MAY 4TH - KENT STATE SHOOTINGS



0. MAY 4TH - KENT STATE SHOOTINGS - Story Preface

1. LITTLE ROCK PROTESTS

2. WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED

3. ANTI-BUSING PROTESTS

4. MAY 4TH - KENT STATE SHOOTINGS

5. SCHOOL BUSING UPHELD

6. SCHOOL BUSING AN ISSUE AGAIN

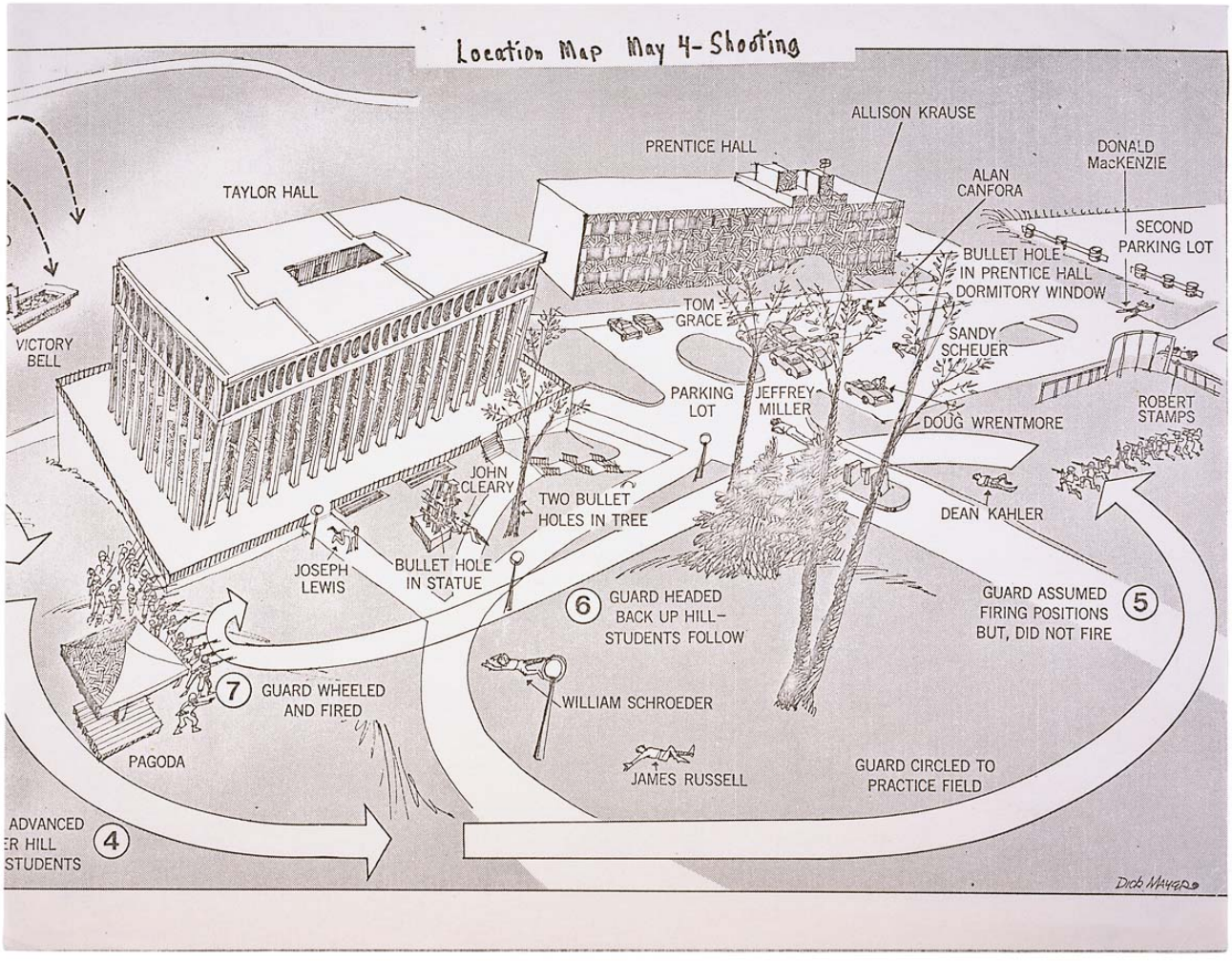
This photo depicts a scene near Kent State's Taylor Hall after the National Guards had fired tear gas at the students. Note that the Guardsmen have their rifle bayonets in a fixed position. Image 1425 from the Kent State University archive of the May 4, 1970 shooting. Online, courtesy Kent State University. Click on the image for a better view.

