

= Death of John Lennon =

John Lennon was an English musician who gained worldwide fame as one of the members of the Beatles , for his subsequent solo career , and for his political activism and pacifism . On 8 December 1980 , Lennon was shot by Mark David Chapman in the archway of the Dakota , his residence in New York City . Lennon had just returned from Record Plant Studio with his wife , Yoko Ono .

After sustaining four major gunshot wounds , Lennon was pronounced dead on arrival at Roosevelt Hospital . At the hospital , it was stated that nobody could have lived for more than a few minutes after sustaining such injuries . Shortly after local news stations reported Lennon 's death , crowds gathered at Roosevelt Hospital and in front of the Dakota . Lennon was cremated at the Ferncliff Cemetery in Hartsdale , New York two days after his death ; the ashes were given to Ono , who chose not to hold a funeral for him . The first media report of Lennon 's death to a US national audience was announced by Howard Cosell , on ABC 's Monday Night Football .

= = Events preceding his death = =

= = = 8 December 1980 = = =

Photographer Annie Leibovitz went to the Lennons ' apartment to do a photo shoot for Rolling Stone magazine . Leibovitz promised Lennon that a photo with Ono would make the front cover of the magazine , even though she initially tried to get a picture with Lennon by himself . Leibovitz said , " Nobody wanted [Ono] on the cover " . Lennon insisted that both he and his wife be on the cover , and after taking the pictures , Leibovitz left their apartment at 3 : 30 p.m. After the photo shoot , Lennon gave what would be his last interview , to San Francisco DJ Dave Sholin , for a music show to be broadcast on the RKO Radio Network . At 5 : 40 p.m. , Lennon and Ono , delayed by a late limousine , left their apartment to mix the song " Walking on Thin Ice " (an Ono song featuring Lennon on lead guitar) at the Record Plant Studio .

= = = Mark David Chapman = = =

As Lennon and Ono walked to a limousine , shared with the RKO Radio crew , they were approached by several people seeking autographs . Among them was Mark David Chapman . It was common for fans to wait outside the Dakota to meet Lennon and ask for his autograph . Chapman , a 25 @-@ year @-@ old security guard from Honolulu , Hawaii , had previously travelled to New York to murder Lennon in October (before the release of Double Fantasy) , but had changed his mind and returned home . Chapman silently handed Lennon a copy of Double Fantasy , and Lennon obliged with an autograph . After signing the album , Lennon asked , " Is this all you want ? " Chapman smiled and nodded in agreement . Photographer and Lennon fan Paul Goresh took a photo of the encounter . Chapman had been waiting for Lennon outside the Dakota since mid @-@ morning , and had even approached the Lennons ' five @-@ year @-@ old son , Sean , who was with the family nanny , Helen Seaman , when they returned home in the afternoon . According to Chapman , he briefly touched the boy 's hand .

The Lennons spent several hours at the Record Plant studio before returning to the Dakota , at approximately 10 : 50 pm . Lennon had decided against dining out so he could be home in time to say goodnight to his son , before going on to the Stage Deli restaurant with Ono . Lennon liked to oblige any fans who had been waiting for long periods of time to meet him with autographs or pictures , once saying during an interview with BBC Radio 's Andy Peebles on 6 December 1980 : " People come and ask for autographs , or say ' Hi ' , but they don 't bug you . " The Lennons exited their limousine on 72nd Street instead of driving into the more secure courtyard of the Dakota .

= = Murder = =

The Dakota 's doorman , Jose Perdomo , and a nearby cab driver saw Chapman standing in the shadows by the archway . As Lennon passed by , he glanced briefly at Chapman , appearing to recognize him from earlier . Seconds later , Chapman took aim directly at the center of Lennon 's back and fired five hollow @-@ point bullets at him from a Charter Arms .38 Special revolver in rapid succession from a range of about nine or ten feet (about 3 m) away . Based on statements made that night by NYPD Chief of Detectives James Sullivan , numerous radio , television , and newspaper reports claimed at the time that , before firing , Chapman called out " Mr. Lennon " and dropped into a combat stance . Later court hearings and witness interviews did not include either " Mr. Lennon " or the " combat stance " description . Chapman has said he does not remember calling out to Lennon before he fired , but he claimed to have taken a " combat stance " in a 1992 interview with Barbara Walters . The first bullet missed , passing over Lennon 's head and hitting a window of the Dakota building . Two of the next bullets struck Lennon in the left side of his back , and two more penetrated his left shoulder .

