



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCES

BIRMINGHAM DIVISION
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November 22, 1978

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BIRMINGHAM

LABORATORY SUPERVISOR
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Honorable Harold E. Walden
District Attorney
Eighteenth Judicial Circuit
Columbiana, Alabama 35051

Re: Case 1(P) 158667
Avis Futural Alford, subject

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are six (6) memoranda citing this Department's findings on postmortem examination and laboratory examinations conducted at your request regarding the above styled case.

We are happy to have been of service to you on this occasion. If we can be of further assistance in this or similar matters, please do not hesitate to call.

Yours very truly,

Carlos L. Rabren
Director/State Toxicologist

By: 
Joseph H. Embry, M.D.
Forensic Pathologist

JHE/gp

Enclosure (6)

cc - Coroner Jimmy J. Bailey
Deputy Veston Petus
Investigator E.J. Gosdin



C. J. REHLING, PH. D., AUBURN
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STATE OF ALABAMA
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AND
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

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BRENT A. WHEELER, HUNTSVILLE
JAMES M. BUTTRAM, PH. D., BIRMINGHAM
RICHARD D. CARTER, ENTERPRISE

July 21, 1978

Re: Case 1(P)-158667 BH
Avis Futural Alford, subject

MEMORANDUM: To File

BY : Joseph H. Embry, M.D., Forensic Pathologist

SUBJECT : Postmortem Examination

Under the authority and at the order of District Attorney Tom F. Young of the Fifth Judicial Circuit and in response to the request of Coroner Dan Phillips of Coosa County, a postmortem examination was conducted upon the body of a White female identified to the undersigned by Medical Examiner Field Agent Carl M. Murdock as that of Avis Futural Alford. Postmortem examination was conducted at Cooper-Green Hospital Morgue, Birmingham, Alabama, on Thursday, July 20, 1978, at 10:30 PM, CDT. Present during the examination were Criminalist Lawden H. Yates, Jr., Toxicologist Richard A. Roper, Ph.D., and C. M. Murdock, MEFA.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:

DOES NOT PERTAIN TO CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

The hands are wrapped in clear plastic bags. Fingernail scrapings are taken from each nail and submitted separately in manila envelopes which are sealed and labeled. Oral, anal, vaginal, and perineal smears and acid phosphatase swabs are taken.

DOES NOT PERTAIN TO CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

RECENT TRAUMA

Stab Wounds:

Entrance: There are seventeen fusiform stab wounds of the left upper back over an area 5" x 4", and one small superficial stab wound in the same area. Most of the wounds are oblique approximately 40 - 45 degrees with the vertical axis with the lower end medial. There is slight ecchymosis of the skin around the wounds. In general, the wounds reveal slightly rounded upper angle and sharp lower angle. The sides of the wounds are smooth. The wounds will be described from above downward with the exception of the small wound which will be described last:

1. The wound measures 1/2" x 1/16" with sharp sides with slightly rounded upper lateral angle and sharp lower medial angle. The wound is located 4-1/2" to the left of the midline and 4 feet 6 inches above the left heel.
2. The wound measures 1/2" x 1/16" and has slightly rounded upper lateral angle and sharp lower medial angle. The wound is located 1-3/4" to the left of the midline and 4 feet 5 inches above the left heel.

3. The wound measures $9/16''$ x $1/16''$ and has the same description as the above described wounds, No. 1 and 2. It is located $2-1/4''$ to the left of the midline and 4 feet $4-3/4$ inches above the left heel.
4. The wound measures $5/8''$ x $1/8''$ and has the same description as the above described wounds. It is located $2-1/4''$ to the left of the midline and 4 feet $4-1/2$ inches above the left heel.
5. The wound measures $1/2''$ x $1/16''$ and has the same description as the above described wounds. It is located $2''$ to the left of midline and 4 feet $3-3/4$ inches above the left heel.
6. The wound measures $1/2''$ x $1/16''$. There is a contiguous sharp wound which extends to the upper side at a point $1/8''$ from the lower angle. The contiguous wound measures $3/16''$ in length and has a sharp angle and sharp sides. Its track is markedly obliquely downward (caudad) and appears to be due to removal of the knife from the larger stab wound at an angle. Wound No. 6 is located $2-1/2''$ to the left of midline and 4 feet $3-3/4$ inches above the left heel.
7. The wound measures $1/2''$ x $1/16''$. Superficially the upper angle is sharp but the dermis of the upper angle is rounded. The lower medial angle is sharp. There is a contiguous sharp wound which extends to the lower side at a point $1/4''$ from the lower angle. The contiguous wound measures $3/16''$ and has a sharp angle and sharp, smooth sides. Wound No. 7 is located $2-1/2''$ to the left of midline and 4 feet 3 inches above the left heel.
8. The wound measures $11/16''$ x $1/16''$. The angles and sides are sharp. It is more vertical than the other wounds measuring approximately 20 to 25 degrees with the vertical axis. It is located $1/2''$ to the left of the midline and 4 feet $2-3/4$ inches above the left heel.
9. The wound measures $1/2''$ x $1/16''$ and has slightly rounded upper lateral angle and sharp lower medial angle. The sides are sharp. It is located $2''$ to the left of the midline and 4 feet $2-3/4$ inches above the left heel.
10. The wound measures $9/16''$ x $1/16''$ and is similar in description to No. 9. It is located $2-1/2''$ to the left of the midline and 4 feet $2-1/2$ inches above the left heel.
11. The wound measures $1/2''$ x $1/16''$. It is similar to the above described wounds, 9 and 10. It is located $3-1/4''$ to the left of the midline and 4 feet $2-1/2$ inches above the left heel.
12. The wound measures $1/2''$ x $1/16''$. It has the same characteristics as the last three above described wounds, 9, 10, and 11. It is located $2-1/2''$ to the left of the midline and 4 feet $1-3/4$ inches above the left heel.
13. The wound measures $3/4''$ by $1/16''$. The description is the same as the above described wounds, 9 through 12. It is located $2-3/4''$ to the left of the midline and 4 feet $1-1/2$ inches above the left heel.

