

Memorandum



To : SAC, SEATTLE (164A-81)(P)

Date 8/18/81

From : SA [redacted]

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b7C

Subject : NORJAK(A)
OO: Seattle

RE: DR. JAMES A. ROMAN(deceased)

On 8/18/81, William Closner, Sheriff, Skamania County Sheriff's Office, Stevenson, Washington, advised Dr. James A. Roman, Date of Birth 10/9/27, shot his wife and killed himself on 2/3/80 after allegedly assaulting an individual in Portland, Oregon. He said his office investigated the homicide/suicide and while doing so, discovered the Roman residence was filled with numerous weapons. He stated that also found were scanners capable of monitoring numerous police frequencies. Sheriff Closner stated Roman was either a paratrooper or did some sky-diving, was a previous employee of NASA, and apparently continued to have some interest in parachuting. He said the Roman residence, located at Milepost 0.56R Strunk Road, Washougal, Washington, was in the flightpath of the aircraft carrying D.B. Cooper. He said that based on the above stated facts it appears as if Roman should be looked at by the FBI as a possible D.B. Cooper suspect.

Sheriff Closner said he was not aware of Roman's description or further identifying data. He said [redacted] a Washington State Welfare [redacted] was friends with the Romans and would be able to provide details concerning Roman and his appearance.

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It is recommended that an investigation be conducted to determine the validity of Sheriff Closner's findings. It is noted [redacted] office is located adjacent to the Vancouver Resident Agency Office and he may be able to provide enough information so as to eliminate Roman as a suspect or cause additional investigation to be conducted.

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2 - Seattle

JTG/jg

*memo re
C.L.
9/19*

C/A [redacted]

164A-81-8577

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*Assigned to
[redacted]
10/6*

Vancouver Id.

est
[redacted]
[redacted]

DB Cooper-18889

Memorandum



To : SAC, SEATTLE (164A-81)(P)

Date 8/18/81

From : SA [redacted]

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b7C

Subject : NORJAK(A)
OO: Seattle

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2 - Seattle

JTG/jg

VANCOUVER Lt.
TO [redacted]

164A-81-8577

QNA
J New! Subj:

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DB Cooper-18890

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of transcription 9/14/81

[redacted] Office of Special Investigations, Region 6 Field Office, Department of Social and Health Services, 500 West Eighth, Vancouver, Washington, provided the following information:

He is a [redacted] and, as such, did some [redacted] at the time, to Dr. James Roman. Subsequently, Roman [redacted]

In January or February of 1980, he received a telephone call from [redacted] indicating that she had heard Dr. Roman went to Portland and shot someone. He, [redacted] subsequently determined that Roman had killed his new wife and committed suicide at his home in Washougal, Washington. He, [redacted] went to the Roman home in Washougal, which is located in Skamania County, and secured the home, because he was asked to do so.

While securing the residence, he conducted a thorough search and found numerous items he felt might be of interest to the FBI. He found a toolbox in the barn, which was dirty and rusty. Underneath numerous tools, he found two timing devices that could be utilized with batteries. He further found, buried in the dirt floor of the barn, a container with a box that said, "Silencer" on it. The box was empty. He found a police scanner in Roman's wife's purse, which had frequencies for the Portland Police Bureau, the Clark County Sheriff's Office and the Skamania County Sheriff's Office. He discovered two lock-picking kits in the residence, along with dynamite, blasting caps and plastic explosives.

Other items he discovered included a Xerox machine, a printing press with many different types of type and numerous documents that appeared to him to be "phony." He felt these documents were not authentic, inasmuch as there were numerous of them, indicating they were such things as college certificates.

He also found a large quantity of camera equipment, including a dark room.

Investigation on 8/26/81 at Vancouver, Washington File # SE 164A-81 - 8577A

SA [redacted] /jh

Date dictated 9/1/81

SE 164A-81

He discovered numerous documents from hospitals, alleging Dr. Roman erred in his surgical procedures. One of these documents indicated that Dr. Roman, after performing a kidney operation on a woman, accidentally cut off the woman's breast.

He further found 30 or more apple boxes, containing books, which indicated they had been taken from various libraries. These books had to do with stories on Hitler, medical books, spy stories and other topics.

He has learned that Dr. Roman was apparently the first doctor to become an astronaut and has found documents which indicate Roman was a jet pilot. In amongst the items indicating Roman was in the United States Air Force, were items marked, "Top Secret." These items, he recalls, also had the stamp of "Declassified" on them.

