

Excerpts from "The Birmingham Church Bomber," by George McMillan

(Saturday Evening Post, June 6, 1964, pages 15-19)

(all direct quotes)

Lawmen know who he is. All they lack is the evidence they need for a conviction.

At a place and at a time that cannot yet be revealed, a group of men including the man who made the bomb, the man who placed it and everyone who knew the identities of those involved, met. They called it "the kiss-of-death" meeting.

"The FBI knows who bought the dynamite, who made the bomb, who placed it there, and who engineered the crime," I was told by Macon Weaver, U.S. attorney in Birmingham.

The ringleader of the Birmingham church bombing--an out-of-state man-- has "probably been involved in more bombings than any one individual in the South," I was told by a high police official in another southern city.

Police and FBI either know or have good reason to believe that this Mister X planned the 16th Street-church bombing at a meeting in Birmingham two weeks before it happened; that he was at the house of the men who planted the bomb two nights before the bombing, and that his car was parked two blocks away from the 16th Street church on the Sunday morning the bomb went off.

Mister X has never yet been found at the scene of the crime, however. "He has a distinguishing physical characteristic," a detective explained, "and he always tells his buddies it's too dangerous for him to be seen, that he would be noticed, marked, and remembered."

For many years he (Mister X) had a small core of men in Chattanooga, Tenn., who did his ugly work for money. More recently, he has relied on men from the Atlanta area.