

FAQ 32

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Q: You quote former Black Dahlia case detectives as saying "the case was solved" and further, that they name your father, Dr. George Hodel, as her killer. What is your source on this? If it is true, why didn't they make it public information?

Yes. Independent confirmation from four (4) of the highest ranking detectives, all of whom were involved in the original 1947-1950 investigation. All the more remarkable, since their individual statements, made in confidence, each came from a separate place and time, and each referenced the same man-- Hollywood physician, Dr. George Hill Hodel.



"We know who the Black Dahlia killer was. He was a doctor, but we didn't have enough to put him away."

Lt. Frank B. Jemison
Bureau of Investigation
Los Angeles D.A.'s Office



"The Black Dahlia case was solved. He was a doctor who lived on Franklin Avenue in Hollywood."

Thad Brown
Chief of Detectives
Los Angeles Police Dept.



"We identified the Black Dahlia suspect. He was a doctor."

William H. Parker
Chief of Police
Los Angeles Police Dept.



"The Black Dahlia case was solved. The suspect was a doctor living in Hollywood, involved in abortions."

J. Gordon Bowers
Chief of Detectives
Los Angeles Sheriff's Dept

Four separate individuals approached me voluntarily, and on their own, after reading the original publication of *Black Dahlia Avenger* in 2003. The above quotes were received in: 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006. (The last, a physician, and nephew to Lt. Frank Jemison, was received in the closing months of 2006, and has yet to be added to an updated chapter of BDA.)

The reason that none of these high-ranking detectives statements were ever made public was because each was a private, personal communication, which remained confidential long after their respective deaths.

- 1) Lt. Frank Jemison, senior Dahlia investigator for the L.A. District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation made his statement to his relatives (his physician, brother-in-law and his nephew) in **1951.**
- 2) Deputy Chief of Detectives (Los Angeles Sheriff's Department) Gordon Bowers, made his statement to Under Sheriff James Downey in **1960-62.** This conversation was overheard by LASD Commander Thomas Vetter, who was assigned as driver to the Under Sheriff.
- 3) Deputy Chief of Detectives (Los Angeles Police Department) Thad F. Brown, made his statement in confidence to actor/friend, Jack Webb, who played "Sgt. Joe Friday" on television's DRAGNET. In **1982,** Webb informed his close friend, KNX Program Director, Raul Moreno, (also an LAPD historian and reserve officer.)
- 4) Chief of Police (Los Angeles Police Department) William H. Parker, made the above statement, again in confidence, to his personal physician shortly before his death in **1966.**

Below is an article from the *L.A. Times* dated, February 21, 1947 showing then Capt. Gordon Bower's active participation in the Elizabeth Short, "Black Dahlia" investigation. Bowers is following-up on a "tip" regarding some bloody clothing in Las Tunas Canyon (Sheriff's territory), near Malibu beach. (The "tip" proved negative for an actual connecting information or evidence.)

FEB. 21, 1947 Los Angeles Times



MURDER CLUES SOUGHT—Inspector Norris Stensland and Capt. Gordon Bowers of Sheriff's department search canyon culvert near Malibu for possible Short murder clues. Times photo

Canyon Combed in Short Killing

Sheriff's officers yesterday searched an area in Las Tunas Canyon, near Malibu, for possible clues to the murder of Elizabeth Short after a blood-drenched man's shirt, bow tie, and a rusty, blood-caked razor blade were found inside a culvert.

Inspector Norris Stensland and Capt. Gordon Bowers, of the Sheriff's office, explored the possibility that the "Black Dahlia" was slain and her body severed in the culvert, but a search by them and four deputy sheriffs turned up nothing to bolster the theory.

Stensland said nothing definite yet linked the bloody clothes and razor blade with the Short murder. But, he added, the culvert quite possibly could be the scene of the butchery.

The clothes and razor blade were being scrutinized under microscopes to determine if the dried blood is the same type as Miss Short's.