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A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF THE MAIL BOMB OFFENDER
ARRESTED IN THE UNITED STATES FROM JANUARY 1,
1974 TO DECEMBER 31, 1975

by

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A THESIS

Approved:



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ABSTRACT

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Purpose

The objectives of this study were: (1) to attempt to discover identifying characteristics common to the mail bomb offender; (2) to attempt to identify any similarity in the methodology utilized by the offenders; (3) to provide base line data for future research which can be used in the development of prediction models for dealing with mail bomb offenders; and (4) to provide future investigators an insight into the situations which have previously existed that resulted in a mail bomb offense.

Methods

The data for this study were obtained from the official records and reports of the United States Postal Inspection Service. Only those cases which resulted in an arrest were included in the study. A total of eighteen cases were included which resulted in the arrest of twenty-six offenders. Data relating to the offender and data relating to the methodology utilized by the offender were compiled as follows:

Data Relating to the Offender

1. Age
2. Race
3. Sex
4. Occupational background
5. Educational background
6. Primary motive
7. Motive by age
8. Prior Arrest History by motive
9. Intended victim by motive
10. Height and weight characteristics of male offenders

Data Relating to the Methodology of the Offender

1. Month device was mailed
2. Day of week mailed
3. Mailing location in relation to residence of offender and addressee
4. Days elapsed from date of offense to date of arrest
5. Explosive composition of device
6. Number of devices resulting in detonation and injury caused

Findings

Some of the more significant findings from the data studied are as follows:

Age--The data suggests that this crime is primarily an act characteristic of younger individuals as the median age is 24 years and the age group of 15 to 29 years represented 69.2 per cent of all arrestees.

Race--The crime appears to be characteristic of the Caucasian race as all of the twenty-six arrestees represented in the study were Caucasians.

Sex--The crime is primarily a male act, as twenty-two of the twenty-six offenders arrested, or 84.6 per cent were male.

Prior Arrest History--The data indicates that the mail bomb offender tends not to have been previously involved in law violations, as only eight, or 31 per cent of the arrestees had previously been arrested.

Motive--Three primary motives were identified in the cases in this study: sex, avarice, and revenge. The most likely motive in a mail bomb case is one of sexual interest, which was the primary motive in nine of the eighteen cases studied, or 50 per cent of them.

Motive of Offender by Age--The data indicate that the older offenders are more likely to be motivated by revenge than any other reason, as five of the six offenders who were over forty years of age were motivated by revenge. No other age categories appear to be highly correlated with motive.

Mailing Location in Relation to Residence of Offender and Addressee--The offenders tend to mail from locations in cities other than those in which they or the addressee reside. Only four of the eighteen mailings (22%), were mailed in the city to which they were addressed. Twelve of the mailings, (67%) were made outside the city in which the offender lived.

Supervising Professor

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The use of the United States Postal Service for the transportation of lethal and potentially lethal infernal machines, more commonly known as mail bombs, is not a new phenomenon. However, little attention has been given to this problem until the recent coverage by the popular press of the letter bomb plague which has been associated with terrorist political activities. This publicity has resulted in several misconceptions concerning the problem on the part of the American public.

One popular misconception is that the problem of terrorist activities has spread to the United States mails, when in fact no domestic mailing of a letter bomb, as such, has been established. This is not to say that the problem of attempted murder by mail does not exist, but rather that the motives and manner of construction are not generally understood.

This study is an attempt to describe some of the characteristics of the individuals who have been arrested for mailing explosive devices, as well as their offenses. The data represent all cases which have come to the attention of the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) and which have resulted in an arrest between January 1, 1974 and December 31, 1975. These data include

information concerning the perpetrators as well as the methodology of their offenses.

While not a common occurrence, the potential consequences of such activities cannot be overlooked. A mechanical malfunction might result in the injury or death of several postal employees, and no amount of planning by the offender can eliminate the possibility of the wrong person opening the parcel, or of innocent victims being in the area upon its detonation.

The use of the United States mails to transport explosive devices is a violation of the United States Code, Title 18, Section 1716 which states:

(a) All kinds of poison, and all articles and compositions containing poison, and all poisonous animals, insects, reptiles, and all explosives, flammable materials, infernal machines, and mechanical, chemical, or other devices or compositions which may ignite or explode, and all disease germs or scabs, and all other natural or artificial articles, compositions, or materials which may kill or injure another, or injure the mails or other property, whether or not sealed as first-class matter, are non-mailable matter and shall not be conveyed in the mails or delivered from any post office or station thereof, nor by any officer or employee of the Postal Service.

The United States Code, Title 18, Section 1716 further describes the penalty for a violation of the section as follows:

Whoever knowingly deposits for mailing or delivery, or knowingly causes to be delivered by mail, according to the direction thereon, or at any place to which it is directed to be delivered by the person to whom it is addressed, anything declared non-mailable by this section,

unless in accordance with the rules and regulations authorized to be prescribed by the Postal Service, shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

Whoever knowingly deposits for mailing or delivery, or knowingly causes to be delivered by mail, according to the direction thereon, or at any place to which it is directed to be delivered by the person to whom it is addressed, anything declared non-mailable by this section, whether or not transmitted in accordance with the rules and regulations authorized to be prescribed by the Postal Service, with the intent to kill or injure another, or injure the mails or other property, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both.

Whoever is convicted of any crime prohibited by this section, which has resulted in the death of any person, shall be subject to the death penalty or to imprisonment for life, if the jury shall in its discretion so direct, or, in the case of a plea of guilty, or a plea of not guilty where the defendant has waived a trial by jury, if the court in its discretion, shall so order.

The authority to investigate the violations of United States Code, Title 18, Section 1716, is given to the USPIIS by virtue of the United States Code, Title 18, Section 3061, which states:

(a) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, officers and employees of the Postal Service performing duties related to the inspection of postal matters may, to the extent authorized by the Board of Governors ..

(1) serve warrants and subpoenas issued under the authority of the United States;

(2) make arrests without warrant for offenses against the United States committed in their presence and;

(3) make arrests without warrant for felonies cognizable under the laws of the United States if they have reasonable grounds to believe that the persons to be arrested has committed or is committing such a felony.

(b) The powers granted by subsection (a) of this section shall be exercised only in the enforcement of laws regarding property of the United States in the custody of the Postal Service, including property of the Postal Service, the use of the mails, and other postal offenses.

For the purposes of this study the data compiled are two main groups, one involving data concerning the offender and the other addressing itself to the methodology of his offense. These data are divided as follows:

Data Relating to the Offender

1. Age of offender
2. Race of offender
3. Sex of offender
4. Occupational background of offender
5. Educational background of offender
6. Primary motive of offender
7. Motive of offender by age
8. Prior arrest history of offender by motive
9. Intended victim by motive
10. Height and weight characteristics of male offenders

Data Relating to the Methodology of the Offender

1. Month device was mailed
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It is the intent of the author, through the presentation of such data, to provide direction for future research as well as the provision of information which may be useful in the investigation, solution, successful prosecution and prevention of violations of this nature.

Justification of the Study

The majority of the efforts made to record and accumulate data concerning the use of bombs in the United States has been made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Bomb Data Program. This program analyzes bombing incidents and accumulates data in the following categories: (1) Target, (2) Region or geographic division and state, (3) Motive, (4) Population group, (5) Time, (6) Month, (7) Day of the week, and (8) Casualties by apparent motive.

Little attention has been given to the offenders involved in the bombings. This study is an effort to close a significant gap in the available literature with regard to the identity of, and data concerning offenders who have resorted to the use of the United States mails to transport their explosive devices. It appears that much time and effort has been given in the past to data relating to the explosion itself, or result of an explosion, and little attention has been given to the offender or cause.

