHING
9. BELL REPORTED THREE SHOTS WERE FIRED
10. PANDEMONIUM BROKE LOOSE
11. THE MOTORCADE ON AT TOP SPEED
12. LAWRENCE O’BRIEN, PRESIDENTIAL AID
13. THOMAS, STANDING OUTSIDE

AP Broadcast Wire
One sheet (5 3/4 in. x 8 1/2 in.) from a complete roll, November 22, 1963. AP Corporate Archives.
I grabbed that phone when it rang and Ike said, “Bob, the president has been shot!”
I said, “Ike, how do you know?”
He said, “I was shooting pictures then and I saw it.”
I said, “Ike, you saw that?”
He said, “Yes, there was blood on his face. Mrs. Kennedy jumped up and grabbed him. She cried, ‘Oh, no!’ And the motorcade raced on.”
And I said, “Ike, what else did you see?”
And then he said, “I heard shots,” and went on with more detail. So I wrote the bulletin and it was not—it was just reciting what Ike had told me.

—Bob Johnson, Dallas Chief of Bureau, 1963-69
from an oral history interview,
March 28, 2005

Just before 12:30 p.m. in Dallas, on November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was fatally wounded by Lee Harvey Oswald as the president’s motorcade moved slowly down Elm Street.

In the front seat of the presidential limousine, a 1961 Lincoln Continental convertible, Assistant Special Agent Roy H. Kellerman grabbed the phone and radioed to the lead car, “We are hit. Get us to the hospital immediately.” The limousine sped to Parkland Hospital, arriving at 12:34 p.m. AP’s first bulletin moved six minutes later. It was phoned into Dallas Chief of Bureau Bob Johnson by Wirephoto operator “Ike” Altgens at the scene, who had just made the three photographs that, for 24 hours, were the only images of the horrific events available.

The AP Corporate Archives holds a voluminous set of print and broadcast wire copy documenting the assassination. The stunning historical value of the copy was recognized by editors on that day; many covering sheets bear the typewritten command, “Preserve.” It was, all over the country and throughout the AP.

The copy is notable for its remarkable range of content: political analysis (by Frank Cormier and Jack Bell); reaction from living former presidents and statesmen; man-on-the-street interviews; the Wall Street response; Oswald’s capture and sudden murder; and the President’s majestic funeral, recounted by Doug Cornell.

Perhaps just as affecting, 45 years later, are the crisp and now largely anonymous messages from the New York General Desk, the nerve center of the news operation manned by Sam Blackman and Herb Barker. The nation could come to a grief-stricken standstill, but AP, as on any other day, could not.

— AP Corporate Archives
May 2, 2008