

# La. Shootout Held Carefully Planned

By George Lardner Jr. 1-17-73  
Washington Post Staff Writer

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 16 — An Esso road map reportedly found in Mark Essex's apartment indicates that last week's bloody shootout at a downtown hotel here was carefully planned.

Marked with lines and circles, it also suggests connections with a car theft and grocery store shooting earlier the same day as well as New Year's Eve sniper attacks on two policemen.

Officially, New Orleans police had no comment on the map. Homicide detectives are still trying to determine whether Essex, who was slain on the hotel roof after a day-long siege, had any accomplices.

Investigators reported retrieving the map from Essex's \$41-a-month shack off Dryades Street here, whose walls were emblazoned with black revolutionary slogans. The longest line drawn on the map shows a route from there to the Downtown Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge where six persons were killed by sniper fire Jan. 7. The hotel block itself is circled.

The New Orleans street map contains another circle around the New Orleans police department headquarters and central lockup where Alfred Harrell Jr., a black police cadet, was killed by a sniper's bullet Dec. 31.

The vicinity of a warehouse area about a half block away is marked with an "X." Within 18 minutes of Harrell's murder, another officer, Patrolman Edwin C. Hosli, was critically wounded while answering a burglar alarm that had been tripped in one of those warehouses.

Police say that both officers were shot with the .44 Ruger carbine found beside Essex's body after he was slain by police the following Sunday night in a dash across the hotel roof.

Ballistics experts have said magnum bullets from that

same gun caused all the hotel deaths and injuries that have proved traceable thus far. At least one hotel guest, however, is convinced that he was wounded by another assailant with a different gun.

Another circle on the map pinpoints Joe's Grocery at 4200 Erato St., a few blocks from the warehouse, where the proprietor, Joseph Pernicaro, was shot in the shoulder Jan. 7 around 10:30 a.m. by a rifle-toting gunman dressed in clothing similar to Essex's.

Still another circle rings an intersection just one block from 1506 S. White St., where a car was stolen from its owner at rifle point around the same time. The cream-colored 1963 Chevrolet was later found on the fourth floor of the Howard Johnson's built-in garage.

Essex, however, does not appear to have followed the map-marked route between his shack and the hotel, nor to have made his last drive there in the stolen car.

A neighbor, Edwin Wilson, 76, has said that the young black Navy veteran gave him a ride to church at 10:45 a.m. last Sunday—a gesture that took Essex along a different path but one that still brought him halfway to the hotel. Finally questioned by police on Monday, for some four hours, Wilson also said that Essex was driving his own car—a blue 1963 Chevrolet with Kansas tags.

Meanwhile, a rash of fires, evidently preceded by assaults on hotel guests and employees by a slim black toting a rifle, was breaking out at the Howard Johnson's. Fire department officials say their tapes show the first alarm came in at 10:52 a.m. Wilson said Essex dropped him at the church at 10:50. It takes about three minutes to drive from the church to the hotel.