

N.Y. gunman: 'I just shot John Lennon'

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gun, which a guard kicked aside and saved for police.

"Do you know what you just did?" the doorman asked Chapman.

"I just shot John Lennon," the gunman said.

Born in Liverpool, England, on Oct. 9, 1940, Lennon became one of the most influential rock musicians of the 1960s. His last album with the Beatles was "Abbey Road" in 1969.

A witness to the shooting, Sean Strub, said the gunman had "almost a smirk on his face." Chapman reportedly arrived in New York about a week ago, and had been seen hanging around the Dakota, a traditional pilgrimage stop for Beatles fans in the city.

Monday afternoon, police said, Chapman got Lennon to autograph a copy of his latest album, "Double Fantasy," which features on its cover a picture of Lennon and Ono in front of the Dakota.

Police, not waiting for an ambulance, carried Lennon to a squad car and, with his wife at his side, raced to Roosevelt Hospital.

"Tell me it isn't true," Ono screamed as the police car sped to the hospital, a police officer said. "Tell me he's all right."

James Moran, an officer in the car, said Lennon was bleeding badly from the chest.

"Are you John Lennon?" he asked over and over. But Lennon only mumbled and moaned. He was dead by the time he arrived at Roosevelt Hospital.

A hospital spokesman said Lennon suffered wounds to the chest, head and arm. "It was impossible to resuscitate him," the spokesman said.

Bulletproof vests

Last year, the Lennons donated \$1,000 to help outfit city police with bulletproof vests.

As news of Lennon's death spread, radio stations across the States were besieged with calls from fans, asking if the news were true.

Outside the Dakota, a crowd of more than 500 filled the street, holding up lighted matches and swaying as they held a spontaneous wake. "All we are saying," they sang, "is give peace a chance." Those words are from one of Lennon's songs.

"John loved and prayed for the human

race. Please do the same for him," his widow said in a statement issued by David Geffen, a record producer and friend of the couple.

With Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr and George Harrison, Lennon transformed rock 'n' roll, selling more than 250 million records.

The Beatles disbanded in 1971, amid talk of recriminations. But throughout the 1970s, a Beatles reunion was rumored.

Lennon divorced his first wife, Cynthia Powell, in 1969, and married Ono.

Deportation attempt

The couple lived in seclusion in New York for several years until a deportation hearing put them in the news again.

The U.S. government contended that Lennon was ineligible for permanent residence because of a 1968 drug conviction in Britain. Lennon eventually was allowed to stay.

Lennon's latest album, "Double Fantasy," which he made with Ono, was seen as a comeback attempt by the singer in which he celebrated his new joys in home life and fatherhood.

(The Associated Press reported that

only hours before his death, Lennon said in an interview that he hoped to die before Ono, "because if Yoko died, I wouldn't know how to survive. I couldn't carry on."

(Interviewed Monday afternoon by the RKO radio network, Lennon was optimistic about his future as he re-entered the music world, describing his newest album as a greeting to longtime fans.

"I hope the young kids like it as well. But I'm really talking to the people who grew up with me. I'm saying here I am now, how are you? How's your relationship going? Did you get through it all? Wasn't the '70s a drag, you know? Well, here we are, let's make the '80s great because it's up to us to make what we can of it."

(Lennon told RKO radio: "You have to give thanks to God or whatever is up there (for) the fact that we all survived, we all survived Vietnam, or Watergate, the tremendous upheaval of the whole world. We were the hit ones of the '60s. But the world is not like the '60s. The whole world's changed. I am going into an unknown future, but I'm still here, and still while there's life there's hope.")



The grief

Police accompany Yoko Ono as she leaves New York's Roosevelt Hospital after the shooting death of her husband, John Lennon. —AP photo

Other Beatles shocked at slaying; Lennon fans mourn around the world

From press dispatches

Former Beatles rock group stars Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr reacted with shock and grief Tuesday to the slaying of John Lennon.

"I can't take it in at the moment," a pale and obviously shaken McCartney said when informed of Lennon's death. "John was a great guy. He is going to be missed by the whole world."

Lennon and McCartney wrote music that helped to change the sound of 20th century popular music and influenced an entire generation in the 1960s. Personal and business differences between them led to the breakup of the Beatles in 1971.

Friends again

But McCartney spokesman Tony Brainsby said the two had patched up their differences and again were "great friends," who had met socially and stayed in contact by telephone.

A spokesman for Starr said the former Beatles drummer, who spent Thanksgiving at Lennon's Manhattan apartment, left a vacation spot "somewhere in Europe" for New York to be with Lennon's wife Yoko Ono.

The spokesman said Starr "is extremely

shocked. He doesn't want to say more."

A spokesman for Harrison said the former Beatle was "deeply shocked."

"After all we went through together I had and still have great respect for him. I am shocked and stunned," Harrison said. "To rob life is the ultimate robbery. The perpetual encroachment on other people's space is taken to the limit with the use of a gun."

Mick Jagger, lead singer of the Rolling Stones, closest rivals to the Beatles before Lennon, McCartney and company broke up in 1971, said he was "shattered" by the news.