The majority of the items that he found in the home were provided to the lawyer for the estate for subsequent dispersement to the appropriate relatives.

He is bringing this matter to the attention of the FBI, inasmuch as the whole situation appears to be extremely bizarre to him. While he is in no way certain this matter is involved with the D. B. Cooper matter, it is interesting to note that Dr. Roman was a jet pilot, was apparently knowledgeable of airplanes and resided in an area adjacent to the flight path of Cooper's plane.

Memorandum



To : SAC, SEATTLE (164A-81)(P)

Date 9/19/81

From : SA [REDACTED]

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Subject : NORJAK(A)
OO: Seattle

RE: Suspect Dr. JAMES A. ROMAN (deceased)

Re Seattle memo of SA [REDACTED] 8/18/81.

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Information received in referenced memo indicates Dr. James A. Roman, White, Male, DOB 10/9/27, formerly residing at Milepost 0.56R Strunk Road, Washougal, Washington, was a possible suspect in captioned matter.

LEAD

SEATTLE AT OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

Will attempt to obtain driver's license information and photograph of Dr. James A. Roman utilizing the above descriptive information. Will note that Dr. Roman died 2/3/80 and thus may not have a current license on file.

3 - Seattle

JTG/jg

A&D

01A: [REDACTED]

164A-81-8584

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 23 1981	
[REDACTED]	ATTLE

21 →

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DB Cooper-18922

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SEATTLE (164A-81)(P) DATE: 11/9/81
(8584(

FROM : SC LINDA ANN LEWIS

SUBJECT: NORJAK(A)
OO: SE

Re: Suspect Dr. James A. Roman (deceased)

On 10/7/81 [REDACTED], Department of Licensing,
Olympia, Washington, advised she could locate no drivers
license for James A. Roman, born 10/9/27.

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3 - Seattle
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164A-81-8597

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>me</i>	FILED <i>me</i>
NOV 12 1981	
FBI-SEATTLE	
<i>Lewis</i>	<i>me</i>



Memorandum



To : SAC, SEATTLE (164A-81)(P)

Date 11/18/81

From : SA [redacted]

Subject : NORJAK(A)
OO: Seattle

RE: Suspect Dr. JAMES A. ROMAN (deceased)

Re Seattle memos of SA [redacted] 8/18/81, and 9/19/81.

On 8/26/81, [redacted] Office of Special Investigations, Department of Social and Health Services, Vancouver, Washington, was interviewed and the results of this interview are contained in the file.

On 9/18/81, [redacted] supra, advised he had been unable to determine what kind of cigarettes Dr. Roman smoked but he was aware that Roman did smoke.

On 10/6/81 and again on 11/2/81, contact with [redacted] revealed he had no new or pertinent information concerning this matter.

Contact with SC Linda Lewis has revealed the Department of Motor Vehicles, Olympia, Washington, does not have any driver's license information or a photograph of Roman available.

On 11/17/81, contact was attempted with [redacted] supra, with negative results as he was not available.

LEAD

SEATTLE AT VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

Will continue attempts to contact [redacted] Office of Special Investigations, Department of Social and Health Services, 500 West 8th, Vancouver, and thereafter obtain from him a complete description, if available, of Dr. Roman so that attempts can be made to resolve this matter through comparison of Roman's physical description with that of D.B. Cooper's.

2 - Seattle

JTG/jg

A&D

Information led to
[redacted]

164A-81-8598
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

DB Cooper-18987

Memorandum



To : SAC, SEATTLE (164A-81)(P)

Date 11/18/81

From : SA [redacted]

b6
b7C

Subject : NORJAK(A)
OO: Seattle

RE: Suspect Dr. JAMES A. ROMAN (deceased)

Re Seattle memos of SA [redacted] 8/18/81, and 9/19/81.

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On 8/26/81, [redacted] Office of Special Investigations, Department of Social and Health Services, Vancouver, Washington, was interviewed and the results of this interview are contained in the file.

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On 9/18/81, [redacted] supra, advised he had been unable to determine what kind of cigarettes Dr. Roman smoked but he was aware that Roman did smoke.

