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2/26/68

By letter postmarked February 26, 1968, addressed to Tiffany Enterprises, 8512 Whitworth Drive, Los Angeles, California, ERIC S. GALT, 5533 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, California, ordered one pair of Japanese handcuffs.

It is noted that Tiffany Enterprises is a mail order business but that they do not stock these Japanese handcuffs, so it was necessary for them to have the order filled by the International Police Equipment Company, 806 South Robertson Avenue, Los Angeles. These handcuffs were shipped to GALT on March 16, 1968.

The FBI Laboratory concluded that the signature ERIC S. GALT appearing on the typewritten letter dated February 26, 1968, was prepared by the writer of the "GALT" signatures on other specimens previously submitted.

3/2/68

On this date GALT was graduated from the International School of Bartending, 2125 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, and a photograph made that date has been discovered. Approximately a week after GALT's graduation he was telephonically contacted by the director of this school, who indicated he had employment for GALT as a bartender. GALT declined stating that he was leaving town within 2 weeks to visit his brother and did not wish to take employment. GALT indicated he would later return to Los Angeles.

3/8/68

ERIC S. GALT, 5533 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, purchased a U. S. Postal Money Order #1,916,211,078 at Los Angeles, California. This postal money order was in the amount of \$15 and was made payable to the Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, New Jersey.

The FBI Laboratory advised that on the basis of the available writings attributed to the subject, JAMES EARL RAY, it was concluded that the questioned handprinting and handwriting appearing on U. S. Postal Money Order #1,916,211,078 were prepared by this individual.

3/17/68

A change of address order listed for ERIC S. GALT with the St. Francis Hotel dated March 17, 1968, advised that his old address of 5533 Hollywood Boulevard, had been changed to General Delivery, Main Post Office, Atlanta, Georgia. This change of address was indicated to be temporary until April 25, 1968.

The FBI Laboratory concluded that the signature ERIC S. GALT appearing on the Post Office change of address order submitted by the Los Angeles Division was prepared by the writer of the signature in this name appearing on other specimens previously submitted in this matter.

3/21/68

As well as can be established, it was on or about this date that the subject left at 4019 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, a box of clothing belonging to MARIAN de GRASSE. It is noted that MARIAN de GRASSE is the daughter of MARIE MARTIN, one of the subject's associates in Los Angeles. Additional information concerning MARIE MARTIN is set out elsewhere in this report. It is also noted that 4019 Royal Street, New Orleans, is the residence of THERESA STONE and that THERESA STONE is the cousin of CHARLES STEIN and MARIE MARTIN.

3/24/68

On this date the subject as ERIC S. GALT rented Room 2 in a rooming house at 113 14th Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia, which rooming house is operated by JIMMY DELTON GARNER.

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3/28/68

ERIC S. GALT, 113 14th Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia, purchased a U. S. Postal Money Order #5,615,057,923 at Atlanta, Georgia. This postal money order was in the amount of \$7.50 and was made payable to Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, New Jersey.

The FBI Laboratory concluded that on the basis of the available writings attributed to the subject, JAMES EARL RAY, it was concluded that the questioned handprinting and handwriting appearing on U. S. Postal Money Order #5,615,057,923 was prepared by this individual.

3/29/68

On this date an individual who gave his name as HARVEY LOWMEYER, 1907 South 11th Street, Birmingham, Alabama, went to the Aeromarine Supply Company, 5701 Airport Highway, Birmingham, Alabama, where he purchased a Remington, Model 700, caliber .243, rifle with a 2x-7x Redfield telescopic sight mounted thereon. He also bought a box of 20 rounds of .243 Norma ammunition. He left the store carrying this rifle in a cardboard box in which had originally come a rifle from the Browning Manufacturing Company. He was given the Browning box because the rifle with the mounted sight would not fit in the Remington box in which the rifle had originally been shipped. LOWMEYER paid cash.

3/30/68

The man calling himself LOWMEYER telephoned first and later that day returned with the newly purchased .243 rifle to Aeromarine Supply Company and explained that following a conversation with his brother he had decided to exchange this rifle for a Remington, Model 760, 30-06 caliber. This exchange was accomplished on the afternoon of March 30, 1968, with LOWMEYER leaving the store with a Remington, Game Master rifle, Model 760, SN 461476, on which was mounted the Redfield telescopic sight,

SN A17350. He again left with this gun in the Browning cardboard box. The .243 caliber ammunition was exchanged for a box of 30-06 ammunition. LOWMEYER indicated he wanted to use the 30-06 rifle to hunt in Wisconsin.

Investigation at Birmingham disclosed that LOWMEYER is unknown at 1907 South 11th Street and is unknown in that general neighborhood.

3/30/68

On this date the Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, New Jersey, received a change of address from GALT indicating his new address to be 113 14th Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia.

The Newark Division forwarded to the FBI Laboratory 4 green payment coupons to the Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, New Jersey, showing payment for lessons #6 through #9. Coupons #6 through #8 bore the handprinted address of 1535 North Serrano, Los Angeles, and the handprinted name of ERIC S. GALT. Coupon for lesson #9 bore the handprinted address of 113 14th Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia.

