

Used in Slaying Here

# Bullets Linked To Bay <sup>4-15-73</sup> of Pigs

By WAYNE WHITT

Bullets used to kill Nashville liquor store operator Laverte Clay Smith, 39, were manufactured originally to be used in the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961, it was learned yesterday.

This was learned as the Metro Police Department pushed its investigation into the slaying of Smith on Feb. 9 during a robbery in the parking lot of his liquor store at 1313 51st Ave., N. Smith had just returned from the bank, and about \$4,000 was taken in the holdup.

SPENT cartridges picked up at the scene have been

traced by Metro police. It is believed they originally were manufactured for CIA-controlled businesses. They were to have been used in the 1961 invasion which never really came off, police say.

After the invasion fiasco, the ammunition was said to have been sold to an ammunition supply house in Canada, but it could not be determined how soon after the planned invasion the ammunition was disposed of.

A source close to the investigation said the ammunition was sold primarily to three wholesale ammunition dealers in the United States, one in Texas, one in Michigan

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and the other in an Eastern state.

TWO NASHVILLE outfits are known to have stocked the peculiarly marked ammunition and it is believed police are trying to learn the identities of customers who may have purchased the ammunition here.

One source was optimistic that detectives who have been working on the case since the shooting are near a solution and that a break is imminent.

The ammunition, which can be used in a 38-caliber pistol, was said to have "false caps" so that it would have been difficult to trace if spent cartridges were found on Cuban soil. Markings on the caps showed that they were nine millimeters and the figures 42 also appeared on them. It is believed that these figures permitted the tracing of the ammunition.

The invasion forces, which attempted to overthrow Fidel Castro's Communist regime in Cuba, were made up largely of CIA agents. The invasion was a source of embarrassment to the Kennedy administration when it quickly failed.

Smith was shot four or five times point blank in front of nine witnesses. He was carrying about \$3,000 in cash, but the gunman took only the \$4,000 in a bank bag and left about \$5,000 in the victim's pocket.