

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COURT

South Braintree, MA Police Department

INVESTIGATION NOTEBOOK

Based on the evidence, I believe Nicola Sacco is:

Innocent / Guilty

I believe this because:

Detective: _____

Case: State of MA vs. Nicola Sacco & Bartolomeo Vanzetti

EXHIBIT A: Crime Scene Report

A. Crime(s) Committed:

B. Victim(s) Involved:

C. Suspect(s) Information:

Based on the evidence, I believe Bartolomeo Vanzetti is:

Innocent / Guilty

I believe this because:

EXHIBIT B: Arrest Report

A. Suspect(s) Arrested:

B. Supporting Evidence:

EXHIBIT C: CSI Results

A. Evidence supporting suspect(s) guilt.

B. Evidence supporting suspect(s) innocence.

EXHIBIT E: Eyewitness Reports for Sacco

A. Evidence supporting suspect(s) guilt.

B. Evidence supporting suspect(s) innocence.

EXHIBIT D: Eyewitness Reports for Vanzetti

A. Evidence supporting suspect(s) guilt.

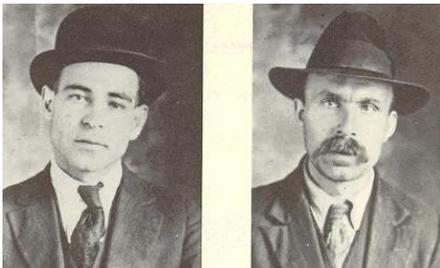
B. Evidence supporting suspect(s) innocence.

EXHIBIT A: Crime Scene Report

It all started on April 15, 1920 in South Braintree, Massachusetts. A pair of trigger-men gun down a paymaster and his security guard in a heist near the Slater & Morrill Shoe Company. The take: a cool \$16,000 (roughly \$175,000 today), the entire payroll for Slater and another shoe company. The dough grabbed literally minutes before it was to be distributed to the workers. Dead: were Frederick Parmenter, paymaster, and guard Alesandro Berardelli. A man described as wearing a felt-cap ignored Berardelli's desperate pleas for his life and mowed him down with a barrage of shots, execution-style. Then he cold-bloodedly stole the guard's gun. A second gunman was said to have dispatched paymaster Parmenter. The perpetrators sped off in a waiting getaway car described as a dark-colored, black or blue, Buick. Investigators recovered six shells from the crime scene, all were .32 caliber. Several eyewitnesses claimed the robbers looked Italian.



EXHIBIT B: Arrest Report



Three weeks later, on the evening of May 5, 1920, two Italians, Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, fell into a police trap that had been set for a suspect in the Braintree crime. Although originally not under suspicion, both men were carrying guns at the time of their arrest and when questioned by the authorities they lied. As a result they were held and eventually indicted for the South Braintree crimes. Vanzetti was also charged with an earlier holdup attempt that had taken place on December 24, 1919, in the nearby town of Bridgewater. Sacco, himself employed at a nearby shoe-factory, was pinched packing a loaded .32 caliber Colt automatic; Vanzetti, a fishmonger, had a .38 caliber Harrington & Richardson revolver, also loaded. (The prosecution would later maintain this was the murdered guard's stolen gun).



EXHIBIT C: Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Results

THE GUNS: The most compelling evidence for their guilt was the prosecution's ballistics (weapons) testimony, and what became known as: "Bullet 3" in the picture to the right.

Lodged in Berardelli's body, expert witnesses declared that this slug came from a .32 Colt automatic. This was the type of gun Sacco was carrying when he was arrested. The prosecution argues that a scratch on

"Bullet 3" is similar to a groove in Sacco's .32 caliber pistol.



THE CAP: A cap with a hole in it picked up at the crime scene resembled one owned by Sacco. The hole might have been produced by a nail at Sacco's workplace which he used to hang his cap. A witness (Kelley) testified that the cap resembled in color and style a cap owned by Sacco. Sacco denied ever owning the cap, or any cap with earlaps. Sacco tried on the cap before the jury and claimed that it did not fit. It is not known for sure that the cap found at the scene belonged to one of the murderers, and not to one of the crowd who gathered soon after the crime.

THE CAR: At the time of their arrest, Sacco and Vanzetti had just gone to the house of the owner of a car repair shop (Johnson). At this house was a man (Boda) connected with a stolen Buick. This was thought to be the car used in the murder (it was found in the woods near Boda's residence two days after the crime). Under a prearranged plan, the wife of the repair shop owner called police. Sacco and Vanzetti suddenly left. The prosecution suggested that they left because they were suspicious of Mrs. Johnson's actions and feared being connected to the Braintree murders. Sacco and Vanzetti testified that the reason that they left Johnson's home without picking up Boda's car was that they discovered that the car did not have 1920 license plates and they did not want to have to pay extra for the cost of new plates.

EXHIBIT D: Eyewitness Reports for Vanzetti

Four witnesses (Faulkner, Dolbeare, Levangie, and Reed) said Vanzetti was near the crime scene. Faulkner said he saw Vanzetti get off a train at East Braintree at ten o'clock. Dolbeare claimed to have seen him in the back of a car near South Braintree Square between ten and twelve o'clock. Levangie claimed to have seen him driving a car near the South Braintree station soon after he heard shots fired. Reed testified that he saw Vanzetti get out of the passenger-side of the front seat of a car around 4:15.

No one claimed to have seen Vanzetti during the actual shooting. A defense witness testified that Levangie initially said the driver was light-haired (Vanzetti is dark-haired). Vanzetti testified that he was selling fish in Plymouth (25 miles from Braintree) at the time of the crime. Six witnesses testify that they saw Vanzetti in Plymouth near the time of the crime.

Vanzetti lied about his guns, the whereabouts of his friends, and his reason for being in Bridgewater on May 5th. Vanzetti's explanation for being in Bridgewater at the time of his arrest was weak. Vanzetti testified that he told some lies when initially questioned because he feared for his own safety and his friend's safety. Vanzetti stuck with his original story about why he was in Bridgewater: he testified that he had gone there to collect political literature, but could not name the names or addresses of people or places he would be collecting the literature from.

EXHIBIT E: Eyewitness Reports for Sacco

Seven eyewitnesses (Andrews, Tracy, Heron, Pelser, Splaine, Devlin, and Goodridge) placed Sacco in or near Braintree around the time of crime. A few other witnesses testified that Sacco resembled one of the bandits, but decided not to make a positive identification. None of the seven eyewitnesses was at all times certain of his or her identification. Splaine and Devlin only briefly saw a man leaning out of automobile from a distance of over 70 feet. None of the witnesses identified Sacco until well after his arrest. The witnesses were not required to pick Sacco out a line-up. Several of the closest witnesses to the crime were *not* able to identify Sacco out of a line up.

Sacco was absent from his job at the 3-K shoe factory on the day of the crime. The consulate clerk in Boston, who Sacco said he visited, could not remember him (although this is not surprising, since the clerk sees several hundred persons per day.) Sacco claimed to have been in Boston trying to get a passport from the Italian consulate on the day of the crime. After visiting the consulate, he said, he ate at Boni's Restaurant in Boston. Seven witnesses testified that they saw Sacco at the restaurant.

After his arrest, Sacco told lies about his recent whereabouts, and denied knowing Boda. His explanation for carrying a gun at the time of his arrest was not very good. The prosecution suggested that these lies showed that Sacco felt guilty. Sacco testified that he lied during his first police interview because he feared that if he told the truth, that he would likely be deported because he was not an American citizen yet.