

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Norfolk, ss.  
Nos. 5545 and 5546

In the Superior Court  
Criminal Session

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

vs.

Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo  
Vanzetti

AFFIDAVIT OF ELIAS FIELD

My name is Elias Field. I reside in Boston, Massachusetts. I am a member of the Bar of Massachusetts and have been practicing for many years in this Commonwealth with an office in said Boston.

On August 7, 1923, in connection with a case having no relationship to the case of the Commonwealth vs. Sacco and Vanzetti I had occasion to utilize the services of a Mr. Hamilton, microscopist and ballistic expert. The exhibits which we desired to examine were in possession of the State Police and Mr. Hamilton and I went to see Captain William H. Proctor for the purpose of examining the said exhibits. We found that Capt. Proctor had left the said exhibits at his home in Swampscott. Captain Proctor, Mr. Hamilton and myself then drove in my car to Swampscott where we secured the exhibits and then returned to Boston. On the return trip Mr. Hamilton and Captain Proctor began to discuss various other cases and the cases of Commonwealth vs. Sacco and Vanzetti were mentioned first, I believe, by Captain Proctor. When Captain Proctor began to talk Mr. Hamilton said in substance, "I think you ought to know" or "I suppose you know that I have been retained by the defence to study some of the exhibits in that case in connection with the pending motion for a new trial". Captain Proctor replied in



in substance, "I don't care. I have been too old in the game, I have been too long in the game, and I'm getting to be too old to want to see a couple of fellows go to the chair for something I don't think they did." Mr. Hamilton said in substance, "I have read over your testimony Captain Proctor and I wondered why you didn't go any farther with your examination with respect to whether the death bullet went through that particular gun. I noticed that as far as you went was 'consistent' or 'it was consistent.'" To this Captain Proctor replied, "If they had asked me any more particularly than that I should have told them I didn't think it went through that gun and I did tell the District Attorney before the trial I thought it was consistent with going through that kind of a gun, but I don't think it went through that gun." Captain Proctor said also in substance that Katzmann and Williams had been at him for a long time to get him to express an opinion that the bullet went through that particular gun and that he had told them after his experience and examination that he did not think it had and that thereupon they secured the services of another expert, a certain Van Ambergh.

This conversation made such an impression on me that I entered the date in my diary and told the matter to one of my partners when I returned.

I am informed and believe that Captain William H. Proctor testified as an expert in the case of Commonwealth vs. Sacco and Vanzetti, and stated that his opinion was that a certain bullet was consistent with having passed through Sacco's pistol, and that after the trial in an affidavit Captain Proctor stated in substance that from his examination of the fatal bullet he found no evidence that it had passed through Sacco's pistol. My recollection is clear, however, that on



August 7, 1923, in the presence of Mr. Hamilton and myself Captain Proctor stated his positive opinion that the bullet had not passed through Sacco's pistol.

I had not related this interview to any one representing Sacco and Vanzetti until July, 1927, shortly before I was asked to appear as a witness before the Commission appointed by the Governor to investigate the cases of Commonwealth vs. Sacco and Vanzetti. On July 11, 1927, I stated the substance of this affidavit to the Commission and later to the Governor.

I am informed and believe that Captain Proctor deceased several years ago.

The above statements are true to my personal knowledge and, except such as are made on information and belief those I believe to be true.

*Eliaz Field*

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Suffolk, ss.

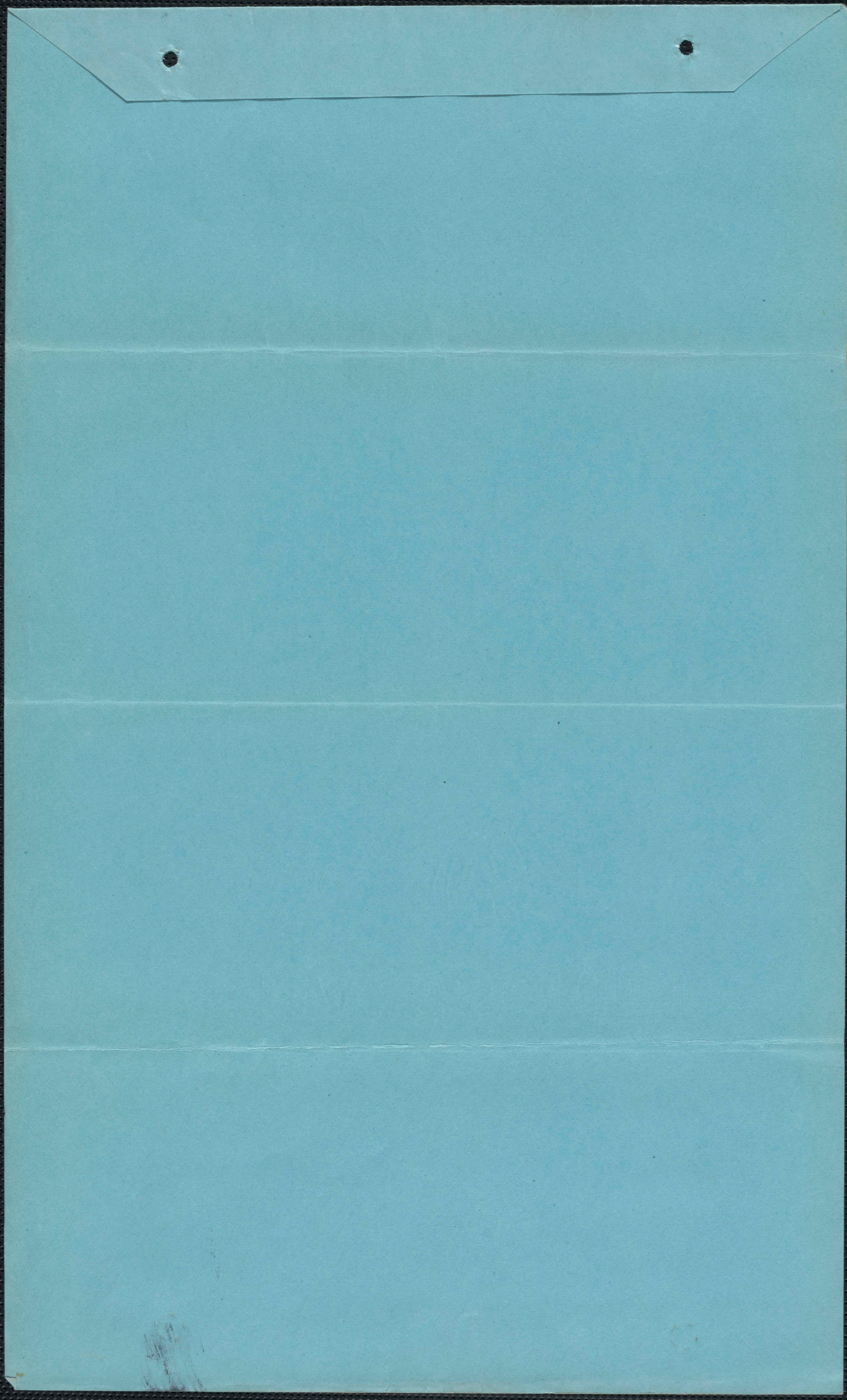
Boston, August 6, 1927.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6<sup>th</sup>  
day of August, 1927.

*Faneuil Adams*  
~~Justice of the Peace.~~  
*Notary Public*

My Commission Expires Dec. 13, 1929







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