Identify victim as Hollywood resident

(Additional story on Page 5)

A definite suspect has been established in the brutal murder of 22-year-old Elizabeth Short, whose mutilated body was found dumped in a vacant lot in southwestern Los Angeles Wednesday morning.

Identification of the girl was made by an eyewitness who saw her at the Sidewalk Cafe, Hollywood, where she was a regular customer.

The police officer who made the discovery, Officer John J. O'Connor, said that the girl was last seen at the Sidewalk Cafe, where she had been sitting at a booth with two other men.

One of the men, who is believed to have been the man who killed the girl, was last seen leaving the cafe in a small, blue car.

The police are now searching for this man, who is believed to be in his late 20s or early 30s, and to have a foreign accent.

It is believed that the killer may have taken the body to a nearby abandoned building, where it was found by a maintenance worker.

The body was that of a young woman, approximately 5 feet 4 inches tall, with long, auburn hair and blue eyes.

The cause of death is believed to be asphyxiation, possibly caused by a ligature around the neck.

The police are now searching for any witnesses who may have seen or heard anything unusual in the area around the cafe on the night of the murder.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Hollywood Division of the Los Angeles Police Department at 323-847-7575.
Gristly L. A. murder similar to sex slaying of seven San Diego women

Southern California police officers last night noted the striking similarity between the mad butcher murder of Elizabeth Short, 22, whose body was found here Wednesday, and other unsolved San Diego sex crimes.

Officers in the border city immediately feared that San Diego's sadistic woman killer, already believed responsible for at least seven unsolved murders, was on the prowl again.

For 15 years, police and psychologists have agreed that the killer was a sexual sadist whose crimes increased in brutality.

By studying the records of unsolved cases, they conjectured that Miss Short, who worked and lived in San Diego, could well be the mad killer's latest victim—in the most brutal of all the crimes.

The string of unsolved crimes began in Feb., 1931, when Virginia Brooks, 16-year-old schoolgirl, was gang-raped, murdered and dumped in a junkyard. Her body was found months later.

On April 25 of the same year, the body of Dolly Bubbins, attractive, well-to-do widow, was found in her apartment. She had been viciously beaten after first being raped.

Two weeks later, Hazel Bradshaw, beautiful, 22-year-old telephone operator, was found murdered in the Indian Village, Balboa Park. She had been stabbed 17 times.

While still investigating these three murders, police were called to the apartment of Maud Detwiler, attractive divorcee. She, too, had been raped and sadistically slain.

There was a three year lull before the sex fiend struck again.

Then, on the morning of March 4, 1934, police found Mrs. Wesley Adams dead, the victim of a killer following a similar pattern to the first three crimes.

A month later, San Diego was shocked by one of the most baffling of all sex crime cases. Hanging from a tree on Black Mountain was the ghastly body of pretty Louise Teuber, 17-year-old clerk.

A rope around her neck was tied to the limbs of two trees, but an autopsy indicated she had been raped and murdered elsewhere, before being tied to the tree.

Before the summer ended, the sadist struck again.

Cella Cota, 16-year-old high school beauty, was murdered just before she entered her home after attending a movie.

She had been raped several times, tortured and strangled.

So incensed was San Diego that the entire police administration was replaced, but still no clues to the mad slayer were found.

Next, and perhaps most peculiar in the series, was the brutal murder of Miss Ruth Muir, Riverside YWCA secretary, and daughter of a prominent Phoenix bank employee.

Visiting her vacationing parents in La Jolla, Miss Muir walked along the moonlit shores of La Jolla on the night of Sept. 22, 1934.

She had paused behind a lovers' bench, near the Casa del Mar Hotel, when the killer struck.

Police said they had never known a murder in which the victim's head was so systematically beaten. She, too, had been raped and slashed.

But the most violent killing of all—and perhaps No. 8 in the series—was the murder of Elizabeth Short, whose mutilated, bloodied body was discovered here Wednesday.
EXAMINER
IDENTIFIES
GIRL
TORTURE
SLAYING
VICTIM
"Beth Broke and Hungry"—
During Stay in Hollywood

Jobs were few and money was scarce for Elizabeth Short during her residence at a Hollywood hotel last year, two youths and the hotel's clerk told police last night.

Harold Costa, 21, and Donald Leyes, 22—both residents of the hotel at 1611 North Orange drive—said they had been boy friends of Elizabeth's two roommates, Margery Graham and Lynn Martin.

"Whenever we took the girls out to dinner, they always asked us if they might bring Beth along," Costa recalled. "They said the kid was broke and hungry."

Leyes added that the three girls occasionally worked as waitresses.

"Miss Short was always getting behind in her rent,"James McGrath, clerk at the hotel remembered. "Whenever she did, a short, dark man—about 35 or 40—came in and paid her bill. He used to drive a black Ford sedan and park it in front."

McGrath said the victim of the inhuman torture slaying last Tuesday had been a chronic bronchitis sufferer and once underwent a chest operation.

"When Beth and the other two girls checked out of the hotel last October," the clerk added, "they piled their baggage in the short, dark man's car and drove off."

Costa and Leyes remembered a date they had had with the three girls when Elizabeth asked to be excused because "her hair needed another henna rinse."

