

FAQ 24**24.1**

Q: Do you have any Franklin House pictures of your family during the year 1950, just before your father left the country?

No. Here is one of the last known family pictures taken at the house. I believe this was taken sometime in 1949. It is one of my favorites. Brother Kelvin and I in the inner-courtyard hanging out with my buddy-- Buddha.



Kelvin and Steven circa 1949

24.2

Q: I saw LAPD detective Brian Carr on television recently and he say's that you have "an agenda" and that a lot of retired detectives are mad about what you have said about LAPD. Carr said that because there is no DNA evidence the Black Dahlia case cannot and will never be solved.

Detective Carr is correct. I do have an agenda. My agenda is to present the public with the truth. Most LAPD detectives ***that have read my book which presents the full investigation, agree with me—"that the case is solved."*** Over the past three years, I have been contacted by dozens of sworn officers, from both the patrol and detectives bureaus, who agree the proofs are there. Even the three detectives that have personally voiced their anger at me for what they perceive to be, "misrepresentations as to the integrity of the 1949 LAPD Gangster Squad," have acknowledged that George Hodel could well have been Elizabeth Short's killer.

LAPD and the 2006 "Unsolvability Factor"

Despite the *hard physical evidence* [the pearl earring connecting George Hodel's photograph to the earring found placed inside Elizabeth Short's left ear at the autopsy] and the rest of the evidence and forensics presented in the 2006 forensics chapter, LAPD through its Dahlia spokesperson-gatekeeper, Detective Brian Carr, continues to ignore the evidence. In a September, 2006, on-camera television interview with *A&E Cold Case Files* investigative reporter, Bill Kurtis, detective Carr had this to say regarding his and LAPD's three-years of non-action on the Dahlia investigation:

Carr: I don't have the time to prove or disprove what he [Hodel] says. I'm buried in other cases that do have evidence that are possibly solvable.

Kurtis: Do you think it [Dahlia] will ever be solved?

Carr: No.

Three years prior, in November 2003, in my AFTERMATH
chapter, page 525, I wrote:

Based on LAPD's demonstrated inactivity over the past several months, and fearing that the powers that be at Robbery-Homicide Division may prevail and no further investigation will ever be conducted, I am forced into a highly irregular action. [I then went on to "clear" the Elizabeth Short, Jeanne French, and Gladys Kern murders based on my direct experience and knowledge as an LAPD homicide supervisor (Detective III), backed by the legal opinion presented by then active Head Deputy D.A. Stephen Kay. ["Black Dahlia and Red Lipstick murders are solved"]

Sadly, that prophecy of no follow-up investigation by LAPD has proven accurate. Despite massive amounts of new inculpatory evidence connecting George Hodel to the Dahlia murder, LAPD HAS DONE NOTHING, and it is doubtful they ever will-- certainly nothing will be done under the current administration.

LAPD's fallback position through gatekeeper-Brian Carr, who publicly claims that he "neither has had time to read my investigation nor conduct any follow-up of his own," has now in 2006, added a new twist--he now claims that the reason he is not pursuing any investigation is because - "It is unsolvable. It can never be solved." Not true! ***Had Carr taken the time to read my investigation he would have discovered that LAPD and the DA's staff and high command [both past and present]--have claimed the Dahlia case - SOLVED.***

Here is what Carr's superiors in both the LAPD and DA's Office have said:

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

Deputy Chief Thad Brown (deceased)

Chief of Detectives in charge of Dahlia investigation 1949-1968
[Told in confidence to his close friend and actor, Jack "Sgt. Joe
Friday" Webb]

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

Chief William H. Parker (deceased)
Chief of Police, LAPD 1950-1966

"Hodel's hardcover book was pretty compelling. Then, when all the transcripts and stuff came out from the D.A.'s office that took it over the top for me. That would have been enough for me to bring a case against Dr. Hodel."

LAPD Chief of Detectives, James S. McMurray (ret.)
Chief of Detectives

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

Chief J. Gordon Bowers (deceased)
Los Angeles Sheriff's Office, Chief of detectives
[Told to LASO Under sheriff James Downey]

"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 (deceased)
Chief investigator, Bureau of Investigation 1949-1971
Los Angeles District Attorney's Office

"We want that son-of-a-bitch [George Hodel]. We think he killed the Black Dahlia."

Lt. Walter Sullivan (deceased)
Investigator, Bureau of Investigation 1949-1951
Los Angeles District Attorney's Office

"The most haunting murder mystery in Los Angeles County during the twentieth-century has finally been solved in the twenty-first century. Based on his findings I would have no hesitation in filing two counts of murder against Dr. George Hill Hodel. One count for the Elizabeth Short Black Dahlia murder and the second on Jeanne French, the Red Lipstick murder. If all the witnesses were available, I believe it would be a sure win with a jury trial."

**Head Deputy District Attorney Stephen Kay
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

"Steve Hodel did an outstanding job in putting the pieces together. When you look at it, it all fits. It's my personal opinion that he has solved the Black Dahlia Murder."

