

Sgt. M. Smith

Investigative Assignment #96-02-262

December 6, 1996

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT #18

TO: RALPH J. RAY, JR.
Chief Assistant State Attorney

FROM: PHILIP J. MUNDY
Investigator

SUBJ: Re-Interview of Frank Amons POWELL, III

RE: Homicide Investigation of Adam Walsh

ENCL: 1) F.D.L.E. report #522-01-0097 by SAS M.R. CORNELIUS
2) Transcript of Interview of Frank Amons POWELL, III

Investigation indicated that Frank Amons POWELL, III and his sister Freeda "Becky" POWELL had been in the company of Ottis TOOLE, their uncle, and Henry Lee LUCAS when crimes were committed. Becky POWELL was murdered in Texas by Henry Lee LUCAS but Frank POWELL was found to be residing in Lakeland, Fla. Since POWELL's interview by Hollywood P.D. detectives in 1983 the WALSH murder investigation has presented a need to re-interview Frank POWELL. It was learned that SAS M.R. CORNELIUS had been one of the investigators involving Frank POWELL and had maintained communication with POWELL over the years. It was decided that it would be best for SAS CORNELIUS to interview POWELL after being briefed on the areas we would like covered.

Enclosure 1 and 2 are provided for your review and records.

POWELL's interview indicates that he did not know or ever hear of a Larry WALDO.

POWELL denies having ever been party to a conversation with Ottis TOOLE regarding the murder of a child and a decapitation of the child or disposal of the body.

POWELL does recall TOOLE driving a Cadillac but his memory of it's description is poor. When questioned about a trunk liner in the Cadillac he simply could not remember. He also commented, as others have, that TOOLE and LUCAS would drive any car that they could obtain the keys to.

POWELL denies ever having travelled to the City of Hollywood with TOOLE.

Questioned about weapons that TOOLE may have kept under the front seat POWELL describes a hunting knife that was a favorite of his uncle's. This weapon is described as having a bone handle, between twelve and sixteen inches long, and a blade about an inch and a half to two inches wide. When asked if TOOLE carried a machete type weapon POWELL responded that this knife was like a machete. POWELL has no idea what happened to this knife.

Philip J. Mundy
INV. PHILIP J. MUNDY

cc: Det. M. Smith, Hollywood PD (with encl.)

ENCLOSURE

ONE

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

P. O. Box 1479
Tallahassee, FL 32301-3360

On October 17, 1996, Special Agent Supervisor (SAS) M. R. Cornelius was contacted by Investigator Phillip J. Mundy with the State Attorney's Office, Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Investigator Mundy requested assistance in locating Frank Powell, Ottis Toole's (deceased) nephew, and interview him regarding any information Powell could provide concerning Toole's alleged involvement in the abduction and homicide of Adam Walsh. Investigator Mundy advised that Powell has never been interviewed by the State Attorney's Office regarding any possible information he may have concerning Toole's involvement in the crime or any information Toole may have provided to Powell concerning Toole's involvement in the crime.

Investigator Mundy requested SAS Cornelius to attempt to contact Powell and ascertain if he would agree to meet with members of the State Attorney's Office so that he (Powell) could be interviewed concerning this investigation. Subsequently, SAS Cornelius made contact with Powell by telephone. During the ensuing conversation, Powell denied ever receiving any information from Toole concerning the Walsh homicide investigation. Powell advised that he had tried to forget about his previous association with Toole and has tried to remove everything that he could from his mind.

After receiving this information, the State Attorney's Office made several unsuccessful attempts to locate and interview Powell concerning this matter, SAS Cornelius agreed to attempt to interview Powell over the telephone. On November 7, 1996, Investigator Mundy faxed SAS Cornelius with a brief synopsis of previous information obtained from Toole concerning his alleged involvement in the Walsh investigation. Also contained in the fax was a list of questions the State Attorney's Office wanted Powell asked during the telephone interview.

On November 13, 1996, SAS Cornelius contacted Powell by telephone and interviewed him regarding the questions previously submitted by Investigator Mundy. Prior to the interview, Powell gave verbal permission to SAS Cornelius for the interview to be recorded. During the interview, Powell was unable to provide any information concerning Toole's involvement or any information he had received from Toole concerning his involvement in the Walsh abduction or homicide.

Office:	TROC	Author:	Review
Date(s) of Activity:	10/17/96	SAS M. R. Cornelius	Author
Date Dictated:	11/20/96		Case Agt
Date Word Processed:	11/24/96		SAS
Word Processed By:	D. Ward		

Case Number: 522-01-0097	Serial No: 098	Document-1A: 060
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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

The interview was subsequently recorded by SAS Cornelius. A transcript was made of the interview with a copy attached to this report. The report containing the transcript, along with the original cassette tape, will be provided to Investigator Mundy.