L.A. Examiner 10-17-47
Office Memorandum - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: MR. TOLSON
FROM: L. B. NICHOLS

DATE: January 17, 1947

SUBJECT: IDENTIFICATION OF ELIZABETH SHORT

At 6:10 p.m. yesterday I received a call from the Los Angeles Times. He stated he was inquiring regarding our identification of the murdered girl found in Los Angeles day before yesterday, that the Los Angeles Examiner had sent her prints to Washington via wirephoto and that the Bureau had identified the girl and informed the Examiner and the Los Angeles Police. I told him this was correct, that we had made the identification, that since it involved a local case any further comment would have to come from the Chief of Police. He asked for the girl’s name and I told him. He was very appreciative.

At 7:00 p.m. of INS called. He asked if we could give them a statement at 9 o’clock, as he would be smack in the middle since they had received a previous inquiry from the Herald Express the day before, and he had deliberately declined to answer this inquiry, and it would be very embarrassing unless they carried something on their wire. Of course, at 9 o’clock the Examiner was on the street.

At 8:40 p.m. I received a call from the Associated Press asking that their Los Angeles Bureau was making inquiry regarding the case, that the Los Angeles Examiner had the full details, and I also ascertained that United Press had a similar inquiry. Accordingly, at 8:50 p.m. I issued the following statement to INS, which was given to the AP at 8:55 and to UP at 9:05. All were appreciative.

Mr. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI, announced that fingerprints sent to the FBI by wire photo of an unidentified murdered girl whose body was located by local authorities in Los Angeles were identified when searched through the fingerprint files of the FBI, containing more than 104 million sets of fingerprints.

“The fingerprints, taken by Los Angeles Police, were transmitted to Washington by the Los Angeles Examiner today over the facilities of the International News Photos. Upon receipt in Washington they were delivered to the FBI Identification Division by a representative of the Los Angeles Examiner.

"Only 6 fingerprints appear to be clear, and 3 others were badly blurred, yet it was possible for fingerprint experts to search them through the files and make identification with two fingerprint cards previously on file bearing the name of Elizabeth Short.

"One of the fingerprint cards was submitted by authorities at Camp Cooke, California, on January 30, 1947, indicating that..."
Miss Short was an applicant for a position as a clerk in the Post Office. The other set of fingerprints was submitted by the Santa Barbara, California, Police Department reflecting the girl's arrest on September 10, 1943, on charges of violating juvenile court laws after which she was released to the Probation Department. Her residence at that time was recorded as 1217 W. Fontana Street.

Both cards reflected her date of birth as July 12, 1924, at Hyde Park, Massachusetts.

All details on the identification were promptly communicated to the Los Angeles Police authorities.

I also furnished copies of the girl's picture pursuant to requests from home news photos and the AP photo service.

of the Los Angeles Examiner was wondering if the Director could give them a brief quote along the lines that the action of the Examiner in forwarding the fingerprints by wire photo was an excellent illustration of public service. I told them we would think about this. I see no objection to this. I wanted a letter, although I do not think the Director should write a letter. The Examiner should be thanking us. However, I would suggest the Director give out the following statement:

"The action of the Los Angeles Examiner in transmitting to the FBI the fingerprints of the unidentified murdered victim is an excellent illustration of the cooperation of the press with law enforcement, and it is such cooperation that aids law enforcement in curtailing the increase in crime."

L

26th
TO: Director
Mr. Edward Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Jones
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
Personnel Files Section
Records Section

See Me For Appropriate Action
Send File Note and Return

Clyde Tolson
Office Memorandum  UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Mr. Tolson  
FROM: L. B. Nichols  

DATE: January 21, 1947

SUBJECT: IDENTIFICATION OF ELIZABETH SHORT

To recount the happenings on Thursday, January 16, involving the identification of Elizabeth Short and the possible interest of the Los Angeles Times, I wish to advise as follows:

Shortly after 10 a.m. on the morning of January 16, of the local Hearst bureau, which represents the Los Angeles Examiner, called and related the murder and stated that in cooperation with the Los Angeles Police, the Los Angeles Examiner was sending the fingerprints of the girl to Washington via International News Photos wire service. They were sending them at considerable cost and as soon as they arrived asked if we could check them. I made the arrangements with Mr. Quinn Tamm in Ident.

The pictures arrived at approximately 11 o'clock. Quinn Tamm called me on the phone and stated that he doubted they would be able to identify the prints since two of the fingerprint impressions were missing entirely and three others were badly blurred. They would start making reference searches but that it would be better if they had better impressions. Accordingly, I called back and told him that we were having difficulty and it would be much better if he could have a full set of the fingerprints transmitted and if the transmission could be clear. This request was canceled.

At approximately 1:30 p.m. Angeles Times called Quinn Tamm and in my absence was referred to Mr. Jones. referred to the unidentified girl and stated that she had a wire from her paper furnishing the fingerprint classification. Mr. Jones told that it would be extremely difficult to identify a set of fingerprints with only the fingerprint classification and of course with no name. However, Mr. Jones stated he would check the matter. Mr. Jones checked with Quinn Tamm, who informed him of the search that was underway and referred Mr. Jones to me. I told Mr. Jones to do nothing and to sit tight.