The FBI Laboratory concluded that the questioned handprinting appearing on the green payment coupons was prepared by the individual responsible for preparing other handprinting on specimens in this case attributed to ERIC S. GALT.

It is unknown by officials of the Locksmithing Institute the exact manner in which GALT furnished the above described change of address.

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3/31/68

JIMMY DELTON GARNER, operator of a rooming house located at 113 14th Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia, admits being drunk during a large portion of the time around March 24 - 31, 1968, but states that on March 31, 1968, GALT paid for an additional week's rent. GARNER does not recall seeing GALT after March 31, 1968.

GARNER advised that when ERIC S. GALT paid his rent for the second week commencing March 31, 1968, he had GALT write his name on an envelope. According to GARNER who made this envelope available, GALT hand-printed his signature on the envelope. The reason GARNER requested that GALT sign his name was the fact that GARNER intended to then transfer this name to his official records when he returned to his own room.

The FBI Laboratory concluded that the hand-printed name of ERIC S. GALT that appears on the envelope furnished by JIMMY DELTON GARNER, manager of the rooming house located at 113 14th Street, N.E., Atlanta, was prepared by the person who prepared the hand-printing on material previously submitted in this matter and attributed to ERIC S. GALT.

As a result of a lawful search of Room 2 of this rooming house conducted on April 15, 1968, numerous items of a possible evidentiary value were obtained, including a map of Mexico.

The FBI Identification Division, Latent Fingerprint Section, reported that 2 latent fingerprints were developed on this map and that these latents were identified with fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405 942 G.

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4/1/68

On this date an individual using the name ERIC GALT left both laundry and dry cleaning at the Piedmont Laundry pick up station, 1168 Peachtree, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia.

4/3/68

ERIC S. GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, registered at the Rebel Motor Hotel, 3466 Lamar Avenue, on April 3, 1968, was assigned Room 34, and departed the hotel prior to the checkout time of 1:00 P.M. on April 4, 1968. At the time of registration GALT indicated on the registration card that he was driving a Mustang bearing Alabama license 1-38993.

The FBI Laboratory concluded that the signature of ERIC S. GALT appearing on the hotel registration card was prepared by the same individual who prepared other specimens submitted under the same name.

4/4/68

Between 3:00 P.M. and 3:30 P.M. on this date a man using the name JOHN WILLARD rented sleeping room 5B at 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, at the rate of \$8.50 per week. He paid one week's rent in advance. He was not required to execute a registration card or to otherwise provide any information concerning himself or his automobile.

At about 4:00 P.M. on April 4, 1968, an unknown individual purchased from York Arms Company, 162 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, a pair of Bushnell 7 x 35 binoculars. The salesman did not record the serial number of the binoculars; however, he wrote the price of the binoculars \$39.95 and the amount of the tax \$1.60 on the side of the cardboard box in which the binoculars came and added them for a total of \$41.55. He placed the sales slip, the binoculars, box, and the leather type carrying case in a gray paper bag which bears on its side the name York Arms. This witness subsequently identified photographs of JAMES EARL RAY as

being identical with the purchaser of the binoculars; however, it should be noted this witness has since been committed to the Tennessee Psychiatric Hospital and Institute, Memphis, Tennessee.

At about 6:00 P.M. on this date Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was shot and killed by a single bullet fired from the bathroom of the rooming house at 422½ South Main Street, Memphis. At the time he was struck KING was standing on the second floor balcony in front of Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry, Memphis. Other occupants of the rooming house at 422½ South Main Street heard a rifle fired and observed a man run from the rooming house onto South Main Street where he dropped a large bundle in front of 424 South Main Street. Neighborhood investigation disclosed that a white Mustang was seen immediately leaving the area at a high rate of speed. A canvass of motels in the Memphis area disclosed that one ERIC S. GALT had spent the night of April 3, 1968, at the Rebel Motel, Memphis, Tennessee, and had been driving a white Mustang. He gave as an address 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama. When inquiries were made at that address solely for the purpose of further identifying GALT, it was determined that he had not resided there since about October 1967. It was for this reason that GALT came to our attention in connection with this case.

Inspector N. E. ZACHARY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department, recovered numerous articles dropped by the assailant of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., on the sidewalk near the entrance of the building located at 424 South Main Street. Included among these articles are the following:

- 1) Remington Game Master rifle, Model 760, SN 461476, on which was mounted a Redfield telescopic sight, SN A17350
- 2) Banner by Bushnell binoculars, SN DQ408664
- 3) First section of the April 4, 1968, issue of the "Commercial Appeal," a daily newspaper published in Memphis



- 4) A plastic bottle of Mennen Afta Shaving Lotion
- 5) An unopened can of Schlitz beer, bearing the legend "Mississippi Tax Paid. IV Cents."
- 6) A Channel Master radio receiver, Model #6502, 6 Transistor, Super Hetrodyne, with a frequency range of 535-1605 Kc/s. This radio bears scratchings on one side interpreted to read "00416."
- 7) One pair of undershorts and one T-shirt
- 8) Green and brown bedspread (see date of April 5, 1968, concerning items found in abandoned Mustang)

The Latent Fingerprint Section of the FBI Identification Division advised that one latent fingerprint on this rifle; one latent fingerprint on the telescopic sight; one latent fingerprint on the binoculars; one latent fingerprint on the newspaper; one latent fingerprint on the bottle of Afta Shaving Lotion and one latent fingerprint on the Schlitz beer can have been identified with the fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405 942 G.