It is hoped that data accumulated about persons who have been arrested for this crime in the past two years will lend some additional direction to future investigations into crimes of a similar nature.

The addresses in mail bomb cases and the offenders have generally had some connection in the past. Whether such acts are motivated by sex, avarice or revenge, the

investigation of these cases must have direction if they are to be brought to fruition. In those cases where the mailing of bombs has been motivated by a desire for attention for a political cause such direction has not generally been available. However, the mailing of bombs for political reasons has been, to this time, extremely rare in the United States. Therefore, it is generally the connection between the sender and the addressee, however specious it appears to be at first glance, which usually provides the necessary direction for the successful investigation of such cases by the Postal Inspection Service.

After being involved in several mail bomb investigations, this author has noted that many advances have been made in the areas of physical, chemical, and mechanical examination of evidence and in the investigative techniques used. Little attention has been given to offenders themselves. No major efforts have been found which look at the people who have been arrested for this crime to see who they are and what, if any, common characteristics they may have.

This study is significant for several reasons. It helps close a gap in the professional literature concerning the investigation of such crimes. It provides a fresh perspective on one type of crime. It provides information heretofore unavailable about the perpetrators

of mail bomb offenses, and hopefully it will provide base line data for comparison with future research toward the end of the successful investigation of such criminal activities.

As political unrest in other countries as well as that domestically increases, measures must be taken to ensure that the mails are not used to transport these infernal machines, and that those who resort to this crime are brought to the attention of the courts.

Limitations of the Study

Possibly the most significant limitation of this study is that the number ($n = 26$) of persons arrested in the past two years for mail bomb offenses may be too small from which to make generalizations concerning the nature of the offense. However, the time span of the study of two years should provide a worthwhile sample from which generalizations can reasonably be drawn.

A second limitation centers on the fact that not all cases handled by the USPIS result in an arrest. Clearance by arrest rate is about 80 per cent. Further it is also not known if all crimes of this nature are reported, for it is possible that concern over disclosure of a love triangle, or similar situation would prevent some victims from reporting the crime.

Another noted limitation is that the motive

listed as the apparent motive may not be the only motive involved in the case. A fine line could, as an example, separate the motive of revenge from one of sex.

The United States Postal Service is not the only business that carries parcels. Any explosive devices transported by a private company would not be investigated by the USPIS and therefore would not be included in the data used in this study.

Statement of the Problem

The exact number of mail bomb cases for 1974 and 1975 has not been established. The United States Postal Inspection Service (1975) reported that seventeen of the twenty-one major bomb incidents investigated from the summer of 1973 to the summer of 1975, had resulted in a solution. This represents approximately an 81 per cent solution rate.

One of these cases, which is included in this study, resulted in the death of a state judge in Pasco, Washington, when he opened a parcel delivered to him in his chambers. Another example of the injury and mayham that can result from this type of crime was the young U.S. Army cook who opened a parcel in the kitchen of the mess facility in which he worked in Texas. The resulting explosion caused the loss of most of his left hand and injured four other persons in the area of the blast.

An estimated twenty-five major bomb cases are investigated each year by the USPIS. Not all of these cases involve the mailing of an explosive device, for the USPIS also investigates bombings directed against any property owned or operated by the United States Postal Service. Of the cases examined in this study no arrest resulted from any case involving terrorist motivation. The possibility of terrorist, politically motivated mail bombings is very real as evidenced by experiences in foreign countries.

In an effort to combat this problem, the USPIS has established a cadre of bomb investigation specialists, and has endeavored to promote their expertise through specialized training in the investigation of this serious crime. The clearance rate of over 80 per cent would indicate that this effort has been very successful.

Definition of Terms

For the purpose of this study the term "mail bomb" is defined as any article placed in the United States mail for delivery which could ignite or explode with the intent to injure or kill the person to whom it is addressed, or cause injury or damage to post office employees or property. The term is restricted to those items that are carried or intended to be carried by the United States Postal Service as opposed to those that are

to be transported by private delivery services, and thus are not "mail" by definition.

The term "infernal machine" is the legal description given in the United States Code, Title 18, Section 1716, in referring to devices that could explode or burn and declaring them as non-mailable matter.

The offender is considered "arrested" when he or she has been brought before the judicial official having jurisdiction in the matter.

United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) is defined as the first federal investigative agency in the United States consisting of approximately 1,700 Postal Inspectors stationed through the United States and Puerto Rico. Protecting the U.S. mail and the mail system is the mission of the Postal Inspection Service. As the law enforcement and audit arm of the U.S. Postal Service, the Inspection Service is a highly specialized, professional team performing security, investigative, law enforcement and audit functions essential to a stable and sound postal system. A major federal law enforcement agency, whose history dates back to the earliest days of the country, it has jurisdiction in all criminal matters infringing on the integrity and security of the mail, and the safety of all postal valuables, property, and personnel.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There is a paucity of information available concerning the subject matter of this study. The information which is available has generally been presented in the form of sensationalistic news reporting rather than scholarly research, and as a result very little systematic data has been gathered which deals with mail bomb offenders or their offenses.

There are several legitimate reasons for the lack of readily available information concerning this phenomenon. First, the United States has been relatively free of bombings until recently. Second, agencies involved in the investigation of bomb cases may represent local, state, as well as federal jurisdictions and this fragmentation is not conducive to systematic data collection. Third, agencies are reluctant to release information concerning these kinds of cases, possibly out of fear that the information will be put to use by others in the perpetration of similar offenses.

An occasional reference to mail bombs can be found, but some basically religious in content, attempt to deal with the reasons such acts as mail bombings would take place rather than presenting factual data concerning the offenders or their offenses.

"Murder by Mail" is the name of the morally outrageous game being played by the hand of desperate persons responsible for the campaign of terror through letter-bombs that has plagued, not only England, but most recently the British Embassy in Washington, D.C. Not even the most sympathetic friend of the cause of a united Ireland free of imposed British presence on Irish soil can say other than that these acts of madness have no human or moral justification.

This must be said even if conditions in Northern Ireland were as oppressively bad as the most ardent advocate of radical Irish Republican Army policies might claim. It must be said also even if those presumably behind the terrorism could in fact establish any title to act on behalf of the Irish people, North or South. The judgment would hold too, even if anyone could show that there were no readily available alternatives to win relief from alleged or real injustice.

All that ought to be said I believe, before one even begins to examine the pragmatic aspects of the current inhuman deeds. Looked at in such terms, the letter-bombing tactics should evoke a cry of protest, not only at the foul offense they offer to the memory of courageous men and women who endured so much in the past on belief of Irish independence and unity, but also at the harm they do to the dedicated efforts, at great personal cost of living Irish patriots [Campion, 1975, p. 137].

Often sources tend to carry titles which misrepresent their content such as an article in the National Review entitled "Danger, Postman Coming." This title would seem to suggest that one should be fearful of what his mail might contain, but in fact the article concerns the political problems of mail bombings in Ireland.

While the rise in political terrorism could increase the use of the mails as the vehicle to transport explosive devices, this study does not find political motivation to be a major factor in the mail bomb arrests for the years 1974

and 1975. There are those who think that the future will have more bombings ("Threat for Bicentennial Year-- Terrorist Getting Ready" 1975), and that 1976 will be the year for revolutionary tactics, that there are dozens of radicals hiding underground, building up arsenals with a target date of 1976.

Political terrorism is on the rise again in the U.S., building toward what could be a dramatic and possibly bloody climax during the nation's Bicentennial year of 1976.

The size-up comes from state and federal law officers watching for a chance to strike against the small but increasingly violent hard-core elements of America's radical underground.

So far, the confirmed death toll from nearly five years of hit-and-run warfare with would-be revolutionaries has totaled only about 50. But now a new surge of violence and propaganda has authorities fearing that the battle may be entering a more open and more deadly phase [Dreele, 1973, pp. 23-24].

