

The Police: What Each Man Did

By JIM BERRY
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Criticism directed at Austin police handling of a 99-minute sniper attack from the University of Texas tower that took 13 lives and wounded 32 others raises basic questions about the presence of city police in force and their individual as well as collective actions.

In search of answers, the Austin American-Statesman established that a force of more than 60 city police officers was sent to the campus.

This is a summary showing where they were and some of their actions:

Patrolman Delbert McCullough — Caught part of 11:55 a.m. police radio transmission (units reported garbling in headquarters transmissions between 11:50 and 11:55 a.m.) ordering police units to UT. At 21st and Speedway found no security guard at entrance station. Heading up Speedway a bullet struck one foot in front of his motorcycle. Speeded up and leaned to his side for cover. Second bullet hit between tree and the tower. Rushed inside Physics Building and up to observatory. Time then was about 12:10 p.m. Sniper raised his rifle and fired almost straight down. Patrolman fired one shot from revolver, but could not see impact. Sgt. Moody arrived at 12:30 p.m. with a rifle, but no target present. Another rifle at 12:45 p.m. brought in. Fired four shots.

Patrolman Al Riley — Was home for lunch when heard radio news report of sniping. On arrival university area was assigned by his sergeant with two other officers at 19th and Guadalupe, keeping cars and pedestrians off Guadalupe.

Patrolman Jim Frenzel — Returning from lunch and came on the air at 12:10 p.m. Was assigned by his sergeant to turn back traffic and pedestrians at 19th and Speedway.

Sgt. Inv. Ira Frisinger — Heard radio dispatches and reported in at 24th and Rio Grande at 12:15 p.m. Directed traffic away from danger zone and warned pedestrians.

Patrolman Harry Eastman — At home for lunch when the sniping from the tower started. When he came into service was instructed by radio to handle traffic at 23rd and Red River.

Patrolman Jim Cooney — Was en route to the station to appear in court call. Had a 400 magnum Weatherbee in his vehicle. At 12:04 he was en route to 19th and University. Taking cover in the bushes he made his way up to 21st Street and was attempting to cross. A man who came out from hiding and tried to cross the street with the officer was shot by the sniper. The officer was pinned down by tower fire. "I couldn't get to the man, but some unknown persons did." The patrolman used a box and a half of shells returning fire at the sniper.

Patrolman Harold Rigby — Reached 21st and Speedway at 11:55 a.m. Heard loud shot from south side of tower and was told by a civilian about shooting and people down. Called headquarters for more ambulances and personnel with rifles. Fired from corner of a building southeast of tower at what appeared to be a man behind tower clock. It was not. Shot (revolver) hit far below the clock. A girl came up and said someone had been shot and was in the building. Went to help a man, 28 to 30, who had been shot in the back. Was checking his pulse when ambulance attendant took over. Officer Van Landingham arrived and they went to the fourth floor and fired from windows. Had fired six shots when a man came and asked for help in rescuing someone lying on the East Mall. An armored car reached him first.

Det. Lt. Burt Gerding — Off duty at home, had just gotten up (Gerding is night supervisor in Criminal Investigation Division). Neighbor rushed over at 12:10 p.m. to tell him of radio news reports of sniper on tow-

er. Took his personal 30.06 rifle and several bandoliers of ammunition and headed for the university. Joined other officers on top of Business and Economics Building. With Patrolman Ferris spotting with binoculars, Gerding sighted in on drain ports where sniper's rifle could be viewed. "We would fire at the ports attempting to keep him from firing on other persons. Ferris spotted a field glass case or ammo box on the ledge, south face of the clock. Hit it with third shot." Fired in all 20 to 25 rounds.

Patrolman Don Martin — Was instructed to keep everyone off the streets and people inside the buildings.

Patrolman H. McCoy — Got high powered rifles and ammo and tried shooting from several locations until heard dispatcher say that officers were needed at the UT security office to go up in the tower. Met Sgt. Barr of UT security and with city officers Moe, Conner, Shogquist and Shepherd, was escorted by UT employee William Wilcox through underground tunnels into the main building where another UT employee, Frank Holden, took them up in an elevator to the 27th floor. Officer Day and W. A. Cowan, of Department of Public Safety Intelligence, were on 27th floor and told them Martinez and Crum were inside the room surrounded by the tower observatory. McCoy and Day moved up stairs to assist Martinez and Crum while other officers removed dead and wounded at bottom of stairs.