A copy of the cassette tape, along with the faxed memo from Investigator Mundy, will be maintained in the 1A portion of this investigative case file.

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

SUBJECT DATA:

PERSONS:

AIRS No: 21078
POWELL, Frank

AIRS No: 5426
TOOLE, Ottis

AIRS No: 291410
WALSH, Adam
(deceased)

Case Number: 522-01-0097

Serial No: 098

Document-1A: 060

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ENCLOSURE

TWO

FDLE CASE NO: 522-01-0097

DATE OF ACTIVITY: 11/12/96

DATE TYPED: 11/13/96

TYPED BY: D. Ward

MRC: Special Agent Supervisor M. R. Cornelius

FP: Frank Powell

DO: Duty Officer

BEGIN TAPED INTERVIEW

(Dialing phone - ringing)

DO: Department of Law Enforcement. Ricky.

MRC: Jim.

DO: This is Ricky.

MRC: Ricky. This is ... this is Ronnie back in the squad bay.

DO: Yes.

MRC: This is a test. I'm ... I'm trying out this recorder. I'm fixin' to record a conversation.

DO: Okay.

MRC: Just give me a test count to five and come back.

DO: Okay. Testing one ... two ... three ... four ... five.

MRC: Okay. Thank you sir.

DO: Your welcome. Bye.

(phone dialing - ringing)

FP: Hello.

MRC: Frankie.

FP: Yeah.

MRC: This is Ronnie. Let me ... uh ... let me do a little preliminaries here. I need to put a ... a kind of a leader on the tape.

FP: Uh uhm.

MRC: And just kinda ... uh ... I'm recording this. Okay!

FP: Okay.

MRC: You understand that and you agree. You ... you're authorizing me to record it. You understand that I'm recording it.

FP: Yeah.

MRC: Is that cor ...

FP: Yeah.

MRC: Okay. Okay. Today's date is November the twelfth, 1996. It's approximately 1700 hours. I'm located ... uh ... at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement in Tallahassee. Special Agent Supervisor M. R. Cornelius talking with Frankie Powell. Frankie, give me your full name, if you will.

FP: Frank Amons Powell the Third.

MRC: The middle name is ...

FP: Amons.

MRC: A ...

FP: A M O N S.

MRC: Okay. And your date of birth, please sir.

FP: September the eighteenth, 1968.

MRC: Okay. And your telephone number is 941 665 2853. Okay!

FP: Uh uhm (positive).

MRC: And you're located in ...

FP: Lakeland, Florida.

MRC: Lakeland, Florida. And you're authorizing me to record this conversation concerning ... uh ... some questions that I'm fixin' to ask you ... uh ... regarding your previous association and travels with ... uh ... Ottis Toole. Is that correct?

FP: Yes sir.

MRC: Okay. And you understand that I'm doing this for the State Attorney's Office out of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit in Broward County, Florida. Is that right?

FP: Uh uhm (positive).

MRC: Okay. Frankie, the other day ... uh ... they called me and asked me if I would talk with you and question you concerning some previous travels that you might of had with Ottis Toole. Okay!

FP: Uh uhm (positive).

MRC: Uh ... the first question ... uh ... hold on just a minute. Let me ... do you know ... do you know a Larry Waldo?

FP: No I don't.

MRC: Okay. Uh ... you've never heard his name mentioned or you've never ... you don't ...

FP: Not to my knowledge.

MRC: Yeah. Not to your knowledge. You ... you've never ... you've never seen Toole in the ... in the company of an individual known as ... uh ... Larry Waldo?

FP: No sir.

MRC: Okay. Okay. Let me ... do you know of any cars that Ottis Toole was traveling in or can you describe any cars that Ottis Toole was traveling in back in the late seventies, early ... early eighties.

FP: Oh man. Not off the top of my head. I mean ...

MRC: Uh uhm.

FP: ... he had a few cars. He ... well he didn't have 'em. He didn't have a driving license.

MRC: Yeah. Okay. Uh ... if ... if Toole had had a ... on one of the vehicles that he owned ... a Pennsylvania license plate ... uh ... would ... would you have known ... would you have known this or would you ever recall him having a ... this ... uh ... Pennsylvania license plate on any car at any time that Toole might of owned. Do you recall that?

FP: No. I don't.