The above article claims that because terrorists are strongly drawn to historical dates and parallels, the Bicentennial year would be one of many bombings.

One previously untapped source of information is the official records and reports of the United States Postal Inspection Service. This investigative agency has jurisdiction, as pointed out earlier, over cases in which bombs or other infernal machines have been deposited in the United States mails. These records have been the primary source of data for this study.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation publishes a semi-annual report entitled A Comprehensive Report of

Incidents Involving Explosive and Incendiary Devices in the Nation. The purpose of this publication is expressed in the last paragraph in the "Forward" in the January to June, 1975 summary:

These crimes of violence continue to instill fear in society and challenge law enforcement. It is hoped the data contained in this summary will prove to be a useful tool for law enforcement agencies in their battle against revengeful persons and revolutionary groups who perpetrate these senseless acts.

Some of the conclusions drawn from the data presented in this summary are as follows:

Preliminary figures indicated 1,012 bombing incidents were reported to the FBI for the period of January-June, 1975. In the same period for 1974, a total of 918 incidents occurred.

One thousand one hundred seventy-eight devices were used in connection with 1,012 bombing incidents. Sixty-five per cent, or 760, were explosive in nature, while thirty-five per cent, or 418, were incendiary attacks.

The total value of property damaged due to bombings was \$21,151,389. Explosive bombs resulted in \$20,292,920 damage while incendiary devices caused \$858,469 damage. One bombing incident accounted for \$14,000,000 of the total.

Thirty-eight per cent of all bombing matters occurred in cities over 250,000 population. California led the Nation in number of incidents with 267, or 26 per cent of the total. The Western Region experienced 396, or 39 per cent of the 1,012 bombing incidents.

Seventy-three per cent of all bombings occurred between 6:01 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. Three hundred ninety-two incidents occurred between 6:01 P.M. and midnight, and 348 occurred between 12:01 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.

Mondays had the highest frequency of bombing

incidents with 161, while Tuesdays had the lowest with 129.

The most common targets were residences with 284 attacks and commercial operations with 225. The combined total for these targets accounted for 50 per cent of the bombing attacks.

There is no doubt that data on the type of devices being used and the targets they are used against is of some value to law enforcement agencies, but it would seem that information on the people arrested for these crimes would be as much, if not more, value to the agencies investigating these crimes. These data are not included in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's publication.

For the person who, for whatever reason, would like to build a bomb or to manufacture his own gunpowder or dynamite, there are several books available for his use. One of the more popular authors in this field (Saxton, 1972) would appear to promote the use of explosives. An example of this basic philosophy is contained in the following excerpts:

In the past few years numerous books have been published on "Guerilla warfare." Their emphasis is away from guns and toward bombs, incendiaries and poisons.

The militant reads these books and is transformed. To others he may seem a shabby, non-descript, run-of-the-mill loser. But to himself he is a one man army with the power to destroy any individual or hundreds of any group. This poor man's James Bond not only has the power to destroy but to disrupt and terrorize with relative impunity.

A militant with an eighth grade reading level can fix up a mad scientist's laboratory out of odds and

ends and with easily purchased chemicals become more dangerous than a foreign saboteur [Saxton, 1972, p. 2].

The author then proceeds to explain in detail how to order the necessary chemicals with addresses of suppliers. He also explains the manner in which to order so that the supplier will not know that the chemicals are for the manufacture of explosive items. After explaining where to obtain the materials and how to make the explosive mixture, he then provides instructions on how to make several types of bombs. A pipe bomb, he describes in this publication, is one of the more common explosive devices found in mail bombs.

Powell (1971) made available to the public directions for the manufacture of nitroglycerine, mercury fulminate, blasting gelatine, dynamite, chloride of azode, trinitrotoluene, black powder, smokeless powder, and many other explosives. Also supplied were instructions on how to use these mixtures in bombs and booby traps. His Anarchist Cookbook has become somewhat of an underground best seller.

Books which supply information on how to manufacture explosive compounds and to design bombs are available and no doubt used by persons who use the mail to transport their explosive devices. A case which is included in this study that resulted in the injury of five persons may well have been the result of the infor-

mation supplied in this type of publication, as a copy of one such book was found in the home of the offender during the execution of a search warrant.

Stoffel (1972) refers to a 1969 study which was made to determine if there were any characteristics of the bomber which would assist local law enforcement agencies in their efforts to identify bombers or potential bombers. The results of this study, he reports, indicate no detailed characteristics but claimed that the composite characteristics indicated a young white male of upper middle class or wealthy background. This composite is not indicated by the data in this study.

"The general bomber," Stoffel claims, "can be loosely identified through his association or activities in radical political groups that use violence and explosives to promote their ends."

In discussing motives of the bomber, Stoffel listed the following as being identified in actual bombings:

1. Political
2. Religious
3. Nationalistic
4. Prank
5. Attempt to cause gang war
6. Labor strike
7. Organized crime activities
8. Radical
9. Revenge
10. Suicide
11. Anti-establishment
12. Extortion
13. Business rivalry
14. Insurance
15. Terrorist-anarchist
16. Concealment of a crime

17. Attempt to gain notoriety
18. Jealousy
19. Hate-love

Of the motives listed by Major Stoffel, only those which deal with sex, avarice or revenge have been identified as a result of this study and it would appear that the motives in the so-called general bombing and those of the mail bomber are not the same.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF THE DATA

Data for this study were obtained from the official records and reports of the United States Postal Inspection Service covering the twenty-four month period of January 1, 1974, through December 31, 1975. All cases involving the mailing of infernal machines as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1716, which resulted in an arrest of one or more suspects are included in this study. No other cases are included. There were several cases of mail bombings which occurred during the time period covered by the study in which no arrest was made, and which represent no information, at this time concerning the perpetrators. Therefore, these cases are not included here.

Subjects

The study includes eighteen cases and twenty-six subjects. In order to maintain confidentiality of these cases and the integrity of the files of the United States Postal Inspection Service, only generalized information is presented here. No names or other data which might be prejudicial to any person or organization are included. Of the cases represented here, five included multiple subjects and thirteen had single

subjects. The subjects are evenly split between conspiratorial and individual efforts. Several of the cases in which there was only a single subject may have included others whose identity escaped the scrutiny of the United States Postal Inspection Service, or whose involvement did not constitute a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1716. An example of this would be the individual who supplied parts or information with regards to the manufacturing of the explosive device but did not participate in the act to a point which would result in prosecution for the offense. These individuals might still be subject to prosecution under other federal or state statutes regarding destructive devices.

Table 1 reflects information concerning the number of subjects involved in each case.

TABLE 1
Cases and Number of Subjects Involved

Case	Number of Subjects	Case	Number of Subjects
1	1	10	1
2	1	11	2
3	1	12	2
4	2	13	1
5	4	14	1
6	1	15	1
7	3	16	1
8	1	17	1
9	1	18	1

Table 2 shows the month in which the devices were entered into the United States mails and Table 3 shows the day of week in which the mailing was made.

TABLE 2
Month Mailing Occurred

Month	Number of Mailings
January	0
February	2
March	0
April	1
May	1
June	4
July	3
August	2
September	1
October	2
November	1
December	1

TABLE 3
Day of Week Mailing Occurred

Day of Week	Number of Mailings
Monday	2
Tuesday	5
Wednesday	3
Thursday	1
Friday	3
Saturday	2
Sunday	2

While this information is of relatively little use at this time due to the small number of cases in the present study, it is included in order to provide base line data in the determination of trends. If this study, in conjunction with future research, is to be used toward the development of prediction models for dealing with bomb mailings, then data of this nature becomes significant.

It would appear that there may be a trend of mailings in the summer months and on days early in the normal work week. However, only a larger sample can establish the validity of this observation.

