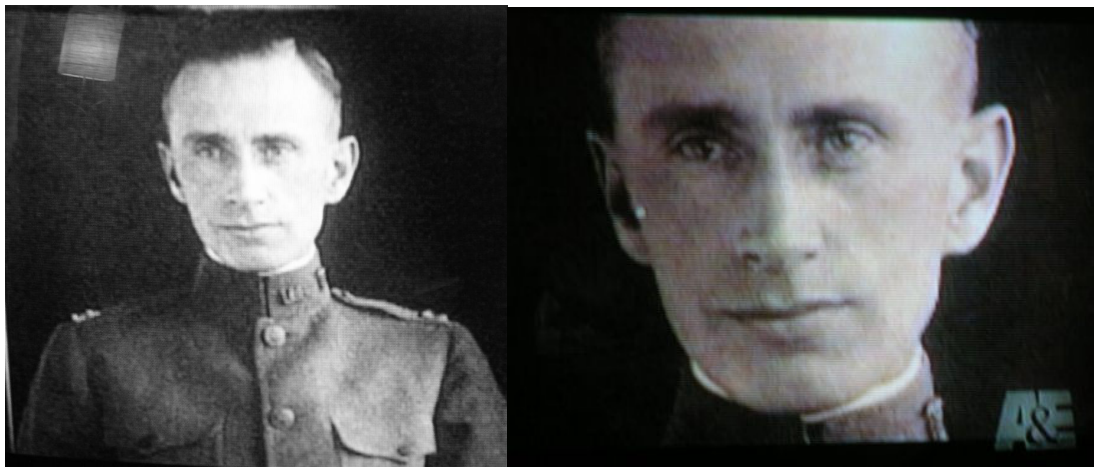


FAQ 29

29.1

Q: What can you tell me about Dr. Walter A. Bayley? I have read on other websites that he was a surgeon and a possible new suspect. Did the LAPD or DA ever suspect him?

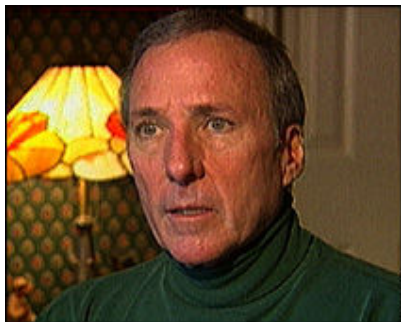


Walter A. Bayley M.D. (This photo shown on A&E television was obviously taken when he was a much younger man. Born in 1880, he was a WWI veteran, and is shown wearing his uniform in this photograph. In 1947, Dr. Bayley, was 67 years of age, and died of natural causes, less than a year later. (Jan. 1948)

No, Dr. Walter Bayley was never an official Black Dahlia suspect. His name does not appear in any law-enforcement investigations, including the recently released, LAPD and DA Investigative Files.

In 1997, Larry Harnisch, a copy-editor for the *Los Angeles Times*, wrote an article on the Black Dahlia Murder for the 50th anniversary of her murder and speculated that Dr. Walter Bayley, who lived in the neighborhood near where the body was found, “might be connected.” According to Harnisch, Dr. Bayley separated from his wife, and moved out of his Liemert Park residence, (located one-block from where the body was posed) just two-months before the murder. Harnisch speculated the doctor could have been suffering from Alzheimer’s disease, (unconfirmed medically). If Harnisch’s “diagnosis” was accurate, it apparently did not affect Dr. Bayley’s ability to function mentally, as records show he officially filed for divorce on Jan. 8, 1947, the very day before Elizabeth Short’s disappearance. Dr. Bayley died in January, 1948, of natural causes, after a month long hospitalization in the Veteran’s Administration hospital in West Los Angeles.

Two years after writing the *Times* article, Harnisch was one of several “Dahlia theorists” interviewed for a television special, hosted by ex-LAPD detective and bestselling author, Joseph Wambaugh. The program, was entitled, *CASE REOPENED: THE BLACK DAHLIA*. (**Ironically, the video was released on Oct. 10, 1999. --Dr. George Hodel’s birthday**)



Joseph Wambaugh



1999

Joseph Wambaugh, in his hour-long “Dahlia reinvestigation” interviewed a half dozen theorists on their separate takes of “whodunit.” This included a summary and interview with Harnisch, on his research of Dr. Walter Bayley. In the end, retired LAPD detective Sgt. Joseph Wambaugh concluded his show by dismissing/eliminating all of the interviewed “theorists” suspects. Specifically, addressing the Harnisch/Dr. Bayley theory, Wambaugh had this to say:

“Dr. Bayley, a 67-year-old man with severe Alzheimer’s could not have committed this murder.”

Joseph Wambaugh, host of, *Case Reopened: The Black Dahlia*, 1999

No, Dr. Bayley is not a “new suspect.” In recent years, Harnisch has conducted several follow-up interviews related to his 8-year-old theory and has openly acknowledged that “Bayley was never a police suspect.” Harnisch further admits that he has not been able to offer any evidence that Dr. Bayley and Elizabeth Short ever met in person or even knew each other, but speculates, “They could have.” Nothing, by way of any new evidence or findings, has been brought forward by Harnisch since 1997.