MRC: Okay. At any time, have you ever over ... ever overheard Toole making any statements ... and let's go back to the early eighties ... how old would you have been in say 1980? Uh ...

FP: How would I what?

MRC: How old would you have been?

FP: (sigh) ... uh ...

MRC: When were you born? What was your date of birth again?

FP: '68.

MRC: '68.

FP: Uh ...

MRC: You'd a probably been eleven or twelve, thirteen ... some ... let's see '68 ... '78 ... '80. You'd of been twelve.

FP: Yeah.

MRC: Okay. You ever hear of him making any statements in the early '80's about kidnapping a child.

FP: No.

MRC: Or killing any child.

FP: No.

MRC: And if he had made any statements about killing a child ... or throwing the head of this child in ... in some canal or something.

FP: Not to my knowledge.

MRC: You've never heard him make any kind of statements regarding this to you or ... uh ... maybe overheard him making any statements to someone regarding his participation in this type of crime?

FP: No sir.

MRC: Okay. Okay. Hold on just a second. Let me ... do you ever recall identifying a photograph of a Cadillac that Toole was ... uh ... drove back in the early '80's? Do you ever recall him having a Cadillac?

FP: Yeah. Yeap. He had a Cadillac.

MRC: Can you describe that for us?

FP: Uh ... big ole iron tank. Uhm ...

MRC: Do you recall the color?

FP: Ronnie, I'm not positive, but I wanta say something like ... uh ... it might of been like a two tone. One was the color of maybe blue and I couldn't tell you the other.

MRC: Okay. Was it a two door or four door?

FP: Four door.

MRC: It was a four door Cadillac.

FP: Yeah.

MRC: Okay. Being somewhat ... you recall familiar with the car, do you know if ... uh ... you know what a trunk liner is?

FP: Yeah. Uh ... the cloth material that lines the trunk.

MRC: The carpet. That's correct.

FP: Right.

MRC: Do you ... do you recall this particular Cadillac that ... that Toole was driving ... I think you said blue and it being a four door. Do you recall if it had a trunk liner in it or not?

FP: I cannot recall.

MRC: Uh uhm. Okay. Frankie, can you ... just picture back now in your mind ... can you ... is this the only Cadillac that you recall Toole driving during this time?

FP: (inaudible) Ronnie if I could picture back right, my grandmother had ... had a old Caddie.

MRC: Uh uhm.

FP: But I couldn't tell you what year it was or nothing.

MRC: Was it different from ...

FP: Oh yeah.

MRC: ... the car that Toole had?

FP: Yeah.

MRC: Did he ever drive this car of your grandmother's?

FP: Well, him ...

MRC: That would be his mother's ... that ... that's ...

FP: Right. That would be his mother.

MRC: Okay.

FP: Uh ... like I said ... far as I remember he never had a driving license.

MRC: Uh uhm.

FP: And most of the time it was ... he never drove. Uh ... Henry always drove.

MRC: Uh uhm.

FP: But they ... they drove any vehicle ... whatever vehicle had keys that was around.

MRC: Do you ever recall ... what was the color of your grandmother's Cadillac?

FP: I can't recall.

MRC: Okay. Do you ever recall of a Cadillac ... either your grandmother's or of ... of ... uh ... Toole's that might of been black over white? Just kind of ... you know in your mind ... just kind of picture back ... uh ... black over white Cadillac. You said blue I think was the one he was driving.

FP: Well, now I just ... I remember a blue Cadillac.

MRC: Uh uhm.

FP: That big ole blue car back then.

MRC: Uh uhm.

FP: Uh ... It's too far back, Ronnie.

MRC: Okay.

FP: I just didn't ...

MRC: You can't ... okay.

FP: No. 'Cause I mean they've ... they've had dark colors. Okay. They didn't ... only light colored car I remember Grandma having one time was ... oh ... I wanta say a white Delta 98er or something like that.

MRC: What color was it?

FP: It was white.

MRC: It was solid white.

FP: Yeah. It was white ... was white with ... uh ... like red interior on the inside.

MRC: Uh uhm.

FP: I believe it was. Go back out Ashley.

MRC: Okay. Frankie ...

FP: Uh uhm.

MRC: ... if ... if you can't recall the car and you ... have you ever been to the Hollywood, Florida, area with ... with Toole?

FP: Not with Toole. No.

MRC: Okay. If not with Toole, have you ever been ... you've been to Hollywood, Florida, then. Is that ...

FP: Oh yeah.

MRC: Who have you been down there with?

FP: With my boss that I used to work for.

