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Volume VII- Ottis Toole File
File 21
Ouachita Parish SO Report
10/24/83

October 24, 1983

COMPLAINANT:

Sgt. J. Via, Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office, Monroe, Louisiana; phone, area code, 318-388-2222.

NATURE OF THIS REPORT:

Involves a homicide investigation which took place on October 18, 1983 at approximately 1520 hours P.M. at the Jacksonville Police Department, Jacksonville, Florida.

NATURE OF THIS INVESTIGATION:

Evolved around a child by the name of Adam Walsh, a white male, approximately 6 or 7 years of age who was abducted in July of 1981, from a Sears Department Store in Hollywood, Florida. The subject was later murdered and the head of the victim found near Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

SUSPECT:

Ottis Elwood Toole, a white male, DOB: 3-5-47; currently incarcerated in Jacksonville, Florida and being detained at the Duval County Sheriff's Office.

EVIDENCE:

A. Testimony:

On October 18, 1983, Sgt. J. Via of the Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office and Lt. Joe Cummings of the Monroe Police Department, on special assignment to the Ouachita Parish Homicide Task Force, interviewed one, Ottis Elwood Toole, in Jacksonville, Florida, pursuant to Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office case number 82-1370. This particular case being a homicide involving a sixteen year old white female named Sherry Alford. At the onset of this interview at approximately 1001 hours on October 18, 1983, Ottis Toole was fully informed and advised of his constitutional rights per Miranda and signed a waiver of those constitutional rights in the presence of Sgt. Via and Lt. Cummings.

During the course of this interview, other homicide material was presented to Toole for discussion. This particular material included homicides of blacks as well as homicides of children. Toole was asked by Sgt. Via, during the course of this interview, why he was reluctant to talk about killing blacks. Toole then related to Sgt. Via and Lt. Cummings that he was concerned and afraid that if he, Toole, should discuss these homicides, the news media would probably release these stories, naming Toole as the prime suspect responsible for those deaths. Toole had indicated to Sgt. Via and Lt. Cummings that if the other black inmates who were in the same place of incarceration as he was were to find out about these homicides, they would then more than likely try to harm or kill Toole himself.

Ottis Toole was then asked by Sgt. Via if he was also afraid of telling the authorities present about the killing of children across the country for the same reasons as outlined previously. Toole indicated that he was also concerned about the other inmates of his place of incarceration heading child abusers and at that point smiled and stated "You are talking about the kid that got his head cut off around West Palm Beach, Florida." Sgt. Via noted the time of this response to be at approximately 1520 hours, October 18, 1983.

Sgt. Via then asked Ottis Toole to relate the details of this particular case that he was talking about to both Lt. Cummings and himself. Ottis Toole then related that he was present when a six or seven year old child had been abducted from a shopping center near or around West Palm Beach, Florida. This child, according to Toole, was then taken to a remote area and decapitated. Toole stated the head of the child was later thrown

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into a canal near Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. When asked who was responsible for the child's death, Toole indicated that Henry Lucas was the one who had, in fact, killed the child.

At this point in the interview, Detective Buddy Terry of the Jacksonville Police Department was summoned and joined Sgt. Via and Lt. Cummings in the interview room itself. Once Detective Terry entered the place of the interview, Toole gave the following account to the three officers present. Toole stated that he and Henry Lee Lucas, who is incarcerated in Denton, Texas on other murder charges, had in fact traveled the West Palm Beach area for the sole purpose of getting a child. Toole indicated that the six or seven year old white male child was standing outside a department store inside a shopping center and was lured into Toole's black vinyl over white Cadillac by the means of toys and candy. Once inside the vehicle, the child, according to Toole, was then tormented, threatened, and teased throughout the entire trip. Toole indicated that they left the shopping center and began traveling toward Ft. Lauderdale, Florida which would have been southbound. After driving approximately one hour, an isolated dirt road leading into a swampy wooded area was selected and used for the killing of the child. Toole then related that the child's head was then cut off by means of a machete or bayonet and then placed inside the black vinyl over white Cadillac. Toole then stated the remaining torso was then cut up into numerous pieces, scattered and buried throughout this wooded area. Toole further allowed that he and Lucas then left this area, traveling south toward Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Once arriving in or near the Ft. Lauderdale area itself, the head of the child was then thrown out of the vehicle into a ditch or canal. Toole then stated that he and Henry Lucas then traveled on southward to the Florida Keys.

It should be noted at this point that the officers present noticed a striking change in Toole's emotional attitude and behavior which had not been noticed in any of the prior interviews with Ottis Elwood Toole. It had also been determined that Henry Lee Lucas was, in fact, incarcerated in the State of Delaware at the time this particular took place. The officers therefore felt that Toole was, in fact, discussing an act he had done himself and was only trying to shift the burden of responsibility of the murder away from himself onto another party. The interview which was conducted with Ottis Toole on October 18, 1983, was conducted without force, coercion, threats or duress. Ottis Toole signed two separate rights waiver forms after being fully explained of these forms at 1001 hours and 1244 hours, respectively, on October 18, 1983. Ottis Elwood Toole freely and voluntarily assessed these rights, waived these rights, and made the above admissions on his own accord. The information obtained through these admissions were forwarded to the Hollywood, Florida Police Department for further follow-up and investigation.

Showing nothing further to report at this time, request a copy of this report be forwarded to Detective J. W. "Buddy" Terry, Jacksonville, Florida Sheriff's Office, 501 East Bay Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32202; phone number, area code, 904, 633-4190.

BY: SGT. J. VIA
LT. JOE CUMMINGS

JV/mkt

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