

# MAY 4TH - KENT STATE SHOOTINGS

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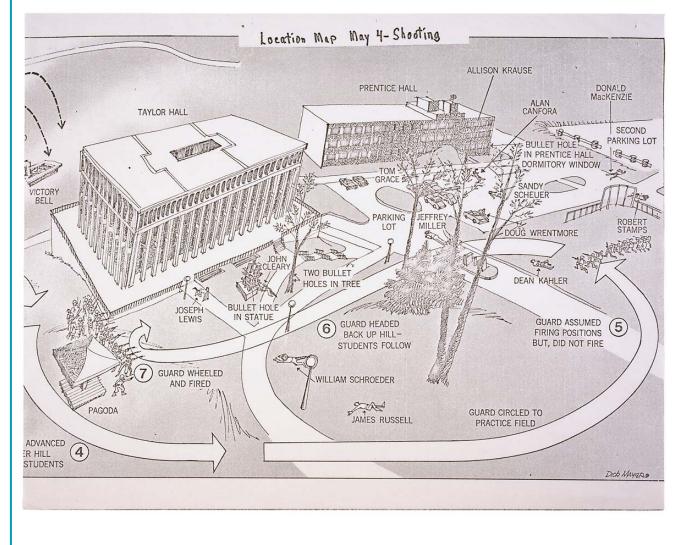


This photo depicts a scene near Kent State's Taylor Hall after the National Guards had fired tear gas at the students. Note that the Guardsmen have their rifle bayonets in a fixed position. Image 1425 from the Kent State University archive of the May 4, 1970 shooting. Online, courtesy Kent State University.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

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

As the President conducted a <u>press conference</u> on April 30, 1970 (to explain why he had sent <u>B-52s</u> into Cambodia to bomb "Viet Cong" strongholds), a protest at <u>Kent State University</u> 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 <u>for battle</u>. Armed with <u>tear gas</u>, rifles and <u>fixed bayonets</u>, they looked as though they were about <u>to end</u> an armed insurrection. Examining the evidence photographs today, one can only wonder what both sides must have been <u>thinking</u> when the National Guard <u>fired</u> (don't miss this video) into the crowd of students milling about <u>on campus</u>.



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

After the shootings, an injunction temporarily closed the University. <u>Students</u> (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: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/President-Nixon-Press-Conference</u>

B-52 Bomber on Final Approach for Landing United States Air Force photo online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. PD View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/B-52-Bomber-on-Final-Approach-for-Landing

Ohio National Guard on the Kent State Campus Image online, courtesy Kent State University.

PD View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ohio-National-Guard-on-the-Kent-State-Campus

<u>Tear Gas Deployed by the Ohio National Guard Troops</u> Image online, courtesy Kent State University. PD View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Tear-Gas-Deployed-by-the-Ohio-National-Guard-Troops

Ohio National Guard Troops Armed with Fixed Bayonets Image online, courtesy Kent State University. PD View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ohio-National-Guard-Troops-Armed-with-Fixed-Bayonets









#### Ohio National Guard Troops Fired on the Students Image online, courtesy Kent State University. Public Record Exhibit. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ohio-National-Guard-Troops-Fired-on-the-Students

#### <u>Kent State - Students Watching the Troops</u> Image online, courtesy Kent State University. PD View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Kent-State-Students-Watching-the-Troops

#### Scene at the Kent State Campus - May 4, 1970 Image online, courtesy Kent State University. PD View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Scene-at-the-Kent-State-Campus-May-4-1970

Kent State Students Watching the Events at Campus Image online, courtesy Kent State University. PD View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Kent-State-Students-Watching-the-Events-at-Campus



#### Kent State - May 4 Shootings Video clip online, via <u>CNN</u>.

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