The identification was made in the late afternoon and the full details were furnished to the Los Angeles Examiner. Obviously, from a newspaper standpoint, the Examiner by its enterprise and initiative had a clear start on this matter and of course was entitled to such protection and credit be given them. At that time we decided that we would not release the information to anybody, that the called action would of course refer them to the Los Angeles Police but furnish the name of the girl. It was also decided if they did not call by 7 o'clock that we would call them.
Memorandum to Mr. Tolson

At 5:40 I called Mr. Jones' office and Mr. Jones absence talked to Supervisor and also gave him the fingerprint classification. He stated he would get hold of Mr. Jones and have him call me back. Mr. Jones was out and was unable to get hold of Mr. Jones until shortly after 6 o'clock, and at that time he called back. On this occasion he was perturbed and stated that another paper had received a reply, that it looked like the Bureau was playing favorites and indicated that he was being given a run-around. At this moment Mr. Jones came in. Mr. Jones talked to him and told him I was handling the matter. Mr. Jones, in accordance with my instructions, then referred to my office. When he called he obviously had a chip on his shoulder and he immediately went into a tirade that he had called Jones and was being given a run-around and he demanded to know what the score was, stating that his paper had a deadline to make.

I told him the score simply was that the Los Angeles Examiner, which he in turn had mentioned by name as having the story, had furnished the fingerprints to us by wire photo, that we had made the identification, that since it was a local case it was suggested that his people contact the Police Department in Los Angeles. He was very gracious at this point and thanked me. He then asked for the girl's name and I furnished him with the girl's name. This satisfied him completely.

I noted in the Los Angeles Times story that the Times stated that the Times had been informed of the identity of the girl by the FBI after the Times had sent the fingerprint classification to Washington.

Shortly before 6 o'clock INS had a query from the Los Angeles Herald Express. They of course were fully informed as to the developments in the case by the Herald Express is a day Hearst paper and INS stalled on making any reply.

At about 7 o'clock that evening I called and asked if we would give out a short statement around 9 o'clock which would protect him since the Examiner would then be on the street. At 8:40 p.m. I received a call from the AP, advising that the Los Angeles Times and the Los Angeles Examiner had the story. I told the AP that I would check on the matter and call them back. I then issued a short statement to INS and called the AP back and issued a short statement to them and to the UP. The statement issued is attached, included in my memorandum of January 17.

... has the reputation of carrying a chip on his shoulder. I would not be the least bit surprised that he might not protest against our handling of the matter. I do not think he...
Memorandum to Mr. Tolson

has a leg to stand on since the Examiner was entitled to the protection that they had. I recall very distinctly that during the smear campaign of 1940, he exhibited an unfriendly attitude toward the Bureau. With my recollection serving me correctly, I was informed confidentially that at one of the AG's press conferences, he asked questions indicating an unfriendly attitude toward the Bureau.
To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

FEBRUARY 20, 1947

Transmit the following message to:

SAC, LOS ANGELES

ELIZABETH SECRET, INFORMATION CONCERNING.

BOOZE

ROUTINE

FC-19260 BN

RECORDED

15 FEB 24 1947

-29
Examination requested by: Los Angeles (62-2923)
Date of reference communication: let 2-13-47
Examination requested: Micro. 61D
Result of Examination: 61D
Specimens submitted for examination

File # Lab. # PC-19260 BN
RECORDED
2-18-47

Lab. # PC-19260 BW

Examination requested by: Los Angeles (62-2928)

Date of reference communication: 1st 2-13-47

Examination requested: Micro. 67D

Result of Examination: 67D

Specimens submitted for examination

Enclosure returned herewith

62-62 6-7

58 Apr 5, 1947
ELIZABETH SHORT, INFORMATION CONCERNING POLICE PERSONALLY ADVISED ME ON FEBRUARY EIGHTEENTH THAT FOLLOWING BRIEF TALK WITH MAYOR FLETCHER BOWRON, NO REQUEST WOULD BE FORTHCOMING FOR ACTIVE ASSISTANCE IN MURDER CASE INVOLVING SHORT AS VICTIM. LOS ANGELES EXAMINED THIS DAY STATES CHIEF PORRALL MADE OFFICIAL REQUEST OF ME FOR ASSISTANCE WHICH STATEMENT HAS BEEN DENIED BY HIM TO THE EXAMINER AND INQUIRIES FROM TWO OTHER PAPERS HAVE BEEN MET WITH RESPONSE THAT WE ARE NOT CONDUCTING ACTIVE INVESTIGATION IN THIS CASE IN ABSENCE OF JURISDICTION.
February 20, 1947

Los Angeles 13, California

Dear [redacted],

I have received your letter dated February 15, 1947.

You may be assured I am appreciative of your courtesy and interest in furnishing such information to me.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc: Los Angeles (With copy of incoming letter)
Los Angeles, I3, California
Feb.15, 1947

J. Edgar Hoover,
Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:-

I had occasion once before to write you — April 10, 1944 and feel impressed to do so again now. That other was a personal matter; this one is of grave public importance which is being grossly neglected — if not abetted — by the police.

