FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION

COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: ELIZABETH ANN SHORT, a.k.a. "THE BLACK DAHLIA"
Office Memorandum

TO: Mr. Ladd
FROM: E. H. Winterrowd
SUBJECT: SHORT MURDER CASE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

At the above time, Special Agent of the Washington Field Office called and advised that a Washington correspondent of the "Los Angeles Times," had requested telephonically any information that the Bureau had concerning a who allegedly was or was to be arrested in connection with the murder of the Short girl whom, it will be recalled, was found in a mutilated condition.

The above information was conveyed to Assistant Director Nichols who stated that should be advised that the Bureau was in no position to comment on this matter and that it was a matter of local jurisdiction and, accordingly, the Bureau must be most hesitant in inserting itself into such a matter. This answer was conveyed to Special Agent who stated that he would contact and advise him of the above.
NOT USED
**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**FOIPA**

**DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET**

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Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- [ ] Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

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- [ ] Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

- [ ] Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

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Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

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| 14/18/64 |

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[Handwritten notes: deleted Page(s) X, No Duplication Fee X, for this page X, not in file X, not in file X, not in file X, not in file X, not in file X, not in file X, not in file X]
January 22, 1947

Dear [Redacted]

The information set forth in your letter dated January 19, 1947, has been noted and your thoughtfulness in writing as you did is indeed appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

CC - Los Angeles with copy of incoming
Attention, SAC: For your information and for whatever action you deem necessary
January 19, 1947

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I have a suggestion. "Black Dahia,"

Elizabeth Short, Los Angeles, Calif.

1. Ex-Marine
2. Race - White
3. Age - 26 to 30
4. Hair - Red  Hendrayne
5. Height - about 160 lbs
6. Irish and English
7. 5' 10" tall
8. Check all camps in Calif. and hospital
9. Within 2 weeks murder be caught

I hope you find these help the police.

c 48

/5/ b10

222

COPY
Jan 1947

Ian McHower,

I have a suggestion, Los Angeles Calif.

"Black Dahlia" Elizabeth Short.

Black Dahlia Elizabeth Short

Ex-Marine

Race White

Age 28 to 30.

Hair Red. Handsome

Weight about 160 lbs.

Irish & English

5' 10" tall.

Check all camps in Calif.

and hospital.

Within 62 F B 21 Murder

be caught.

I hope you find him. Help the police. 948.
CONFIDENTIAL, WASHINGTON 1, WASHINGTON FIELD 1, LOS ANGELES 1 AND
1 FROM NEW YORK
25 1-55 PM

UNKNOWN SUBJECT: ELIZABETH SHORT, VICTIM, MURDER, MISC. INFO CONCERNING
VICTIM; ALSO KNOWN AS BLACK DAHLIA, MURDERED JAN. FIFTEEN, FORTY
SEVEN. RETEL FROM LA TO DIRECTOR AND NY DATED JAN. TWENTYTHIRD
LAST ADVISING IDENTIFIED PHOTO FOUND IN VICTIMS EFFECTS AS
HAS A PSYCHONEUROTIC PATIENT,
WHOSE WIFE COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER KILLING CHILD.
TRUE NAME OF SUSPECT
IS

58 FEB 13 1947
END PAGE ONE.
HE WAS TWENTY-FIVE OF AGE WHEN INTERVIEWED, WHITE, BORN IN SIX MONTHS, AND LAST EMPLOYED AS A POLICE RECORD AND WORKED IN THE HIGH SCHOOL, CLAIMED NO PRIORITY TO JULY EIGHTEEN, NINE. FORTY-FIVE SUSPECT HAD SICK LEAVE AT HOME FROM JULY EIGHTEEN
SUSPECT ADVISED IS A MENTAL CASE.

NO FULL DESCRIPTION AVAILABLE IN NY. WASH FIELD ASCERTAIN ADDRESSES

SECURE DESCRIPTION, PHOTO,
BACKGROUND AND LEADS - AS TO WHEREABOUTS FROM AGO RECORDS. ST. LOUIS
CONDUCT SAME TYPE INVESTIGATION BY CHECKING DEMOBILIZED PERSONNEL
ARMY RECORDS CONDUCT DISCREET INQUIRY AT LAST
KNOWN HOME ADDRESS OF SUSPECT AND FAMILY AT
IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH BACKGROUND AND WHEREABOUTS OF SUSPECT AT
COMMISSION OF MURDER, JAN. FIFTEEN, LAST CHECK
FOR ADDRESSES - CHECK MAIL TO.
SUTEL BUREAU AND LOS ANGELES, ORIGIN AND CONDUCT IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION
SCHIEDT
ST. LOUIS ADVISED.

