

MEDICAL EXAMINER, DISTRICT TEN

Lakeland Hills Boulevard

Lakeland, Florida 33805

AUTOPSY PROTOCOL

Case No. FA81-182

Medical Examiner No. 81-337

Deceased: MARTZ, Charlotte

Age: 33 Sex: F Race: W

Time of Death: 6/24/81 @ approx. 4:00 a.m.

Law Enforcement Agency:

Time of Autopsy: 6/24/81 @ 10:00 a.m.

Winter Haven Police Department

Pathologist: Luther A. Youngs, III, M.D.

Identification: red Medical Examiner's tag attached to the left great toe.

SUMMARY

This young white female was fatally injured when shot in the head at approximately 4:00 a.m. on the 24th of June, 1981, in a motel room in Winter Haven, Florida.

Post mortem examination revealed a young white female with an entrance gunshot wound of the left temporal scalp. The bullet had perforated the calvarium and perforated the frontal lobe of the left cerebral hemisphere. A fragment of the bullet was recovered from beneath the skin of the temporal scalp, just above the entrance gunshot wound. There were contusions of the lips with associated swelling. Fluid from the vagina revealed the presence of intact spermatozoa and a positive acid phosphatase reaction, consistent with recent sexual intercourse. On the dorsal aspect of the left hand, just proximal to the knuckles of the index and middle fingers, there was stippling, suggestive of powder burns resulting from the discharge of a firearm.

Death resulted from a gunshot wound of the head. The presence of stippling surrounding the gunshot wound is consistent with the firearm having been discharged at close range.


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GROSS DESCRIPTION

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:

The body is that of an unembalmed, well developed, well nourished white female, measuring 62 inches in length and weighing approximately 100 pounds. There is dependent lividity and algor mortis is established. There is no rigor mortis. The body is clad in blue jeans and pantyhose. There is a gold earring, with a central colorless stone, attached to each earlobe. There are no other jewelry items. A gold belt is fitted to the blue jeans. There is no blouse or brassiere.

There is a 6 mm. in diameter, rounded, entrance gunshot wound at the left temporal scalp, located 4 cm. superior to the pinna of the left ear. There is a surrounding rounded zone of stippling and hematoma, measuring 17 mm. in diameter. The entrance wound is nearer to the superior and anterior aspect of this rounded zone of stippling. Three centimeters superior and slightly anterior to the entrance wound, there is an 8 x 3 mm. linear opening in the skin. Beneath this, a fragment of a bullet can be palpated. This consists of a small, markedly deformed fragment of copper jacketed lead. This is placed in an evidence bag, identified, and turned over to Sgt. Stanton of the Winter Haven Police Department. Upon reflection of the scalp, there is a broad zone of hematoma which encompasses the entrance wound and the additional tear in the scalp skin superior to the entrance wound. There is an ovoid defect in the left temporal bone beneath the entrance gunshot wound, measuring 11 x 9 mm. On inspection of the interior of the calvarium, there is a surrounding dished-out zone measuring 2.5 x 2.2 cm. Associated with this perforation of the skull, there is extensive fracturing. However, there is no defect in the skull beneath the second wound with the associated bullet fragment.

The hair is frosted, light brown, and the eyes are blue. There are contusions of the upper and lower lips, with associated swelling. A small rounded, crusted lesion is present at the right frontal scalp.

The fingernails and toenails are painted red. The fingernails are long, and there are no broken nails observed. There is also no evidence of tissue beneath the fingernails.

There are no other external evidences of trauma.

BODY CAVITIES:

The body is opened through the usual Y-shaped incision. The cavities are free of fluid and adhesions.

NECK AND MEDIASTINUM:

Unremarkable.

AORTA AND GREAT VESSELS:

Unremarkable.

HEART:

The heart weighs 180 gms. There are no gross abnormalities.

LUNGS:

The right and left lungs weigh 175 gms. and 160 gms. respectively. The pleural surfaces are smooth and exhibit slight anthracotic pigmentation. The cut surfaces are normal.

SPLEEN:

The spleen weighs 80 gms. It is unremarkable.

ALIMENTARY TRACT:

The stomach contains a moderate amount of partially digested food. The alimentary tract is otherwise unremarkable.

LIVER, GALLBLADDER, AND BILE DUCTS:

The liver weighs 1080 gms. The capsule is smooth and the markings are normal.

PANCREAS:

Unremarkable.

ADRENAL GLANDS:

Unremarkable.

URINARY TRACT:

The right and left kidneys weigh 90 gms. and 95 gms. respectively. On sectioning the usual architectural pattern is seen. The ureters and bladder are normal. The bladder contains approximately 60 cc. of clear, pale yellow urine.

REPRODUCTIVE TRACT:

Swabs of the vaginal contents are obtained for examination for spermatozoa and acid phosphatase. The uterus is unremarkable. Both Fallopian tubes exhibit surgically absent segments. The ovaries are unremarkable.

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM:

See under "External Examination". The brain weighs 1250 gms. There is a perforation of the left frontal lobe, extending from the inferior aspect of the precentral gyrus and exiting through the left superior frontal gyrus, just caudal to the anterior extremity of the left frontal lobe. The bullet tract averages 2 cm. in diameter and has ragged and hemorrhagic margins. Small fragmented portions of the lead projectile and fragments of bone are embedded within the cerebral tissues surrounding the tract. The brain is otherwise unremarkable.

CAUSE OF DEATH:

Gunshot wound of the head.

PATHOLOGIC FINDINGS

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM:

1. No lesions.

RESPIRATORY TRACT:

1. No lesions.

SPLEEN, LYMPHATIC, AND HEMATOPOIETIC:

1. No lesions.

ALIMENTARY TRACT:

1. No lesions.

LIVER, GALLBLADDER, AND BILE DUCTS:

1. No lesions.

ENDOCRINE:

1. No lesions.

URINARY TRACT:

1. No lesions.

REPRODUCTIVE TRACT:

1. Surgically absent segments, both Fallopian tubes.

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM:

1. Entrance gunshot wound of left temporal scalp with perforation of the skull and perforation of the frontal lobe of the left cerebral hemisphere.

TOXICOLOGY:

1. Urine drug screen - not performed.
2. Blood alcohol - negative.

VAGINAL CONTENTS:

1. Positive for spermatozoa.
2. Positive for acid phosphatase.

MICROSCOPIC DESCRIPTION

THYROID GLAND:

No lesions.

SKIN:

Sections from the entrance gunshot wound at the left temporal scalp reveal denudation of the surface epithelium adjacent to the perforation. Along the course of the bullet tract, there is hemorrhage and deposition of finely particulate black foreign matter.

HEART:

No lesions.

LUNGS:

No lesions.

LIVER:

No lesions.

PANCREAS:

No lesions.

ADRENAL GLANDS:

No lesions.

KIDNEYS:

Vascular congestion.

SMALL BOWEL:

No lesions.

BRAIN:

Sections along the course of the bullet tract reveal disruption of the cerebral tissue with hemorrhage.