While parents engaged in anti-busing protests, college campuses seethed with anti-war sentiments. "Peace with honor" (as Richard Nixon liked to say) seemed an elusive concept.

As the President conducted a press conference on April 30, 1970 (to explain why he had sent B-52s into Cambodia to bomb "Viet Cong" strongholds), a protest at Kent State University was brewing. It began the next day (May 1, 1970). Among other reasons, students were upset that innocent Cambodians were being killed.

By May 4th, members of the Ohio National Guard, sent to the Kent State campus, were ready for battle. Armed with tear gas, rifles and fixed bayonets, they looked as though they were about to end an armed insurrection.

Examining the evidence photographs today, one can only wonder what both sides must have been thinking when the National Guard fired (don't miss this video) into the crowd of students milling about on campus.



This map, which is part of the President's Commission on Campus Unrest report, depicts a drawing of the Kent

State University campus at the time of the shootings on May 4, 1970. The illustration shows where each of the four students were located when they were fatally shot by the National Guardsmen. Map online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

Four unarmed students were killed and nine others were injured at Kent State. (One individual, Dean Kahler, was permanently paralyzed.) Not all the dead students were part of the protest movement.

After the shootings, an injunction temporarily closed the University. Students (scroll down to "Photos") and their professors had to find other means to finish the term.

Meanwhile, as African-American students were still trying to find other means to begin equal educational opportunities, the case filed by Dr. Swann had made its way to the United States Supreme Court.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/MAY-4TH-KENT-STATE-SHOOTINGS-School-Busing

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/MAY-4TH-KENT-STATE-SHOOTINGS-School-Busing

Media Stream



President Nixon Press Conference
Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.
PD
View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/President-Nixon-Press-Conference



B-52 Bomber on Final Approach for Landing
United States Air Force photo online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.
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Ohio National Guard on the Kent State Campus
Image online, courtesy Kent State University.
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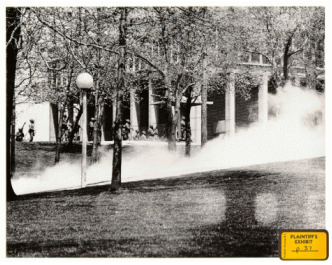

Tear Gas Deployed by the Ohio National Guard Troops
Image online, courtesy Kent State University.
PD
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Ohio National Guard Troops Armed with Fixed Bayonets
Image online, courtesy Kent State University.
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Ohio National Guard Troops Fired on the Students

Image online, courtesy Kent State University.
Public Record Exhibit.
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Kent State - Students Watching the Troops

Image online, courtesy Kent State University.
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Scene at the Kent State Campus - May 4, 1970

Image online, courtesy Kent State University.
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Kent State Students Watching the Events at Campus

Image online, courtesy Kent State University.
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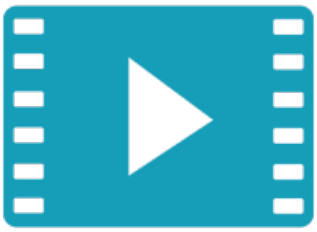

Kent State - May 4 Shootings

Video clip online, via CNN.

To see an online PBS documentary about the 13 Seconds which changed a nation, follow the link to "The Day the 60s Died" (which is based, among other things, on archives from Kent State).
View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Kent-State-May-4-Shootings