END
WA NY R 1 WA
R RELAY FOR LOS Z A WA
WA Transmitted to Los. A.
R1 WA

Copies to Lfo.
CONFIDENTIAL

TELETYPE 1 LOS ANGELES 1 BUREAU

43 RE TELETYPES FROM NEW YORK, JANUARY TWENTY FIVE. PURCHASED HOUSE AT ABOUT SEPTEMBER NINETEEN FORTY FIVE AND HAS RESIDED AT SINCE THAT DATE AND HAS MADE EXTENSIVE ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS TO HOUSE. MOTHER, OWNS PRESENTLY CLOSED AND MOTHER GONE REMARRIED ABOUT EASTER, NINETEEN FORTY SIX TO GIRL NAMED QUITE MAIDEN NAME POSSIBLY FROM CALIFORNIA, BELIEVED TO BE LOS ANGELES. ACQUAINTANCES THINK AND MARRIED IN NEW YORK CITY. POLICE KNOWS AND SAW HIM AT JANUARY FOURTEEN LAST. AND THIS STORE PRODUCED RECORDS AND ADVISED HAS ACCOUNT AT STORE.

IN STORE AND MADE PURCHASE ON JANUARY FOURTEEN, NINETEEN FORTY SEVEN. HE ADVISED HE WAS DRIVING TO CALIFORNIA TO BRING BACK HIS WIFE WHO FLEW TO CALIFORNIA FROM JANUARY TEN, LAST TO VISIT HER PARENTS.

ADvised ACCOMPANIED BY NAME UNKNOWN, LEFT FOR CALIFORNIA ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY FIFTEEN LAST, DRIVING NINETEEN FORTY TWO BUICK SEDAN TO BRING

HE EXPECTED TO BE GONE APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH.
POSITIVE HAS BEEN IN CONTINUOUSLY DURING LAST FEW MONTHS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FEW DAYS SPENT IN ABOUT CHRISTMAS AND OCCASIONAL ONE DAY TRIPS TO

STATE POLICE ADVISED HAS REGISTRATION PLATES, A NINETEEN FORTY TWO SEDAN, COLOR BLACK SERIAL NUMBER ACQUAINTANCES ADVISE VERY HEAVY DRinker, SPENDS MONEY FREELY, NOT EMPLOYED

RECORDS CHECKED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.
TO: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO: SAC'S LOS ANGELES, AND NEW YORK

UNSUB, ELIZ SHORT, VICTIM. THE LOS ANGELES WIRE JANUARY TWENTY THREE.

SPECIAL BUREAU REQUESTS INVESTIGATION REQUESTED REFERENCE TELETYPE.

LOS ANGELES REMAIN ALERT TO AND ADVISE BUREAU OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS.

CONSIDER UFAP POSSIBILITIES IF NECESSARY JURISDICTIONAL FACTS ARE DEVELOPED.

HOOVER
In connection with our effort to assist the local authorities by securing Social Security information regarding a suspect in connection with the murder of Elizabeth Short at Los Angeles, you inquired as to whether Social Security lets us have any information.

During the war, by special arrangement, Social Security furnished us confidentially with information based on our certification that it was needed in connection with a case growing out of the war and having to do with such matters as Espionage, Sabotage and subversive activities. You will recall that just recently they wrote saying that since the President has issued the proclamation terminating hostilities it would now be necessary to say specifically the case arose during and out of the war. We sent a protest to the Attorney General explaining that we now have cases which have arisen since the cessation of hostilities which are at least as important if not more so than those during the war and requested him to effect arrangements whereby we could receive this very valuable data.

The instant request to Social Security appeared to be an excellent opportunity to get on record asking for assistance in apprehending the perpetrator of a most heinous murder. If they comply, it will be a precedent and if they refuse it will be an excellent instance to cite in our efforts to gain access to their records. The request was delivered by hand but the reply has not been forthcoming as yet. You will be advised immediately.
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Los Angeles (13) California
January 31, 1947

Director, FBI

Attention: IDENTIFICATION DIVISION
(SINGLE FINGERPRINT SECTION)

Re: ELIZABETH SHORT
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Dear Sir:

There are enclosed herewith three photographs of fingerprints removed from an anonymous letter addressed to the Los Angeles Police Department concerning the mutilation murder of ELIZABETH SHORT. It is requested that these prints be checked through the Single Fingerprint Section and if an identification is made that this office be notified by teletype immediately. In the event an identification is not made from these prints, it is requested that same be retained in the Single Fingerprint Section for possible future identification.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

F.B. HCOD
SAC

Encl. (3)

AMS

FOR VICTORY
BUY UNITED STATES BONDS AND STAMPS

RECORD 62-82627-12
SAC, Los Angeles

February 15, 1947

Director, FH

ELIZABETH SHURT
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Reference is made to your letter of January 31, 1947, submitting three photographs of latent impressions for examination in connection with the above-entitled matter, your file #62-2928.

