

GES SPECIAL REPORTS

LINEUP #K  
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TAPE ROLLS #204 & #205

LINEUP #44-A

ED BARKER INTERVIEWS DETECTIVE HILL

VOICE: "Roll 204, Take 1. Eddie Barker's interview with Mr. Hill in Dallas, Texas."

(CLAPPER)

VOICE: "JS Speed."

BARKER: "Officer Hill, you have sort of an ~~unusual~~ unusual distinction, I guess, in that you were at all of the places of interest pertaining to the assassination, and you/also the police officer who took Lee Harvey Oswald to the Dallas police station. Is this correct?"

HILL: "That's right, Eddie. I at first had the -- was at the city hall when the call from Inspector Sawyer first came out that they thought they had the spot located at Elm and Houston where the shots were fired from.

"He asked for some help at that location, and I was on assignment

at that time in personnel. And every available officer went down to that location. I got a uniform officer that was in the basement to take me down so I wouldn't lose any time getting over to the garage to get a car. And when I arrived at the location, they were just beginning to search the building.

"We set up two teams: two deputy ~~sheriffs~~ sheriffs, Kerney (?) and another deputy sheriff and I, and Raleigh Westfall, and a uniform officer went to the top floor of the <sup>Book Depository</sup> ~~the~~ and started working down, and then another crew, under Captain Critt (?) started at the bottom and began to work up.

"On the second floor that we searched -- while we were searching that floor, the two deputies found the exact spot where the shots were fired from and we went to this spot and found the three hulls from the rifle against the facing on the floor..."

BARKER: "Officer Hill... (VOICES OVERLAPPING) Officer Hill, you say the second floor that you searched, now you mean..."

HILL: "We were coming from the top down, and we found the three hulls, and we found the stacked boxes that would have shielded anyone between the boxes and the window from general view from anybody or any angle on this floor.

"The deputy stayed there. And I, to protect the scene [ I went down to the ground outside the building to talk to Inspector Sawyer

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and ~~also make sure that the technical people, the car driver, etc., as I call them, we on the way. And while we were at this location,~~  
the citizen got on the radio, announcing that the officer had been ~~xxxxxxx~~ shot at in Oak Cliff.

"We already had a meager description that had been broadcast over the ~~pk~~ police radio, of the supposed assassin, or the suspected assassin.

"We commented on the fact that these things happened awfully close together, in a time sequence. And the Inspector, said, well, you know what our suspect looks. He said, you go to Oak Cliff.

"So Sergeant Owens and Assistant District Attorney Bill Alexander and I get in Sergeant Owens' car, and we went to the location of the Tenth Tippitt shooting on ~~Kank~~ Street."

"And when we arrived at that location, some of the witnesses gave us the description of the person that shot Tippitt. And the only general difference in the description of the assassin at the Book Depository and the person that shot Tippitt was about 2 1/2 inches in height, or 2 inches in height."

BARKER: "Where did you get the description of the Depository (UNINTELLIGIBLE.)"

HILL: "It came over the police radio, now, while I was enroute to the location. Now, where the original information as to the descriptions

came from, I don't know. I heard it over the police radio, when Sergeant Hinsley, I believe, was dispatching an answer ~~to~~ obtained

"At the Tippitt site --- as I say, we ~~was~~ this description, and as more units -- a we were able to get more units to the location, we began to follow the information of ~~some~~ some of the information as to which way the person went from the site of the Tippitt shooting. And the first spot we went to were two vacant houses that were used as storage places for second-hand furniture stores.

"We shook those out, and determined that there wasn't anyone there, and then about this time the call came out at the public library that someone was in -- that our suspect was in the Oak Cliff Library ~~in~~ there at Jefferson and Marsailles.

"And then, after that turned out to be a bogus call, also, then we ~~got~~ the call on the Texas Theatre.

[ ~~There~~ there we several police units that arrived almost ~~it~~ at the same time at the theatre, and I went in the street door on the Jefferson side, the front of the ~~the~~ theatre, and the broadcast said that the suspect was in the ~~the~~ balcony.