Patrolman Jerry Culp — Heard call and went to 21st and University in front of the fountain. Moving toward tower, could see sniper but was unable to shoot because of the distance. Officer Bill Speed came toward the Mall and Culp told him to take cover. There were several other people behind the wall. Officer Speed stood up. He was behind the wall but the sniper must have been able to see him. The second bullet hit him. (Culp got through to police headquarters by telephone at 12:07 p.m. to report Speed had been shot.)

Patrolman George Shepard — Was off duty and reported in for assignment. Shepard along with other officers was sent to the UT security office and guided through tunnels to the administration building. The party went to the 27th floor and assisted in taking the sniper in the tower.

Patrolman Milton Shogquist — Monday was his day off. He was another city police officer who donned uniform, reported in and joined the party guided through underground tunnels to the main building. "Our assignment was to get out the wounded."

Patrolman Charles Baylor — Got off duty at 7 a.m. Monday, answered the emergency call of officers and reached 21st and Guadalupe at 12:20 p.m.

With Lt. Glen Garrett, who also was on duty till 7 a.m., brought personal rifles and ammunition and started returning sniper's fire. Shot 50 rounds at the tower. Saw there were six people down on the mall, including two women. This officer and two unidentified men ran across the mall to a man lying behind a hedge west of the mall. He was still alive. Carried him to south wall and lifted him over to people hiding behind the wall. Wounded man was taken away by ambulance. Two others were lying near steps. Took cover behind tree as sniper firing into concrete nearby. Returned fire. Someone called out from buildings that another man was on the east side of Mall out of sight. Was trying to reach him when armored truck drove up. Helped load.

Patrolman Harold Moe — Off duty. Joined officers through tunnels to main building. Got in tower with others. Met by Officer Day and Cowan from DPS. They briefed the newcomers. Decided tear gas would not be used. First objective was to

See THE POLICE, Page A22

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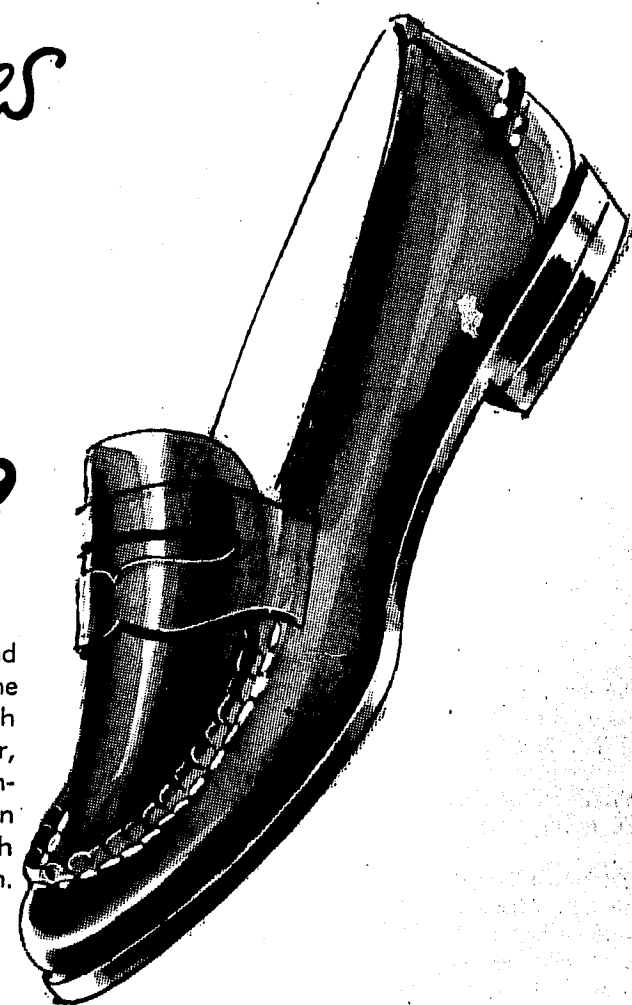
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