On the night of the 14th of January there was an awful rumpus — whom everybody used to call the Old Policeman — has lived there for a long time. I was told that he heard it all — the terrible obscene language the man was using and the woman screaming. He at once called policemen. Twelve — I was told — came and took old covered with blood — to jail. Later an ambulance came to get the girl’s body. It was all cut up and terribly mutilated. Her mouth cut from ear to ear. The lady — fainted when she saw it. The next morning the body was found dumped out into a lot on Norton. All cleaned up was let out by the sheriff as though nothing had happened. He’s been going and coming ever since — so I’m told — and the second murder in L.A. within the past week — Feb.10th — has all the earmarks of his dirty work.

Now, I do not know whether or not this matter has been taken care of by any investigators. The police appear to be doing nothing in regard to it. Maybe no one has reported it for fear of the police — as they already know all about it; having been here twelve strong that night of B.D.’s murder. She was alive a few minutes before they got here. The first paper the Times mentioned a $10,000 reward involved.

We women are beginning to live in mortal terror of these conditions that are happening around us, for this corner was once a highly respected neighborhood. We have no place to move to, and cannot get out. Many I do not know by name. The matter is being hushed up. Everybody is afraid of the police. I am giving you this information in case you have been informed. L.A. needs cleaning up. If the matter is being taken care of — to your knowledge — please drop the matter here. If not, I would like to see Mrs. Pick up at once for he is to have until the 15th. Tuesday advanced — I have done.

(If you should answer please answer in large envelope.)
DIRECTOR URGENT

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT: ELIZABETH SHORT, VICTIM, MURDERED, MISC.

INFORMATION CONCERNING VICTIM AKA QUOTE BLACK DAHLIA UNQUOTE, MURDERED JANUARY, FIFTEEN LAST, RETEL FROM L.A. JANUARY, TWENTY-FOUR

BETEL FROM NAILED HEADLESS BODY UNRECOGNIZABLE, HAVE REECEIPTED TELETYP

NAMELY, EMPLOYMENT RECORD OF SHORT THROUGH SOCIAL SECURITY AS

MATTER OF COOPERATION WITH LOCAL POLICE. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

IN POLICE INVESTIGATION INCLUDES RECEIPT OF SEVERAL LETTERS TO

NEWSPAPERS AND AUTHORITIES HERE BY WRITER WHO CLAIMS TO BE

MURDERER WITH PROMISE TO SURRENDER. FIRST LETTER INTERCEPTED BY POSTAL AUTHORITIES AND ADDRESSED TO NEWSPAPERS

CONTAINED FOLLOWING ARTICLES DEFINITELY BELONGING TO VICTIM,

BIRTH CERTIFICATE, BAGGAGE CHECK, PHOTOGRAPHS, PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE. NO SUBSEQUENT MAIL OR COMMUNICATIONS CONTAINED ANY

MATERIAL TO INDICATE WRITERS HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE OR CONNECTION

WITH INSTANT CASE. NO DEVELOPMENTS TO DATE TO INDICATE UNAER

POSSIBILITIES. EXPEDITE INFO REQUESTED.

HOOD.

ACKNOWLEDGES

51 MAR 7 1947

16 FEB 11 1947
Attached hereto are fingerprints of captioned suspect in connection with the mutilation murder of ELIZABETH SHORT. Please forward results of any of these fingerprints to this office at W.L. Special Delivery.

Copies destroyed 838 Nov 16 1954

Added 62-82621-39
Dec 1928

B.A.

Mar 8
Single Fingerprint Report

Case: RE: ELIZABETH SHORT
INFORMATION CONCERNING
SUSPECT

Specimens: Fingerprints of suspect, submitted for comparison with the unidentified latents in this case.

Examination requested by: SAC, Los Angeles

Date received: 3-4-47

Date of reference communication: 2-28-47

Examination requested: Fingerprint

Result of examination:

Comparison made - no Prints to file 3-4
No fingerprint
Dictated 3-6-47
TO: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

FEBRUARY 26, 1947

URGENT

Transmit the following message to:

UCR, ELIZABETH SHORT, AKA BLACK DAHLIA, VICTIM MUTILATION MURDER.

INFORMATION CONCERNING REKETEL TODAY. WAR DEPARTMENT HAS NOT REQUESTED BUREAUS ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING, ALLAS, AS A DEFENDER.

CC: Mr. Brown

HOOVER

COPIES DESTROYED
333 Nov 18 1944

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 26 1947

TELEMETERED 8/17 170713
Office Memorandum - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Director, FBI

FROM: SAC, New York

DATE: March 3, 1947

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT; ZELDA SHORT - VICTIM; MURDER - INFORMATION CONCERNING

Reference is made to the conference teletype from the Los Angeles Field Division to the Bureau and New York, dated January 25, 1947.

Since all pertinent facts were submitted by teletype to the Los Angeles Field Division and the Bureau on January 25, 1947, no report is being submitted and this matter is being referred upon completion to the Office of Origin.
Office Memorandum - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Director, FBI

FROM: SAC, Los Angeles

SUBJ: ELIZABETH SHORT

INFORMATION CONCERNING

On February 16, 1947, the Los Angeles Examiner advised me that in all probability I would receive a request from Mayor FLETCHER BOWRON on February 18th for this Bureau's assistance in connection with the murder case in which ELIZABETH SHORT is the victim. The Bureau will recall that this individual was murdered and her body dissected and it is referred to as the "Black Dahlia" case.