"I ran up the stairs into the balcony, and we had determined ahead of time that the building was covered off so nobody could get out. And made a fast search of the balcony, and there wasn't anybody up there that fit the description, so I came back to the lower floor.

And at about this time, Hank McDonald and some of the other officers who had entered from behind the stage, and came into the audience from the stage -- about this time McDonald got to a man who, as he got to him, lashed out at him. And McDonald yelled, 'I've got him', and began a struggle.

"Well, all of us immediately rushed into the struggle, into -- trying to take possession of the gun that was in the struggle, and to apprehend our prisoner.

"And a motorcycle officer named Tommy Hudson managed to reach him from the back, and I came in from his left, and McDonald and Carroll came in from the right on this aisle. A boy named Walker and a boy named Ray Hawkins came in from the -- from, it would be our left, but they got in on the way ahead of him, and finally just got by sheer strength and force, we managed to get him on the floor between the seats. And then we used Hawkins' handcuffs and handcuffed him, and immediately got him on his feet and started out of the theatre with him.

"And as we came out of the theatre, the -- into the lobby area. And during the time we were -- actually in the struggle with him, Oswald screamed out several times that this was police brutality, 'I haven't done anything', 'I want a lawyer', this type answer and statement. And then when we got him into the lobby area, we formed us

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a wedge to get him out, because the arrival of all the squad cars and all the excitement had several people out front."

BARKER: "Who actually had their hands on Oswald at this point...(UNINTELLIGIBLE)?"

HILL: "At this point, Walker was leading the point, and then Carroll and an officer named Frank Lyons, who -- uniform -- a plain-clothes officer out of special service, and Paul/Bentley and I actually -- Paul/Bentley and I -- I had him on Oswald's left, and Bentley had him on the right side. And we were the back of the wedge, and we were the ones actually holding on to his arms to see that he couldn't break and run.

"When we got outside to the lobby area, he again began to scream 'police brutality', and 'this is -- I want a lawyer', and 'this is the way people are treated in this country.'

"And as we started out of the lobby, we tensed up pretty much, because we actually heard some of the crowd there hollering 'lynch him', and 'kill him', and we were beginning to wonder if we were going to actually have to fight the crowd there to get out with him."

BARKER: "Why do you think they were yelling this, Officer Hill?"

HILL: "I think the excitement and tension and, by then, there has been just -- every station had suspended normal operations for broadcasting and were putting out bulletins and flashes and we had

heard while we were still in the Oak Cliff area, there were some newsmen approached us out there, and some mobile news units that -- they were pretty well tracing our path -- from the buildings, Tippitt's scene, the library and the theatre. And people didn't know what we had, but the excitement and their feelings were so great that -- that they just got carried away in the excitement of the scene."

BARKER: "Do you feel that -- then, that the thinking of the people in the crowd was -- that this was the President's assassin?"

HILL: "Well, I don't know whether they thought it was the President's assassin, or whether they thought it was the Tippitt killer being that it was all -- the Tippitt killing happened so much closer to the theatre than the assassination, but excitement was just running high, and we actually began to wonder if we were going to have -- as I say, I began to wonder if maybe we were going to have to fight to keep our prisoner.

"But, there were two uniform officers out front there, in front of the theatre, and as they moved to the crowd to clear them for us, they fell back without any trouble at all. We had a car directly in front of the theatre, and so we put Oswald in, and on the ride downtown, Lyons was in the front right; Carroll drove; I was in the center front; and Gracker was on the right rear; Oswald

in the center; and Bentley on his the left rear."

BARKER: "So there were actually five officers..."

HILL: "Five officers in the car with him on the way in."

BARKER: "Well, tell us about the trip downtown."

HILL: "As we got in the car and drove off -- until this time, <sup>the</sup> we had no idea who our prisoner was. We knew we had a prisoner, and we had a gun which, during the struggle, or immediately after the struggle, as soon as we got the handcuffs on him and got him up, Carroll was going to be the first man that maneuvered with him, and -- and had both hands on Oswald inside the theatre -- and was gonna have to have both hands on him, so he handed me the revolver, which I stuck in my belt, under my coat, and it made the trip in that position.

