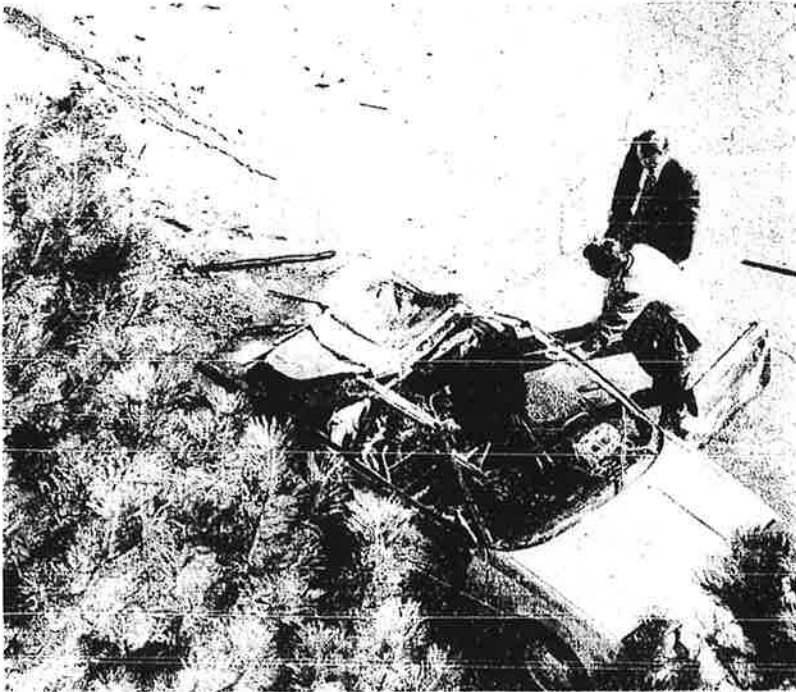


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Victim of Third Bombing Is Suspect In Others That Killed Two in S.L.



Salt Lake detectives search the remains of an automobile demolished by a bomb similar to the type that killed two

people Tuesday. Blood stains, top left, mark area where car's owner, Mark Hofmann, lay shortly after the blast.

By Jim Wault, Mike Carter
And George A. Sorenson
Tribune Staff Writers

Mark Hofmann, critically injured in a car explosion Wednesday afternoon, has been identified as the prime suspect in bombings that killed two people Tuesday.

"We've found enough evidence that [federal agent] Gary Miller is going to the U.S. Attorney's Office to file charges," Gary feels in his gut that we have more than enough [to charge Mr. Hofmann]," Salt Lake City police Chief Bud Willoughby said late Wednesday.

Mr. Miller, resident agent in charge of the Salt Lake office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, said he expects to seek charges Tuesday morning for violations of federal explosives and firearms laws. "We're not saying the investigation is concluded. We know who the players are and other charges will be filed other than Mr. Hofmann," added Chief Willoughby.

"We're looking at a revenge motive right now," said Mr. Miller.

Chief Willoughby said reports of recent financial transactions of Mr. Hofmann involving Mormon docu-

More on Bombing, A-6.7

ments and statements from witnesses indicate that "Hofmann could very well have suffered a huge financial loss."

Mr. Miller said as many as three more people may have been targeted for murder and police have not ruled out the possibility of "co-conspirators" in the murders. The federal agent declined to elaborate.

Mr. Hofmann, 29 or 30, a dealer of historic Mormon documents, sold the so-called "white salamander" letter to Steven F. Christensen, 31, who was killed Tuesday morning in an explosion at his office in the Judge Building, 8 Broadway (210 South).

Killed in a separate blast Tuesday at her Holiday home was Kathleen Sheets, 50, the wife of Gary Sheets. Mr. Sheets was a business associate of Mr. Christensen. Mr. Metcalfe, whose home was searched Wednes-



Mark Hofmann Critically Injured

day, said Mr. Sheets helped finance a \$20,000 study to determine whether the salamander letter was authentic. Police said Mr. Hofmann was injured Wednesday when a bomb in his car detonated at 2:40 p.m. The car was parked on the north side of 209 North about 75 feet west of Main Street, just north of the Bessert Gymnasium, 161 N. Main.

Mr. Hofmann was listed in critical but stable condition late Wednesday at LDS Hospital, where he is being held under guard.

Mr. Hofmann, said Chief Willoughby, was seen walking to his car carrying a package just before the explosion occurred. Another witness said he saw Mr. Hofmann leave his car earlier carrying a briefcase.

The police chief said his officers received a call Wednesday afternoon from a man who said, "I know I am the next victim. You've got to help me." That unidentified man lived or worked only a block away from where the car exploded.

The decision to charge Mr. Hofmann came late Wednesday after police obtained warrants and searched both his homes, located at 2219 Marie Circle (310 South) and the wreckage of his car.

These warrants were apparently based on items observed in the wreckage on 209 North, including lengths of pipe, a gate of gloves and a felt-tipped pen. Chief Willoughby said "incriminating evidence" and numerous valuable watches and fire-damaged documents were found in the car, and two white garbage bags full of evidence — one containing church-related documents — were taken from Mr. Hofmann's home. Chief Willoughby said.