Lennon's first wife, Cynthia, now remarried and running a restaurant in Wales, said she had held John in "the deepest affection" since their 1968 divorce and was terribly upset by his tragic death. She was comforting their 17-year-old son, Julian, who talked with his father by telephone two or three times a week and hopes to pursue a music career.

Carter, Reagan

President Carter issued the following statement Tuesday on the killing: "John Lennon helped create the music and the mood of our time. His spirit, the spirit of the Beatles — brash and earnest, ironic and idealistic all at once. . . I know that I speak for many millions of Americans when I say that I am saddened by his death, and distressed by the senseless manner of it. It is especially poignant that John Lennon has died by violence, though he had long campaigned for peace."

President-elect Ronald Reagan called the slaying "a great tragedy," but said his position against gun control has not changed.

One New York police lieutenant said that Lennon's death was as important as the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the police force was treating it accordingly.

Outside the Dakota apartments, where Lennon lived and was shot, crowds of mourners gathered. The crowd appeared orderly as several dozen police officers directed traffic and kept people behind barriers. Some people sang. Beatles music played on radios and mourner after mourner approached the Dakota's black

wrought iron gates to affix red roses, sketches of Lennon and notes to Ono.

In his native Liverpool, England, Lennon's death caused dismay and anger. "It's bloody terrible, bloody terrible," said John Chambers, head of the Beatles fan club.

Record stores around the world reported a rush for Lennon's music. "It's like what happened when Presley died," said a saleswoman at a shop in Hollywood's Sunset Boulevard. "The records are selling like crazy."

The Soviet news agency Tass on Tuesday reported Lennon's slaying without comment.

In Japan, Ono's younger brother said he would try to persuade Lennon's widow to come home so "she doesn't have to worry about gunshots anymore." Keisuke Ono added of Lennon: "He was a really good man, a good father, good husband and a good friend."

U.S. fans who grew up with the songs of Lennon mourned him with his music, crowding record stores for copies of his latest album and turning to rock radio stations for Beatle tunes.

Fifteen people were lined up outside a Warren, Mich., record store when it opened at 9 a.m. Tuesday. By 10 a.m., all the Lennon stock was sold out, according to Holly Demchak, a sales clerk, who was dressed in black for mourning.

In contrast, the operators of one of two Record Rendezvous outlets in Cleveland announced a one-day moratorium on sales of Lennon albums. "The people who want his album could have bought it yesterday or they can buy it tomorrow," said store employee Dave Rukosky. "This is just our way of saying something to John and his music."

The radio tributes to the former Beatle began almost immediately after his death.

Central Europe

Forecast for Wednesday calls for mostly cloudy to cloudy skies with occasional rain and gusty wind in northern Germany and the Benelux. Skies will be partly cloudy to mostly cloudy with haze in the afternoon and dense fog in the late evening and early morning. High temperatures will be 32-38 and lows 15-21. Snow Wednesday at 4:26 a.m., sunrise Thursday at 8:00 a.m. The outlook for Thursday calls for partly cloudy and occasionally mostly cloudy skies with dense fog in the morning and haze in the afternoon. Temperatures will be warmer.

Temperatures recorded Tuesday:

4am 6am		4am 6am	
Adana, m	46 61	Frankfurt, m	46 56
Amsterdam, c	36 56	London, m	38 49
Athens, m	52 61	Madrid, c	19 26
Aviano, p	25 30	Munich, p	17 26
Berlin, c	26 34	Paris, p	16 26
Brussels, m	28 37	Rome, p	38 48
Copenhagen, r	38 41	Vienna, p	22 28

M-mostly cloudy; c-cloudy; p-partly cloudy; r-rain. —Del 14, 7th Weather St

Russian moves spur fears Poland may be invaded

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possibility."

Other officials said there was still no evidence that the Russian forces were going to be ordered into Poland, but the preparations were considered ominous.

In Warsaw, meanwhile, the official Polish news agency PAP disclosed a case of possible industrial sabotage which it said caused a two-hour work stoppage at a central Polish coal mine.

Three sets of small coal cars at the Jaworzno mine near Katowice were intentionally uncoupled, it said. No injuries were reported and no further details given.

PAP said a two-hour work stoppage resulted Monday morning and police were investigating the incident.

Industrial sabotage would be a setback to efforts by the Polish government and Poland's new Solidarity independent labor movement to demonstrate control of do-

mestic events to the Soviet bloc countries.

Officials of the labor movement office nearest the mine could not be immediately reached for comment and a Solidarity office in Katowice said it was unaware of the incident.

In another development, Poland's army newspaper warned Tuesday there was no room in the country for anti-state trade unions or any other group whose aims conflict with official authority.

Army newspaper Zolnierz Wolnosci warned that some Poles "see trade unions as a force directed against the state authorities, against the socialist state."

"In people's Poland," it warned, "there is no place for a force of this kind to operate legally."

U.S. officials also say Soviet, East German and Czech divisions have been deployed away from their normal garrison locations into what are considered special staging areas.

5 masterpieces stolen

PARIS (AP) — Burglars stole five paintings, including a Van Gogh and a Picasso, from the Paris apartment of a French industrialist last weekend, police have revealed.