Lennon , bleeding profusely from external wounds and also from his mouth , staggered up five steps to the security / reception area , saying , " I 'm shot , I 'm shot " . He then fell to the floor , scattering cassettes that he had been carrying . The concierge , Jay Hastings , first started to make a tourniquet , but upon ripping open Lennon 's blood @-@ stained shirt and realizing the severity of his multiple injuries , he covered Lennon 's chest with his uniform jacket , removed his blood @-@ covered glasses , and summoned the police .

Outside , doorman Perdomo shook the gun out of Chapman 's hand then kicked it across the sidewalk . Chapman then removed his coat and hat in preparation for the arrival of police ? to show he was not carrying any concealed weapons ? and sat down on the sidewalk . Perdomo shouted at Chapman , " Do you know what you 've just done ? " to which Chapman calmly replied , " Yes , I just shot John Lennon . " The first policemen to arrive were Steven Spiro and Peter Cullen , who were at 72nd Street and Broadway when they heard a report of shots fired at the Dakota . The officers arrived around two minutes later and found Chapman sitting " very calmly " on the sidewalk . They reported that Chapman had dropped the revolver to the ground and was holding a paperback book , J. D. Salinger 's The Catcher in the Rye . They immediately put Chapman in handcuffs and placed him in the back seat of their squad car . Chapman made no attempt to flee or resist arrest .

The second team , officers Herb Frauenberger and his partner , Tony Palma , arrived a few minutes later . They found Lennon lying face down on the floor of the reception area with Hastings attending to him , blood pouring from his mouth and his clothing already soaked with blood . Realizing the extent of his injuries , the policemen decided not to wait for an ambulance and immediately carried Lennon into their squad car and rushed him to St Luke 's @-@ Roosevelt Hospital Center . Officer James Moran said they placed Lennon in the back seat . Reportedly , Moran asked , " Are you John Lennon ? " to which Lennon nodded and replied " Yes . " There are conflicting accounts of this , however . According to another account by officer Bill Gamble , Lennon nodded slightly and tried to speak , but could only manage to make a gurgling sound , and lost consciousness shortly thereafter .

Dr. Stephan Lynn , head of the Emergency Department , who had been called in again after having just returned home after a 13 @-@ hour @-@ long work shift , received Lennon in the emergency room at Roosevelt Hospital a few minutes before 11 : 00 pm when Officers Frauenberger and Moran arrived , with Moran carrying Lennon on his back from their squad car and onto a gurney , into the emergency room demanding a doctor for a multiple gunshot wound victim . When Lennon arrived , he had no pulse and was not breathing . Dr. Lynn , two other doctors , a nurse and two or three other medical attendants worked on Lennon for ten to 15 minutes in a desperate attempt to resuscitate him . As a last resort , Dr. Lynn cut open Lennon 's chest and attempted manual heart massage to restore circulation , but he quickly discovered that the damage to the blood vessels above and around Lennon 's heart from the multiple bullet wounds was too great . Lennon was pronounced dead on arrival in the emergency room at the Roosevelt Hospital at 11 : 15 pm by Dr. Lynn , but the time of 11 : 07 pm has also been reported . Lennon 's body was then taken to the city morgue at 520 First Avenue and autopsied . The cause of death was reported as " hypovolemic shock , caused by the loss of more than 80 % of blood volume due to multiple through @-@ and

@-@ through gunshot wounds to the chest and aortic arch " . The pathologist who performed the autopsy on Lennon also stated in his report that even with prompt medical treatment , no person could have lived for more than a few minutes with such multiple bullet injuries to all of the major arteries and veins around the heart .

The surgeon also noted ? as did other witnesses ? that , at the moment Lennon was pronounced dead , a Beatles song (" All My Loving ") came over the hospital 's sound system .