Table 4 shows the number of days from offense

to arrest of the twenty-six perpetrators represented in the study in ten-day increments. Considering the

TABLE 4
Time Span from Mailing to Arrest

Days from Offense to Arrest	Number of Arrests
1-10	10
11-20	2
21-30	3
31-40	2
41-50	3
51-60	0
61-70	2
over 70	4

often complicated task of collecting and identifying evidence after the detonation of an explosive device the mean time of twenty-one days from the date of mailing to the date of arrest of the offender would appear to be a credit to the USPIS. This time period includes the time it takes to transport the parcel to the addressee.

When consideration is given to the fact that

sophisticated laboratory analysis of physical evidence is often required in cases of this nature, the median time from offense to arrest also reflects favorably on the expertise and investigative techniques of those charged with the responsibility of investigating such cases.

Table 5 reflects information concerning the location of the mailing of the device for the eighteen cases represented in the study. It is interesting to

TABLE 5

Mailing Location in Relation to Residence
of Offender and Addressee

Location	Number of Cases
Mailed from locations in which the offender did not reside	12
Mailed from outside the city in which the addressee resided	14
Mailed across state lines	5

note that the offenders mailed the bombs from cities other than those of their residence in twelve of the eighteen cases, which may be construed to indicate intent to avoid detection. Thus this offense cannot be considered in any

way to be a crime committed in the heat of passion. Only in four of the eighteen cases were the devices mailed within the city to which they were addressed. This may suggest that the means of the attempted violence, mail bombs, might have taken a different form if the intended victims were geographically available to the perpetrators in many of the cases. Finally, in five of the eighteen cases, the bomb was addressed to a location outside the state from which it was entered into the mails.

Table 6 provides information concerning the age of the twenty-six offenders represented in the study. The ages ranged from fifteen years to seventy-five years, with a mean age of twenty-nine years and a median age of twenty-four years. The age group of fifteen to twenty-nine years represents 69.2 per cent of all arrestees. These figures, evaluated together, suggest that the particular crime under study here is primarily an act characteristic of younger individuals.

All of the twenty-six arrestees represented in the study were Caucasians. While certain minority groups tend to be over-represented in the commission of various acts of violence, this particular crime appears to be characteristic of the Caucasian race.

Table 7 reflects the sex of the offenders. Of the twenty-six persons arrested during the time of the

TABLE 6
Age of Offenders Arrested

Age Groupings	Number of Arrestees
15-24	13
25-34	6
35-44	4
45-54	1
55-64	1
65-over	1

TABLE 7
Sex of Offenders

Sex of Offenders	Number of Offenders
Male	22
Female	4

study only four were female.

Table 8 reflects the occupational background of the offenders. This background is, as might be expected,

TABLE 8
Occupational Background of Offenders

Occupation	Number of Offenders
Students	2
General laborer	6
Retired	2
Prisoners	2 (mailed from prison)
School teacher	1
Music teacher	1
Entrepreneur	1
Library clerk	1
Discount store clerk	1
City fireman	1
Painter	1
Civil engineer	1
Coal miner	1
Licensed vocational nurse	1
Military officer	1
Housewife	1
Total	26

eclectic. However, evidence can be obtained from this table which supports the observation that this particular offense is not constrained by social status, as predicted by the level of occupational prestige. Several offenders would fall into the occupational category of "professional" which is a group from which a relatively small percentage of violent offenders might be expected to come.

Table 9 represents data concerning the level of educational achievement on the part of the offenders.

TABLE 9
Educational Level of Offenders

Educational Level	Number of Offenders
Number not completed high school	10
Number of high school graduates	16
Number attended college, but did not graduate	11
Number of college graduates	4

In view of the relatively complex processes involved in the building of an explosive device, it would appear to be reasonable to assume that the perpetrators of this offense would reflect a high level of educational achievement. Such

is not the case. Ten of the offenders had not finished high school. Of these ten, two were still enrolled in high school at the time of their offense. The remaining sixteen offenders were high school graduates, and of this group eleven had attended, but not finished, college and four were college graduates.

Table 10 reflects data concerning the motivation for the offenses, as determined by the investigations.

TABLE 10
Primary Motive of Offenders

Motive	Number of Cases	Number of Offenders
Sex	9	10
Revenge	7	9
Avarice	2	7

While the popular press has presented mail bombings as a function of political terrorism, none of the cases represented in this study appear to have been politically motivated. Three generic categories of motives have been identified, although there may be some overlap among them. These categories are labeled "sex," "avarice," and "revenge." Appendix A, which presents a narrative synopsis of the cases represented in this study, provides additional insight

into the reasons behind the offenses.

Sex was the primary motivation in nine of the eighteen cases represented in the study, and of ten of the twenty-six offenses. Thus, it can be seen that those offenders whose motivation was sexual in nature tended not to become involved in conspiratorial relationships in the commission of this crime. Revenge was the primary motive in seven cases, and nine offenders. Here, as in the case of sexual motivation, the offenders appear to display a tendency to commit offenses on their own with no intentful support of others.

Avarice was the primary motivation in two cases representing seven of the offenders. Thus, it would appear that the motivation of pecuniary gain for the mailing of a bomb tends to be accompanied by a conspiratorial relationship among multiple offenders.

These observations are based upon the assumption that the investigations of mail bomb incidents have consistently turned up all the principals involved in the cases. It is possible that individuals involved in these cases escape the scrutiny of the investigating inspectors, and thus the reliability of the information resulting from these investigations would be diminished.

Table 11 presents data concerning the age of the offenders by apparent motive. The data indicate that the older offenders are more likely to be motivated by a desire for revenge than for any other reason. Of the six offenders

TABLE 11
Motive of Offender by Age

Motive	Age						Total
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-over	
Sex	4	4	2	0	0	0	10
Revenge	3	1	2	1	1	1	9
Avarice	6	1	0	0	0	0	7
Total	13	6	4	1	1	1	26

in the study who were over forty years of age, five were motivated by revenge. No other age categories appear to be highly correlated with motive.

Table 12 reflects the explosive composition of the devices which were mailed by the offenders arrested in this study. The product that is easiest to obtain is, as one would expect to be the most commonly used in the manufacture of the devices, gunpowder. Another possible reason for the popularity of this composition is that it is much easier to ignite than most other dry compounds available to the offenders. Dynamite, which is well known to the public, is not as easy to obtain and is far harder to ignite.

Table 13 presents data on the resulting explosion or detonation of the devices mailed by the offenders and

TABLE 12
Explosive Composition of the Device

Explosive Composition	Number Mailed
Gun Powder	13
Dynamite	2
Flash Powder	1
Gasoline	1
Lighter Fluid	1

TABLE 13
Number of Mail Bombs Detonated
and Resulting in Injury

	Resulted in Injury	Resulted in Intended Vic- tim Injury	Resulted in Death	Total Detonated
Number of Cases	5	3	1	7

the injury which resulted from the explosion. The data indicates that the use of the United States mail to transport an explosive device is not a very sure way to accomplish the task at hand. In only three of the eighteen cases studied were the intended victims injured,

and only one of these injuries was a death of the intended victim. Seven of the devices detonated, which represents 39 per cent of the cases. Three of these seven detonations resulted in the previously mentioned intended victims and the two other cases involved postal employees in the area of the explosion.

Table 14 presents data concerning the prior arrest history of the mail bomb offender. The trend would seem to indicate that the offender has not been arrested for any other crime in the majority of the cases. Only eight of the twenty-six persons in the

TABLE 14
Motive and Prior Arrest History

Motive	Number with Previous Arrest History	Number without Prior Arrest	Total
Sex	2	8	10
Revenge	4	5	9
Avarice	2	5	7
Total	8	18	26

study had a previous arrest history and two of these were in the prison at the time of the offense. Of the ten persons arrested who were motivated by sex, only

two of them had any prior arrest. The primary motive of revenge had four offenders with a previous arrest history out of a total of nine persons, while the offenders who were motivated by avarice had two offenders who had been handled by law enforcement agencies prior to the mailing of the bomb.

