

**FAQ 10**

(8/7/06)

**10.1**

**Q: I just read in your new CSI and Forensics chapter about, the “Unidentified Man” that supposedly checked into the hotel with Elizabeth Short a few days before her murder. As I understand it you actually identified the man in the photo, and recently talked to him. He told you that he was never in Los Angeles, and the picture shown of Elizabeth Short and him in the newspaper, was taken in Indianapolis, Indiana. Is this true? Do the police know who he is? Did they talk to him? Do they know he was never in L.A.?**

**Yes, to all of the above.** LAPD since 1947, has known the young man’s true identity. They have always known that he was not “Mr. Barnes” and was not the man that hotel managers Mr. & Mrs. Johnson identified as checking into their hotel with Elizabeth Short on January 12, 1947, just three days before the murder.

As indicated in my new chapter, (released last week, July 26, 2006) in 2005 I located and personally interviewed this man in the photograph. (In the new chapter I gave him the pseudonym, “Gerald Moss” to protect his identity and privacy,) HE WAS NEVER IN LOS ANGELES. HE MET ELIZABETH SHORT IN INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA FOR A FEW HOURS IN 1946, THEY HAD DINNER, HAD THEIR PICTURES TAKEN TOGETHER, WHICH HE THEN GAVE TO ELIZABETH, AND HE NEVER SAW OR SPOKE TO HER AGAIN.



**Hotel managers, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, identified only Elizabeth Short in the photograph they are holding. They identified “Mr. Barnes” (a man whom they described as possibly being as old as age 35) from a separate photograph found in Elizabeth’s trunk by LAPD.**

It is my belief that the separate photograph, which the Johnson’s originally identified as “Mr. Barnes” and who they told the press was, “a man connected to a foreign government” was in fact, the below photograph of my father, likely mailed to Elizabeth in 1946, from my father’s billet in China. (George Hodel could also have personally given the photograph to Elizabeth on his return to L.A., in 1946.)

In a November, 2004 interview, in preparation for CBS' 48 HOUR- *Black Dahlia Confidential*, and a feature story in *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, both print and television reporters asked to see the photographs that the Johnson's identified, as "the unidentified man." In response, LAPD advised the press that the photograph in question, along with the Johnson interview statements have "disappeared from the LAPD FILES." However, they added that newspaper accounts of the time showed that the Johnson's were holding and apparently identified the two pictures shown in the strip photo.



**Exhibit 10 shows Dr. George Hodel in China, in 1946,  
"A man connected to a foreign government"**

To my mind, this is a gross misrepresentation on the part of today's LAPD detectives. They know and have always known the identity of the "unidentified man." They also know he was never in

Los Angeles, and THEREFORE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN THE MAN that checked into the hotel with Elizabeth Short, three days before her murder.

It is obvious that the Johnson's knowledge that "Mr. Barnes was connected to a foreign government" is something they would have had to have SEEN. Otherwise, how else would they have known? LAPD could not have provided them with any information. In George Hodel's China photograph we clearly see that he is "a man connected to a foreign government."

My 2005 follow-up investigation along with the identification of the "unidentified man" ["Gerald Moss"] and his statements that he "was never in L.A. and the photos were taken in Indianapolis," has just been released in my new CSI chapter. As of yet, there has been no LAPD response. Today's detectives cannot know what really happened. Based on what we now know, they will have to publicly admit what they have known all along. The man in the photograph with Elizabeth Short was never thought to be "Mr. Barnes" her probable killer.

Perhaps today's detectives will claim or rather speculate that the Johnson's identification must have been incorrect. Though entirely without basis maybe they will claim, "The Johnson's must have been wrong in their ID." We shall see.

The fact that this evidence, perhaps the most damning of all, which would show a photograph of George Hodel as "Mr. Barnes" and directly link him to Elizabeth Short, has "disappeared" along with all written interviews taken by LAPD of these two most critical witnesses, is not surprising. I would have expected that this evidence would have had to have been the very first to "disappear" and was removed from the files perhaps as early as 1947.