

Old and Defective Bullets Found in Murphy's Gun

Police Commissioner O'Connor yesterday disclosed for the first time that Detective William J. Murphy, killed by a holdup suspect Aug. 15, had defective ammunition in his service revolver which probably prevented him from wounding or killing the man who shot him.

Murphy was slain in the Roosevelt rd. subway station by Richard Carpenter, 26, who is under sentence to die March 16 in the county jail electric chair for the crime.

Carpenter also wounded another policeman and held an entire family captive for 23 hours before his capture Aug. 19.

Discusses Other Murder

O'Connor disclosed the existence of the faulty ammunition in discussing with reporters the murder of Detective Lyons Kelliher Wednesday night by a narcotics suspect.

He said that Kelliher's case was unlike Murphy's because Murphy's gun contained "defective ammunition."

Lt. John Ascher of the police crime laboratory confirmed this, saying that Murphy's gun, found on the subway tracks after the slaying, contained three empty cartridges and two which had "failed to go off," the firing pin having struck them.

Not Regular Issue

Lt. Ascher attributed the misfiring to "old age," saying that the two bullets were from 30 to 35 years old. He also

said that the bullets were not regular police issue.

Policemen receive free reissues of cartridges for each bullet fired in line of duty, or in practice on the police pistol range, and are required to keep up regular practice.

The police training division said yesterday that 18 rounds are issued to every man who joins the department and they are encouraged to use the ammunition up in practice.