You are advised that the four latent fingerprints appearing in the photographs were searched through the single fingerprint file, but no identifications were effected. The photographs are being retained for any future comparisons which might be desired.
Single Fingerprint Report

Case: RE: ELIZABETH SHORT INFORMATION CONCERNING

Specimens: Three photographs of latent impressions, submitted for fingerprint examination.

Examination requested by: SAC, Los Angeles

Date received: 2-3-47

Date of reference communication: 1-31-47

Examination requested: Fingerprint

Result of examination:

Typewriter Is ID'NT

Gen Latent fingerprint

Fingerprints as follows:

A 3 /D 7, C 2, D 1

Arch all ten fingers

W A 1 : A 3, C 2, D 7, # 3 3/8

D 7 : A 3, C 2, D 7, # 3 3/8

Dictated 2-13-47

SFP-27
Cops Doubt Dahlia 'Slayer's' Accused

By United Press

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 29—A shabbily dressed young Army veteran, Daniel S. Voorhees, was booked on suspicion of murdering Elizabeth Short today after he signed a five-word confession admitting the slaying of the 22-year-old Black Dahlia.

Police were not convinced of Voorhees' guilt, and were awaiting further word from another "confessed slayer," who had promised to give himself up at 10 a.m. today, almost two weeks after the girl's mutilated body was found in a lover's lane.

Voorhees' confession read:

"I did kill Beth Short."

He refused to amplify his statement. Voorhees surrendered by phone and asked to be arrested.

"I can't stand it any longer," the early-haired Voorhees told police. "I have a wife and little girl in Phoenix."

His only connection with the Black Dahlia was his statement that he dated her in 1941 and had seen her several times since.

"I was out with her two weeks ago," he said. "I took her on the bus." He refused to tell where he took her.

As far as police know, Miss Short first came to California in 1943, two years after Voorhees said he dated her. Police said they would not try to give Voorhees a lie detector test until he had recovered from his "bewildered and befuddled" state.

Voorhees said he was booked on a rape charge in Phoenix in 1941 but did not serve time. He said he was released to serve in the Air Corps. Then he contradicted himself and said his Army service began in 1943, not 1941. He was released in 1943, still a private.

The other "slayer" backed down yesterday in a new note asking for terms of surrender.

"I will give up in Dahlia killing get 10 years. Don't try to find the note."

Police also questioned Cilo S., estranged father of the dead girl, a second time and released him.

A one-time roommate of the dead girl, 16-year-old Lynn Martin, told police more of her own experiences than of Miss Short's. She was to be questioned again today.

The girl, who masqueraded as a 16-year-old model, admitted an acquaintance with free-lance photographers George Price, 43, and said she had posed in the nude for him for pictures.

Price's name was in the Dahlia's address book. He was questioned but he denied knowing Miss Short.

Police said they will use Martin's testimony. 11 men would be charged with contributing to her delinquency.
1/29/47

This Daniel S. Voorhees
appears to be mental case.
However, C. W. Evans checking
index card today.

Suspect confesses
Black Dahlia Killing
Gives Up, Says 'Can't Stand It Any Longer'

33-year-old Man Denies Writing Notes

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 28 (AP) - Police Capt. Jack Donohoe announced late tonight that a 33-year-old man had walked into police headquarters and said he "wanted to confess" to the sadistic killing of Elizabeth Short, 22, whose nude, beheaded body was found in a vacant lot here recently.

The man, dressed in tan work pants, green sport shirt, his copper-curlly hair bareheaded, was booked on suspicion of murder. He gave his name as Daniel S. Voorhees.

"Can't Stand 'It Any Longer"

"Just a short time ago," said Donohoe, "a man telephoned police headquarters and said 'I can't stand it any longer—I want to confess to the murder of the Black Dahlia.'"

That was the way friends of the former Hyde Park, Mass., girl referred to her, because of her penchant for wearing black clothing to match her raven tresses.

"Shortly after we received the telephone call," said Donohoe, "this man walked into the homicide department and said 'I can't stand it any longer—I want to confess to the Black Dahlia's murder.'"

Has Family in Phoenix

Donohoe said that after the man was booked, giving several downtown hotels as his residence, he was turned over for questioning by Dr. Paul De River, police psychiatrist.

The psychiatrist said, after a preliminary examination, that he had "come to no definite conclusion."

Detective Ed Barrett, who was among the man's questioners, displayed a sheet of paper on which was written, "I did kill Elizabeth Short," which was signed "Daniel S. Voorhees."

Barrett said Voorhees told him he has a wife and nine-year-old daughter in Phoenix, Ariz., but declined to identify them.

Must 'Get it Off My Chest'

Barrett quoted Voorhees as saying:

"I am so sick I can't stand it. I simply had to get it off my chest."