Inside The Tribune

Tribune Telephone Numbers on A-3	Page
Business	C-1-8
Classified	D-6
Comics	B-2,3
Crossword	D-8
Editorial	A-16
Entertainment	B-14,15
Foreign	A-13,15
Lifestyle	B-12,13
National	A-2,4
Obituaries	D-5
Public Forum	A-17
Sports	C-7,13
Star Gazer	B-14
Television	C-16
Washington	A-1,5

Today's Fronts

Salt Lake City and vicinity — Clear and sunny. Highs in upper 60s, lows near 40. Winds: E-S.

'Salamander' Document

Letter Was Only One Of Hofmann's Finds

By Dawn Tracy
Tribune Staff Writer

Mark Hofmann, a dealer in historical Mormon documents who shipped publicly after making significant finds, made news Wednesday when he was critically injured in a bomb blast.

Friends said Mr. Hofmann changed telephone numbers frequently, contacted those who called him rather than answering the phone, and abruptly left town to pursue shadowy leads that sometimes led to significant discoveries.

The so-called "white salamander" letter, written by early Mormon convert Martin Harris, was one such find.

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints believe an angel led church founder Joseph Smith to golden plates he later translated into the Book of Mormon. In the letter, Martin Harris described

an old spirit that transformed itself into a white salamander and initially prevented the Mormon prophet from getting the plates.

Mr. Hofmann's business associate, Lynn Jacobs, discovered the letter, Mr. Hofmann sold it to Steven Christensen for \$40,000. Mr. Christensen was killed in a Tuesday morning bomb blast hours before Gary Sheets' wife died in a similar explosion. Police initially believed the bombings could have been connected to financial problems of a company Messrs. Sheets and Christensen had been involved in.

Historians seem to be divided on whether events linking Mr. Hofmann to the bombings will require scholars to re-examine a cache of documents he had sold to private collectors and the Mormon church.

Mr. Hofmann, 29 or 30, described himself as an ex-communicated Mormon who had served a church mission to Bristol, England, a collector of historical documents and a wheeler-dealer.

"When I was a kid I collected coins," Mr. Hofmann said in a 1982 interview. See A-6, Column 2



Emergency personnel carry Mark Hofmann to waiting ambulance shortly after

pipe bomb blew him from his sports car Wednesday afternoon about 2:40 p.m.

Today's Chuckle

The mark of a good politician is the straightforward way he judges all the issues.

Israel: Tapes Prove Abbas Knew of Hijackers' Plans

By The Associated Press

Israel released transcripts Wednesday of radio conversations it said proved PLO official Mohammed Abbas knew in advance the names and plans of the hijackers of an Italian cruise ship. An Italian prosecutor said he has solved the mystery of an American passenger killed aboard the Achille Lauro.

Prosecutor Roberto Fava told a news conference after the ship docked Thursday at its home port in Genoa. "We have reconstructed the killing of the American in all the details," but he declined to say who pulled the trigger, killing Leon Klinghoffer of New York City.

Israel's military intelligence has had suspicions of an internal television Wednesday night that it had learned the details of Klinghoffer's death.

Republicans Withdraw From Coalition; Italy's Government May Come Down

ROME (AP) — Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini's Republican Party pulled out of the governing coalition Wednesday in an attempt to bring down the government over Italy's refusal of a PLO offer to negotiate the release of the Achille Lauro hijacking.

Spadolini said he expected the action would force the government to resign, but Premier Bettino Craxi said he would not quit without a vote of confidence in Parliament.

Craxi said he will take the government's case to Parliament on Thursday. Asked if he was going to the presidential palace to hand in his resignation and end the 26-month-old government, Craxi snapped, "Why should I go to the Quirinale? Tomorrow I will go to Fontanarossa!"

Italy's executive committee, the Republicans accused the government of failing to consult coalition partners on "major" subjects of the fight against terrorism and fundamental political interests, involving foreign policy issues.

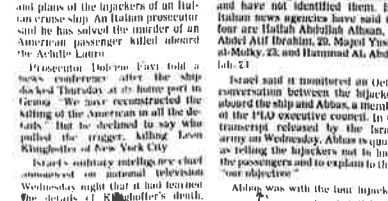
It said the party's "parliament task today is to safeguard irreplaceable interests for the good of the republic."

Spadolini, a former premier, has condemned the release of the Palestine Liberation Organization official Mohammed Abbas, and said he only learned of Abbas' departure from television.

Abbas was aboard the Egyptian plane carrying the hijackers that was forced down in Sicily by U.S. carrier-based jet fighters. He's allowed Abbas to leave for Yugoslavia on Saturday.

The small but influential pro-PLO Republicans have three ministers, including the key posts of defense and interior, in the 20-member Cabinet. The government was formed in August 1983 and is one of Italy's longest-lasting governments.

Spadolini and the "another Republican" ministers "admitted their resignation to the Christian Democrats, Craxi's Socialist Democrats and the Liberal Democrats."



Abbas was with the top hijackers. See A-2, Column 1

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