Three of the four bullets that struck Lennon 's back passed completely through his body and out of his chest , one of which hit and became lodged in his upper left arm , while the fourth lodged itself in his aorta beside his heart ; nearly all of them would have been fatal by themselves as each bullet hit vital arteries around the heart . As Lennon had been shot four times at close range with hollow @-@ point bullets , Lennon 's affected organs (particularly his left lung) and major blood vessels above his heart were virtually destroyed upon impact . Lynn later stated to reporters on the extent of Lennon 's injuries : " If he [Lennon] had been shot this way in the middle of the operating room with a whole team of surgeons ready to work on him ... he still wouldn 't have survived his injuries " .

When told by Dr. Lynn of her husband 's death , Ono started sobbing and said , " Oh no , no , no , no ... tell me it 's not true ! " Dr. Lynn remembers that Ono lay down and began hitting her head against the floor , but calmed down when a nurse gave Lennon 's wedding ring to her . She was led away from Roosevelt Hospital by Geffen Records ' president , David Geffen , in a state of shock .

= = Announcements = =

= = = Monday Night Football = = =

Ono asked the hospital not to report to the media that her husband was dead until she had informed their five @-@ year @-@ old son Sean , who was at home . Ono said he was probably watching television and did not want him to learn of his father 's death from a TV announcement .

Meanwhile , news producer Alan J. Weiss from WABC @-@ TV had been waiting to be treated in the emergency room at Roosevelt Hospital due to having been involved in an accident earlier that evening while riding his motorcycle . Weiss recalled in an interview for the CNN series Crimes of the Century in 2013 that he had seen Lennon being wheeled into the room surrounded by several police officers . After he learned what happened , Weiss called back to the station to relay the information . Eventually , word made its way through the chain of command to ABC News president Rooney Arledge , who was tasked with finding a way to bring this major development to the viewing audience .

While all of this was happening Arledge , who was also the president of the network 's sports division , was presiding over ABC 's telecast of Monday Night Football in his capacity as its executive producer . At the exact moment he received word of Lennon 's death , the game between the New England Patriots and the Miami Dolphins was tied with less than a minute left in the fourth quarter and the Patriots were driving toward the potential winning score .

As the Patriots tried to put themselves in position for a field goal , Arledge informed Frank Gifford and Howard Cosell of the shooting and suggested that they be the ones to report on the murder . Cosell , who had previously interviewed Lennon on a 1974 broadcast , was chosen to do so but was apprehensive of it at first , as he felt the game should take precedence and that it was not their place to break such a big story . Gifford convinced Cosell otherwise , saying that he should not " hang on to (the news) " as the significance of the event was much greater than the finish of the game .

The following exchange begins with thirty seconds left in the fourth quarter , shortly after Gifford and Cosell were informed of what had transpired .

Cosell : ... but (the game) 's suddenly been placed in total perspective for us ; I 'll finish this , they 're in the hurry @-@ up offense.Gifford : Third down , four . (Chuck) Foreman ... it 'll be fourth down . (Matt) Cavanaugh will let it run down for one final attempt , he 'll let the seconds tick off to give Miami no opportunity whatsoever . (Whistle blows .) Timeout is called with three seconds

remaining , John Smith is on the line . And I don 't care what 's on the line , Howard , you have got to say what we know in the booth.Cosell : Yes , we have to say it . Remember this is just a football game , no matter who wins or loses . An unspeakable tragedy confirmed to us by ABC News in New York City : John Lennon , outside of his apartment building on the West Side of New York City , the most famous perhaps , of all of the Beatles , shot twice in the back , rushed to Roosevelt Hospital , dead on arrival . Hard to go back to the game after that news flash , which , in duty bound , we have to take . Frank ? Gifford : (after a pause) Indeed , it is .

= = = Other announcements = = =

It has been claimed that the first nationally @-@ telecast bulletin about the shooting was made by Kathleen Sullivan as part of a standard newscast on Cable News Network ; Sullivan reported that Lennon had been shot but his condition was not known at the time of the bulletin . NBC @-@ TV momentarily broke into its East Coast feed of The Best of Carson for its bulletin of Lennon 's death before returning in the middle of a comedy piece being performed by Johnny Carson .