He denied having written any of a number of letters and post cards to police, one of which said the slayer would surrender at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

PHOENIX, Ariz., Jan. 28 (AP) - The Phoenix police identification bureau said tonight a man who gave his name as Dan Voorhees had been arrested here five times.

The bureau said that Voorhees, arrested in 1942 in connection with a Phoenix assault to commit rape, gave his age as 22. Records showed no disposition of the case.
TELETYPE

CONF WASH AND WASH FL 4 LOSA 1 AFROM NEW YORK 28 1-57 P
DIRECTOR AND SAGS URGENT

UNSUB, ELIZABETH SHORT, VIC. MURDER. MISCELLANEOUS INFO CONCERNING.
FOLLOWING TELETYPED RECD FROM ST LOUIS QUOTE SPECIAL SEARCH CONDUCTED FOR SERVICE RECORD PERTAINING TO ASN ON WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. SEARCH ALSO CONDUCTED IN CLINICAL RECORDS ON UNDER REGISTER NUMBER WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. AGO ADVISES RECORDS PROBABLY LOCATED IN WASHINGTON, D.C. RUC UNQUOTE. NO FURTHER ACTION IN NYC.

SCHMIDT RECEIVED 8029A 15 FEB 4 1947

Two copies to CFO
Transmitted to D.A.
WASH FROM LOSA 16 29 5-11 P

URGENT

DIRECTOR

UNSUBL.

VICTIM MURDER MISC INFO CONCERNING:

MEDICAL CORPS U S ARMY

CAIRNS

FORMERLY ATTACHED TO

AND LAPD REQUESTS ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING PREP

BEACH AND DEACT.

CASE.

UNKNOWN AS TO WHETHER ON ACT FEB 15 1947.

SUBTL.

KFAW
U.S. Army Intelligence

Los Angeles and Washington Field

Emergency

Subject: Elizabeth Short, Victim, Murder, Miscellaneous Information

Concerning, fun, from New York January Twenty-Five, Last. VA File, No.

Honorably discharged from Army

Disability checks currently mailed to him, as of December Thirtieth, Forty-Five, at

Checks prior to this time and subsequent to
discharge mailed to him at address of

Born

Pounds, white, build,

AGC Records reflect

Army

Mother, sister, known

Recorded

Copies of photo

Taken in Forty-Three, being made. Will be forwarded to AMO.

Bureau investigated.

Bureau by messenger

March 6, 1947
Office Memorandum - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: D. M. Ladd
FROM: H. W. Smith
SUBJECT: Request for criminal record of a suspect in the Black Dahlia murder case in California.

DATE: February 6, 1947

After checking with the Identification Division, the writer informed that no information could be furnished at this time. The writer suggested that if was still interested, he might call later this morning.

ACTION: Transmit to Records and Communications Division.
SAC, Los Angeles

Director, FBI

ELIZABETH SHORT, VICTIM, MURDER

Reference is made to your conference wire to the Bureau and New York City on January 31, 1947, regarding the above subject matter.

A search was made in the Identification Division to locate records on one who may be identical with the individual mentioned in referenced telegraph. Three fingerprint records which contain cards from the Army were located in the criminal files; copies of these records are enclosed, for your information, as possibly one may be identical with the individual in whom you are interested. There were forty-five Army prints under the name of in our non-criminal file, consequently it was not possible to determine which of these might be identical with subject.

Enclosure

620

January 31, 1947

620

Enclosures 62-82-627

RECEIVED
3/7 FEB 1 1947

RECEIVED 13/1 FEB 1 1947

INDEXED 68

FEB 11 1947

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Date: January 28, 1947

To: Executive Director
Social Security Board
Washington, D. C.

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: ELIZABETH SHORT

This Bureau has received a request from an official of the Los Angeles Police Department for assistance in the investigation of the case of Elizabeth Short, who was a victim of a ruthless murder on January 14, 1947, at Los Angeles. You will recall that this is the case which has received considerable newspaper publicity and at the present time the Los Angeles Police Department investigation is at a standstill. The only existing lead at this time is a matter of checking her past employment through the records of the Social Security Board. It is, therefore, requested that this Bureau be supplied with information from the Social Security records concerning Elizabeth Short. Her Social Security Number is listed as 0-22-18-4750. Of particular interest is information concerning her employment record. Miss Short is described as white; age, approximately 22; height, 5 feet 6 inches; hair, light brown, dyed black; eyes, green. Information contained in your records will be of invaluable assistance in the handling of this matter. Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated.
Office Memorandum - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO:         D. M. Leake
FROM:       E. G. Fitch
SUBJECT:    ELIZABETH SHORT

DATE:       January 30, 1947

The original of the attached letter to the Executive Director, Social Security Board, which requests the Social Security Board to supply the Bureau with information from the Social Security records relative to Elizabeth Short, was delivered to Deputy Commissioner W. L. Mitchell by of the Liaison Section. She was requested to advise Mr. Mitchell, who was home ill, of instant request as soon as he returned to work Thursday, January 30, 1947, and also to advise the Bureau as soon as possible, positively or negatively.