The Bureau advised that the number "00416," which was the interpretation of the scratchings appearing on the above described Channel Master radio, is the same number as the inmate number for JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405 942 G, while confined at the Missouri State Penitentiary.

The FBI Laboratory examination revealed that the undershorts and T-short each bears a laundry tag on which appears the characters "02B-6." Only a portion of the first character is present on each tag.

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Samples of the Thermo Seal marking machine, SN 31454, Model RH-5K1, in possession of the Home Service Laundry and Dry Cleaning Company, 5280 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, using the numbers and letters 02B-6 on red colored tape, were forwarded to the FBI Laboratory. This machine was used in this laundry between January 16, 1968, and March 23, 1968. The FBI Laboratory advised that the specimens from the Thermo Seal marking machine, SN 31454, are similar to the laundry tapes appearing on the T-shirt and undershorts in color, construction, and composition. Five of these tapes have the same length (1 1/16") as the tapes appearing on the T-shirt and shorts. The other 9 are longer, either 1 3/32" or 1 1/8" in length. These tapes submitted by Los Angeles are of varying lengths; however, no significant differences were noted between the T-shirt and shorts laundry tapes when compared with some of the specimens submitted by Los Angeles indicating that they may have originated from the same machine.

The bullet removed from the victim KING was examined by the FBI Laboratory, who determined that it is a .30 caliber metal-jacketed "soft point" sporting type bullet of Remington - Peters manufacture which could have been fired from the recovered Remington 30-06 rifle. The bullet has been distorted due to mutilation and insufficient marks of value for identification remain on this bullet. Therefore, it was not possible to determine whether or not the bullet removed from the deceased had been fired from the recovered Remington rifle bearing the fingerprint of JAMES EARL RAY.

4/5/68

An unknown white male at about 8:30 A.M. on Friday, April 5, 1968, parked instant white Mustang bearing Alabama license 1-38993 in the parking lot of Capitol Homes, a public housing project in Atlanta, Georgia.

Among other items found in this abandoned Mustang was bed linen bearing laundry mark 20R-3. As mentioned earlier in this report, records of the Avalon Cleaners and Laundry, Inc., 5662 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, reflect that laundry belonging to an individual named GALT, which laundry was brought in on December 15, 1967, had been assigned laundry #20R-3.

Brown cotton fibers, green cotton fibers, and green rayon fibers were found in the abandoned Mustang. The FBI Laboratory has compared these with the bedspread found abandoned by the killer in front of 424 South Main Street, Memphis, on April 4, 1968, and has concluded that the fibers found in the Mustang could have come from this bedspread.

Between 9:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. on April 5, 1968, an individual stopped at the Piedmont Laundry pick up station, 1168 Peachtree, N.E., Atlanta, and picked up laundry left there on April 1, 1968, under the name ERIC GALT. The clerk, Mrs. ESTELLE PETERS, when shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, stated she believes the photograph of RAY in which he was wearing a bow tie is a better likeness; however, the most recent photograph in which he is wearing a four-in-hand tie looks older and the eyes and nose appear very similar.

No information has been received concerning the whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY since April 5, 1968.

The Kansas City Division submitted the following described documents to the FBI Laboratory requesting appropriate handwriting and handprinting examination with the handprinting and handwriting specimens submitted to the Laboratory as evidence in this matter:

One copy of a letter dated October 24, 1966, in the handwriting of JAMES E. RAY. This letter was from RAY to Dr. EARL C. KEPLER, Biggs Building, Fulton, Missouri.

34 pages containing purported handwriting and handprinting of JAMES EARL RAY obtained from the records of the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri.

22 pages of handwriting of JAMES EARL RAY obtained from the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, and one copy of a form dated April 4, 1958, signed by JAMES EARL RAY which was obtained from the U. S. Probation Officer, Kansas City, Missouri.

The FBI Laboratory concluded that the questioned handwriting and handprinting appearing on items attributed to ERIC S. GALT were prepared by JAMES EARL RAY.

Because of the presence of characteristics which cannot be explained on the basis of the known handwriting of JAMES EARL RAY, the FBI Laboratory advised that it cannot be definitely determined whether the "HARVEY LOWMYER" signature appearing on the sales invoice of the Aeromarine Supply Company, Birmingham, Alabama (place where Remington rifle, Model 760, SN 461476, was purchased), was prepared by this individual; however, significant handwriting similarities were noted.

The FBI Laboratory stated that because of the lack of identifying defects, it could not be definitely determined whether the same typewriter was used in preparing all the typewritten impressions appearing on items previously submitted in this case attributed to ERIC S. GALT, but no significant differences were noted.