Table 15 presents data on the intended victim of the mail bomb offender by apparent motive. In only

TABLE 15
Intended Victim by Motive

	Male	Female	Corporation
Sex	7	2	0
Revenge	6	1	0
Avarice	0	1	1
Total	13	4	1

four of the eighteen cases studied were the intended victims females. One of the cases involving female victims was motivated by revenge, one by avarice, and the other two were motivated by sex. There was one case in which the intended victim was a company and this case was motivated by avarice. The remaining thirteen cases involved male victims.

Table 16 presents height and weight data on the male offenders who have been arrested for mail bomb violations. The data would appear to indicate that the physical stature of the offender has little to do with his decision to use the mails as the method to accomplish his crime. The average height of the male offender is 70 inches and the average weight is 164 pounds.

TABLE 16
Height and Weight Data of Male Offenders

Number	Height (in inches)	Number	Weight (lbs)
7	62-68	5	100-140
6	69-71	10	141-180
8	72-76	6	181-220
1	77-up	1	over 220
22		22	

Several variables which have been presented would appear at this point to be only peripherally related to mail bombings or the offenders. However, in view of the recognition that this study represents the first attempt to gather data concerning this particular offense, it is important that this research include all data available

in order to provide base line information upon which future research may be founded. This information is provided here in an attempt to insure the availability to those interested persons who may find some future use for it.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

In interpreting the data of this study, the first conclusion arrived at was that there is very little data available on the bomb offender and few studies have been done in this area. The data from this study indicate that the summer months have the greatest frequency of bombs entered into the U.S. mails, with June and July having the largest number. However, the limited number of cases used in this study may denigrate from this conclusion.

Tuesday is the most common day of the week for the mailing of mail bombs with five of the eighteen cases involved in this study, being forwarded on this day. This may well be the result of the offender using the weekend to build the device and then selecting a mailing point on Monday.

The largest per cent of the offenders arrested will be arrested in the first ten days after the mailing of the device. The offender will select a location outside his city of residence to mail the device and this chosen location will not be the city in which the intended victim lives.

The crime is not confined to younger persons,

but a large percent of them (50%) are in the 15 to 24 age group and over 88 per cent of them are under the age of 45. The minority races have not been involved in any of the cases studied, as all offenders arrested during the two year period of the study were Caucasian.

Females do not tend to be involved in mail bomb violations either as victims or offenders. When a female offender is involved in the mailing of a bomb, the motive would appear to be sex-related as was the case in three of the four cases with female offenders in this study. If females are the intended victim there appears to be no positive correlation between their sex and the motive.

The occupational status of the offender can range from professional to general laborer. No particular vocational or professional background has been identified in the study as peculiar to the mail bomb offender. The offender was generally not more educated than the general populus. Additionally, the arrest for mailing the mail bomb may well have been their first known arrest.

If the violation resulted from a primary motivation of sex, the crime is most likely to have been committed alone. If revenge was the primary motive, the offender is most likely to have acted alone. If the primary motivation was avarice, a conspiratorial

relationship is likely to have existed. The primary motive was associated with sex in approximately half of the cases reviewed in this study.

The offenders that are over forty years of age when arrested were generally motivated by revenge rather than avarice or sex. The offender who was under the age of forty was more likely to have been motivated by sex or avarice as opposed to revenge.

Gunpowder was the primary explosive composition and the explosive device was not likely to harm the intended victim in a majority of the cases.

To predict who will mail the next explosive device or to whom it will be addressed, is, of course, an impossible task. However, it is possible with the data collected to show the most probable characteristics of the offender and the offense.

1. The offender is most likely to be Caucasian and male.
2. The offender will most likely be a high school graduate.
3. The offender will probably have no history of prior arrests.
4. The offender will probably be between the ages of fifteen and twenty-nine.
5. The motive for this mailing will probably be sex related.
6. The parcel will probably be mailed outside the city in which the offender lives.
7. The parcel will probably not be mailed in

- the same city to which it is addressed.
8. The explosive composition of the parcel will most probably be gunpowder.
 9. The person to whom it is addressed will probably be male.
 10. The parcel will probably not injure the intended victim.
 11. The offender will probably be arrested within sixty days after the mailing.

Recommendations

The limited number of twenty-six subjects involved in this study indicates that this study should be repeated in the future when a larger number of subjects can be used from which to draw conclusions. The larger number may lend itself to more generalizations and also identify trends which have not surfaced in this study due to the limited number of subjects involved.

Future research should consider other factors than just those presented here. Since a major purpose here is presentation of base line data, all available data was identified. However, future researchers may hypothesize various relationships among variables and may wish to include these in their data collection.

Data on mail bomb offenders should be systematically collected and evaluated by the USPIIS in an attempt to gather information useful in the prevention and successful solution of such offenses. Consideration should be given

to collecting data on the manner and location of construction of the explosive device in an attempt to strengthen probable cause in the issuance of search warrants in investigation of these cases.

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APPENDIX A
CASE SUMMARIES

APPENDIX A

In an effort to blend the data used in this study into situations that can give the reader a better understanding of the type of situation that result in the mailing of bombs and to make the nature of the offense more realistic this appendix is presented in the form of short summaries of the cases studied. Efforts have been made to protect the rights of those individuals involved in the cases, and to comply with the Privacy Act of 1974, (5 U.S.C. 552a) enacted on December 31, 1974. References to the cases do not contain any information identifiable to specific individuals.

Case Study One

In June of 1974, a small parcel addressed to a married woman was delivered to the mailbox in a small Oklahoma city. The addressees' nine year old daughter retrieved the parcel from the box and handed it to her mother who proceeded to open it by tearing the paper from the side. She had torn the paper down two sides when a sound like a firecracker was heard and flames shot from the parcel burning her neck, hands and blouse. The resulting investigation developed several persons as suspects in the case.

Examination of the exploded parcel at the crime laboratory for the United States Postal Inspection Service,

located in Washington, D.C., determined that the parcel weighed just over four pounds and was constructed of at least two shoe boxes cut to hold an Eveready lantern battery of six volt capacity and a two inch pipe with one end-cap screwed on. A quantity of black powder had been placed into the pipe filling the cap and extending into the two inch piece of pipe. Numerous small lead shot were also located in the parcel. Systematic reconstruction of the bomb parcel by the crime laboratory revealed that it had in fact been designed to create an oversized shotgun shell as wadding had been placed in the open end of the pipe.

The victim's husband, who holds a doctor of philosophy degree (Ph.D.), did admit to a more than casual relationship with an ex-student when he was teaching at a university some two and a half years prior to the bomb being mailed. This student was now teaching in another city. The examination of the bomb parcel by the crime laboratory had developed numerous latent prints. Three of the latent prints from the parcel were positively identified as belonging to this young ex-girl friend. Two of the latent prints were located in areas of the wrapping which could only have been placed there by the person wrapping the bomb parcel.

The suspect was arrested and after a three day trial was convicted of the crime and sentenced to serve ten years for this offense.

Case Study Two

In October, 1974, at an Army post in Texas, a large cylindrical shaped parcel was delivered to a young U. S. Army cook while on duty at the mess facility. Not knowing what the parcel was or who had sent it to him, he decided to open it. While he held it down on the table and attempted to remove an insert in one end of it with his left hand, four of his co-workers watched to see what this gift might be. The first insert was removed and he grasped a string which he could now see in the end. As he pulled the string, the package exploded, ripping away most of his left hand and fingers and causing injury to four of his fellow workers.

