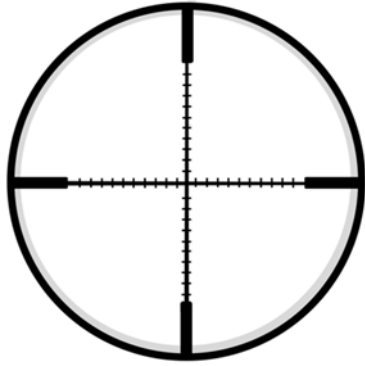


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Fear Strikes the Capital: The D.C. Sniper Attacks

In the fall of 2002, the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area was gripped by a reign of terror. A series of sniper attacks left residents living in fear as an unknown gunman randomly targeted innocent victims. This is the true story of the D.C. Sniper attacks.

The Reign of Terror Begins

In October 2002, the first shots were fired in what would become one of the most frightening episodes in the D.C. area's history. Over the course of three weeks, ten innocent people were killed, and three others were critically injured. The victims, of various ages and backgrounds, were simply going about their daily lives.

The Weapon of Choice

The D.C. Sniper duo, John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo, used a Bushmaster XM-15 rifle equipped with a scope to carry out their deadly attacks. They positioned themselves in the trunk of their car, making it nearly impossible for anyone to see or identify them at the crime scenes.

The Terrifying Modus Operandi

The snipers' strategy was simple yet horrifyingly effective. They randomly selected their victims, often while the victims were engaged in mundane activities like filling up their cars at gas stations or exiting stores. The killers fired single shots from a distance, leaving little evidence behind.

Intense Manhunt and Fear Grips the Region

As the attacks continued, fear gripped the D.C. metropolitan area. Schools were on lockdown, and people hesitated to leave their homes. The police launched a massive manhunt, and law enforcement agencies from multiple jurisdictions worked tirelessly to catch the elusive killers.

The Breakthrough and Capture

The turning point came when authorities received a tip about a suspicious vehicle, a blue Chevrolet Caprice, believed to be connected to the shootings. On October 24, 2002, John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo were apprehended while sleeping in their car at a rest stop in Maryland. Inside the vehicle, police found the murder weapon and evidence linking them to the crimes.

The Motive

Muhammad and Malvo's motive for the killings was revealed to be an attempt to extort \$10 million from the government. They aimed to create chaos and panic in the D.C. area to divert attention while carrying out their sinister plan.

The Legal Proceedings

Both Muhammad and Malvo were brought to trial. Muhammad was sentenced to death and executed in 2009. Malvo, who was a juvenile at the time of the attacks, received multiple life sentences without the possibility of parole.