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III. RELATIVES OF JAMES EARL RAY

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Subject's family is reported to have changed the family name as often as it suited them, and they have been known at various times under the names RAY, RAYNES, RAYNS, RYAN, and BERNES.

A birth certificate has been located reflecting that JAMES EARL RAY was born [redacted] at Alton, Illinois, to JAMES RAY and LUCIE MAHER.

**Mother**

LUCILLE MARY RAY, nee MAHER, was born [redacted] at Alton, Illinois, and died an alcoholic on January 25, 1961, at St. Louis, Missouri. She is reported to have been a prostitute during most of her life [redacted]

[redacted] Her husband, who now uses the name JERRY RAYNES, abandoned her in about 1952. From about 1954 until her death in 1961 she lived with JOHN EUGENE GAWRON whenever GAWRON was not in prison.

**Father**

JERRY RAYNES, born [redacted] resides alone on a small farm on Route 2, Center, Missouri, and has telephone number AM 7-3467. He claims to have married the subject's mother at Jacksonville, Florida, in the spring of 1929, 1930, or 1931 but he admits to having lived with her in a common-law relationship prior to their marriage. He states that he and the subject's mother separated about 1949 and he admits to having lived with RUBY CARPENTER off and on from about 1952 until 1963. RAYNES claims to have last seen the subject about 17 years ago, and he claims to have no information regarding his present whereabouts.

**Brother**

JOHN LARRY RAY, born [redacted] resides alone at 1900-A Cherokee, St. Louis, and is engaged with his sister, CAROL PEPPER, in the operation of the Grapevine Tavern, 1982 Arsenal, St. Louis. The telephone at the tavern is number PR 6-9417.

JOHN has served sentences in both the Illinois State Penitentiary and in the

Indiana State Penitentiary. He claims to have last seen the subject some 2 to 4 years ago when he visited the subject at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), and he claims to have seen him prior to that time about 15 years ago at which time the subject had just been discharged from the U. S. Army.

JOHN will admit to having visited the subject at the MSP only 3 or 4 times. MSP records reflect visits by JOHN on the following dates:

10/17/62  
7/7/63  
11/3/63  
11/11/63  
5/6/65  
7/10/66  
11/13/66  
12/20/66  
4/22/67

It should be noted that this last visit on April 22, 1967, occurred on the day prior to the subject's escape on April 23, 1967; however, JOHN RAY denies having had any part in the subject's escape.

JOHN RAY has expressed the belief that the subject had money in his possession when he escaped, money which he made from the sale of amphetamines while the subject was in the MSP. JOHN has also stated he believes the subject has left the United States as the subject reportedly told him that he would do this if he ever got out of prison. JOHN denies having seen the subject since the subject's escape and claims to have no information concerning his whereabouts.

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Brother

JERRY WILLIAM RAY, born [redacted] resides in Apartment 14, 314 Wisconsin Avenue, Lake Forest, Illinois. He has no telephone. He is employed as a maintenance man at the Sportsman's Country Club, 3535 Dundee Road, Northbrook, Illinois.

JERRY, described as being of "low mental capacity," has served sentences at both the Illinois State Penitentiary and at the MSP. He claims to have last seen the subject outside of prison in about 1951, and he claims to have last visited him in prison in about 1964. MSP records reflect JERRY visited the subject on the following dates:

8/21/63  
9/15/63  
5/16/65  
6/20/65  
7/1/65

JERRY RAY is divorced from GJERDIS STREET, who presently resides on Wisconsin Avenue in Lake Forest, Illinois. During the period that he and STREET were married, she bore a child which had been conceived by her previous husband. She and JERRY RAY separated during August 1967 and were divorced during January 1968. He previously lived common-law with CAROL SARTAIN by whom he had a child MICHAEL, age 6, who now lives with CAROL's parents, Mr. and Mrs. WILLARD SARTAIN, Route 2, Whitesburg, Tennessee. He periodically sends money to the SARTAINS to assist in the support of MICHAEL.

JERRY claims to have had no contact with the subject since the subject's escape and claims to have no information concerning his whereabouts.



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[REDACTED]

Brother

[REDACTED]

FRANK DELANO RYAN was killed in an automobile accident during 1963.

Sister

CAROL PEPPER, born [REDACTED] is married to ALBERT PEPPER and resides at 2025 Belleview, Maplewood, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis. She is the owner of record of the Grapevine Tavern, 1982 Arsenal, St. Louis, Missouri, which she operates with her brother, JOHN LARRY RAY. Her home telephone is 645-2948 and the telephone at the tavern is PR 6-9417.

[REDACTED] She has been married to ALBERT BENNY PEPPER, FBI [REDACTED] for about the past 6 years and ALBERT PEPPER denies ever having met the subject. When questioned regarding a letter addressed by the subject from the MSP to Albert J. Pepper Stationery, 712-A Shenandoah, St. Louis, Missouri, ALBERT PEPPER stated he formerly resided at that address but was not aware of any mail addressed in such a manner. He admitted that his wife might have received such a communication but he denied having any information concerning this. Neither CAROL nor ALBERT PEPPER admitted having heard from the subject since his escape and neither will admit to having any information concerning his whereabouts. CAROL PEPPER claims to have seen the subject only 3 or 4 times in her lifetime and this was after she came to reside in St. Louis at about age 16. She states she has never visited him at the MSP but did write letters to him for her grandmother, MARY MAHER, now

deceased, and admits she wrote several letters after MAHER's death.