It is noted the attached letter is addressed to the Executive Director of the Social Security Board. It was ascertained that the administrative setup at the Social Security Board has recently undergone a change. It is now headed by Commissioner Arthur J. Altmeyer, Room 5238, Social Security Building, Washington, D. C. (Mr. Altmeyer is presently at the United Nations Conference and will probably be there until February 8, 1947).

W. L. Mitchell is the Deputy Commissioner and is the Executive Administrative Assistant to the Commissioner, both have offices in the Social Security Building.

ACTION

None.

by

ACTION

Stop on letter

by

RECORDED 11/30/47
WASH FROM LOSA 4  24  1-36 PM

DIRECTOR  URGENT

ELIZABETH SHORT, INFO CONCERNING, POLICE COOPERATION. ELIZABETH
SHORT VICTIM OF RUTHLESS MURDER JAN. FOURTEEN LAST AT L.A.
POLICE INVESTIGATION AT STANDSTILL.
HOMICIDE SQUAD, REQUESTED THIS OFFICE ENDEAVOR TO OBTAIN PRIOR
EMPLOYMENT RECORD OF SHORT THROUGH OF SOCIAL SECURITY. VICTIM
DESCRIBED WHITE, FEMALE, TWENTY-TWO, FIVE FT. SIX, ONE EIGHTEEN
LBS., HAIR LIGHT BROWN, EYES BLACK, GREEN EYES, BAD TEETH,
SOCIAL SECURITY NO. NAUGHT DASH TWO TWO DASH ONE EIGHT DASH
SEVEN FIVE NAUGHT. SUTEL AT ONCE.
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Los Angeles (15) California  
February 15, 1947  

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO  
FILE NO. 62-2928  

Director, FBI  

RE: ELIZABETH SHORT  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  

Attention: FBI LABORATORY  

Dear Sir:  

On the early morning of January 15, 1947, the mutilated body of ELIZABETH SHORT was found in a vacant lot in a residential section of Los Angeles. She was last seen alive, according to information thus far available to the Police, the night of January 9, 1947 when she was dropped off in the lobby of the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles by a male friend. The body was cut into around the waist with a very sharp instrument and the cut was very cleanly done—none of the internal organs being touched except to sever the intestines. The cut through the backbone was very cleanly done. There is some speculation that the murderer had had some training in dissection of bodies.

I am enclosing [redacted] which were found on the body and as a cooperative measure with the Los Angeles Police Department I am requesting the Technical Laboratory to make an examination of these. It would be of considerable assistance to have described as to size, quality and type; particularly, as to whether they are [redacted] or some other composition. If the Laboratory has any information as to the types are used it would be of assistance. It is felt that the murder was committed indoors, where water, drainage facilities and perhaps medical equipment was available. The possibility has even been advanced that some medical student residing in an undertaking establishment which is done in this area, might have committed the offense. Any possible leads that the Laboratory can suggest would be appreciated. Any leads should be returned when they have served their purpose. If it is necessary to destroy them in the examination, there is no objection to such action.

The Bureau is requested to teletype its report on [redacted]  

Very truly yours,  

[Redacted]  

2/15/47  

AIR MAIL AND REGISTERED  

[Redacted]
SLAIN
GIRL
IDENTIFIED

62-82627-257
ENCLOSURE

J.R. Green 1-17-47
Victim from
Santa Barbara
According to
Records of F.B.I.

New Torture Disclosed
by Autopsy

Fingerprints tentatively identified the attractive victim of a brutal sex-fied murder found Wednesday in a vacant lot near Norton Ave. and 39th St. as Elizabeth Short, 22, of Santa Barbara, the Federal Bureau of Investigation informed The Times yesterday.

The identification, gleaned from the vast fingerprint files of the government agency, was in the absence of personal telephoned and visited the homicide desk in City Hall claiming the girl to be a relative or friend.

Cause of Death Given

Police youth was questioned at the City Jail as a possible suspect in the sadistic slaying, while in the Coroner's office the coroner's office autopsy physicians announced that Miss Short died of hemorrhage and shock. The young woman's mouth was slit with a knife three inches on each side while she was still alive, the doctors said.

This plus a concussion of the brain induced by blows on the head caused her death, they stated. Other mutilation of the body, which was found cut in half and otherwise desecrated, occurred after death, in their opinion.

The F.B.I. files disclosed the victim's identity after the Times wired classification of her fingerprints to Washington. No definite address was available.

Santa Barbara, according to the bureau's last known residence. She may have lived elsewhere just prior to her slaying.
Fiend Slaying Victim's Life Story Under Check

Santa Barbara Arrest Learned From F.B.I.

