

## Detective Artnur Mandella Dies; Devised Footprinting Technique

28 Apr

Arthur A. Mandella, who developed a technique for footprinting newborn infants, died Sunday in St. Vincent's Hospital, West New Brighton, Staten Island, of a brain hemorrhage. He was 40 years old and was attached to the Identification Unit of the Police Department at 400 Broome Street as a first-grade detective. He lived at 503 Lamoka Avenue, Eltingville, S.I.

The footprinting method was instrumental in solving a well-publicized kidnapping in 1959, that of Lisa Rose Chionchio, then a few hours old, from St. Peter's Hospital in Brooklyn. The child was found, but the woman who had apparently taken her, Mrs. Jean Iavarone, insisted the baby was hers. When a detective matched the missing baby's footprints with the infant in the apartment, the child's identity was confirmed.

Mr. Mandella did research for several years on his method, making prints of the flexure creases of the soles, broad creases following the natural contours of the ball of the foot. He was assisted by two other city detectives, Patrick Fusco and Cullen Cregan, and by Sgt. A. Reed McLoughlin of the Los Angeles Police Department and Tulane University.

Although footprinting of newborn babies had been standard practice in many hospitals in New York since 1944, the Chionchio kidnapping led to a revision of the city and state health codes to require that prints of the baby's foot and mother's fingertips be taken before they leave the delivery room.

In 1964 Mr. Mandella testi-

fied before the Warren Commission in agreement with a Federal Bureau of Investigation finding that a palmprint from a rifle found on the sixth floor of the Texas School Depository Building in Dallas, and confirmed by the commission as the rifle with which President Kennedy was assassinated, was that of Lee Harvey Oswald.

In 1966 Mr. Mandella received the first prize, a citation, plaque and \$250, from the Hundred Year Association of New York, in its civil service award category "in recognition of devoted and steadfast performance of service to the citizens of New York City."

He won the award for his work on infants' footprints, for his testimony before the Warren Commission and for having devised a format for coding latent fingerprints, which permits the use of computers in searching fingerprint files for criminals.

Detective Mandella was a civilian criminal investigator and fingerprint expert for the Navy before he joined the Police Department in 1955. He received four citations for excellent police duty and one for meritorious police duty.

He leaves his wife, Mrs. Helen Panzino Mandella; three daughters, Mrs. Mary Lou Goltzman, Miss Linda Ann and Miss Laura Mandella; a brother, Michael, and a grandchild.

A requiem mass will be celebrated Wednesday at 10 A.M. at Our Lady Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church, Huguenot Avenue, Huguenot Park, S. I.