Sister

MELBA MARIE RYAN, born [redacted] is the recipient of a disability pension and now resides at the Virginia Hotel, Quincy, Illinois, telephone number 223-0403. MELBA RYAN has been committed on several occasions to mental hospitals, and it is reported by her associates that any information furnished by her may be completely unreliable. She claims to have no information concerning the subject's whereabouts.

Sister

SUSAN DONIAN, born [redacted] is married to MICHAEL DONIAN and resides at 3414 Bryn Mahr, Chicago, Illinois, telephone number 588-1410. Beginning at about age 6, SUSAN lived first in an orphanage and later in a foster home. She last saw the subject when she was in the first grade at Quincy, Illinois, and believes that he does not know her whereabouts. She claims to have no information concerning the subject but has agreed to cooperate should he contact her.

Stepmother

RUBY CARPENTER, 630 North Sixth Street, Quincy, Illinois, telephone number 223-9465, advised that in 1952 she met the subject's father while both were working in Quincy, Illinois, and that they left Quincy together and went to live in St. Louis, Missouri. She stated that they lived together from 1952 until 1961 before they married on August 1, 1961, at Palmyra, Missouri. They were divorced in Palmyra, Missouri, during 1964 and the subject's father moved to Center, Missouri, where he continues to reside on a small farm. She stated she has not seen the subject since he went to prison around 1960, and she has had no contact with him since she and his father moved to Clarence, Missouri, on August 1, 1961. She said she is certain the subject does not know her present whereabouts.

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Uncle

WILLIAM E. MAHER and his wife, MILDRED MAHER, 712 Brown Street, Alton, Illinois, claim to have last seen the subject 10 or 12 years ago and has expressed the belief that the subject has not been in Alton, Illinois, since 1959 when he was involved in an armed robbery. They do not believe the subject will contact them and have indicated they will make known any attempt on his part to do so.

Uncle

EARL E. RAY is reported to have died May 2, 1959, at Buffalo, New York.

Aunt

Mrs. FRANK (MABLE) FULLER, 2601 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois, telephone number 222-7412, has not seen the subject since 1955 when her mother, subject's grandmother, died. She stated she has not seen her brother, the subject's father, for a number of years and has had no close contact with him. She said that while the subject was in prison at MSP she had sent him mail on a number of occasions and occasionally sent him small amounts of money. She said he had sent her 2 or 3 Christmas cards, and this was the only contact she had with him. She said these Christmas cards were smuggled out of the prison as she apparently had not been on the subject's mailing list. She claims to have had no contact with the subject since his escape and is not aware of his present whereabouts. She has offered her cooperation in the event he does contact her.

Grandparents

Both maternal and paternal grandparents are reported to be deceased.

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IV. PRISON INMATES AND ASSOCIATES

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TOR/acp  
1

ASSOCIATES

Missouri State Penitentiary

BILLY BROWN AEBY, interviewed at Dallas, Texas, and resides at Stark Road, Seagoville, Texas. He was acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY during the period 1961 - 1964 while serving three concurrent 9-year sentences at the Missouri State Penitentiary. He and RAY worked in the prison bakery. RAY used amphetamine powder and dealt extensively in the sale of the amphetamine powder and benzadrine to other inmates. These items were being obtained by RAY, apparently through prison guards. RAY liked to play poker and was considered a good player; was mild mannered, and appeared timid to persons not knowing him well. He did not have any special interests and did not express any opinions regarding the Negroes, Ku Klux Klan, Army service, women, clothes, drinking, and the outside world in general.

RICHARD BEMAN, MSP #07694, is serving life for murder at the Missouri State Penitentiary and worked in April 1967 in the hospital of the prison. RAY was known to him by sight and though he did not associate with RAY in K Hall he worked with him at one time in the kitchen. RAY was very quiet and there was no information available as to his personal habits or beliefs. He also had no knowledge of RAY's associates.

JULIUS MAURICE BLOCK, formerly of the Missouri State Penitentiary, is currently incarcerated at the Federal Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas. He had worked in the bakery with JAMES EARL RAY. RAY was characterized as a loner, known to purchase the physical favors of homosexuals while in the Missouri State Penitentiary, although it is believed he would seek sexual relations with women outside the prison walls.

RAY reportedly stabbed one inmate in the Missouri State Penitentiary while the victim was held by another inmate. Reportedly RAY used to steal locks from different doors in the bakery and kitchen area and practice picking these locks later in the day.

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TOR:tjm

1

JOSEPH ADAMS currently incarcerated at the Illinois State Penitentiary was acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY at the Missouri State Penitentiary. ADAMS left the penitentiary in October, 1967.

RAY brought food to the hospital where ADAMS was working and he assumed RAY worked in the prison kitchen. He described him as a quiet individual, but he never talked directly to him nor did he ever observe him with any other inmates.

