

THE HOLLOW BADGE

CASE FILE ZERO

CONFIDENTIAL – ST. AUBIN PARISH POLICE DEPARTMENT ARCHIVE

Reader Briefing

April 17, 1973.

Officer Elijah Booker responded to a disturbance near the abandoned feed mill in St. Aubin Parish. When he arrived, there was no victim—only blood, a brass uniform button, and the unmistakable sense that someone had erased the truth before police arrived.

As the department's only Black officer, Booker quietly began preserving duplicate records after evidence and notes started disappearing from official files. He labeled the folder **CASE FILE ZERO**, believing that if justice could not survive his generation, perhaps it would survive long enough for someone else to find it.

Decades later, fragments of those records resurfaced in the St. Aubin Archive, setting in motion the mystery that will ultimately confront Merrick Jameson in *The Hollow Badge*.



ST. AUBIN PARISH
POLICE DEPARTMENT
ARCHIVE

CASE NO.
73-0417-07

CASE FILE ZERO

OFFICER ELIJAH D. BOOKER
BADGE NO. 555
APRIL 17, 1973

CONFIDENTIAL
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

PROPERTY OF
ST. AUBIN POLICE DEPARTMENT
TRUTH RIVER DIES.

ST. AUBIN PARISH POLICE DEPARTMENT
PERSONNEL FILE

NAME: ELIJAH DANIEL BOOKER
DATE OF BIRTH: 05/26/1948
PLACE OF BIRTH: LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA
HEIGHT: 5'9"
WEIGHT: 175 LBS
EYES: BROWN
HAIR: BLACK
RACE: BLACK

DATE APPOINTED: 06/12/1971
BADGE NO.: 555
RANK: OFFICER
ASSIGNED TO: PATROL DIVISION
STATUS: ACTIVE

H. L. Broussard
CHIEF OF POLICE

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:
06/12/1971 - APPOINTED TO ST. AUBIN PARISH POLICE DEPT.
TRAINING:
Louisiana Law Enforcement Academy - Class 17-71
Firearms Certified - 08/1971
OTA Certified - 09/1971

NOTES:
Officer Booker is one of the first African American officers employed by the St. Aubin Parish Police Department.

ST. AUBIN PARISH POLICE DEPARTMENT
INCIDENT REPORT

CASE NO.: 73-0417-07 DATE: 04/17/73 TIME: 2:45 AM

SUBJECTS:
[2] BOB BOLA BATE (ALLEY SHOOTING)
[3] BOOKER'S BROTHER & CRAWLINS

TYPE OF CALL:
[1] DISTURBANCE / [2] OTHER PERSON

OFFICER: E. D. BOOKER (555)

DISPATCHED TO: UNIT 12 - EAST PATROL

DETAILS:
Responded to radio call of disturbance. Upon arrival, multiple subjects fled. Initial suspect's brother & Crawlins. Shots reported. 30 Special revolver recovered on foot. Last visual of suspects near feed mill alley. No injuries sustained on scene. Evidence collected. See evidence log.

E. Booker

ORIGINAL

MAP OF ST. AUBIN PARISH
1973

1. Police Station
2. Town Square
3. Lacroix's Boudin & Crawlins
4. Feed Mill
5. Oak & Memorial Park
6. St. Aubin General Hospital
7. Bayou Teche Bridge
8. The Archway (Old Courthouse)

CRIME SCENE PHOTOGRAPHS - 04/17/73

TIME 1
TIME 2
TIME 3
TIME 4
TIME 5
TIME 6

PHOTO BY: OFFICER R. FONTAINE (312)

EVIDENCE LOG

CASE NO.: 73-0417-07

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COLLECTED BY	DATE	TIME
1	Blood Spatter	E. Booker (555)	04/17/73	2:53 AM
2	30 Shell Casing	E. Booker (555)	04/17/73	2:54 AM
3	Cigarette Pack	E. Booker (555)	04/17/73	2:55 AM
4	Footprint (Size 10)	R. Fontaine (312)	04/17/73	2:56 AM
5	38 Special Revolver	E. Booker (555)	04/17/73	3:02 AM