While recovering from his injuries in the U.S. Army hospital at the installation, another parcel addressed to him at the hospital was received. Following the instructions given to him by the investigating postal inspectors he refused to accept delivery of the parcel even though it had a return address of a very good friend in California. Examination of the parcel found a Christmas card and a harmless looking Old Spice gift set of aftershave lotion and a deodorant stick. Using portable X-ray equipment of the Postal Inspection Service the deodorant stick was found to contain a large spring and metal objects. Efforts were made by the United States Army Explosive Ordnance Detachment to remove the lid of the deodorant stick and

it exploded ripping large holes in the sand bags covering it.

The resulting investigation included over thirty polygraph examinations and the evaluation of sets of finger and palm prints from the numerous sources. A young Pasadena, California, man was developed as a suspect as he had been associated with an ex-girlfriend of the victim. The investigation determined that this girlfriend had told the suspect that she could not get too involved with him as she had a boyfriend in the Army and that they might get married when he got out. This young man broke into her apartment and obtained the address of the soldier who would compete with him for her attention. His first scheme included the mailing of a box of poison candy disguised as a sample of candies that could be obtained by donating to a worthy cause in California. This plot had failed since the victim did not eat the candy which had been filled with potassium cyanide, because candy aggravated his complexion problem.

When no results were learned from the poison candy mailing the suspect then sent the first mail bomb which did not do the job as he had planned. The situation was aggravated even more when he learned that she had gone to Texas to visit him in the hospital. Therefore, the second bomb parcel was mailed.

During the execution of a search warrant at the home of the suspect, a copy of the Anarchist Cookbook,

mentioned in the literature section of this study, was located in his home. This young man was convicted of his crime and sentenced to serve six years.

Case Study Three

In June of 1974, a court reporter delivered a parcel to a Superior Court Judge at a city in Washington. The judge, alone in his office and seated at his desk, proceeded to open the parcel. The resulting explosion drove metal fragments into his chest, arms and brain killing him instantly.

The parcel would seem harmless enough as it measured approximately 3 by 3 by 6 inches, but enclosed was a very deadly pipe bomb, which is the most common type explosive device used in mail bomb cases. Two end caps, some wire, a battery and a small amount of gunpowder can easily result in the death of anyone unfortunate enough to be within range of the resulting spray of metal fragments.

Since the victim had been a judge for many years there seemed an endless task ahead to identify the offender in this case. A systematic investigation was undertaken in an attempt to identify all persons who had personally or officially been associated with the judge and might have a motive for killing him. Over seventy sets of fingerprints, eighty-three sets of handwriting exemplars and ninety-seven sets of typewriting exemplars, all pertaining to various suspects were obtained and submitted to the Postal Inspection Service Crime Laboratory in Washington, D.C.

The crime laboratory had developed two identifiable fingerprints on two small pieces of paper recovered at the bomb scene. One of those prints was identified as being the right thumb print of a young man that the judge had sentenced in the past.

This is one of the few cases on file where the intended victim was killed as a result of the mailing of an explosive device. Had the judge not been alone when he opened the parcel there may well have been more deaths as a result of the mailing.

A ten day trial in July of 1975 resulted in the conviction of the young man charged with the offense.

Case Study Four

In May, 1974, in a large Texas city, a postal employee using a mechanical dumping device dumped a load of parcels onto a conveyor belt for processing. As the load of parcels hit the belt one of them exploded spraying the area with metal fragments and starting a small fire among the parcels on the belt. The blast had been so severe that holes had been knocked through the ceiling of the room. By a stroke of luck none of the postal employees working in the area were hit. The employee who had just dumped the parcels was knocked to the floor but suffered only minor damage to his eardrums from the blast.

The collection and identification of evidence took many hours. Over one hundred and twenty separate bags of evidence were collected from the scene. From a manufacturer's name on a torn and twisted hinge the box which contained the pipe bombs was identified. The resulting investigation determined that the parcel had been addressed improperly and was going to be returned to the sender which was also an improper address. This parcel, had it not exploded when it did, may well have caused the death of a postal employee working in the dead parcel section of the post office, who, by duty, would have opened it in an effort to identify the senders to return it to them.

The investigation determined that the parcel had been intended for a farmer living in a nearby town who

had been involved with a young lady before her recent marriage. After her marriage she and her groom decided that the man must pay for his involvement with her. They decided that the mail bomb was the manner by which he was to meet his death. As luck would have it, the telephone book from which they obtained his home address was so outdated that it had the wrong address listed for him.

Both were convicted for their part in this crime and each were sentenced to serve three years on the conviction.

Case Study Five

In a large eastern city a young man decided to kill his grandmother in order to collect a \$10,000.00 inheritance. He obtained the aid of two friends in his so called "club" and the three of them started designing and building a bomb in July, 1975.

To insure that there were no mistakes, two prototype bombs were built and detonated in a nearby park. They wanted to insure that the bomb to be mailed would be of sufficient force to kill the intended victim, and that the detonation mechanism would function properly when it was opened. The final bomb was completed in the early part of August, 1975, approximately one week before it was mailed.

Another young man was approached by the group and agreed to mail the package from a nearby city for a \$150 fee. He transported the parcel to the city and deposited it in the United States mails.

The parcel was delivered to the intended victim but she did not open it as they had planned. Instead, she requested a friend to assist her in opening the parcel. As the friend started to open the parcel she felt pressure against her hand and was able to peer into one side of the package where she observed an animal trap. She was able to release the metal arm slowly so it did not snap against the firing mechanism and detonate the device.

The Postal Inspection Service Crime Laboratory was able to develop several latent fingerprints on the parcel and wrapping. From these prints all three of the young men who had taken part in the manufacturing of the bomb parcel were identified. The prosecution of the four men involved in this case was still pending at the time of this study.

Case Study Six

In February, 1974, a young lady received through the United States mail a parcel addressed to her in a small West Virginia city. This package was wrapped in brown paper and measured approximately ten by six by four inches. The parcel contained a black wooden box wrapped in cardboard. The black box was sealed closed and had a toggle switch mounted on the front and a black electric cord and plug coming from the back.

The young lady plugged the cord into an electrical wall outlet and her father, who was with her when the parcel arrived, flipped the toggle switch and the device exploded.

Recovered at the blast scene were such items as pipe fragments, pipe caps, electrical wire, powder, which indicated that the device was a pipe bomb which did not include its own power supply in the form of a battery and thus required that it be plugged into the electrical outlet.

The intended victim's father was injured when he was struck by metal fragment from the pipe bomb. The fragment was removed and his injury was not severe.

The materials used in the mailing of the parcel along with the items recovered from the blast scene were submitted to the United States Postal Inspection Service

Crime Laboratory in Washington, D.C. Subsequent comparison of the handwriting of a former boyfriend with the return address and the address on the outer wrapper of the parcel found that he was the author of both. Further examination of the contents of the parcel developed latent finger and palm prints which were also identified as being those of the ex-boyfriend of the intended victim. This is the only case found in the two year period covered by this study that resulted in a not-guilty verdict after the trial which lasted for four days.

Case Study Seven

In July, 1975, at a downtown Washington, D.C., post office a parcel exploded causing minor burns to two U. S. Postal Service employees. After extinguishing the resulting fire, Inspectors on the scene observed a can of "Coleman" lighter fluid and small batteries and wires in the parcel thought to be the one that had exploded. Discovered within this package was a ransom note directed toward a major transportation company demanding the payment of \$35,000 at a place specified in another state.

Three days later this same company received a first class letter which appeared to have been typed on the same typewriter as the address label from the bomb parcel. This letter described the components of the bomb parcel which had exploded three days earlier. The mail bomb had been sent to demonstrate to the company that the extortionist was serious in his demands and could carry out his threats against the company if the money was not paid as he had sought. The subsequent investigation located the typewriter that had been used to prepare the address label on the parcel and also to type the letter which was received three days later.