G. I. R. - 5

He went on to state that Mayor BOWRON had been friendly to the Examiner and that he personally was friendly to the Mayor but that there are now rumbles of incompetency in the police department and that citizens are terrorized in view of the recent murders in this city - there having been four unusual cases in the past six weeks. He stated that within the last several days the Police Commission has asked Chief of Police HORNALL for a report on these cases and in his opinion if there is another murder of this type in the near future, it is going to be most unwise for the Los Angeles Police Department to handle the investigation.

He stated that there is a great deal of pressure on the local police department in this case and the police do not know what to do. He mentioned that if the FBI did join in the local authorities and nothing became of the investigation, there obviously would not be so much favorable reflection on the local agency and, if the Bureau were to solve the case and make its own independent release and ignore the police department, it would destroy all public confidence in the police organization.

I was able to state that he has many good friends on the homicide squad and they have been very cooperative with his paper but it is known that many of them are not experienced homicide investigators, having been taken over from other squads in the last year or so.

I was also able to state that on February 11th and without my mentioning this situation, he stated he wanted me to know confidentially that on February 15th the Mayor had called me on the phone and informed him that we had no jurisdiction to enter the investigation but for the Mayor's own information and not for publication, this office had been of considerable
TO: Director
FROM: SAC, Los Angeles
SUBJECT: ELIZABETH SHORT
Information Concerning

assistance in the investigation. This is true, as we have made records available to the local officers which they were not in a position to obtain and have rendered them assistance in contacting the Veterans Bureau, Navy Department and other similar organizations. No actual investigation has been made of the murder case and none is contemplated. I wanted me to know that if the Mayor did make any statement about the Bureau's participation in this case that it was entirely the Mayor's and over the objection of.

He pointed out would take the criticism that might be directed to them under no circumstances do anything that might give the appearance of attempting to pass it on to this Bureau. He stated that the Mayor meant well but that when the newspapers put the pressure on him his judgment is not good and he might say something that would appear to involve this Bureau in the investigation. I informed that I understood the Mayor was going to call upon me for assistance but that if he did so, it would be explained that as the federal jurisdiction extends over the case and the facilities would be available at any time as they have always been in the past.

For the Bureau's information, reporters were at the scene of the murder before the law enforcement officers arrived and had the evidence in their possession before the officers, and throughout the entire investigation the reporters have talked to witnesses and published facts which were bound to hinder the investigation of the local department. Reporters are in the office of the Detective Bureau and it is not possible for the investigators to have confidential telephone conversations or even read mail without having some news reporter looking over to see if it relates to this case.

As Mr. ROSEN of the Bureau was informed February 18th, the Mayor, if he requests assistance from us, would be informed of the Bureau's lack of jurisdiction in the case and newspaper inquiries will be met with a direct statement that we have no investigative jurisdiction, and if any statement the Mayor might make calls for a clarification, the matter will be discussed with the Bureau immediately before any comment is made.

Since dictation of the above material has telephonically advised me that he had another talk with the Mayor and he believes the entire situation is taken care of and he does not anticipate that anything further will be heard on it.
REPORT
of the
FBI
LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON D.C.

February 26, 1947

To: SAC, Los Angeles

Following is the report of the FBI Laboratory giving the results of examinations conducted on evidence received from your office. This report serves to confirm and supplement the Bureau's wire of February 20, 1947.

Elizabeth Short
Information Concerning

Addressee: [Handwritten]

Reference: Letter 2/13/47

Examination requested: Microscopic

Specimen: [Redacted]

RESULTS OF EXAMINATIONS:

[Handwritten]

From the above examination, it is the opinion of the examiner that

The portion of specimen Q1 not consumed in the examination was

[Handwritten]

John Edgar Hoover, Director

YOUR FILE NO. 62-3298
FBI FILE NO. 62-82627
LAB. NO. PC-192966 BN

RECORDED 62-82627-38
EX-09

72 MAR 20 1947

[Handwritten]
January 23, 1947

J. Edgar Hoover, Esq.,
Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Inclosed is a tearsheet from The Los Angeles Examiner, in which I thought you might be interested.

The near-miracle which is the FBI's identification division was lauded in big stories in all our papers in connection with the Elizabeth Short identification. I presume you are receiving clippings.

Your comment in the inclosed story was particularly appreciated by [redacted] of The Los Angeles Examiner.

Yours very truly,

[Redacted]
January 30, 1947

62-82627-39

Dear [Name]

Your letter dated January 23, 1947, has been received and I want to thank you for making the enclosed tear sheet from the Los Angeles Examiner available to me. I am indeed pleased that my comments were gratifying because the Examiner deserves well commendation for its cooperative service in this case.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: of the Los Angeles Examiner-per letter.
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Los Angeles, California
February 25, 1947

ATTENTION: IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

Director, FBI

RE: ELIZABETH SHORT
"BLACK DAHLIA" MURDER II: LOS ANGELES
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Dear Sir:

The manner in which ELIZABETH SHORT's body was dissected has indicated the possibility that the murderer was a person somewhat experienced in medical work. The Los Angeles Police Department has undertaken to develop suspects among the medical and dental schools in the area, as well as among other students who have anything to do with human anatomy.