"And on the way downtown, as soon as we left the theatre, we notified them that we had our weapon and our prisoner on the police radio, and told them that we were enroute to the central station with him. And we asked Oswald what his name was, and he didn't tell us. And asked him where he lived, and he didn't tell us this, and finally he made a statement, 'I'm not going to say anything until I see a lawyer', and 'I haven't done anything', and 'I don't know why I'm being treated like this.' He had a (UNINTELLIGIBLE)..."

BARKER: "When he said this, was he calm, or was he excited, or



what..."

HILL: "You've seen people who are tensed up and keyed up and excited, and yet fighting real hard to control themselves. Fighting real hard to think of what they're going to say before they say it. Or trying to stick to a script, and yet are still excited and afraid they'll miss cues.

"This is the impression that I got of him. He was pale; he was ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ somewhat wild looking; and yet he had complete control of himself, although he was having to strain to keep this control. He gave me the appearance of wanting to still lash out and fight and kick, but yet he was keeping his composure and trying to make real sure that he said exactly what he wanted to say."

BARKER: "Was he cuffed in the front or behind?"

HILL: " Behind."

BARKER: "Did he smoke?"

HILL: "No, he didn't ask for a smoke, he -- I don't recall him even carrying any cigarets. I don't think he had any. He did have a billfold, which, when we couldn't find -- he wouldn't tell us what his name was. Bentley reached in his left hip pocket, being he was on that side, and took it out. And <sup>it</sup> had the identification in it that identified him to us.

"And on the way to the city hall, we asked him several questions

about who he was, where he was from, where he lived, and all of this. We never did get an answer. He finally just sealed up to the point where he wouldn't say anything.

X  
"As we started to go into the basement, I told him that there could probably be quite a few photographers and newsreel people and everything there, and while we were gonna keep our hands on him in such a way that we could control him, and to prevent an escape, we would hold him in a position where, if he wanted to, he could shield his head, or bend over, or what-have-you, so he didn't have to just walk in. We weren't gonna make him pose for pictures or anything of this type.

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"And he said, 'I haven't anything to hide. I haven't done anything.' And so we got at the far-back side of the basement, away from everybody, and formed up our wedge again. Walked him through the door from the basement into the basement of the parking area into the basement of the city hall, carried him to the elevator, and up into the homicide and robbery office, which is on the third floor. Put him into an interrogation room, left the door open, and left Officer Walker in there with him, who was a uniformed officer. And went over to tell the lieutenant that was on duty at that time what we had, and asked him what kind of reports he wanted us to make. Did he want us to just make a the arrest sheets, or were we gonna make the offences, or

what-have-you. And he said, well, it's -- first off -- I said, we're going to have to write a letter, because sometimes during the incident in the theatre he got this sort of black eye, with the bandage just above the eyebrow here, and I said we're going to have to write a report on this, I know, so I think I'll just start at that point.

"And while I was still talking to the lieutenant, or to two of the officers that are assigned to homicide and robbery, Captain Frits, who is the captain of that bureau, came in and told these two officers that he wanted them to go get a search warrant and a warrant of arrest, and go to an address in Irving. And arrest a man named Lee Oswald.

"And I asked him, you know, what -- what he needed him for, or what was the reason, and he said that, well, he was an employee ~~was~~ at the Depository that was there before and immediately after the shooting, but wasn't there for a head-count of employees a few minutes later.

"And I said, well, you don't have to go to Irving to get him, because there he sits. And with that, Frits took the prisoner. Took him into his office. I went out to write my reports on the arrest of Oswald, and the injury ~~that~~ that he received."

BARKER: "Describe that injury, if you will, Officer Hill."

HILL: "This ~~is~~ was a bruise and an abrasion which extended up into

the left eyebrow. Actually what caused it, it looked more like a bump, where, maybe while we were in the struggle, and had him down between the seats, that, as -- as he was lashing around, and as we were attempting to hold him, he hit his head on, maybe, the arm of the seat, or the seat in front of him. But as far as an actual blow causing the injury, I never did -- we never did swing. We were just trying to hold on, rather than beat somebody down."

BARKER: "Did you see Oswald after this?"