LEO BARNETT currently incarcerated at the Florida State Prison, Raiford, Florida, knew JAMES EARL RAY in the Missouri State Prison from about 1962 until August 1, 1966. He met him through BILLY MILES, presently at the New Penitentiary, Moberly, Missouri.

RAY never said much, did not bother anybody, was a loner and had a bad nervous condition and a definite mental problem. He was taking powdered amphetamine while in prison and would suffer weight losses and gains of 10 to 15 pounds over short periods of time.

BARNETT stated that amphetamine taken in quantities would produce a substantial rapid weight loss.

The amphetamine supply, prior to 1964, was \$5 a shot or less and after 1964, although the supply was limited, it still sold for the same price.

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2

JAMES T. BOND, is currently in Cuyahoga County Jail, Cleveland, Ohio, for carrying a concealed weapon and had been an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary from October 1962 until December 1963.

RAY was a bread man, working in the bakery, slicing the bread for meals. RAY was a racist and was many times heard discussing his dislike for Negroes. RAY was hooked on amphetamine powders and always had a nose dropper and needle to shoot the solution made up from the amphetamine powders into his veins. The amphetamine was obtained through a source in the prison at a price between \$50 and \$100 per spoonful, and on occasion would break down the amount of powder he would receive and in turn sell it in smaller packages. When the amphetamine was not available RAY would break up "bennies" and use it.

He was a "lone wolf", never discussed his own personal background, and was an avid reader of sex books and girlie magazines. RAY never trusted anyone and had a feeling that everyone was out to get him. He also had a habit of pulling at his left ear constantly. RAY purchased the amphetamines from a fellow convict, JIM BRADLEY, described as the "top con" at Missouri State Penitentiary.

RAY had talked of escaping on numerous occasions and on one occasion was caught with a rope and hook. He also participated in a tunnel job which was discovered, though the authorities were unaware of who had been involved in this attempt.

JAMES HARVEY BRADLEY, JR., currently incarcerated in U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, under number 84515, is serving a 15 year sentence for violation of U. S. Postal laws. BRADLEY disclaimed any knowledge of RAY personally or by name.

JIMMY Z. BRADLEY has Missouri State Penitentiary Number 71844 and is currently serving a life sentence. He was incarcerated in December 1956. He knew JAMES EARL RAY as an employee in J Hall for a time and knew he lived alone in a cell in K Hall. He always desired to cell alone.

BRADLEY was in solitary when RAY escaped and knew nothing of it. He described him as an exceptionally quiet and "odd" person. RAY took mild drugs such as amphetamine and had very small veins, making it difficult for him to "main line" his shots. He purchased barbiturates and amphetamine whenever he could, but always believed he was ill, using drugs on occasion as a matter of medicine.

JEROME (NMN) CARPENTER, possesses Missouri State Penitentiary #0304 and is serving a life sentence for murder.

He has known JAMES EARL RAY since about 1963, but not well. He knew JERRY RAY, brother of JAMES RAY, and their father was named JERRY RAY. When CARPENTER was 15 years of age his mother ran away with JERRY RAY and went to St. Louis, Missouri. They separated after two years and his mother has returned to Quincy, Illinois.

He described RAY to be a quiet, meek person who was very soft-spoken.

CARL BENTON DRAKE, now a self employed contractor at St. Louis, was a fellow inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary with JAMES EARL RAY, during the period 1960 or 1961 until his release in 1965. RAY is described as a loner, closed-mouth, who never discussed anything but mixed well with the other inmates, both black and white. RAY never displayed propensity for violence or racist sentiments.

RAY was not addicted to drugs, but nearly all the inmates used any drugs available.

(Information received elsewhere noted that DRAKE had stated he received two telephone calls from RAY since KING was killed, one call coming from New Orleans, Louisiana, and one call from North Carolina.)

THOMAS BRITTON became acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY in November 1965 while both were inmates at the Missouri State Penitentiary. RAY worked in J Hall as a "walk boy." He would take orders for cigarettes, gum, candy, and the like to be purchased within the prison and would bring hot water for shaving and coffee to the inmates. He was the only "walk boy" in J Hall and was free to contact any inmate and could walk throughout the hall freely. Conversations with



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RAY indicated he was intimate with the area in Alabama known as Walker County and had stayed in Birmingham, Alabama, in the past. RAY on a daily basis would read the "Post-Herald", a newspaper of Birmingham, Alabama.

RAY reportedly stated that if he ever got out of jail he was going to make himself a "bunch of money" and said that the Businessmen's Association has offered \$100,000 for killing MARTIN LUTHER KING, and KING is five years past due. RAY did not know what the Businessmen's Association was, but he intended to find out.

RAY also stated that he has a place picked out where he could hide, but never identified its location.

RAY would be easy to identify, even if he attempted to disguise his identity, in that he is definitely "slough-footed" and his toes point out noticeably when he walked, causing his heels and soles to wear down on the outside edges. He also has a prominent cleft on his chin and RAY liked to drink.

RAY also picked up and delivered wagering tickets in the cigarette lottery in J Hall.

