

AUTOPSY REPORT

No. 92-MA-19
Name Charles Ham
Date of Report

Date of Autopsy 2-24-92
Place of Autopsy Candler General Hospital
Time of Autopsy 3:15 p.m.

AUTHORIZATION Dr. J.C. Metts, Jr., Chatham County Coroner

WITNESSES Officers Ramey, Mitchell and Thomas of Savannah Police Department,
Kenneth Williams, and Carla Blunt (student nurse)

IDENTIFYING FEATURES

Morgue tags and hospital wrist band.

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HISTORY

This man was allegedly shot point blank while standing at a telephone booth. He was rushed to Memorial Medical Center, where a thoracotomy was performed unsuccessfully. The slug was thought to have been retrieved at thoracotomy.

GROSS DESCRIPTION

The unembalmed body is a well-nourished, well-developed, young white male appearing approximately 25 years old. The body is estimated at 5'9" and 160 pounds. There is dark brown hair, moustache and beard. The irides are gray. There are multiple professional style tattoos over the arms and chest. There is a round, 10 mm. entry site surrounded by a 1 mm. rim of contusion on the sternum at the level of the fourth rib. There is a sutured left thoracotomy incision. The body is clad only in tennis shoes and white athletic socks, with circumferential black stripes. The penis is circumcised and the testes descended.

On opening the body, the bullet is found to have traversed the sternum, to have nicked the top of the right and left ventricle and to have severely torn the left atrium and the root of the aorta. It has nicked the descending aorta and been deflected from the vertebral column into the left lower lobe of the

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lung several cm. below the hilum. It has exited the lung posteriorly. There is massive left hemothorax.

ADDENDUM: Later, Detective Mitchell discovered that he had received erroneous information from Memorial Medical Center and that the slug had not been removed from the body. He wisely obtained an additional x-ray, which indeed did show the slug still within the body. Accordingly, we reconvened with Officer Ramey and Kenneth Williams on 2-25-92 at Candler Hospital at 9:45 a.m. and reexamined the body.

A wound exiting from the thorax into the soft tissues was located about 6 cm. left of the vertebral column in the seventh intercostal space posteriorly and here in these soft tissues, a large caliber, copper clad slug was found. It was given to Officer Mitchell for transmittal to the State Crime Laboratory.

The trajectory of the slug was through the sternum, the superior portion of the heart and the root of the aorta. It was deflected by the vertebral column into the left lower lobe below the hilum and exited posteriorly, entering the soft tissues of the seventh intercostal space posteriorly.

ANATOMIC DIAGNOSES

- I. Gunshot wound to chest with penetration of heart, aorta and left lower lobe of lung, and massive left hemothorax.

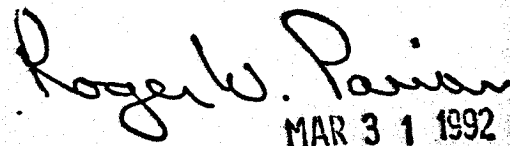
ANALYSIS

The cause of death is severe internal bleeding secondary to gunshot wound of the chest. The manner of death is homicide.



William S. Medart, M.D.

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