MRC: And what was that in ... what line of business was that?

FP: Hanging red iron.

MRC: Hanging red iron. Now is that for the ... uh ... structure of a building or something. Is that ...

FP: Uh uhm (positive).

MRC: Okay. Where they weld it together and then ...

FP: Weld it and bolt it and ...

MRC: Put sides on it then from there.

FP: Basically.

MRC: Okay. So you never traveled with with Toole down there, but you have traveled to ...

FP: No. Not with ... not by my knowledge of being down there with Toole.

MRC: Okay. Uh ... okay. And with you never being down there in any ... any conversations at any time, have you ever heard Toole say ... uh ... or mention where he had ... uh ... that he had traveled to Hollywood, Florida.

FP: He mentioned that he traveled every ... everywhere. Everywhere he went, he would ... he would take off and be gone for a week and then show back up. Disappear for whole months. Show back up.

MRC: Okay.

FP: He was the traveling type.

MRC: Okay ... but ... Frankie, listen to my question now. Do you ever recall any conversations where Toole mentioned to you or you overheard a conversation where Toole was telling someone that he had been or traveled to Hollywood, Florida.

FP: Not to my knowledge.

MRC: Okay. Okay. Now I'm ... I'm gonna kinda repeat myself and go back over these to make sure that I have this ... uh ... uh ... the questions that they ... they wanted asked of you. Uh ... back sometime ago, Frankie, and I ... I don't know who you identified a Cadillac that was owned by ... by Toole, but with that, you ... the only Cadillac that you're saying that you recall is the one that your grandmother had which was a solid white.

FP: Well, I don't know if her's was a Cadillac though. The white Cadillac, but it was a ... a big white car she'd had.

MRC: Oh, you're not sure that it was a Cadillac.

FP: No.

MRC: I'm sorry. Okay. But the only one that you can recall ... the color that you can recall of Toole owning was a blue and some other color.

FP: Yeah. But I mean it ... it ... that blue could of been black. I mean it was ... it seemed like it was a dark color.

MRC: Yeah. Okay.

FP: But ...

MRC: With ...

FP: (inaudible - speaking at same time)

MRC: With that, would you of had an occasion to of looked in the trunk and to see if the truck liner was there or do you recall it being gone or you know missing from the vehicle?

FP: I can't recall if it was there or gone.

MRC: Okay. If ... okay. All right.

FP: I don't know.

MRC: When he was traveling in a vehicle ... okay ... did ... did ... did Toole keep any type ... uh ... weapons under the front seat?

FP: Well, he had his favorite knife that he used to carry.

MRC: What ... what was that? Can you describe that for me?

FP: Uh ... best of my knowledge, it was about sixteen inches long.

MRC: What ... what ... what do you know that as? What kind of knife?

FP: Uh ... a hunting knife. It had like a bone handle.

MRC: Uh uhm. And you're describing it to be about sixteen inches long.

FP: Uh ... somewhere between a foot and sixteen inches long.

MRC: Okay. And that's like ... uh ... maybe ... that's ... that's handle and blade all ... all inclusive.

FP: Uh uhm (positive).

MRC: Okay. Do you ever know of him ... uh ... having ... keeping a machete type weapon?

FP: Well, that's basically what this knife was. Like a machete.

MRC: Yeah. But you described it as a hunting knife.

FP: Yeah. It's a hunting knife.

MRC: Uh uhm.

FP: It's ... uh ... see like on one side it's ... it had like a ... it was like a ... the blade was like ... I would say somewheres between an inch and a half to two and a half inches wide.

MRC: Uh uhm. Okay. Uh ... now, Frankie, do you know what a machete is?

FP: Yeah.

MRC: Okay. Would you ...

FP: I know what ...

MRC: You know that's a long ... longer ...

FP: Long ... long and skinny knife. Real thin.

MRC: Real thin blade and it's, you know, they use 'em for chopping weeds ... surveyors use 'em and cane cutters use 'em.

FP: I've used 'em.

MRC: Okay. So you know what a machete is.

FP: Yeah.

MRC: What ... what Mr. Toole had then was not ...

FP: Was not a machete. No.

MRC: Okay.

FP: The blade was wider than a machete.

MRC: Oh it was wide ... you mean thicker.

FP: Thicker.

MRC: The steel was thicker.

FP: Yeah.

MRC: But it wasn't longer. Uh ...

FP: No.

MRC: It was overall between twelve to sixteen inches long.

FP: Yeah.

MRC: Sixteen inches long. Okay.

FP: Something like that.

MRC: Okay. Okay. Do you know what he might of done with this knife?