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LEAD

SEATTLE AT VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

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2 - Seattle

JTG/jg

memo 1/23

A&D

164A-81-8598
Vancouver lead to
to

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DB Cooper-18988

Memorandum



To : SAC, SEATTLE (164A-81)(P)

Date 1/23/82

From : SA [redacted]

Subject : NORJAK(A)
OO: Seattle

RE: Suspect Dr. JAMES A. ROMAN (deceased)

Re Seattle memo of SA [redacted], 11/18/81.

On 12/16/81, [redacted] Office of Special Investigations, Department of Social and Health Services, 500 W. 8th Street, Vancouver, Washington, advised he would attempt to obtain a photograph and/or description of Dr. James A. Roman.

On 12/30/81, contact was attempted with [redacted] supra, with negative results as he was not available.

On 1/19/82, [redacted] supra, advised he had not yet been successful in locating a photograph of Dr. Roman or in obtaining a complete physical description of him. He said he anticipated receiving this information within a short period of time at which time he would furnish it to the Vancouver Resident Agency Office of the FBI.

LEAD

SEATTLE AT VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

Will maintain contact with [redacted] Office of Special Investigations, 500 W. 8th Street, Vancouver, for information of value concerning a description and photograph of Dr. Roman.

3 - Seattle

JTG/jg

A&D

memo
3/28

164A-81-8647

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 25 1982	
[redacted]	

DB Cooper-19134

Memorandum



To : SAC, SEATTLE (164A-81)(P)

Date 3/28/82

From : SA [redacted]

Subject : NORJAK
OO: Seattle

RE: Suspect Dr. JAMES A. ROMAN (deceased)

Re Seattle memo of SA [redacted] 1/23/82.

On 2/12/82, [redacted] Office of Special Investigations, Department of Social and Health Services, 500 W. 8th Street, Vancouver, Wash. advised he was continuing in his search for a photograph of Dr. James A. Roman but, as of yet, was not successful in his attempts. He said that when he located a photograph, he would provide to the Vancouver Office of the FBI.

On 3/8/82, contact was attempted with [redacted] supra, with negative results as he was not available.

On 3/11/82, [redacted] supra, advised he still could not locate a photograph of Dr. Roman.

On 3/18/82, [redacted] supra, advised [redacted] [redacted] could be contacted by the FBI. He indicated she [redacted] of Roman or at least could provide a detailed description of him. She resides, according to [redacted] in Vancouver and works at the Department of Social and Health Services, also in Vancouver.

LEAD

SEATTLE AT VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

Will contact [redacted] Dept. of Social and Health Services, Vancouver, or at [redacted] Vancouver, and [redacted] James A. Roman or a detailed description of him so that this matter can be resolved.

3 - Seattle

JTG/jg

A&D

164A-81-8676

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 1 1982	
[redacted]	

DB Cooper-19218

Memorandum



To : SAC, SEATTLE (164A-81)

Date 5/25/82

From : SA [redacted]

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b7C

Subject : NORJAK
OO: Seattle

RE: Suspect Dr. JAMES A. ROMAN(deceased)

Re Seattle memo of SA [redacted] 3/28/82.

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On 4/13/82 and 4/21/82, [redacted], Office of Special Investigations, Department of Social and Health Services, 500 W. 8th Street, Vancouver, Wash. advised he had no new or pertinent information concerning Dr. ROMAN and had been unsuccessful in locating a photo of ROMAN.

On 5/20/82, contact was attempted with [redacted], supra, with negative results as he was not available.

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On 5/25/82, contact was made with [redacted] who was contacted at her place of employment, Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Social and Health Services, Vancouver, Wash., advised she had been [redacted] and recalled that the D.B. Cooper hi-jacking took place the night before Thanksgiving of that year. She stated [redacted] at least a portion of time between 3:00 pm and 10:00 pm the day before Thanksgiving. She advised ROMAN did not smoke in 1971, had no parachuting experience to her knowledge, and made no flights between Portland and Seattle to her knowledge.

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[redacted] indicated ROMAN was born Oct. 9, 1927. After viewing the artist's conceptions of D.B. Cooper, she stated ROMAN looked nothing like the conceptions.

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[redacted] said she had no reason to protect ROMAN inasmuch as [redacted] by virtue of him killing his present wife and then committing suicide. She said that if she had any information relative to ROMAN's involvement with the D.B. Cooper hi-jacking, she would provide it to the FBI.

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Based on the above information, it is suggested that Dr. JAMES A. ROMAN no longer be considered a suspect in this matter.

1 - Seattle

JTG/jg

164A-81-8683

[redacted] [initials]

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DB Cooper-19229