Girl Once Arrested

Santa Barbara police revealed that Miss Short was arrested there in the latter part of September, 1943, when she was seen drinking with a number of soldiers in the El Paseo Restaurant. A minor, she claimed one of the soldiers was her husband. Police disproved this.

Further investigation at that time disclosed that the girl was living with one Vera Green in a West Cabrillo Beach cottage at 324 C W. Montecito St.

Police officer Mary Unkefer and other officers who visited the place reported that they found two soldiers there, one of them in the bedroom. Miss Green stated that he was her husband, but subsequently it was learned that he was not her husband, was a person.

The Santa Barbara authorities placed Miss Short on a train by order of juvenile officials, to be returned to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cleo Short of Medford, Mass. Since then she has not been seen in the Mission City.

At the time she was photographed in the Santa Barbara police station, Miss Short had small, brown, molelike freckles on her left arm, and two faint, small, brown moles on her right cheek. This tallyes in some cases with the results of an examination of the murder victim.
Movements Traced

Capt. Jack A. Donohoe, given
the identification by The Times,
launched an immediate investiga-
tion to trace the movements
of the girl before she fell prey to
the perverted sadism of a person
who apparently tortured her
before she died.

Dr. Frederick D. Newhart, and
Vito Cefalu, deputy autopsy
surgeons, reported finding three
deep abrasions on the forehead
just over the right eye. They in-
dicated Miss Short had been
severely plunged by a blunt in-
strument, which may have
caused concussion. Her skull was
not fractured.

When the young woman's
body was found some small
pieces of flesh were missing.
These were found by the autopsy
surgeons.

Tied for Torture

Marks around the girl's legs,
wrist, neck, and right thigh
showed she had been tied with
wires prior to death. Det.
Lts. Harry Hansen and F. A.
Brown said they believed she
had been bound and tortured be-
fore her murderer carried her
to the Norton-street station for
disposal.

So shocked by the details of
the butcher-murder were city
officials that a $10,000 reward
was planned for the capture of
the slayer. City Councilman
Lloyd G. Davis said he will ask
the posting of the reward at the
earliest opportunity.

Resemblance Doubtful

Policewoman Myra McBride,
who said the victim looked
like a woman she talked with on
Main St. last Tuesday night, last
night was more dubious about the
resemblance after seeing Elizabeth
Short's photograph.

The policewoman said the girl
came to her in a bus station,
saying "Someone wants to kill
me," then told of a former serv-
iesman-sitter's meeting her in
a bar and repeating a threat on
her life should she find her with
another man. Policewoman Mc-
Bride said she later saw the girl
re-enter the bar and emerge
with two men and another wom-
an. She had told the policewom-
an she was to meet her parents
at the bus station later, Miss
McBride said.

The entire homicide detail
joined in the widening search
for the killer as telephones in
the squad room jangled incess-
antly with the tips of citizens
who read of the murder.

Depot Visitor Questioned

Picked up by officers early yester-
day at the bus depot at Sixth
and Los Angeles Sts., Cecil
French, 23, of Bakersfield, was
booked on suspicion of a morals
offense, and questioned concern-
ing possible implication in Miss
Short's murder.

French, said the officers, was
seen molesting women in the vi-
cinity of the spot where the auto-
crash occurred, and one was
saying a black car without plates
French told Hansen and Brown that he had
removed the seat to carry some
machinery. He was not con-
considered a "hot" suspect.

Cars Seen Near Scene

Another witness, Bob Meyer,
also reported seeing a Ford se-
dan pause near where the body
was found, and continue. He
placed the time at 6:30 a.m.

Other witnesses, however, said
they walked past the lot as late
as 6:30 a.m. Wednesday, without
seeing the body, found only 12
yards from the sidewalk.
Sex Fiend Slaying Victim Identified
by Fingerprint Records of F.B.I.
‘Times’ Learns Girl Wrote Mother
She Worked in San Diego Hospital

Fingerprints identified the attractive victim of a brutal sex-fiend murder found Wednesday in a vacant lot near Nort- 

1. The F.B.I. identification was
39th St., as Elizabeth Short, 22, last known

The Times yesterday.

made in Washington, being gleaned from the vast fingerprint

39th St., as Elizabeth Short, 22, last known

files of the government agency.

address Santa Barbara, the Federal Bureau of Investigation

It was made as scores of persons

Speaker of the house of

informed The Times yesterday.

delegated for visited the homicide
detail in City Hall, claiming the

girl to be a relative or friend.

the home of the girl.

reported in San Diego

In a telephone call to Boston

Times learned last night

by Elizabeth Short, 22, who wrote her

girlfriend’s story was being

She was reported as having

address in the city.

hospital.

it was reported the girl had been

homicide was still.

traced to the home of the girl.

in the home of the girl.

work as a pharmacist.