HILL: "No, I did not. As I was -- I went back to the personnel office and started to write my report, and I had put the heading on it, 'injury to the suspect in the murder of Officer Tippitt'. And people came back in, saying he's an ex-Marine, he's a Communist. These little pieces of information filtered back, and it was all hearsay and third hand, and I didn't incorporate any of this into my report, but just as it was time to start typing the report, and by then it was probably five in the afternoon, the Captain came in and said, 'Change the heading on your report to "The arrest of the suspect in the assassination of the President, and the murder of Officer Tippitt."' And that was the original form of the report as it went in. And this report was signed by Detective Carroll and myself and Captain Westbrook."

BARKER: "If you will, Officer Hill, tell us -- at the scene of the Tippitt shooting -- cut just a minute. I want to get that fly out

of here."

VOICE: "Cut."

VOICE: "Roll 204, Take 2. Mr. Barker and Mr. Hill."

(CLAPPER)

VOICE: "Stand by. Action."

BARKER: "Officer Hill, if you would, tell us about what happened when you arrived at the scene of the Tippitt shooting/"

HILL: ["On our way to the shooting, we had passed the ambulance that we were pretty sure was carrying the officer. At this time we did not know who the officer was. We just knew that an officer had been ~~xxxx~~ shot.

"As we -- as I say, the ambulance passed us, being that we were having to travel close by Methodist Hospital to get to the shooting. And the ambulance from the funeral home that was only two or three blocks from the location ~~xx~~ were the ones that actually made the pick-up. So, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ therefore, they were there and gone on our arrival.

"When we arrived, we were able to establish from the squad car number, and Sergeant ~~xx~~ Owens was an Oak Cliff sergeant, we were able to establish from his memory who was assigned to that car. And therefore, we knew it was Officer Tippitt.

"At this time we had not been advised that he was DOA, dead on arrival.

"There was a small spot on the ground, on the street side of the

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car, near the front door. And there was a lady at the location who said that he got shot just after getting out of the car, and that after the shooting, the man that did the shooting walked down near toward the corner, rapidly, stopped, and reloaded his gun. And he then walked over -- or in a fast way, toward Jefferson.

"We went down to the location. By then, an officer named Poe was there, and we went down to the location where she said that he had stopped, and there were some shells in the grass at that location. There were three empty hulls there. These were picked up by Poe, and the only thing we had that could preserve them and keep them from getting scratched up or anything was a cigaret ~~wraper~~ wrapper. And they were deposited in the cigaret ~~wraper~~ wrapper and later turned over to the crime-scene search section."

BARKER: "Who actually picked up these shells?"

HILL: "Poe actually picked them up. He had them in his possession when I saw them the first time. Now, whether somebody handed them to him prior to this, I don't know. But there were some -- the shells were at the location, and..."

BARKER: "Were they in the cigaret package when ~~you~~ you first saw them?"

HILL: "They were in Poe's hand when I first saw them. But he got to the spot just ahead of me. And I don't recall whether I had -- somebody had yelled at me, and I'd stopped for a minute to say

X something to him on the way down there, and momentarily lost track of him to the point where somebody could have handed them to him, or ~~what~~ what the situation was. But when I first saw them in the cigaret pack, they were in Poe's hand."

BARKER: "They were in -- in his hand, in the package."

HILL: "Right. Um-hmm."

BARKER: "Who's package was it?"

HILL: "I have no idea. I couldn't even tell you what brand it was, but..."

BARKER: "Did you mark the..."

HILL: "Those shells -- those, I did not mark."

BARKER: "Who did mark them?"

X HILL: "I would presume Poe did, because he was the first officer to -- to have them in his possession. Now, the ones that were in the gun that we later got from Oswald, I marked that gun and those shells, because I was in the chain of ~~evidence~~ evidence on those. But as I had not handled the original shells found at the Tippitt site, I ~~am~~ wouldn't have to be involved in the chain of evidence to have it admissible in court."

BARKER: "Well, now, the shells that were found, that Officer Poe had, what caliber were they?"