Two young men and one young lady were arrested for this offense and the disposition of their cases is pending. This is the only case resulting in an arrest

in the past two years that involved a company rather than a specific individual as the victim. The motive must be considered as one of avarice as the money would appear to have been their goal rather than any particular political views or beliefs. It is in cases such as this where there is a possible second motive for the mailing that the true intent is difficult to establish. The money may have been primary but could also have been caused by their views towards big business in this country and as such could be considered as a borderline politically motivated mailing.

Case Study Eight

In June, 1975, a parcel was delivered to a young lady in California. The young lady took the parcel from her mail box which was just large enough to hold the parcel which measured approximately ten by six by two inches, and carried it into the trailer home. In the trailer and at the kitchen table she removed the brown paper outer wrapping. Inside this wrapping was a mahogany stained box which contained no lock or clasp to keep the lid closed. As the intended victim started to open the box she noted some black powder sifting from it and called the county sheriff's office.

An officer from the county sheriff's office responded to this call and found the device still on the kitchen table. He reported that while he was attempting to disarm it by holding the striker with his thumb and remove the explosive the striker slipped, striking some match heads and the powder he had not removed ignited into flames. The fire was extinguished with little damage to the trailer and no injury to the deputy.

The device was designed to function through the release of tension when the lid was opened. As tension was released from a spring, a wood block which was attached to the spring and covered with sandpaper was forced across a piece of cardboard which contained approximately fifty

match heads which were to ignite rolled paper containing powder and bullets. The offender identified in the case was developed as a suspect as he had hired the intended victim to type a manuscript for him. He had paid her fifty cents a sheet and she was paid fifty dollars in advance for paper and supplies. When she delivered the manuscript to him he was so happy to get it that he paid her the \$250 due plus a bonus of \$200 for getting it out so soon.

After the arrest of the suspect he stated that he had mailed the parcel to her as she had cheated him. After giving her the money due and the bonus he discovered that it was only three-fourths completed when he checked it. He had tried to stop payment on the check he gave her, but the bank had already cashed it.

The offender pled guilty in October of 1975 and was given three years formal probation and was to seek psychiatric treatment.

Case Study Nine

In June, 1975, a parcel was received in the mail system of a company in Alabama. The package was addressed to an individual in care of the company, and it was five days after the company received it before the individual to whom it was addressed opened it and read the letter that was enclosed. It stated that the wooden box which was in the parcel was a "special good luck box." A switch was mounted on the front and was flanked by two light bulbs, one green and the other red. According to the letter, a flip of the switch would result in good luck or bad luck being foretold, depending on which bulb lit.

The intended victim flipped the switch several times and nothing happened. He passed it off as a joke. Several others who worked with him had flipped the switch also trying to get one of the bulbs to light.

Several days later when the intended victim returned from a business trip he became suspicious of the parcel and contacted the police department. Examination of the wood box determined that it was an explosive device designed to explode when the switch was flipped. It contained a nine volt battery with wires leading to a photoflash bulb imbedded in an explosive charge. The flashbulb was to act as a detonator when it flashed, setting off the powder in which it was embedded. The only reason

that this explosive device did not function was that one of the leads had become disconnected from one of the battery terminals. Tests indicated the device to be operational when properly wired.

It appeared that the most luck resulted when the flashbulb failed to function!

A young army officer was one of the suspects developed in the investigation. He did acknowledge when interviewed by Postal Inspectors that he had received a "Dear John" letter from his wife of the intended victim but denied any involvement in the mailing of the bomb. Handwriting specimens and fingerprints obtained from him were sent to the crime laboratory for comparison with the writing on the parcel and with the latent prints that had been developed on the parcel. After comparing the known writing of the suspect with that on the wrapper and the letter contained in the parcel, a questioned document analyst rendered a positive conclusion that the suspect was the writer of both the handprinting on the wrapper and the letter. A fingerprint examiner also positively identified a latent fingerprint developed on the wrapper as that of the Army officer's right index finger.

A guilty plea in the case in September, 1975 resulted in this young officer being placed on probation for a period of 18 months upon the condition that he make himself available for psychiatric treatment as approved by the Federal Probation Department.

Case Study Ten

At approximately noon in the latter part of April, 1975, a student at a north central Texas university accepted delivery of an air mail parcel from his carrier. Having been married just a month prior he thought that it might be a late wedding gift but was unfamiliar with the individual listed on the return address of the parcel. He removed the outer wrapping and started to open the lid of the box enclosed when he noted that there was considerable resistance to opening the lid. He looked inside the box, as the lid was open about an inch, and noted wires connected to the lid. The police department was contacted and a bomb technician of a police explosive ordnance unit disarmed the device.

The explosive content of the device was gunpowder which had lead pellets included as fragments. The bomb parcel recovered intact was submitted to the United States Postal Service crime laboratory for examination.

The resulting investigation disclosed that some four months prior to the marriage of this young man, his wife, who was then working in another city, had received a letter from a woman who reported that the prospective groom had been living with her while his fiancée was away and telling her that she thought the fiancée should know about the relationship. The intended victim denied any

involvement with this person or any knowledge of who she was.

The investigation confirmed his denial and resulted in the arrest of the best friend of his wife who had worked with her and was not anxious to see her get married and leave the city and end their close relationship. The suspect was careful not to leave any fingerprints on the bomb parcel but was identified and arrested as a result of testimonial evidence developed in the case.

Case Study Eleven

In July, 1974, a parcel was delivered to a hospital in a small southeastern city. The parcel was addressed to a doctor in care of the hospital. This parcel was given to the wife of the doctor and she opened it, finding a small wooden box with a sliding lid. She began sliding the lid and a small explosion resulted. Neither the wife, nor a friend who was watching her open the parcel, were injured as a result of the explosion.

In addressing this parcel the offender had left an old label under the new and possibly thinking it would be destroyed in the blast or not remembering it at all. The label was from a jewelry store in another city.

The manager of the jewelry store identified the label as one that they used and stated that this parcel had been mailed to a nephew in a nearby city.

The investigation disclosed a very unusual conspiratorial relationship between a father and son. The father had been in an auto accident and as a result of it had filed a \$350,000,000 civil action suit claiming to be totally disabled due to an eye injury. The doctor who was the intended victim had examined the father and reported that the eye injury was correctable and that he was not totally disabled as a result of the injury.

A fingerprint of the son was found on the parcel

and a search of the home resulted in several additional pieces of evidence. Interviews in the area of the home disclosed that the typewriter of a neighbor had been borrowed and an examination by the United States Postal Inspection Service crime laboratory established that it had been used to address the parcel.

Both the father and son were arrested on the charge of mailing or causing to be mailed an explosive device. The father was found dead some time later and was thought to have taken his own life. Charges were later dismissed against his son.

Case Study Twelve

In August, 1974, a parcel was delivered to an attorney in a northeastern state. The parcel contained an intricately designed mail bomb which consisted of electric light bulbs filled with lighter fluid and paint thinner. It had been designed so that the bulbs would be broken upon opening the parcel, contained were matches which would be simultaneously lit, thus causing ignition of the fluid from the bulbs.

Investigation disclosed that two inmates in a nearby prison had manufactured the device and sent it to the attorney who had been a prosecuting attorney and been involved in the prosecution of one of the prisoners. Chemical tests at the United States Postal Inspection Service Crime Laboratory of the fluid in the bomb parcel and lighter fluid from the state prison store established that the fluid in the incendiary bomb and the lighter fluid from the prison were the same.