One youth was questioned at

by the authorities.

physicians announced that

Miss Short died of hemorrhage and shock. The young woman’s

missed the victim.

the doctor said.

the brain induced by blows on the

head, and evidence of

Head. Other evidence of

the body, which was found cut in

hair, and otherwise desecrated,

occurred after death, in their

opinion.

Hollywood Visits Told
From two police sources last night came word that Elizabeth

short had lived in Hollywood in

October.

Two young men and two young

women visited the homicide

squad office to report they re-

ceived the victim as “Betty”

short, with whom they occa-

sionally had visited a Holly-

wood night club about three

months before the girl dis-

appeared. The young man and

the young people that she

was engaged to an Army flyer

from Texas, named “George,”

and that she could marry him

any time and probably would,”

according to their story to

police.

Police also reported that Har-

old F. Costa, 31, and Donald

Livesey, 22, of 1181 N. Orange

Drive, last night identified the

victim as Elizabeth (Betty)

short who lived for two months

at the same hotel at which they

resided and “went around” with

two girls. He was named at

Margie Graham and Lynn

Marvin.

The F.B.I. also disclosed the

victim’s identity after The

Times wired classification of her

fingerprints to Washington. We

indefinite address was available.

in Santa Barbara, according to

the Times, was Miss Short’s last

known residence. She may have

lived elsewhere just prior to her

slaying.

Girl rested

Santa Barbara police revealed

that Miss Short was arrested

there in the latter part of Sep-

tember, 1943, when she was

seen drinking with a number of

soldiers in the El Paseo Restaurant.

Then a minor, she claimed one

of the soldiers was her husband.

Police disproved this.

Further investigation at this

time disclosed that the girl was

living with her mother in a

West Cabrillo Beach court at

2100 W. Montecito St.

Police woman, Mary Ukefe,

and other officers who visited

the place reported that they

found two soldiers there, one of

them in the bedroom; Miss Green

stated that he was her husband,

but subsequently it was learned

that her soldier-husband was

overseas.

The Santa Barbara authorities

placed Miss Short on a train by

order of Juvenile officials, to be

returned to her parents, Mr. and

Mrs. Cecilia Short of Medford,

Mass. Since then she has not

been seen in the Mission City.

At the time she was

graphed in the Santa Barbara

police station, Miss Short was

small, brown, molotov-like fragiles,

on her left arm and two faint,

small, brown moles on her right

cheek. This couple in some ac-

gree with the results of the

autopsy examination of the victim.

Victim’s Movement

Carpet, Valley and, as given

by the Times, was examined by

an official of Mission City to

trace the movements of the girl

before she fell prey to the

perverted taste of her

man who was convicted and

recognized.

Dr. Frederick D. Newmark

and

Victor o’f perry autopsy

Dated 1/17/47

02 - 82 / 427-25
Depot Visitor Questioned

Picked up by officers early yesterday at the bus depot at Sixth and Los Angeles Sts., Cecil French, 23, of Bakersfield, was booked on suspicion of a morals offense and questioned concerning possible implication in Miss Short's murder.

French, said the officers, was seen molesting women in the vicinity of the depot. His automobile, parked near by, was missing a back seat. French told Hansen and Brown that he had removed the seat to carry some machinery. He was not considered a "hot" suspect.

One caller said he had seen a car drive slowly along Norton Ave. at 5:30 a.m. Wednesday, pause to turn into an alley, then continue slowly away. The caller did not give his name.

Cars Seen Near Scene

Another witness, Bob Myer, also reported seeing a Ford sedan pause near where the body was found, and continue. He impressed the officers by the time at 6:30 a.m.

Other witnesses, however, said they walked past the body late Wednesday night without seeing the body, found only 12 feet from the sidewalk.

Another automobile, registered to Wilford A. Doherty, 4312 E. Slauson Ave., was abandoned in a service station at 950 W. Manchester Ave., was thought to be a lead yesterday. Strands of grass hung from the mud-splattered door. Patches of blood dotted the upholstery. Three newspapers, all dealing with the crime, lay on the seat.

Det. L. L. Stewart Jones dismissed Dougherty as a suspect, however, when it was learned that he had left the car in the service station early yesterday morning on his way home from a party.

The entire homicide detail joined in the widening search for clues. Officers are telephoning the squad room incessantly with the tips of citizens who rest on the murder.
Reporters Trace Victim's Movements

She was described in the FBI files as 5 feet 6 inches tall, 121 pounds in weight, with brown hair and green eyes, medium build and fair complexion.

Examiner reporters were immediately sent to Santa Barbara and Camp Cooke to trace back on the girl's movements and to trace her to this city.

The identification by the Examiner came as the first big break in the investigation of the crime which shocked the city.