FP: No.

MRC: Did you ... you saw the knife. I mean you knew it was there if he was ...

FP: Oh yeah. I've seen it.

MRC: If he was traveling in that car, would it be in the car with him?

FP: It ...

MRC: Pretty much.

FP: Pretty much.

MRC: Okay. Okay. And you don't ... do you know again Larry Waldo being in the company of Toole. Do you know a Larry Waldo? You said no a while ago, but I just wanta ask you one more time.

FP: No. The name don't sound familiar.

MRC: Okay. And you don't know if Toole had ever visited this ... if Toole ... if Waldo had ever been to Jacksonville or Toole had ever gone to Hollywood, Florida, to visit this ... uh ...

FP: I don't know.

MRC: Okay. Okay. And ... and you don't recall ever meeting' 'em. Is that ...

FP: No.

MRC: Okay. Nor hearing Ottis talk about this Larry Waldo. Either coming to Jacksonville or to ...

FP: No.

MRC: Okay.

FP: Ronnie, I'll be honest with you. I'm not good on names.

MRC: Okay.

FP: I mean faces is one thing. But names ...

MRC: Okay. Again about the Pennsylvania ... or the type of tag ... do you recall seeing or recalling any type of vehicle license plate on any of the cars that Toole drove? Other than maybe a Florida license plate. Did you understand the question now?

FP: Yeah. I ...

MRC: I mean ... a Florida license plate or any other out of state license plates. Specifically, a Pennsylvania license plate. Do you ever recall ... uh ... Toole having that on his vehicle. Or have you ever saw that ... that plate on a vehicle.

FP: No. I can't recall I have.

MRC: Okay. Supposedly Toole was making some statements about kidnapping a child. Okay. In the early eighties. And kidnapping him, killing him and then throwing his head in a canal. Did you ever ... did ... did Toole ever make these ... these statements to you?

FP: No.

MRC: Okay. Frankie, is there anything ... anything with Toole going to Hollywood, Florida, any question that I haven't asked you ... any ... uh ... anything that you might recall that you could add to what ... I've ... I've asked you about overhearing Ottis Toole telling you about going to Hollywood, Florida, or any crimes that he might of committed while in the Hollywood, Florida, area. Can you recall anything?

FP: Not to my knowledge.

MRC: Okay. Uh ... if you think of anything now that you know pretty much the basic type questions that I have asked you, will ... will you call me and ... and let me know.

FP: Yes I will Ronnie.

MRC: Okay. Anything you wanta add to this ... uh ... anything that you wanta add to what I've asked you.

FP: No.

MRC: Okay. Let me just ask you this. Would you of possibly ever heard Lucas ... something that Toole might have told Lucas about going to Hollywood, Florida ... with Toole not being around and Lucas making a comment about Toole going down there and committing a crime. Would Toole have ever ... I mean would Lucas have ever met ... mentioned anything like this to you?

FP: Not at my knowledge.

MRC: Okay. Anybody else might of told you something that ... or a crime of ... uh ... that Toole might of committed down in the Hollywood, Florida, area other than Toole himself or Lucas. Anybody else might of told you anything.

FP: Uh huh (negative).

MRC: Okay. Frankie, it's now about 1720 hours, November the twelfth, 1996. Just ... if you will, will you end this interview for me by just stating your name, please sir.

FP: Frank Amons Powell the Third.

MRC: And Frankie, I appreciate it and I will be in touch with you. What I'm gonna do is get this typed up and send to the State Attorney's Office down there. And like I say ... uh ...

FP: Uh ... just do me a favor. I wish my phone number wasn't on there.

MRC: Well, it's not going anywhere. It's going to a law enforcement agency and it won't ... it certainly won't be going anywhere. Okay!

FP: Okay.

MRC: All right. And if you have any problems, you give me a call.

FP: All righty.

MRC: Okay. And thank you again hear.

FP: If you need me, you call me. Don't let anybody else gettin' to call me.

MRC: Okay. I'll do that, Frankie.

FP: I don't ... I don't like the headaches, Ronnie.

MRC: All right. All right. I'll do it. Thank you bud.

FP: All right.

MRC: Tell your wife I said hello.

FP: All right.

MRC: Okay.

FP: How was your tr ... vacation?

MRC: It was good.

FP: Was it.

MRC: It was cold.

FP: (laughing).

MRC: Listen, we're being recorded now. I'll talk to you a little later here.

FP: All right.

MRC: Okay bud.

FP: Bye.

MRC: Bye.

END OF TAPED INTERVIEW