The University of Southern California Medical School was reluctant to turn over a list of their students to the police department without being assured that the names would not be indexed into police or FBI records as suspects in the case. This assurance has been given them.

I am enclosing two copies of a list of the University of Southern California medical students, giving the name, address, matriculation date and any or Navy compensation number where known. Those students with "c" numbers are in school under the G.I. Bill of Rights. It is requested that the Bureau search these names through the criminal record indices and in the event any criminal record is determined for any of these men, a copy is requested to be sent air mail to this office.

It will be noted that eight names are preceded with an asterisk. In these cases, if a fingerprint card is located for the individual, it is requested that a photographic copy of fingerprints be furnished to this office by air mail as the Los Angeles Police Department Crime Laboratory has compared the handwriting of these individuals with notes received in the case and has concluded that there is some similarity and they would like to be able to compare latent fingerprints also.

I feel that we can be of much assistance to the Los Angeles Police Department in this case and the Bureau's expeditious attention to this project will be sincerely appreciated by

At the completion of the Bureau's search, it is requested that the list be destroyed or returned to the Los Angeles Office.

Very truly yours,

R. B. HOOD, SAC.
February 27, 1947

SAC, Los Angeles

Director, FBI

UNKNOWN SUBJECT
ELIZABETH SHORT - VICTIM
MURDER

RECORDED 62-82627-41

Enclosed is a transcript of an anonymous communication received at the Bureau which makes reference to the murder of the captioned victim. You should submit such information to the Los Angeles Police Department for such action as that agency deems advisable.

Attached with a copy of this letter for the Boston Field Division is a transcript of this anonymous communication which also makes reference to the disappearance of Paula Kelden. In view of the nature of the anonymous communication, it is not believed advisable for the Boston Field Division to initiate any investigation on the basis of this letter.

cc: Boston (enclosure)

Enclosure
Paula Neldon Pennington, Vermont disappeared

alias

killer of Elizabeth Short
Los Angeles

RECORDED & INDEXED 62-82627-41
FBI
58 MAR 11 1947

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL -
March 6, 1947

Los Angeles 13, California
62-82627-42

Dear [Name],

Your letter dated February 28, 1947, has been received and I want to thank you for making this information available to me. The matter you mention does not come within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau but I am referring your comments to appropriate local authorities.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc: Los Angeles, with two copies of incoming.
Attention, SAC: For your information and referral to appropriate local authorities.

NOTE: No record on this correspondent located in general indices.
Office Memorandum

TO: THE DIRECTOR
FROM: MR. EDW. A. TAMM

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT; ELIZABETH SHORT - VICTIM MURDER.

DATE: 1-31-47

You will recall we addressed a letter to the Social Security Administration requesting their assistance by furnishing record information in their possession to assist in locating a suspect in the very vicious murder of Elizabeth Short which occurred just recently in California and has received so much publicity. We are now in receipt of the reply which is a rather verbose declination based on a regulation prescribed by the Social Security Board. It is attached.

During the war, Social Security furnished us information on cases directly concerned with the "successful prosecution of the war". You will recall that just recently they wrote to the Attorney General and stated since the President's proclamation terminating hostilities, this cooperation could now be honored only when we certify that the case in question grew out of the war. We accordingly directed a memorandum to the Attorney General protesting the lack of cooperation on the part of Social Security and pointing out that we now have cases which are of at least as grave concern to the security of the country as during the war and asking him to make every effort to effect arrangements whereby we could secure this invaluable information.

There are attached for your approval a teletype to Los Angeles advising that Social Security has refused to furnish the information needed by the police and a memorandum to the Attorney General advising of this incident to supplement our previous memorandum.

Attachments

H. Ladd
Mr. Rosen
January 31, 1947

Mr. John Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am replying to your letter of January 28, 1947, which was delivered to us, in which you request information from our records concerning the employment of Elizabeth Short.

The subject of such requests has been previously discussed with the Department of Justice; you may recall that early in 1937, your department requested access to our records for the location of individuals suspected of criminal acts. At that time, every consideration was given to the request but because of the Social Security Board's often-repeated public pledge that information furnished would be used only for the purposes of the Social Security Act, and after consulting with other governmental agencies, representatives of organized labor, and others, the request was denied. Since that time we have followed the policy of refusing to furnish confidential information from our records except for the purposes of administering the Act. An exception was made, however, in our agreement whereby your department has been furnished information when such disclosures would be in the interest of the successful prosecution of the war.

Supporting this policy Congress, in the 1939 amendments to the Social Security Act, enacted Section 1106 which provides that the records of the Social Security Board (now the Social Security Administration) shall be regarded as confidential and that no disclosures thereof may be made except as the Board may by regulations prescribe. Regulation I, adopted in conformity with this statute, prescribes what information may be disclosed and to whom.