**Thomas M. Vetter, Commander (Ret.) Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
[Present and witness to the Chief Bowers, Under sheriff Downey conversation]**

Despite the nearly sixty-year chasm that divides the investigation past and present, we have **independent statements** from eight [8] high-ranking officers, made at different times over different years, **all confirming the case was solved.** Four of these eight (Chiefs Parker and Brown, and Lieutenants Jemison and Sullivan) *were directly involved in the Dahlia investigation and privy to its secrets.*

24.3

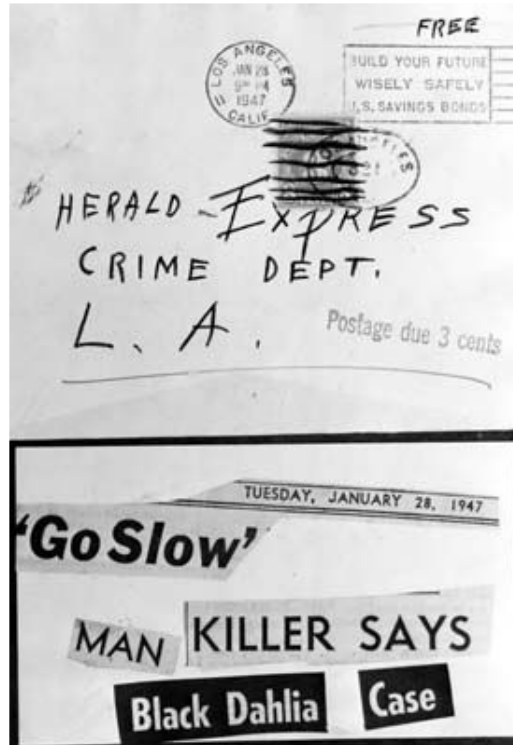
The following information was forwarded to me by "C.M.", a Postal Historian expert, who specializes in Military Mail. His knowledge on the little known subject of Military Franking privileges appears to add another circumstantial link – revealing that the mailer of the below Avenger Note was familiar with military practices and procedures, afforded to WW II officers.

Here is what "C.M." had to say upon seeing Exhibit 23 in BDA:

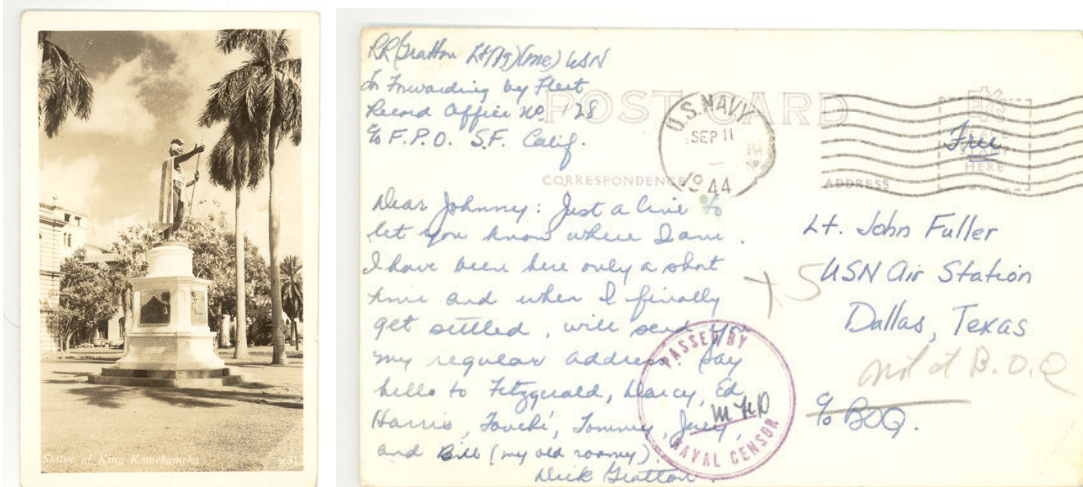
Exhibit 23 illustrates an unpaid letter to the Herald Express, with 3¢ postage due collected. Presuming the mailer was the killer, it is possible that he "reverted" to an old habit and attempted to use a franking privilege afforded to members of the Armed Forces during and after WWII by applying the word "FREE" at the upper right of the envelope. The 3¢ due applied as rank, serial number & duty station were not entered as required. In the case of an officer (your Father?), only the name, rank and signature was required. The "FREE" privilege continued through 12/31/47.

Exhibit 23

“Black Dahlia Avenger” letter mailed to press, demonstrating the suspect’s knowledge of the military “franking privilege” afforded officers, by writing the word “FREE” in the upper right to substitute for a postage stamp.



Actual postcard from a Navy lieutenant, showing the use of his “franking privilege” during World War II . He has likewise written the word FREE in the upper write, eliminating the need for a stamp. [dated Sep. 1944]



C.M. goes on to write:

It is probable that your Father would have been given the franking privilege while in the service, and in China, though it was common for officers to pay a 6¢ Air Mail rate from the far east to expedite correspondence home.[NB: We know the note was sent in Jan. 1947, from Los Angeles, so the overseas rate would not have applied.]

I find C.M.'s observations and knowledge relating to the "FREE" military franking privilege fascinating. From all that I have written in BDA we know that my father was obsessed with presenting himself as a military officer. So much so, that in 1946, upon his return from his overseas billet with UNRRA, he purchased a military jeep, identical to the one provided him as an "honorary Lt. General" in China. To my knowledge, this franking connection has never been publicly raised by anyone in the previous sixty-years of Dahlia investigation.

NOTE TO "C.M."---THANK YOU FOR FORWARDING THIS FASCINATING AND IN MY OPINION, HIGHLY RELEVANT HISTORICAL INFORMATION!