HILL: "They were 38s. And the gun that -- that Lee Harvey Oswald had was a 38. And the ones we took out of it, quite naturally,

were 38s."

BARKER: "How many shells were in the gun when you took it -- or when it was in -- how many shells were in Oswald's gun when it was taken from him?"

HILL: "Six. There were six. All 38s. Oswald -- the gun that we took from him was a snub-nose, what we call a 2-inch barrel. It wasn't a light-weight gun. It was a standard 38 with a 2-inch barrel rather than a 4-inch barrel.

"And the shells that we took out of it apparently, at one time or another, had had a piece of adhesive tape, or a piece of Scotch tape, or some sticky substance on them, because they were sticky to the touch, and they also had lint and little minute particles adhering to them, that gave us the impression that, while this was never proved, to my knowledge, that, perhaps, he had them taped inside a coat, or in his pocket, or someplace that would cause his lint to adhere to them."

BARKER: "What about those shells that Officer Poe had in the cigaret package? Was there anything unusual about them?"

HILL: "I don't recall anything unusual about them, Eddie. I just saw them for a split second, or a fraction of a minute, and he said, 'What do you want me to do with these,' and I said, 'You hang on to 'em till the crime lab men get here, then you turn 'em over



to them, because they're the ones that are charged with the responsibility of keeping the -- the chain of evidence and do all the scientific investigation as far as fire arms examination and comparisons on bullets and so-on.' And we had already requested that one be sent to the scene, so -- and that Poe was going to be the one that handled the investigation as far as a (UNINTELLIGIBLE) is concerned on Tippitt. So we just advised him to keep them. And then we left Poe at that location, and started moving out in an effort to find Oswald or whoever the suspect was at that time, although he wasn't known."

BARKER: "The -- keep rolling."

(VOICES OFF MIKE)

HILL: "...was the first one that actually got..."

BARKER: "I thought that McDonald said that he did."

HILL: "McDonald said a lot of things. But Carroll was actually the one that put the gun in my hand. And..."

VOICE: "Roll 204, Take 3. Interview between Mr. Barker and Hill."

(CLAPPER)

VOICE: "Stand by. Action."

BARKER: "Officer Hill, what about -- I'll ask it again.

"Officer Hill, in the theatre, how did you come in -- into possession of Oswald's gun?"

HILL: "Well, Eddie, as I said, we were all involved in the struggle inside the theatre, trying to overpower ~~and~~ or to control and contain Oswald, so that we could handcuff him and get him out of there."

BARKER: "Let me say it again, because you said, 'As I said', and that..."

HILL: "Oh. OK. OK."

VOICES OFF MIKE

BARKER: "Officer Hill..."

VOICE: "Action."

BARKER: "Officer Hill, how did you come into possession of Oswald's gun there in the theatre?"

HILL: "Well, Eddie, during the struggle to try to overpower and keep control of Oswald, and keep him from hurting anyone, and -- and for us to use as little of force as possible to affect an arrest, we were all struggling with him down between the seats, and in the process of handcuffing him and so-on. And as we got him handcuffed, and got him to his feet, and started to move with him, Detective Carroll, Bob Carroll, who's one -- gonna be one of the officers that made the first wing of the point -- and he was gonna have to move out before I'd do it, and as we started to move, he turned around and handed me this snub-nosed 38. ~~Said~~ Said this was the prisoner's gun. And I stuck it in my belt, under my coat. And then I put my hands on

Oswald, and we started out of the theatre.

"And we get through the lobby, outside, into the car. After we got into the car and began moving toward the city hall, at this time the fear of him getting away from us while we were still on the ground, and the fear of perhaps having to fight to keep him at the theatre were over, we were making moving, there wasn't any emergency, and I, at this point, took the gun out from under my coat and unloaded it to make it safe to handle. Put it back under my coat, and then went on into the station with him.

"And later in the day, when it was requested, I released the gun to homicide and robbery."

BARKER: "At what time did you put your mark on the gun?"

HILL: "Probably it was around 2:30 to 3 o'clock -- the first time after we got to the station and got Oswald into custody of homicide and robbery and released our prisoner to them. We marked ~~xxxxxx~~ it at this time. This is..."