Although I appreciate entirely your desire for such information I regret that the request, in accordance with this Regulation, is not one for which an exception may be made.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

W. E. Mitchell  
Acting Commissioner

[Date]
FBI Head Lauds Examiner for Slaying Case Aid

By RAY RICHARDS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—Congratulations and thanks of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the identification of a girl murder victim were extended to the Los Angeles Examiner today by the agency’s director, J. Edgar Hoover.

Hoover said:

"The action of the Los Angeles Examiner in transmitting to the FBI the fingerprints of the unidentified murder victim was an excellent illustration of cooperation of the press with law enforcement. It is such cooperation that aids law enforcement in curbing the increase in crime."

In a news release announcing the identification late last night the FBI gave the Los Angeles Examiner sole credit for bringing about the identification in record time.

The release explained that the Examiner, cooperating with the Los Angeles Police Department, sent the girl’s 10 fingerprints to Washington over the instantaneous Sound-Photo system of International News Photos.

They were sent to the FBI’s identification section by the Washington Dispatch of the Hearst Newspapers, where among 100,000,000 separate fingerprints, they were identified as those of Elizabeth Short, former clerk in a military post exchange at Camp Cooke, Calif.

This California authorities were enabled to take up the pursuit of the slayer, an individual so brutal that he had hacked the girl’s face to pieces and cut the body in two.

In the FBI Washington bureau the case was entered as a “spectacular identification,” meaning one achieved under extraordinary circumstances.

Only rarely in the past has an attempt been made to transmit fingerprints by telegraph or telephone wire and never so successfully as in the case of Elizabeth Short.

FBI officials said the perfect clarity of the X-ray transmission alone made it possible for FBI identification experts to reconstruct the blank spots and other defects in prints offered by the dead girl’s凶手.
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

See Me
Note and Return
For Your Recommendation
What are the facts?
Remarks:

Set me know result of present reconsideration this outfit is giving & our re-

62-32627-43
February 1, 1947

In addition to the attached Memorandum from Mr. Tamm to Mr. Hoover and the letter from Mr. W.L. Mitchell, Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, is a copy of the Memorandum which was sent to the Attorney General per the Director's instructions.

The wire mentioned in Mr. Tamm's Memorandum was sent to SAC Hood pursuant to the Director's instructions.

Mr. Hoover asked that this memorandum and the copy of the memorandum to the Attorney General be left on his desk.

This is outrageous. I want careful memo be made which I can read before I sign for appropriations.
CONF WASH 9 AND PHILA 1 FROM LOSA  21  3-42 PM
DIRECTOR AND SAC, PHILADELPHIA  URGENT
UNKNOWN SUBJECT, ELIZABETH SHORT, AKA BLACK DAHLIA, VICTIM,
INFO CONCERNING VICTIMS MUTILATED BODY FOUND LA JAN. FIFTEEN
LAST. INFO DEVELOPED BY LAPD INDICATING THAT
ASN  IS LIKELY SUSPECT.
IN THIS MURDER. AS COOPERATIVE MEASURE AND UNLESS ADVISED TO
CONTRARY BY BUREAU, IT IS REQUESTED PHILADELPHIA INTERVIEW
TRANSFERRED FROM
TO
AND PRESENTLY BELIEVED THERE
TOWN OF VICTIM, RECEIVED TWO POST CARDS POSTMARKED SEPT.
TWENTYONE LAST FROM ONE CARD
SIGNED BY VICTIM BETTY SHORT, STATING THAT SHE WAS
MARRIED TO WHO WAS A FRIEND OF
AND THAT WAS AT THAT TIME LIVING IN HOLLYWOOD AND
VERY HAPPY. SECOND CARD TO SIGNED BY IN WHICH
HE STATED THAT HE HAD MARRIED A FORMER GIRL FRIEND OF
WAS HAPPILY MARRIED AND LIVING WITH HER IN HOLLYWOOD. RECEIPT OF
CARDS BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES WAS FIRST INDICATION THAT
EVER ASSOCIATED WITH VICTIM. TEL FROM STATES THAT
OFFICIAL MORNING REPORTS REFLECT
PRESENT EACH DAY FROM JAN. ONE TO JAN. TWENTYEIGHT. IN SPITE
OF THIS APPARENT ALIBI OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES DESIRE THAT HE
BE INTERVIEWED EXTENSIVELY AS FOLLOWS. WHEN, WHERE AND
END PAGE ONE.
CIRCUMSTANCES OF MEETING VICTIM. DATE, PLACE AND LENGTH OF MARRIAGE AND HONEYMOON. RESIDENCE AND ALL FRIENDS OR ACQUAINTANCES SHE MAY HAVE HAD. CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE WRITING OF ABOVE MENTIONED POST CARDS TO ALSO WHETHER OR NOT VICTIM HAD EVER EXPRESSED FEAR OF ANY ONE TO IN VIEW OF NATION WIDE PUBLICITY. ASCERTAIN WHY DID NOT VOLUNTEER EITHER HIS MARRIAGE TO OR ACQUAINTANCE WITH SHORT. VICTIMS WHEREABOUTS NOT ACCOUNTED FOR FROM JANUARY UNTIL HER BADLY MUTILATED BODY FOUND IN SOUTH END OF LA IN Empty LOT. ASCERTAIN FROM WHEN HE LAST SAW AND HEARD FROM SHORT AND ALL INFO THAT MIGHT BE OF ASSISTANCE IN INSTANT INVESTIGATION. SUTEL INFO REQUESTED.