14. The wound measures $5/8$ " x $1/16$ " and has the same characteristics as the previously described wounds, 9 through 13. It is located 1" to the left of the midline and 4 feet 1 inch above the left heel.
15. The wound measures $9/16$ " x $1/16$ ". The characteristics are the same as the above described wounds, 9 through 14. It is located $1-3/4$ " to the left of the midline and 4 feet 1 inch above the left heel.
16. The wound measures $9/16$ " x $1/16$ ". There is superficial tail which measures $3/16$ " in length. The characteristics are the same as the latter above described wounds. It is located $2-3/4$ " to the left of the midline 4 feet $1-1/8$ inches above the left heel.
17. The wound measures $9/16$ " x $1/16$ ". The characteristics are the same as the latter above described wounds. It is located $2-3/4$ " to the left of the midline and 4 inches above the left heel.
18. The very superficial wound measures $1/8$ " x $1/32$ ". The angles and margins are sharp. It is located $3-3/4$ " to the left of the midline and 4 feet 3 inches above the left heel.

Course: There are two stab wounds in the posterior third intercostal space in the postero-lateral aspect of the thorax, measuring approximately $1/2$ " x $1/16$ " each. There are three similar stab wounds in the sixth intercostal space posteriorly. There is a stab wound through the seventh rib posteriorly with division of the rib. There are three to four stab wounds in the seventh intercostal space posteriorly which are confluent, with approximately the same dimensions as those described above. There are three similar wounds in the eighth intercostal space posteriorly and one postero-laterally. There is one similar wound in the ninth intercostal space posteriorly and two similar wounds more medially near the vertebral column. There is a similar wound in the seventh intercostal space near the vertebral column and one through the prevertebral fascia of the left lateral aspect of the seventh thoracic vertebra. The underlying bone reveals no penetration.

The course is then into the posterior aspect of the left lung. There are ten stab wounds of the left lung over an area 5 " x 3 ", measuring up to 2" in length. One exits through the diaphragmatic surface by a $3/8$ " x $1/16$ " wound, but no wound is seen in the underlying diaphragm. The wounds average $1/2$ " x $1/16$ " on the posterior pleural surface of the lung. There is one wound of the left upper lobe posteriorly, $1-1/8$ x $1/16$ ", which is superficial. The stab wounds penetrate near the hilus of the lung with penetration of main bronchi and vessels of the lower lobe. There is extensive hemorrhage around the wounds in the lung parenchyma and there is 850 ccs of clotted and unclotted blood in the left pleural space.

The course of one stab wound is through the descending thoracic aorta at the level of the seventh intercostal space. It is transverse and measures $3/4$ " x $1/4$ ". It is located on the left lateral aspect of the aorta, $3-1/2$ " below the level of the origin of the left subclavian artery. There is hemorrhage of the mediastinum and of the adventitia of the aorta.

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Depth: The deepest wound is that which penetrates the aorta, and the depth of this wound is approximately 3" to 4".

Direction: The stab wounds are directed forward, downward, and to the right.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

DOES NOT PERTAIN TO CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Postmortem Examination, Page 6, Case 1(P)-158667 BH, July 21, 1978

DOES NOT PERTAIN TO CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

MATERIAL FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1. One vial of blood from right atrium.
2. One vial of blood from iliac veins.
3. Portion of liver.
4. One kidney.
5. Tissue for histology.
6. Plastic bags from hands.
7. Fingernail scrapings.
8. Swabs from mouth, vagina, anus, and perineum.
9. Photographs.
10. Clothing: shoes and socklets.