RAY never discussed his family nor did he ever indicate from which part of the United States he came.

RAY, in connection with the lottery, was closely connected with JOHNNY VALENTI and an individual named "BOSTON", subsequently identified as MILTON ZAVALOFSKI.

JAMES W. BROWN, Reform, Alabama, was an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary from April 1960 through June 1965. In 1963 he met RAY and heard him make the statement that he was glad when JOHN F. KENNEDY was killed, identifying KENNEDY as a "nigger lover". RAY disliked Negroes and during the time MARTIN LUTHER KING was leading demonstrations and marches he would become aggravated and upset when reading this information in newspapers to the point that he would curse KING and the Negroes.

BROWN also heard RAY make the statement that he was going to get MARTIN LUTHER KING when he got out. "Cooley's organization" would pay \$10,000 to have KING dead. BROWN had no knowledge concerning this organization and only heard it from RAY.

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RAY was not overly friendly and never discussed his past life in BROWN's presence. He had mentioned about tunneling out of prison and going to Virginia to hide in a cave.

RAY was friendly to an inmate, JOHNNY VALENTI, who often spoke about Mexico and could speak Spanish.

RAY had also mentioned at one time that his brother-in-law was working in Liberia, Africa, and was making large sums of money.

BROWN further stated that VALENTI had told him he and RAY committed a robbery of an oil company in Atlanta, Georgia, committing the robbery about midnight.

BROWN overheard RAY tell VALENTI that when RAY got out of the penitentiary he knew a guy names "COOLEY" who would hide him where no one could find him.

(Credibility of BROWN, FBI No. [REDACTED] has not been established to date, it being noted he has furnished conflicting information about the personal habits of RAY.)

EVERETT WAYNE COX, FBI No. [REDACTED] interviewed by the Oklahoma City Division, advised he was an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary from 1961 until June 1964 when released and was friendly with JAMES EARL RAY. He worked with RAY in the prison bakery and was a partner with him in operating prison poker games.

RAY expressed some interest in learning to speak Spanish, studying the language from a Spanish dictionary belonging to COX. He also read books about Mexico which he obtained from the prison library.

Addresses were exchanged with RAY in 1964 but he has not seen or heard from RAY since being released from the penitentiary.

In searching his belongings COX located the name ERIC LARSON, who was the inmate supervisor at the penitentiary bakery, whom he described as the most likely person to know the whereabouts of RAY.

THOMAS HERBERT COLWIS, Missouri State Penitentiary No. 71848, is currently serving a life sentence for murder. He came to the Missouri State Penitentiary in 1953.

He said he did not know JAMES EARL RAY in the Missouri State Penitentiary, though the photograph of RAY contained in the newspaper looks familiar. He did not know any associates of RAY either.

RAYMOND LOUIS CURTIS is currently incarcerated in the Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia, pending an appeal on a life sentence for murder.

He first became acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY in March 1958 in the Jackson County Jail, Kansas City, Missouri, where RAY was incarcerated on a Post Office Burglary charge. They were cellmates for six to seven months. During this incarceration a friend of RAY's would visit him. This friend had been a cellmate with RAY at Menard, Illinois. This individual kept RAY in spending money while RAY was in prison and it is CURTIS' opinion he would harbor RAY.

After this incarceration in the Jackson County Jail they both at different times were transferred to the Federal Penitentiary in Leavenworth. During this period at Leavenworth RAY, to his knowledge, spoke of no girlfriend and corresponded with none. He mentioned that he "operated" which CURTIS stated meant engaged in burglary and payroll jobs, out of Quincy, Illinois.

RAY is a good poker player and he with CURTIS participated with fellow prisoners in crooked poker games. At a subsequent time they were both incarcerated in the Missouri State Penitentiary, occasionally in the same cell. While in B and C Halls they were together in a three-man cell with a third individual, and it was during this period that President JOHN F. KENNEDY was assassinated. Subsequently in 1963 or 1964 the movements of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING became topic of conversation at the penitentiary and word got around to the prisoners that businessmen had raised a considerable amount of money, about one million dollars, as a bounty on KING's head. RAY mentioned a dozen times that had he known about the bounty on JOHN F. KENNEDY's head and had been out he would have collected it; and if he got out in time and if KING was still alive, he would like to get the bounty on KING.

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RAY had a friend in New Orleans whose name was spelled like a coin, "Quarter" or "Dime", apparently a fence, who would harbor RAY.

GEORGE BEN EDMONDSON, an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary, initially denied knowing JAMES EARL RAY, but subsequently recognized him as an associate of an inmate he knew by the name of RAY CURTIS. He personally had no dealings with RAY inside or outside the penitentiary, and therefore had nothing to discuss with him. EDMONDSON stated it is very easy to get a Canadian passport. All that is needed is \$5.00 plus someone to sign as a guarantor and substantiate this with a baptismal certificate or a birth certificate. These records are available, as are guarantors, in the Rue Notre Dome area. It costs about \$50 to obtain the necessary papers to back up the passport application.