HOOD

END ACK PLS TRANSMITTED TO PHILA.
Office Memorandum  ·  UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO:  E. A. TAMM
FROM:  A. ROSEN

SUBJECT:  UNKNOWN SUBJECT; ELIZABETH SHORT, a.k.a. Black Dahlia, Victim
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Based upon the request which was made by the Los Angeles Division of our Philadelphia Office to conduct investigation in connection with the "Black Dahlia" case, I called Philadelphia and instructed them that upon the basis of the information available to the Bureau, we did not desire any additional inquiries made in this case.

The attached wire reflects that the Los Angeles Police Department desires our cooperation. They have found out through their own inquiries that the victim in the "Black Dahlia" case, Betty Short, was married to one [redacted] in the Army, and although the Army reports reflect that [redacted] was present each day during the pertinent period, the Los Angeles Police Department still desires that he be interviewed.

We have not conducted any investigation in this case and I do not think we ought to enter it at this late date. The Philadelphia Office was instructed not to conduct any investigation and unless advised to the contrary, they will not. If approved, a wire should be sent to our Los Angeles Office advising that the inquiries are to be conducted in this case as previously instructed and that, of course, our Laboratory facilities are available. There is no reason to change these plans at this time.

THINK WE SHOULD STAY OUT OF THIS.  I think we ought to do this.

En.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

MARCH 24, 1947

Transmit the following message to: SAC, PHILADELPHIA

URGENT

SUB, ELIZABETH SHIRT, CA, VICTIM, INFORMATION CONCERNING. CONDUCT INVESTIGATION

AS REQUESTED LOS ANGELES WIRE MARCH TWENTYONE.

HOOVER

CC LOS ANGELES

620

INITIALS DIRECTORS OFF.

COPIES DESTROYED
332

POLICE

5 MAR 1947

TELETYP 8-05-PM

MAR 24 5:59 PM
By UPI Staff

ST. LOUIS, March 24—A bloodstained handkerchief and a revised "confession" which may link 23-year-old Melvin Bailey with the mutilation-murder of Elizabeth "Black Dahlia" Short were en route to Los Angeles police today.

The handkerchief, given police by Bailey, was found yesterday to have been stained with human blood several weeks ago. Bailey claims it is Miss Short's handkerchief and her blood and that he carried it as a "keepsake" after slashing and cutting her body in two with an eight-inch Marine combat knife.

TO CHECK BLOOD STAINS

Bailey, who made his first confession March 18, changed his statement adding more details to the gruesome story he told of mutilating the girl's body because she refused to accompany him from Los Angeles to St. Louis.

His new statement did not correct the original discrepancy in the dates. Miss Short's body was found January 15, and police said she was dead less than 12 hours. Bailey claims he killed the girl January 12.

Los Angeles police will attempt to determine if the blood on the handkerchief is the same type as that of Miss Short.

Bailey said on the night of January 12 he and Miss Short began a round of nightclubs. She drank liquor, he said, while he consumed benzedrine and coffee "for a lift."

Later, Bailey said, he and Miss Short took a drive in a stolen auto. During the ride, he said, they argued about the St. Louis trip.

BURNED HIS CLOTHING

Bailey said he stopped the car along the Long Beach road near the shore. After more arguments, he knocked Miss Short unconscious and carried her body down to the beach, slashed her repeatedly across the breast, abdomen and groin, and then cut her body in two.

He used a blanket, he said, to wash the body, dipping it in the ocean several times and returning to dance off her skin.

Bailey said he returned to Los Angeles and drove around until he reached the intersection of a "rather broad street" and Santa Barbara Street. There he found a vacant lot where he placed the body, putting a white flower from her hair into her hands.

Later that morning, Bailey said he went to San Francisco and obtained an auto ride to St. Louis. He said he burned his blood-soaked clothing near Oklahoma City, but did not remember what he had done with the girl's clothing.
To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO: SAC, LOS ANGELES
URGENT
MURDER OF ELIZABETH SHORT, AKA, BLACK DAHLIA, INFO CONCERNING RETELL MARCH EIGHTEENTH. FILES OF THE AGO INDICATE REENLISTED HIS FILE REFLECTS A LETTER DATED NOVEMBER ELEVENTH, FORTY SIX, FROM THE HONORABLE DANIEL J. FLOOD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS, REQUESTING THE COOPERATION OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT IN THE TRANSFER OF IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHERE WAS ASSIGNED IN JANUARY. THE LATEST ASSIGNMENT CARD IN FILE DATED NOVEMBER THIRTY, FORTY SIX, SIGNED ASSIGNED HOWEVER, THERE IS A LETTER DATED FEBRUARY TWENTY FOUR, FORTY SEVEN, SIGNED BY FROM THE HEADQUARTERS, Advising that this was NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS. An attempt was made to verify this as PRESENT STATION BUT THE ROSTERS FOR THIS ORGANIZATION HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED. BORN RESIDENCE