Ex.No.5071

Dallas

PUTNAM, J.A. Deposition-3-24-64

DL 44-1639

"November 26, 1963

"Mr. J. E. Curry Chief of Police

> "Subject: Assignment of Sergeant James A. Putnam On Sunday, November 24, 1963

"On Sunday, November 24, 1963, at approximately 9:00 A.M., Sergeant Dean advised as he had instructions to search the basement parking area and instructed me to assist him. I was with Sergeant Dean when he assigned the officers at each entrance to the area to be searched. The assignments were as follows:

"R. C. Nelson

Busement Entrance From Police & Courts Building R. E. Vaughn North Ramp Entrance on Main Street
B. G. Patterson South Ramp Exit on Commerce Street
A. R. Brock Elevators In Basement

Reserve Officer Assigned by Reserve Captain Arnett, Entrance

On South Side From Engine Room

"Sergeant Dean instructed the men on these posts to refuse entrance to anyone except properly identified Police Officers and members of the Press.

"After securing the area, Sergeant Dean contacted Reserve Captain Arnett, who provided approximately twelve (12) Reserve Policemen to assist us with the search. Officer L. E. Jez, Sergeant Dean, Reserve Captain Arnett, approximately twelve (12) other Reserve Policemen and I conducted a search of all vehicles and all of the possible biding places in the basement parking area.

"I assisted Sergeant Dean by remaining in the basement and checking the posts as often as possible and also asking for identification of anyone in the basement that I did not recognize, as Police or Press Personnel.

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"Shortly after the search was completed an unmarked police car occupied by two detectives drove into the basement. I checked the inside of their car. Following this car was a police patrol wagon, driven by C. G. Lewis. He stopped the vehicle and I checked the cab and opened the rear doors of the passenger compartment. I then assigned Officer W. E. Hibbs, and Officer G. L. Tolbert to take a position at the bottom of the north ramp and instructed them to look into all vehicles that came into the basement.

"At approximately 10:45 A.M. Sergeant Dean called approximately, twelve (12) officers together that had been standing by in the basement and gave them traffic assignments at each intersection that the prisoner was supposed to travel encoute to the County Jail.

"At approximately 11:18 A.M. Sergeaut Dean advised me to go with Lieutenant Pierce in his car and to get one man to go with me.

"I asked Sergement Maxey to come with us and the three of us left the pasement by the Main Street ramp, at approximately 11:20 A.M. When we arrived at the top of the ramp I observed Officer R. E. Vaughn standing to my right. I did not see anyone come into the basement as we left.

"We went to the Commerce Street side of the ramp and as we stopped the car, Detective Reynolds ran from the basement beside the armored car and yelled to cover off the Police and Courts Building, Oswald had been shot. I assisted him temporarily and then returned to the Lieutenant Pierce's car.

"Respectfully submitted.

/s/"James A. Putnam James A. Putnam Sergeant of Police Patrol Division

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