BARKER: "How did you mark it?"

HILL: "...just a routine police procedure. I just put my initials on it, and then marked the side of the -- the ~~xxxxxxx~~ bullets in a spot where it wouldn't interfere with any test and it wouldn't hamper any markings that were already on the shell."

BARKER: "Officer Hill, did you frisk Oswald at the time of

the arrest?"

HILL: "As soon as we got him on his feet, we gave him a fast frisk to determine that he didn't have anymore weapons, that he could either hurt us or hurt himself with."

BARKER: "Explain a 'fast frisk'."

HILL: "That's, well, he was handcuffed, with -- an officer checks under your arm pits, your crotch, your pockets, your -- your shirt, your waistband of your trousers, and anyplace that a weapon could be concealed, that -- even as small as a razor blade, or anything of this type that you could conceivably get to and either hurt the officer or hurt yourself."

BARKER: "You've been a member of the police department for how many years?"

HILL: "About -- a little over 13. I'm in my 13th year now. I started in 1955."

BARKER: "You've arrested a lot of people in your time?"

HILL: "Yes, sir."

BARKER: "Well, what about Oswald? Was he a difficult arrest to make? Did -- did he fight you a lot? Was he struggling?"

HILL: "For a man as small as he was, he's one of the strongest men I've ever seen. He was small, he was hard to hold. He was exceptionally strong. He ~~manly~~ could pull with a very strong force,

and push with the ~~same~~<sup>same</sup> force, which is unusual. Usually, you've got a pusher or a puller, but they're -- they're not good at either either one.

"And another thing that hampered it was the small area that we had between the ~~rows~~ rows of seats in the theatre. You couldn't get him out to a position where you could, by your maneuvering, get him off balance. Because once you get a man off balance, you can handle him. But we weren't in a position of where we could get him off balance. We ~~had~~ just had to, by sheer force of numbers, and pure weight, ~~we~~<sup>just</sup> finally ~~had~~ been able to contain him and get him down to where we could handle him."

BARKER: "So you'd say he was a difficult prisoner to get..."

HILL: "I really would."

BARKER: "Once you got him in the squad car, and you started downtown with him, did he offer any more resistance?"

HILL: "No. None whatsoever. He -- as far as doing what he was told, other than answering questions, which he did not do, he wouldn't tell us his name, and -- or -- oh, let's do it again. I was going to say, as I said before..."

BARKER: "OK. Let me ask it again. After you got in the squad car and started downtown, did he offer you any more resistance?"

HILL: "No, Eddie, he didn't. He -- from the time that we finally got him in the car, and we arrived through the station, through the

basement, up into homicide and robbery, where I left him, he offered no more resistance. He did exactly what he was told as far as getting out of the car, getting in the car, walking, and not struggling, or anything of this type.

"The only thing that he didn't do that I would have called cooperation was to tell us who he was, and where he lived, and this kind of information, he never did volunteer."

BARKER: "On the ride downtown, was the Kennedy assassination mentioned?"

HILL: "As I say, at this time, we were pretty sure that the situation was one and the same. That one person had done both things. That the man that shot Tippitt was also the man who shot President Kennedy. But we didn't know this."

BARKER: "Why -- why do you say you were pretty sure?"

HILL: "Well, because of the descriptions that had been broadcast that were so close, as far as weight, a height, hair, appearance, and so-on. The only difference in the description of the assassin that had been broadcast earlier at about 12:45, I think, was and the description of the man who shot Tippitt was about 2 inches or 2 1/2 inches in height. The rest of the general physical characteristics description was the same. And while we hoped we had both in one, we didn't know that we did know that, based on the weapon we had, and

the -- the proximity to it, we felt very sure that we had the -- the person that had killed Tippitt. And we didn't know at that time whether we had the other one or not. But as far as the exact or actual assassination being discussed, or telling him, 'you killed the President', or 'you did this', or 'you did that', no. It was not discussed."

BARKER: "Do you think that, Officer Hill, in relating in these occurrences in time, what time did you arrive at the scene of the Tippitt shooting?"

HILL: "Eddie, it was probably..."

END OF TAPE