New York rock station WNEW @-@ FM 102 @.@ 7 immediately suspended all programming and opened its lines to calls from listeners . Stations throughout the country switched to special programming devoted to Lennon and / or Beatles music .

The following day , Ono issued a statement : " There is no funeral for John . John loved and prayed for the human race . Please do the same for him . Love , Yoko and Sean . "

= = Aftermath = =

Lennon 's murder triggered an outpouring of grief around the world on an unprecedented scale . Lennon 's remains were cremated at Ferncliff Cemetery in Hartsdale , Westchester County , N.Y. ; no funeral was held . Ono sent word to the chanting crowd outside the Dakota that their singing had kept her awake ; she asked that they re @-@ convene at Central Park 's Naumburg Bandshell the following Sunday for ten minutes of silent prayer . On 14 December 1980 , millions of people around the world responded to Ono 's request to pause for ten minutes of silence to remember Lennon . Thirty thousand gathered in Liverpool , and the largest group ? over 225 @,@ 000 ? converged on New York 's Central Park , close to the scene of the shooting . For those ten minutes , every radio station in New York City went off the air .

At least three Beatles fans committed suicide after the murder , leading Ono to make a public appeal asking mourners not to give in to despair . Ono released a solo album , Season of Glass , in 1981 . The cover of the album is a photograph of Lennon 's blood @-@ spattered glasses . That same year she also released " Walking on Thin Ice " , the song the Lennons had mixed at the Record Plant less than an hour before he was murdered , as a single . Chapman pleaded guilty in 1981 to murdering Lennon . Under the terms of his guilty plea , Chapman was sentenced to 20 @-@ years @-@ to @-@ life and later automatically became eligible for parole up until 2000 . However , Chapman has been denied parole eight times and remains incarcerated at the Wende Correctional Facility .

= = Memorials and tributes = =

Annie Leibovitz 's photo of a naked Lennon embracing his wife , taken on the day of the murder , was the cover of Rolling Stone 's 22 January 1981 issue , most of which was dedicated to articles , letters and photographs commemorating Lennon 's life and death . In 2005 the American Society of Magazine Editors ranked it as the top magazine cover of the last 40 years .

George Harrison released a tribute song , " All Those Years Ago " , which featured Ringo Starr and Paul McCartney , in 1981 . McCartney released his tribute , " Here Today " , on his 1982 album , Tug of War . Elton John , who had recorded the number @-@ one hit " Whatever Gets You thru the Night " with Lennon , teamed up with his lyricist Bernie Taupin and recorded a tribute to Lennon , entitled " Empty Garden (Hey Hey Johnny) . " It appeared on his 1982 album , Jump Up ! , and

peaked at # 13 on the US Singles Chart that year . When he performed the song at a sold @-@ out concert in Madison Square Garden in August 1982 , he was joined on stage by Ono and Sean . Queen , during their Game Tour , performed a cover of Lennon 's solo song " Imagine " at concerts after Lennon 's death . Queen also performed the song " Life Is Real " , from the album Hot Space (1982) , in his honour . It was written by singer Freddie Mercury .

Roxy Music added a cover version of the song " Jealous Guy " to their set while touring in Germany , which they recorded and released in March 1981 . The song was their only UK # 1 hit , topping the charts for two weeks . It features on many Bryan Ferry / Roxy Music collections , though not always in its full @-@ length version .

Paul Simon 's homage to Lennon , " The Late Great Johnny Ace " , initially sings of the rhythm and blues singer Johnny Ace , who is said to have shot himself in 1954 , then goes on to reference John Lennon , as well as President John F. Kennedy who was assassinated in 1963 , the year Beatlemania started . Simon had actually premiered the song during Simon & Garfunkel 's reunion Concert in Central Park in 1981 ; near the end of the song , a fan ran onto the stage , possibly in response to Simon mentioning Lennon in the lyrics . The man was dragged offstage by Simon 's personnel , saying to Simon , " I have to talk to you " ; all of which can be seen in the DVD of the concert . The song also appears on Simon 's 1983 Hearts and Bones album .