CHAIN OF CUSTODY

ITEM(S): 1-5

FROM	TO	DATE	TIME	PURPOSE	SIGNATURE
E. Booker (555)	Fontaine Collection	04/17/73	3:20 AM	Collection	E. Booker
Fontaine Collection	Fontaine Lab	04/17/73	4:15 PM	Analysis	M. Lundy
Fontaine Lab	Det. R. Pike	04/18/73	9:10 AM	Investigation	Det. R. Pike
Det. R. Pike	Fontaine Collection	04/26/73	3:30 PM	Storage	M. Lundy

RELEASED UNDER RECORDS REQUEST
05/12/2025 *R. Pike*

Notes - 04/18/73

Talked to Mrs. D. Lucero.
Heard 3 shots. Saw 2 men running toward the feed mill alley. Couldn't see faces - too dark.
One wore light shirt. Other had hat.
She is afraid. *R.P.*

The St. Aubin Gazette
Tuesday, April 24, 1973

SEARCH CONTINUES FOR SUSPECTS IN ALLEY SHOOTING

Police Ask Anyone With Information to Contact St. Aubin P.D.

St. Aubin Parish authorities are continuing their investigation into the shooting that occurred early Tuesday morning. Investigators believe the suspects are local. Call 332-2211 with any information.

EVIDENCE

ITEM NO. 5

DESCRIPTION: 38 Special Revolver

LOCATION: Alley behind 221 Rue de la Paix

DATE FOUND: 04/17/73

TIME: 2:45 AM

FOUND BY: E. Booker (555)

CASE NO.: 73-0417-07

CHAIN OF CUSTODY: Yes

ST. AUBIN TOWN SQUARE - 1973

The oak was planted in 1837 by the founders. It is said to witness all that is done in St. Aubin. Some say it remembers.

-H.L.B.

The St. Aubin Gazette
Tuesday, April 24, 1973

YOUNG OFFICER AMONG FIRST TO RESPOND TO ALLEY SHOOTING

Community Praises Quick Action of Officer Elijah Booker

St. Aubin Parish Police Officer Elijah D. Booker was among the first on the scene early Tuesday morning, responding to reports of shots fired behind Lacroix's Boudin & Crawlins on Rue de la Paix.

Chief H.L. Broussard commended the officer's courage and dedication to duty.

E. Booker

UNIT 12 - EAST PATROL - 1973

ST. AUBIN PD - RADIO LOG (EXCERPT)

04/17/73

02:43 AM - 911 Call - Disturbance, shots heard

02:44 AM - Unit 12 dispatched

02:45 AM - Unit 12 on scene

02:47 AM - Unit 12 on scene

02:49 AM - Additional units requested

02:50 AM - Suspects fled on foot

02:51 AM - Shots heard

02:52 AM - Evidence collected

DISPATCH COPY

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: 04/22/73

TO: Detective R. Pike

FROM: Chief H.L. Broussard

This case is drawing unwanted attention. Proceed carefully. Not every question needs to be answered.

H.L. Broussard

LOUISIANA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY
CLASS 17-71
GRADUATION CERTIFICATE

This certifies that

ELIJAH D. BOOKER

has successfully completed the prescribed course of study and training and is therefore awarded this certificate.

Given this 19th day of September, 1973

E. Booker

ST. AUBIN FOUNDERS DAY
APRIL 27-29, 1973

The St. Aubin Gazette
Tuesday, April 24, 1973

CASE OF 1973 ALLEY SHOOTING REMAINS UNSOLVED

Files Remain Open Despite Lack of Leads

More than two years have passed since the shooting behind Lacroix's Boudin & Crawlins.

The case remains open.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the St. Aubin Police Department.

DO NOT OPEN UNTIL AFTER READING THE HOLLOW BADGE

H.L. Broussard
Chief of Police