

## FAQ 70

### 70.1

**Q: How can I get copies of the Black Dahlia FBI files? Did Elizabeth Short have a middle name of Ann?**

The below link will direct you to the FBI WEBSITE which contains a **FREE DOWNLOADABLE COPY OF HER FILE.** (note at their website the FBI still uses the fictional middle name of "Ann").

**[http://foia.fbi.gov/foiaindex/short\\_e.htm](http://foia.fbi.gov/foiaindex/short_e.htm)**

As I originally indicated in BDA in 2003, **Elizabeth Short did not have a middle name**. The earliest reporting of this error (that I have been able to discover so far) came from the ***LOS ANGELES TIMES NEWSPAPER*** in a major piece they did on retiring Dahlia detective, Harry Hansen which printed on **March 28, 1971**. (See below) (In his novel, James Ellroy also refers to his victim as — Elizabeth Ann Short—and many readers forgetting Ellroy's admonition that his book "was a work of fiction", took it upon themselves to turn that and many other of Ellroy's story-book creations about her and the crime—into fact.

#### Feature story in L.A. Times 3.28.1971

## FAREWELL, MY BLACK DAHLIA



Harry Leslie Hansen and his wife live in a medium-size house on a small side street in Palm Desert, California, hard by the Shadow Mountain Club. Sometimes they go out to a restaurant or movie or to visit friends, but mostly they stay home.

One day, a dog showed up needing water and kindness, perhaps sensing that both could be found there. The dog wasn't very big or good looking or spunky, a white critter with scattered splotches of black matted hair, a mutt really.

The Hansens gave it the water it wanted and waited for it to leave. When it didn't, they realized that the dog had nowhere to go and so they took it in.

Hansen, a retired policeman, set out to learn the dog's name. For two days, they sat together in a quiet room, the man interrogating the animal. During that time, he tried every dog's name he could think of. Finally, late on the second day, he called "Cookie!" The dog sprang instantly to its feet and began lapping at Hansen.

It was always with such patient, kindly, methodical prodding that the gentle Hansen had managed to elicit whatever facts and information he needed. With one exception, the technique worked every time he used it.

The one time that it didn't was a beaut.

Most men wind up failing in the long view, seeing as how they didn't manage to get what they went after. But, then, most men tend to want more than what is really within reach—things like wealth, dominion over a number of their fellow beings, the love of beautiful women.

On the morning of January 15, 1947, the surgically bisected body of Elizabeth Ann Short (above) was discovered in a vacant lot in Southwest Los Angeles. Who killed her? Harry Leslie Hansen (left), the retired LAPD detective, who spent years working doggedly

famous unsolved crime in California's history.

Nevertheless, all other dramas of his lifetime aside, Hansen's role in the infelicitous manhunt was the most spectacular and consequential act he ever undertook.

Harry breaks even on the impressive basis that he somehow managed to retire to Palm Desert without so much as a scratch after nearly a half-century on the Los Angeles police force. Then, too, there was the matter of his being the first and, thus far, last cop to have his career distinguished and name misspelled by a special certificate of recognition from the L.A. Medical Examiner Coroner's office "... to Sgt. Harry Hanson, Homicide Division, LAPD ... for outstanding contributions in homicide investigations."

But, in view, though, of his co-starring role in a drama whose failure causes its fame, it seems natural and even forgivable at first meeting to imagine Hansen as an average flesh-and-blood cop who blew his biggest case. He looks like nothing so much as your playboy uncle from some country manor. He comes on like soft, gentle tweed and fox-hunts and Scotch rocks.

As it happens, the misimpression caused by his countryside appearance is his streetwise ace. He seems, at all times, inattentive and unconcerned, a deception he trades on beautifully ... while you are paying attention to him, he is paying closer attention to you.

The voice is soft enough, sometimes even squeaky, but it's too measured, too intent, and it can sensitize the defenses of a perceptive person. The delayed realization that the guy sitting across from you is a hall of a listener causes you to find

The FBI following the LAT's and Elroy's lead continues to perpetuate the error both on their original cover sheet and on their active website.

