

FAQ 36
(February 1, 2007)

36.1

I saw a TV show where the LAPD detective Brian Kerr, said he checked out your father and found that he had no surgical experience. Is the detective correct?

The detective's name is Brian CARR. No, he is NOT CORRECT. The detective made no "background check" of my father, either with me, or with any official department or agency. Had he done so, he would have discovered that my father had a high degree of both training and skill in surgery. I have discussed and documented this in previous FAQs. However, here is some brand new documentation, to add to what we already know.

In the past few weeks I have been in correspondence with my father's Medical School, University of California at San Francisco, and they have provided me with his official transcripts and an "ANNOUNCEMENT FOR 1932-33" (George Hodel's beginning year of medical training) which lists all of the required curriculum and course hours. (See below chart)

Unlike today's medical training where "specialization rules", medical students in the 1930s underwent a very heavy course concentration in the field of SURGERY. All students were required to accomplish **744 hours in surgery**. In their four-years of medical school, 23% of their entire medical training was devoted to SURGERY. This does not include their 5th year of internship, which would require much more "hands on training".

Here are his specific surgery courses, as listed in his personal transcripts, taken by my father during his four-years at UCSF. His totals actually exceed the required number of hours:

1)	Surgery 101-	48 hours
2)	Surgery 102	64 hours
3)	Surgery 103	280 hours
4)	Surgery 104	16 hours
5)	Surgery 105	214 hours
6)	Surgery 106	64 hours
7)	Surgery 107	32 hours
8)	Surgery 108	32 hours
9)	Orthopedic Surgery 101	<u>16 hours</u>

George Hodel's total Surgical Hours- **766 hours**

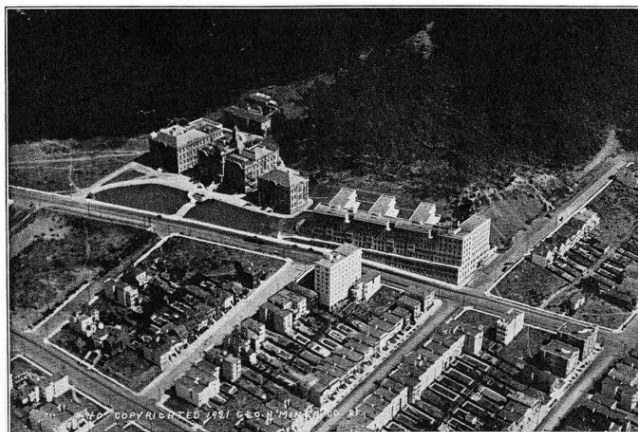
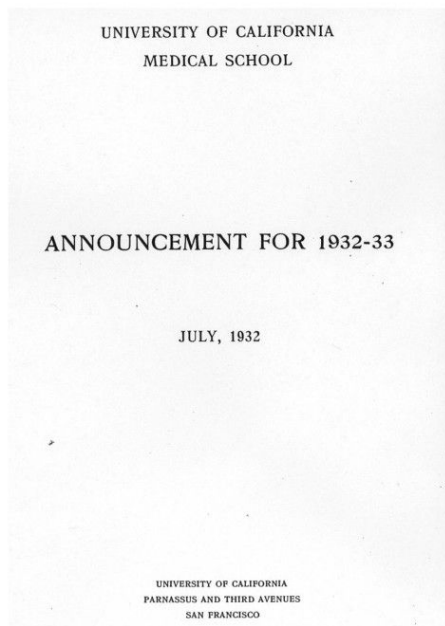
Transcripts further show during his four-years at UCSF, he personally attended/performed-

53 separate surgical operations and 12 autopsies

His 5th year was his internship at San Francisco General Hospital, where he practiced and performed emergency surgery on a daily/weekly basis. Upon graduation, and after receiving his M.D., in 1936, he joined the Public Health Service as a "P.A. Surgeon" and would spend the next three-years treating and attending to patients on the Navajo and Hopi Indian reservations in Arizona and New Mexico.

I trust this documentation sufficiently addresses and answers your question as to whether Dr. Hodel had enough surgical training to bisect a human body, (hemisectomy) as was performed in the murder of Elizabeth Short.

University of California Medical School (UCSF)



BIRDSEYE VIEW OF HOSPITAL
Courtesy of Geo. H. Minor Co., San Francisco

ARRANGEMENT OF REQUIRED STUDIES, 1932-33, AND TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN EACH SUBJECT

Subjects	First year		Second year		Third year		Fourth year		Fifth year	Totals
	First semester	Second semester	First semester	Second semester	First semester	Second semester	First semester	Second semester		
Anatomy, including Histology.....	560				16	16				592
Physiology.....		224								224
Biochemistry.....		224								224
Bacteriology, including Serology and Immunology.....			160							160
Pathology.....			256		36	36	8	8		344
Preventive Medicine and Public Health.....			80		16	16	16	16		144
Pharmacology, including Materia Medica.....				144	16	16				176
General Medicine, including Laboratory Diagnosis.....				288	240	176	160	160	Intern or Laboratory Year	1024
Neuropsychiatry.....			16		16	16				48
Dermatology and Syphilis.....						24				24
Legal Medicine.....							16			16
Medical History and Bibliography.....					8					8
Pediatrics.....				16	16	72	84	68		256
Surgery.....				48	180	180	168	168		744
Orthopedic Surgery.....							16			16
Urology.....						8				8
Ophthalmology.....								8		8
Otology, Rhinology, Laryngology.....								8	8	
Obstetrics and Gynecology.....				32	32	32	84	68	248	
Totals.....	560	448	512	528	576	592	536	520		4272

UPDATE JULY 2007!

In addition to all of the above documentation, I have just received (July 2007) documents from my father's original U.S Public Health Service file, from Washington D.C. Included in the file, is his original application, filled out by him in 1942

As mentioned in BDA and elsewhere, my father spoke to me on numerous occasions, recounting his early years as a doctor. He mentioned his Public Health service, and that he was "the sole doctor in a logging camp in New Mexico." I knew that he had performed surgeries and was required to make emergency repairs from frequent accidents from buzz and hand saw injuries.

On his 1942 application he gives the exact job description:

"Camp Surgeon, CCC, New Mexico, Dec, 1936 – June 1937" (see below document)

Dr. George Hill Hodel's 1942 Application for Appointment in U.S. Public Health Service

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11. Postgraduate courses, institutional or other experience, giving inclusive dates.

Post-graduate course in venereal disease control, University of California, February to May 1939.

12. Give a brief résumé of your activities from time of graduation to the present time, including a statement of all positions which you have held, giving inclusive dates.

Intern, San Francisco County Hospital, 1935-36.
Camp Surgeon, CCC, New Mexico, Dec. 1936 - June 1937.
 District Health Officer, Second Health District of New Mexico (County of McKinley and County of San Juan; headquarters, Gallup, New Mexico); Chief, McKinley County Venereal Disease Clinic; July 1937 - April 1938 (while health officer was on leave).
 Social Hygiene Physician, Los Angeles County Health Department, in charge of venereal disease clinics at Santa Monica, Whittier, Compton, and East Los Angeles; May 1938 - ~~XXXXXX~~ January 1941.
 Chief, Division of Social Hygiene, Los Angeles County Health Department, January 1941 to present.