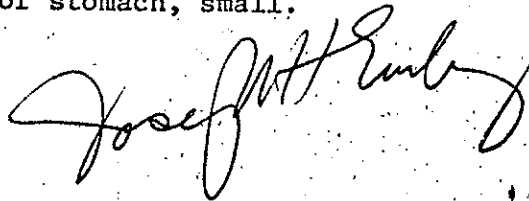
CAUSE OF DEATH:

Stab wounds of back.

ANATOMICAL DIAGNOSES:

1. Multiple stab wounds of back with perforation of left lung and thoracic aorta with left hemothorax and mediastinal hemorrhage.
2. Pleural adhesions, right.
3. Status postoperative hysterectomy, bilateral salpingectomy, and right oophorectomy with peritoneal adhesions.
4. Leiomyoma of stomach, small.

JHE:jh/10/01



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STATE TOXICOLOGIST

C. L. RABREN, AUBURN
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RICHARD D. CARTER, ENTERPRISE

August 17, 1978

Re: Case 1(P)-158667
Avis Futural Alford, Subject

MEMORANDUM: To File

BY : Tellis D. Hudson, Criminalist

SUBJECT : Examination and Comparison of Evidence

On July 24, 1978, ABI Agent E. J. Gosdin, Opelika, Alabama, delivered to the laboratory, evidence identified as relative to the above styled case. The following is a description of the evidence and results of laboratory examinations and comparisons:

1. One sealed paper bag labeled in part "Between Counter and Victim on Floor." The bag contains a can that is labeled "Castleberry Brunswick Stew." Two very fragmentary latent prints were detected on the can. These latents do not match the known prints of the suspect.
2. One sealed plastic bag labeled in part "Brown leather wallet found by J. R. Tapley and R. Cribbs." The bag contains one brown leather wallet which contains 5 checks that total \$65.50. Several fragmentary latent prints were noted on the checks, however, none of them matched those of the suspect. The contents of the wallet were not in a disarranged condition.
3. One standard fingerprint card bearing ink fingerprints and the name Timothy Charles Davis.
4. One sealed paper bag labeled in part "Clothes from Timothy Davis's grandmother" containing the following items:
 - 4-a) One red-brown knit shirt, with a label in the neck that reads "S Southhampton Sportswear." The shirt is sleeveless. Examination of the shirt fails to reveal any information.

- 4-b) One pair of blue jeans with 30 inch inseam 39 inch waist. Examination of the blue jeans reveal several spots of reddish-brown material on the front of both legs and the upper right waistband. This item of evidence was turned over to Criminalist William H. Landrum of this department for serological analyses.

On July 24, 1978, Lt. E. J. Gosdin delivered to the laboratory the following additional evidence:

5. One sealed plastic bag labeled in part "One knife aluminum handle bent blade found across from store." The bag contained one knife that is completely metal. Examination reveals the blade to be bent at approximately a 30 degree angle. The knife is 8 3/4 inches overall length with 4 7/8 inch blade. It has no identifying marks thereon. No usable latent fingerprints were detected on the knife. A reddish-brown material was noted on the handle. This evidence was turned over to William H. Landrum of this department for serological analyses.

On July 27, 1978, Lt. Gosdin delivered to the laboratory the following additional evidence:

6. One sealed clear plastic bag labeled in part "Compare to Murder Weapon 7 inch knife." The bag contains one knife that is 6 3/4 inches overall with a 3 3/8 inch blade. The knife is of the same type as that noted in Item No. 5 above.
7. One sealed plastic bag labeled in part "Compare to Murder Weapon 11 3/4 inch knife." The bag contains a knife which is 11 3/4 inches overall length with a 7 3/8 inch blade. This is an all metal knife. It is the same type as that noted in Item No. 5 above, however, the undersigned was not able to directly relate it to the suspected murder weapon.

TDH:mb

Jellis D. Anderson

C. J. REHLING, PH. D., AUBURN
STATE TOXICOLOGIST

C. L. RABREN, AUBURN
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

VANN V. PRUITT, JR., AUBURN
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STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF TOXICOLOGY
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RICHARD D. CARTER, ENTERPRISE

August 18, 1978

Re: Case 1(P)-158667 BH
Avis Futural Alford, subject

MEMORANDUM: To File

BY : Joseph H. Embry, M.D., Forensic Pathologist

SUBJECT : Microscopic Findings

On August 16, 1978, the undersigned received stained and mounted slides. The following are results of histopathological studies of those slides:

Heart: Not remarkable.