**SCANNED COPY OF FBI COVER SHEET-**

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION  
COVER SHEET**

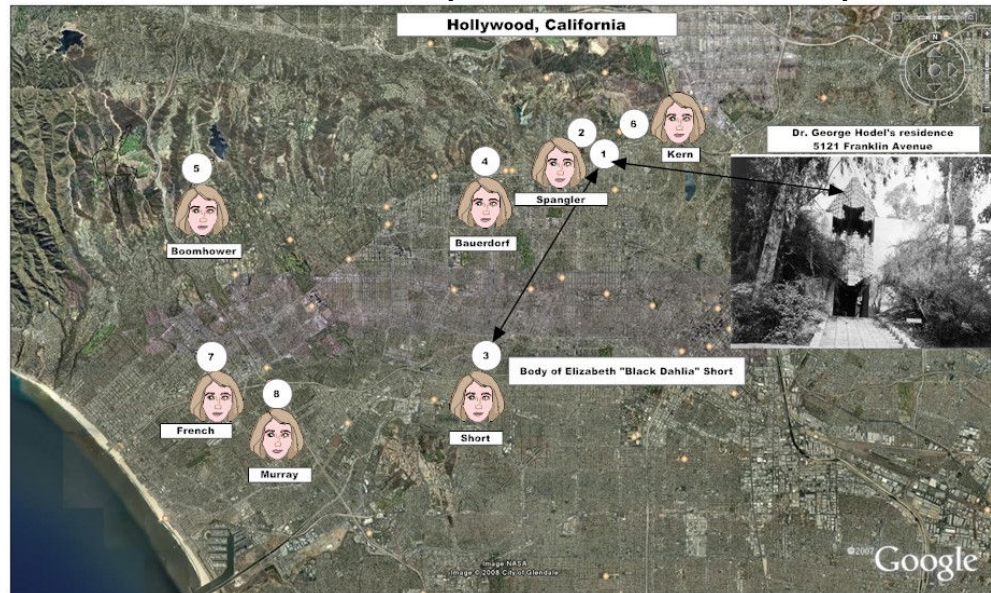
**SUBJECT: ELIZABETH ANN SHORT, a.k.a.**  
**"THE BLACK DAHLIA"**

## 70.2

**Q: Can you tell me which women you think were killed by your father and how close were they to where he lived in Los Angeles?**

### ***Los Angeles Lone Women Murders***

Below is a map showing seven (7) of the victims I believe were Category I (definite) victims. I have listed the distances of each from my father's "Franklin House" in Hollywood.



- 1- Franklin House- 5121 Franklin Ave., Hollywood, California
- 2- Jean Spangler, her purse found in Fern Dell Park- 0.5 mi.
- 3- Elizabeth "Black Dahlia" Short- 7.3 miles
- 4- Georgette Bauerdorf- 4.2 miles\*
- 5- Mimi Boomhower- 7.1 miles
- 6- Gladys Kern- 1.1 miles
- 7- Jeanne French- 9.4 miles
- 8- Ora Murray 7.7 miles\*

In five (5) of the above seven (7) murders the suspect included a taunting note/letter as part of his signature/M.O. those included: **Bauerdorf, Short, French, Kern, and Boomhower**. Court Certified Handwriting Expert, Ms. Hannah McFarland identified George Hodel's hand printing in each case with the one exception of the Bauerdorf note, which was typewritten, and unsigned.

\*Crime occurred 1943-44. George Hodel's then residence was located on Valentine Street, just two miles east of the Franklin House.

## 70.3

**Q: I know that Elizabeth Short and Air Force pilot, Matt Gordon were engaged and that he was killed before they could get married. Was she close to his family?**

No. In fact, based on my own research I have serious doubts that Elizabeth was ever really "engaged" to Major Gordon and raise the probability that their "engagement" was part of her own unfulfilled, hopes dreams and wishes. I won't go into all the reasons supporting that belief and would simply refer you to BDA, Chapter 29, "The Dahlia Myths" pages 381-389. Below is an article published three days after the discovery of her body, indicating that Matt Gordon's relatives were contacted by Elizabeth Short, immediately after his death and that she "asked them for money." The article goes on to indicate they found this surprising, "since no engagement existed they could not understand the motive for her request."

**Los Angeles Times, Jan. 18, 1947**

**Flyer Asked Kin Here  
to Write to Elizabeth**

Letters written by Elizabeth Short to Mrs. Val Gordon of Riverside, sister-in-law of a former Flying Tigers pilot with whom the girl had kept company in Georgia and Florida, indicated she was a "refined and educated girl," Mrs. Gordon said last night.

Her husband, Capt. Vincent P. Gordon, Army Air Forces pilot, said that correspondence between Elizabeth Short and his wife was discontinued about eight months ago when the girl said she was coming west to work as a model.

The relationship between the Gordons and Elizabeth Short, who had never met each other despite their letters, already had "cooled" considerably after Capt. Gordon's brother was killed in combat in China, the Gordons indicated. They said Elizabeth Short, to whom the former Tigers pilot had asked his sister-in-law to write because she was a "refined girl" he was interested in, wrote the dead flyer's parents asking for money immediately after his death. They added that since no engagement existed they could not understand the motive for her request.

**Los Angeles Times**  
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