Handwriting examination by the crime laboratory document analyst established that the address label from the parcel had been authored by one of the inmates and the second inmate had authored a letter which accompanied the parcel. Both men were convicted of the crime and each was given an additional 20 year sentence upon the conviction.

Case Summary Thirteen

In February, 1974, a parcel was delivered to the custodian of a courthouse in a small western Virginia city. It was addressed to him so he took it to his office in the basement of the building and opened it. He found that it contained a small wooden box and as he started to open the lid he noted that it contained wires and batteries. He closed the lid and called the local police.

The parcel was determined to be an explosive device and was disarmed by a member of the United States Army Ordnance Detachment. Examination of the device found that it contained three blasting caps, one of which was sealed in a bottle of powder containing lead pellets.

The intended victim could not recall any threats on his life but did advise that his estranged wife was living in a nearby city with another man and had a child by this other man. They had had a dispute over custody of the children of their marriage and he had been awarded custody of the children through legal proceedings.

The common-law husband of the addressee's estranged wife was interviewed and provided the investigators with handwriting and fingerprint samples. The handwriting, fingerprints and several items obtained from his home were submitted to the United States Postal Inspection Service Crime Laboratory and examination identified him as the author of the address on the parcel. Items

located in the home were also associated with the manufacturing of the explosive device. The subject was indicted and after entering a plea of guilty was sentenced to serve six months for the mailing of the bomb.

Case Summary Fourteen

On December 21, 1974, a young man returned to his apartment in Rhode Island city and discovered that the mail carrier had left a parcel for him. He removed the outer wrapper and found that it contained a wooden box with a typewritten note affixed to it telling him to pull an attached string and a secret door would open and he would find a map telling him where to find his Christmas present. Before he pulled the string he noted that there was some powder mixed in glue on the seams of the box. The parcel was taken to the local police where it was decided that it possibly was an explosive device. The Navy Explosive Ordnance Group was contacted.

Efforts were made to open the parcel in a remote wooded area by use of detonation cord. The parcel exploded and most of it was sprayed through the woods. It was estimated that the parcel had contained smokeless powder equivalent to 1/2 to 3/4 lbs. of trinitrotoluene (TNT).

Interviews conducted with the intended victim found that he had received a letter some six months prior which stated that he should release the love he had stolen or a bloody death was all that he had for him. He had not told anyone of the letter which he had kept and provided for the investigators. He identified a suspect as a young man that had been a former suitor of his wife and resented

their getting married.

The disclosure by the intended victim of the letter he had received threatening his life resulted in the acknowledgment of his wife that she had also received a letter that she had not told him about. It was an eight page handwritten letter which was signed by the first name of her former lover. In the letter he had threatened to punish her husband if he did not treat her right.

The writer of the letter was found to have been recently committed to a hospital for mental treatment and his record there indicated paranoia/schizophrenia.

The investigation continued and resulted in a written confession from the suspect. He was committed to a mental institution upon direction of the court.

Case Summary Fifteen

One morning in November, 1974, a postal employee arrived for work in a small Nebraska city and found a parcel inside the storm door of the post office. This parcel was addressed to a man in Missouri and was fairly heavy. She knew that there was a family of the same name in this small city and when she found the parcel had more postage on it than was necessary she held the parcel until the afternoon thinking she might get a call telling her to insure it.

The parcel was delivered to the home of the addressee some three days later while he was out of town on a holiday trip. Upon his arrival home his wife took the parcel into the house with the other mail. He did not recognize the name on the return address but thought that it might have been a Christmas present from a relative. When he removed the wrapper he discovered a cardboard box with an envelope placed on top. The envelope contained a Thanksgiving card and the sender had typed a short message on the bottom of it telling the intended victim that in order to avoid embarrassment and hurt the parcel, it should be opened when he was alone and that it contained the surprise of his life.

He opened the lid of the box slowly as there was broken glass falling from the box. Inside he noted a gallon gasoline can and a lantern battery along with two

mouse traps. The police department was contacted and the device disarmed by a member of the United States Army Ordnance unit.

Examination of the device determined that there was a heating element and numerous match heads enclosed in a plastic bag which was suspended inside the full gas can. The mouse traps snapped as he opened the lid but failed to detonate because gasoline seeped into the plastic bag and soaked the match heads.

The explosive device was submitted to the United States Postal Inspection Service Crime Laboratory and several latent prints were developed, one on the back of one of the mouse traps.

Interviews with the addressee determined that he had a short love affair with an ex-girlfriend who had stopped by on a trip and when this girl returned home she had asked the man with whom she was living to move out of her apartment. The intended victim had written her a letter in which he mentioned the night they had spent together while she was visiting him on the trip. The fingerprints of the common-law husband were submitted for comparison with the prints on the parcel and were determined to be of the same origin.

A two day trial resulted in the conviction of the offender and he was sentenced to serve four years for the violation.

Case Summary Sixteen

A parcel addressed to the chief of police in a small city was collected from a mail box and brought to the post office where employees thought it looked suspicious due to the shoddy manner in which it was addressed. The chief was called and asked to come to the post office for the "suspicious looking" parcel. At the post office the chief of police carefully cut open an edge of the parcel and looked in where he noted a cylindrical object with a shiny metal cap exposed on one end. He called the explosive ordnance unit to disarm the device and determined that it contained dynamite.

The chief of police was able to provide the postal inspectors a list of five major suspects among whom was a juvenile who was infatuated with explosives and extremely bitter at the chief of police for allegedly harassing him. The fingerprints of the youth were obtained and submitted to the United States Postal Inspection Service Crime Laboratory along with the explosive device. Several latent prints were developed on the package and identified as being those of the suspect. The youth has been arrested and the disposition of the case is still pending.

Case Summary Seventeen

In October, 1974, a parcel was delivered to a produce company for an employee at that company. Upon delivery it was noted that the addressee had quit this company and was now working at a business across the street. The addressee was contacted and came to the company office for the parcel.

When the parcel was opened it was found to contain a small plastic jack-o-lantern with an electrical cord attached which was approximately four feet long. The intended victim examined the jack-o-lantern and saw that a glass bottle was inside containing a gray substance. The electrical cord inside the jack-o-lantern extended into the gray substance in the bottle. Becoming suspicious of the device it was taken to the postal inspector's office. Examination of the device established that the substance in the bottle was gunpowder and it was designed to detonate when the cord was plugged into a standard 110 volt outlet.

Investigation into the matter by members of the Postal Inspection Service determined that the produce company had fired an employee who stated that he would get even and the intended victim was the person who had fired him. Handwriting of the suspect was obtained along with his fingerprints which were on file with the local police department.

The United States Postal Inspection Service Crime Laboratory was able to develop several latent prints on the parcel and identify them with the prints of the ex-employee. In addition to the fingerprint identification the suspect was also identified as the writer of the label on the parcel. The suspect was also found to have been in the past, a patient in a mental hospital.

The suspect was arrested for mailing the explosive device and at a later hearing found to be mentally incompetent and committed to a mental institution for treatment.

Case Summary Eighteen

In September, 1974, a parcel containing gun powder and appearing to the addressee to be a bomb was turned over to a Florida sheriff's office. The intended victim had been advised that he had a certified parcel at the post office and went there to pick it up. He had opened the parcel and then noticed that it contained a jar with a black substance in it. The device was dismantled by the deputy that picked it up.

The addressee, who was the owner and operator of a TV repair shop, advised postal inspectors that in the past month a man had been arrested for trying to run one of his employees down with an automobile.

The postmaster at the small city where the parcel had been mailed was able to remember the parcel as the suspect was so anxious to see that the intended victim received the package that he called the post office to see how he should mail it so it would have to be signed for before it was delivered. He then brought the parcel to the post office for mailing.

The suspect was arrested and because of a prior mental history was ordered committed to a mental hospital by a state judge.

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