On November 27, 2004, Harnisch discussed his theory on radio-station KFI’s, *The Crime Hunter Show: Black Dahlia Redux*, with host- Eric Leonard. During the interview with Eric Leonard, Harnisch acknowledged that he was only guessing on a Bayley/Dahlia. “possible scenario.” The *Times* copy-editor went on to add that in his opinion, “the Black Dahlia murder was rage driven and Dr. Bayley could have been suffering from a sustained rage over the death of his son twenty-years earlier.” Here are some verbatim extracts from the interview:

(Regarding Dr. Walter Bayley being the Black Dahlia killer)

Harnisch: **“This is my best guess. My assumption. My supposition. This is a theory, a scenario. That would be my guess. I wasn’t born then and I wasn’t there.”**

(Regarding why Dr. Bayley may have killed her?)

Harnisch: **“The murder was rage driven and I suspect he (Dr. Bayley) had a sustained rage over the death of his son.”**

Leonard: **“When did his son die?”**

Harnisch: **In the 1920s.***

[* NB: On August 7, 1920, (some 27-years prior to the Dahlia murder) Dr. Bayley's ten-year-old son ran into the street and was hit by a speeding truck. A tragic accident, the son died instantly.]

Below is a closing excerpt from Harnisch's original 1999 *Los Angeles Times* article, *STORIES THAT SHAPED THE CENTURY: A Crossroads of Murder and Myth in Hollywood*. In this, Harnisch's original article, printed on November 1st, we hear a much more objective and oddly prophetic voice:

...

"Many scenarios have been put forward over the years. Maybe it was an ex-GI traumatized by the horrors of war, or a lesbian love triangle; take your pick, for nothing seems too improbable. I think the killer might well be a prominent surgeon named Walter Bayley who until a few months before had lived a block from the crime scene on South Norton Avenue, a man in the grips of madness and adversity whose daughter knew Betty Short's oldest sister. Of course, this is the Black Dahlia case, where so many other solutions have crumbled. I have to be willing to be proved wrong."

Larry Harnisch, *Los Angeles Times*, November 1, 1999

29.2

Q: In your book you mention that your father was acquainted with the writer, Henry Miller, and that Miller visited him at your home in Hollywood. Are you aware that Miller was also a good friend of Man Ray?

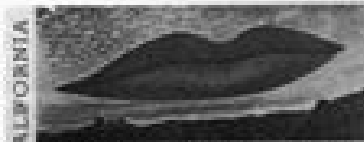
Yes. My mother repeatedly spoke of her visits to Henry Miller's home in Big Sur and how much she loved that part of California. (Her dream was to "retire" and spend her final years in one of two places: either the Seychelles Islands (archipelago in the Indian ocean) or Lucia, a small community on Hwy 1, just south of Big Sur.)

Miller was also good friends with the San Francisco poet, Kenneth Rexroth, who is one of the persons heard in conversation with George Hodel on the DA surveillance tapes. (In the DA transcribed conversation from Feb. 1950, Rexroth is talking to Hodel about his pending divorce, and they both discuss plans to visit my mother, later in the day. (At that time she was living separate from my father, and had an apartment on the Santa Monica pier.)

Below are two photographs relating to Henry Miller. The top photograph, *Henry Miller and Masked Nude*, was taken by Man Ray in 1945. The second (from the J.Paul Getty Museum collection) is germane to our story, in that it is a handwritten letter from Henry Miller to Man Ray, dated, 2/5/47. (At that time, Man Ray was living in Hollywood, at 1245 N. Vine St., just one-mile from our home on Franklin Ave.)

To my mind, this is a historically fascinating find. The letter from Miller to Man Ray, is sent just 21 days after the murder of Elizabeth "Black Dahlia" Short, and just 5 days before the murder of Jeanne French. ("The Red Lipstick Murder.") How ironic that two of my father's personal friends are here sharing intimate thoughts, and are totally oblivious to the fact that, one of their mutual friends and acquaintances, Hollywood physician, George Hodel, is out and about, committing two of Los Angeles' most brutal and horrific murders!

Also, fascinating is the fact that Henry Miller has chosen to honor Man Ray by using his 1935 photograph, *Observatory Time, The Lovers*, as a letterhead to his personal stationary. The very same photograph that I present as part of my father's mosaic-signature in the killing of Elizabeth Short.



HENRY MILLER • BIG SUR • CALIFORNIA

OBSERVED TWO - THE LOVES MAN RAY 1947

You must think in 1947
 tonight, I was in a good
 with a good wife who had
 you and for you that I
 family you have
 I had thinking of you as
 I had study and everyone
 in a large building. I had
 know the building. I had
 to see me the building
 usually, I had the
 you for the last night
 Paris. The last night
 in a moment, I had
 took me to your to get
 a copy
 all the day to you and
 to give us me - I had
 with me in the house
 I had the building in the
 city. Can show you the

top:
**Henry Miller and Masked
 Nude**, 1945
Gelatin-silver print

above:
**Letter from Henry Miller
 to Man Ray**, 1947
*Collection of The J. Paul Getty
 Museum, Malibu, California*