David Bowie , who befriended Lennon in the mid @-@ 1970s (Lennon co @-@ wrote and performed on Bowie 's US # 1 hit " Fame " in 1975) , performed a tribute to Lennon in the final show of his Serious Moonlight Tour at the Hong Kong Coliseum on 8 December 1983 ? the third anniversary of Lennon 's death . Bowie announced that the last time he saw Lennon was in Hong Kong , and after announcing " On this day , December the 8th 1980 , John Lennon was shot and killed outside of his New York apartment , " he performed Lennon 's " Imagine " .

David Gilmour of Pink Floyd wrote and recorded the song " Murder " in response to Lennon 's death ; the song was released on Gilmour 's solo album , About Face (1984) .

In 1985 , New York City dedicated an area of Central Park directly across from the Dakota as Strawberry Fields , where Lennon had frequently walked . In a symbolic show of unity , countries from around the world donated trees and the city of Naples , Italy , donated the Imagine mosaic centerpiece . A symbolic grave for Lennon was erected in Prague 's Mala Strana square , which hosted demonstrations during the fall of the communist regime in Czechoslovakia .

Lennon was honoured with a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1991 . In 1994 , the breakaway autonomous republic of Georgia , Republic of Abkhazia , issued two postage stamps featuring the faces of Lennon and Groucho Marx , rather than portraits of Vladimir Lenin and Karl Marx , spoofing Abkhazia 's Communist past . On 8 December 2000 , Cuba 's President Fidel Castro unveiled a bronze statue of Lennon in a park in Havana . In 2000 , the John Lennon Museum was opened at the Saitama Super Arena in the city of Saitama , Japan (but closed on 30 September 2010) , and Liverpool renamed its airport Liverpool John Lennon Airport , adopting the motto , " Above us only sky " , in 2002 . The minor planet 4147 Lennon , discovered 12 January 1983 by B. A. Skiff at the Anderson Mesa Station of the Lowell Observatory , was named in memory of Lennon . On 9 December 2006 , in the city of Puebla , Mexico , a plaque was revealed , honouring Lennon 's contribution to music , culture and peace . On 9 October 2007 , Ono dedicated a new memorial called the Imagine Peace Tower , located on the island of Viðey , off the coast of Reykjavík , Iceland . Each year , between 9 October and 8 December , it projects a vertical beam of light high into the sky in Lennon 's memory . In 1990 a group of citizens came forward with an initiative to rename one of the streets of Warsaw in honour of John Lennon . The petition had approximately 5000 supporting signatures and passed through city council unchallenged .

Every 8 December a memorial ceremony is held in front of the Capitol Records building on Vine Street in Hollywood , California . People also light candles in front of Lennon 's Hollywood Walk of Fame star , outside the Capitol Building . From 28 to 30 September 2007 , Durness held the John Lennon Northern Lights Festival which was attended by Julia Baird (Lennon 's half @-@ sister) , who read from Lennon 's writings and her own books , and Stanley Parkes , Lennon 's Scottish cousin . Parkes said , " Me and Julia [Baird] are going to be going to the old family croft to tell stories " . Musicians , painters and poets from across the UK performed at the festival .

In 2009 , the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame 's New York City annexe hosted a special John Lennon exhibit , which included many mementos and personal effects from Lennon 's life , as well as the clothes he was wearing when he was murdered , still in the brown paper bag from Roosevelt Hospital . Ono still places a lit candle in the window of Lennon 's room in the Dakota on 8 December . In 2012 , Bob Dylan released the Lennon tribute " Roll on John " on his Tempest album .

= = On film = =

Two films depicting the murder of Lennon were released close together more than 25 years after the event . The first of the two , The Killing of John Lennon , was released on 7 December 2007 . Directed by Andrew Piddington , the movie had Jonas Ball play Mark David Chapman . The second film was Chapter 27 , released on 28 March 2008 . Directed by J. P. Schaefer , Mark David Chapman was played by Jared Leto . Lennon was portrayed by actor Mark Lindsay Chapman , who coincidentally has the same first and last name as the person who killed Lennon . Lindsay Chapman had previously been cast (and billed then as ' Mark Lindsay ') in NBC Television 's John & Yoko : A Love Story in 1985 , but the role of Lennon was re @-@ cast when it was revealed that the actor 's real surname was Chapman .