The girl's body, severed at the waist, was found Wednesday morning in a vacant lot on Norton avenue between 39th street and Coliseum avenue. She had been dead about 10 hours at the time she was found. The slayer had killed her else-

where and then placed the body in plain view. It was only a few feet from the sidewalk.

Efforts to solve the crime had been blocked all Wednesday night by lack of identification of the body and police were practically at a standstill in the case until the Examiner learned the victim's identity.

One suspect—Cecil French of Bakersfield—was in custody.

CAR CLEW

Arrested after he had been accused of molesting women at the bus depot, he revealed he owned a car which later proved it might be a connecting link to the Short slaying.

The back seat was removed. On it were stains which police chemists were analyzing.

A car had been seen at the Norton avenue site about the time Miss Short's mutilated body was deposited there. This car and French's police said, were similar in description.

SISTER LOCATED——

After contact had been made with Mrs. Short in Massachusetts, the investigation swung to Berkeley. There a sister of the slain girl, Mrs. A. C. West, lives at 2614 Warring street.

It was possible, investigators believed, Mrs. West would know something about Elizabeth's movements.

Late last night, the clerk of the North Orange drive told how Miss Short, who had lived there with two other girls, often "ran behind in her rent"
"A man, short, dark and about 35—would come to the desk and pay her 50 cents," the clerk said.

This man owned a fairly old black Ford sedan. When the three girls left, they drove off in this sedan.

Reporters learned at Santa Barbara that at the time Miss Short was taken into custody there three years ago, she was betrothed by the arresting policewoman, Mary H. Unefer.

"She had the blackest hair ever saw," Miss Unefer recalled yesterday.

At the time of her death, the girl's hair was hennaed, but the original dark strands were beginning to regrow.

**LIVING IN COURT**

"She was living in a court room," Miss Unefer also said. "There were four soldiers from Camp Cooke in their cottage when they were arrested. Miss Green said one of them was her husband, but later learned her husband was a soldier overseas."

The cottage was at 321-C West Montecito street, in Santa Barbara. This was the address given by the FBI.

"While she was awaiting action on the probation investigation, I took her into my home," the policewoman continued. "She was with me several days. I noticed she was a very nice girl and was most neat about her person and clothes."

"The juvenile court released her on probation finally and I took her to a bus on which she started to Massachusetts. The Santa Barbara Neighborhood House gave her $20 for expense money."

**REACHED HOME**

Miss Unefer said she was "positive" Miss Short reached her home in Medford because several letters came to her from the girl there.

This was another fact confirmed by the mother.

The policewoman revealed that the short girl had a rose tattooed on her left leg.

"She loved to sit so that it would show," Miss Unefer recalled.

The slayer mutilated this identifying blemish.

The girl apparently went to work at Camp Cooke—in the commissary—on her return to California. The camp is about four miles north of Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, Dr. Newbarr officially reported the cause of death as aneurysm and shock due to laceration of the face and concussion of the brain."

**VICTIM IDENTIFIED**—This is Elizabeth Doe, whose mutilated body was found on a Los Angeles to Santa Barbara bus Wednesday morning. She was identified through fingerprints.
POLICE AIDED BY SOUNDPHOTO

By Ray Richards

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Identification of 22-year-old Elizabeth Short as the Los Angeles victim of one of the most brutal murders in crime annals was a cross-country feat of enterprise and scientific coordination today.

Participating were the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Los Angeles Examiner, the Washington Bureau of the Hearst newspapers, International News photo and Detective Sergeant Harry Brown of Los Angeles.

Successful, almost instantaneous transmission by wire across the continent of the delicate prints, loops and "tents" of the dead girl's fingerprints is believed to have expanded the boundaries of crime detection.

PRAISE GIVEN

Praising the Examiner's enterprise and the clarity of the INP Soundphotos, the FBI said it considered the identification "an outstanding accomplishment."

The Examiner dispatched the prints to Washington by the INP which sends images by sound impulses through leased telephone wires in the most up-to-the-minute development of picture transmission.

Facilities for a check of the Soundphotos images among the 104,000,000 separate fingerprints in the vast FBI files in Washington had been arranged by the Hearst Washington Bureau with FBI officials.

Within an hour after the bureau had delivered the prints to the FBI, the identification had been made.

IMPERFECT

Given perfect fingerprints, it would have taken the FBI only a few minutes to locate those of the girl among the 104,000,000, so perfectly organized is the agency's file system.

But the dead fingers had not provided good prints.

The FBI undertook the task of "building up" the blank spots and other defects in the prints by a system which represents the final advance in identification methods.

With defective prints, as in the case of the Los Angeles murder victim, much of the search had to be conducted by hand, among filing cabinets crowding a fortress of National Guard armory four times the expanse of a regulation football field.
HUNT DEFINITE SUSPECT IN L.A. HORROR MURDER