Lungs: Sections from the left lung reveal focal hemorrhage.

Liver: Not remarkable.

Kidneys: There is a cortical cyst. The kidneys otherwise reveal only congestion.

Brain: Not remarkable.

JHE/jh



C. J. REHLING, PH. D., AUBURN
STATE TOXICOLOGIST

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STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF TOXICOLOGY
AND
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

BIRMINGHAM DIVISION
P. O. BOX 2646
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35202

August 18, 1978

Re: Case 1(P)-158667 BH.
Avis Futural Alford, subject

MEMORANDUM: To File

BY : Lawden M. Yates, Jr., Criminalist

SUBJECT : Serological Analyses

July 20, 1978, the undersigned received evidence from Dr. Joseph M. Embry relative to the above styled case.

(1) One sample of blood identified as removed from Avis F. Alford. Serological analysis of the submitted sample revealed it to be type A, Rh positive.

(2) Swabs labeled "oral, vaginal, and rectum" identified as removed from victim. Serological analysis of the swab identified as from rectum for the presence of human semen was conducted with positive results. Serological analysis of the other swabs for the presence of human semen was conducted with negative results.

LHYJr/rb

C. J. REHLING, PH. D., AUBURN
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August 21, 1978

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RICHARD D. CARTER, ENTERPRISE

Re: Case 1(P)-158867 MI
Timothy C. Davis, suspect
Avis F. Alford, subject

MEMORANDUM: To File

BY : E. Chip Walls, Toxicologist

SUBJECT : Blood Alcohol Analysis

July 21, 1978, the undersigned received specimens identified as removed from the body of Avis F. Alford.

The postmortem blood is negative for ethyl alcohol and related volatiles.

HCW/rb

C. J. REHLING, PH. D., AUBURN
STATE TOXICOLOGIST

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RICHARD D. CARTER, ENTERPRISE

September 7, 1978

Re: Case 1(P)-158667 BH
Timothy Davis, Suspect
Avis Alford, Subject

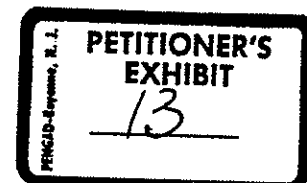
MEMORANDUM: To File

BY : William H. Landrum, Criminalist

SUBJECT : Laboratory Examinations and Analyses

On July 24, 1978, Investigator E. J. Gosdin delivered to the undersigned certain items of evidence identified as relative to the above styled case. The following is a description of the evidence and results of the laboratory examinations and analyses:

1. One yellow motorcycle helmet identified as belonging to Timothy Davis bearing small brown spots on the right side. Analyses of the brown spots is positive for blood. No further analyses could be performed because of the insufficient quantity of blood present.
2. One pair of blue and white tennis shoes identified as belonging to Timothy Davis with brown spots on the front toe area, the right side and bottom of the left shoe and the bottom of the right shoe. Serological analyses of the brown spots reveal the presence of group A,MN human blood.
3. One pair of red, white, and blue socks identified to be from Timothy Davis. Examination of the socks revealed no further information.



Laboratory Examinations and Analyses, Page 2, Case 1(P)-158667 BH,
September 7, 1978

4. One clear plastic bag containing one pair of "Hanes" jockey-style undershorts identified to be from Timothy Charles Davis. The undershorts have a brown stain on the top right side which is positive for blood.

Yellowish crusty material was removed from the inside front of the undershorts. Microscopic examination of the material exhibited layers of epithelial cells, fecal material, and spermatozoa.

5. One clear plastic bag containing one aluminum knife identified as found across from store. Examination of the knife demonstrated blood to be present on the handle and blade. Serological analyses reveal the blood to be group A.
6. One brown paper bag labeled in part "Clothes from Timothy Davis Grandmother's house" containing the following:
 - 6-a) One brown-colored, sleeveless pullover, shirt. Examination of the shirt failed to reveal the presence of blood.
 - 6-b) One pair of "BIG YANK" brand blue denim pants. The pants have blood spots on the front of both legs. A blood stain is on the top right side of the pants both inside and outside. A light blood stain is around the button hole above the zipper and blood stains are above and on the inside of the right pocket. Serological analyses reveal the blood taken from the top right side of the pants to be group A,MN.

On August 2, 1978, Assistant Director Vann V. Pruitt, Jr., delivered to the undersigned the following items of evidence:

7. One sealed white envelope containing one tube of blood identified to be from Avis F. Alford. Serological analyses reveal the blood to be group A,MN.
8. One sealed white envelope containing ten(10) sealed small manila envelopes identified to be fingernail scrapings from Avis F. Alford. Examination of the scrapings failed to reveal any further information.

WHL:mb

William H. Landrum