

Statement of DAVID TYNBALL JONES, MW 33, residence, 2136 Sycam, phone, 398-2612, occupation, Patrolman, Memphis Police Department, 4186, made at Central Police Headquarters on Monday, April 13, 1968 at 1:47 p.m. to Lt. J. L. Harrison, Lt. J. B. Williams.

Questioned by: Lt. J. L. Harrison

Typed by: O. McIner

Relative to the FATAL SHOOTING of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC 39, that occurred Thursday, April 4, 1968 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lorraine Motel at 406 Mulberry.

Q. Ptm. Jones, on Thursday, April 4, 1968, were you on duty as a patrolman with the Memphis Police Department, and if so, what was your assignment?

A. I was on duty, and was assigned to TACT 12.

Q. How many cars did TACT Unit 12 consist of?

A. I'm not sure whether it was three or four.

Q. In the particular car that you were riding in, how many other men were in this car, who were they, and who was driving?

A. There were four men in the car, including myself, the others being Tom Locastro, J. H. Sanders and the car was being driven by T. D. Grantham.

Q. Ptm. Jones, on April 4, 1968 at approx. 6:00 p.m., did you receive a call to the vicinity of the Lorraine Motel?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. At what approximate time did you arrive at the motel?

A. At approx. 6:03 or 6:04 p.m.

Q. Ptm. Jones, in your own words relate all you know concerning the incidents that took place at the time that you received this call, and after your arrival at the Lorraine Motel.

A. At approximately 6:01 p.m., April 4, 1968, we monitored a transmission by TACT 10 stating they had received information that Martin Luther King had been shot. The dispatcher immediately told TACT 12, which I was assigned to on that date, to pull up on this call. At the time of this transmission, to the best of my knowledge, we were in the vicinity of Georgia and Mississippi. We proceeded immediately to the Lorraine Motel and as we approached the motel north on Third, the car I was riding in being driven by T. D. Grantham, turned west on Huling and Officer Locastro and myself jumped out of the car and ran southwest across the parking lot on the east side of the hotel, around the hotel to the front of the courtyard of the motel. As we ran behind the hotel, we noticed two male coloreds dressed in denim pants and denim jackets sitting on the rear of the steps of the hotel crying. We asked them how bad King had been hit, and they said it looked real bad, they thought he was dead. Ptm. Locastro and I proceeded into the motel courtyard and looked upon the second landing and saw the body of Dr. Martin Luther King lying on his back, his feet pointing north, his head pointing south, in a large pool of blood.

At about the same time of our arrival, the Fire Department ambulance also arrived on the scene and the attendants carried the stretcher up to load Martin Luther King onto it. When they started down the steps, my partner, Tom Locastro, and myself assisted the fireman with the stretcher due to the narrow stairway that led down from the second landing. At the time I first observed the body of Martin Luther King, it was partially covered by a pinkish colored blanket. After the body had been removed from the scene, my partner, Tom Locastro, and I were told by Lt. S. E. Utley, who was out TACT Commander at that time, to secure the scene and allow no one to come past where the body was lying until Homicide Division had completed their investigation. My partner and I remained at the scene until the Homicide Division had taken pictures, measurements, and had completed that phase of their investigation, and we were told to return to our TACT unit, and at that time it was approximately 7:30 p.m. or maybe slightly later than that.

Q. When you and your partner first arrived on the scene and the ambulance had not yet arrived, did you observe any law enforcement officers up on the balcony by the body of Dr. King?

A. To the best of my knowledge, there was a County Deputy Sheriff standing at the north of the body, and, I believe, a City Policeman standing just south of the body. I did not recognize either of these men.

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- Q. When you first arrived at the scene and were standing on the ground level, did you recognize any of the persons other than the police officers that were around the body of Dr. King?
- A. When I first looked up on the second landing where the body was lying, I observed three or four male coloreds around the body, none of which I recognized.
- Q. Did you recognize anybody that was standing or milling around in the courtyard upon your arrival?
- A. At the time I arrived there was one male colored who made several trips from the hotel office to a motel room on the first floor, several doors south of the one Martin Luther King was occupying. This male colored was approximately 25 to 30 years old, 5'10" or 5'11" height, weight approx. 160 to 165 lbs., and was dressed in a dark green sports shirt and black or either dark blue trousers. There were numerous male coloreds and female coloreds in this area milling around; however, I did not recognize any of them.

David T. Jones