All the inmates at the Missouri State Penitentiary are aware how easy it is to get Canadian passports in Montreal through this procedure.

BEN GOODIN, salesman, Schantzmeier Ford, Jefferson City, Missouri, formerly was chef at the Missouri State Penitentiary and knew JIMMY RAY well, being his boss for about six years. RAY was a good friend of a blond inmate by the name of DOWDA who hated Negroes.

GOODIN thought that both RAY and DOWDA could be mixed up in peddling dope in the penitentiary but he could never prove it.

He was aware that RAY wanted to escape from the penitentiary and he "killed" a request by RAY for a transfer to a farm because of this. RAY was strictly a loner and very quiet.

MELVIN OLIVER GRIDLEY, currently an inmate of the Missouri Training Center for Men, was a "hall tender" in J Hall where RAY hid in the Missouri State Penitentiary for one week in 1964 or 1965.

RAY worked under GRIDLEY in the recreation section but he was described as closed-mouth who had few friends and did not talk much to anyone. GRIDLEY lost contact with JAMES EARL RAY in 1965 or 1966 when RAY was placed in solitary confinement.

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PAUL ALVIN LAIL resides at 34 Barbados Drive, Palm Springs, Florida, and while an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary for three years had met and known JAMES EARL RAY. He was not very friendly with RAY but did eat with him a number of times when RAY was in the kitchen visiting with his friend, LEWEY "WHITEY" DOWDA.

He described RAY as a sharp intelligent guy who hung around with the boys who were always up to something and were in on all the deals. He never seemed to have a lot of money but always seemed to have enough to get whatever he wanted.

Most of the guys that RAY was with were on dope and were peddling it.

There had been trouble with some of the Negro prisoners in the Missouri State Penitentiary who were Black Muslims. Some of the prisoners decided to teach them a lesson, and three or four of the Negro leaders were killed. RAY might have been in on the actual killing; LAIL did not know, but if not, RAY was close with the one that did it.

LAIL stated that from his association with RAY he felt sure RAY would have a .45 automatic on his person somewhere and he would not give up or be taken without a fight. He considered RAY to be a "killer" and would not be easy to catch or find.

He has not heard from RAY since he got out of the Missouri State Penitentiary over two years ago and he does believe RAY would know how to contact him.

JACK FOX LAMPHERE, Warsaw, Missouri, started serving his sentence at the Missouri State Penitentiary at the same time as JAMES EARL RAY.

Although RAY was not homosexual, he could be intimidated into doing almost anything. He became indebted to an inmate named JIMMY CARPENTER who stood good for RAY's debts "in the yard." CARPENTER also worked in the kitchen of the prison with RAY.

RAY in his conversations would always mention his liking for the Rogue River area of Oregon. He seemed to be familiar with saw mill work in Oregon.

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LAMPHERE was called on the telephone at the City Union Mission, Warsaw, Missouri, by ROBERT DALE PORTER, FBI Number [REDACTED] telling LAMPHERE he was in serious trouble and had to keep moving. LAMPHERE turned PORTER down rendering any assistance and advised that PORTER knows JAMES EARL RAY very well since he was at the Missouri State Penitentiary in 1960 through February 1968.

CECIL CLAYTON LILLIBRIDGE, Missouri State Penitentiary Number 67755, knew JAMES EARL RAY at the penitentiary.

From his conversations with RAY he learned that his maximum ambition in life was to make a "score" of about \$20,000 to \$30,000 after which he would go to Mexico to "hide out" living simply on the loot at the favorable Mexican exchange rate.

RAY had spoken of Campeche Bay near the Yucatan Peninsula and of living with peasants on the outskirts of the town of Campeche, Mexico. He also spoke of a cheap "red light district" which was located in the town of Torreon or Torrejon (phonetic), which is believed located in north central Mexico.

LILLIBRIDGE stated RAY did not like Negroes in general but expressed no particular feeling toward MARTIN LUTHER KING although he did hear him refer to Dr. KING as "MARTIN LUTHER COON".

RAY is described as a hypochondriac in that he took six or seven different kinds of pills daily, imagining he had a cranial depression and a rapid palpitation of the heart. He would use an inmate's watch with a second hand to time his pulse.

RAY was acquainted with a man who operated a small-scale smuggling business who lived near the town of Campeche, Mexico. His name is believed to be either MATEO LOPEZ GARCIA or MATEO GARCIA LOPEZ, who had apparently lived for some time in the United States and who spoke English. He owns a small fishing boat and would smuggle things from Brownsville, Texas, into Mexico through Campeche Bay.

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RUSSELL LEE MARTIN, Missouri State Penitentiary Number 08014, was contacted by the Little Rock Division and stated he was well acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY while both were incarcerated at the Missouri State Penitentiary. MARTIN received pardon after helping solve a narcotics ring operating in the Missouri State Penitentiary and was released approximately three months ago.

Prior to RAY's escape, RAY sold narcotics to other inmates.

He stated that RAY was a loner and had very few friends.

MARTIN said that if RAY was in the Blytheville, Arkansas, area and knew that MARTIN was there, he would contact him.

FRANK JOSEPH GUINAN, currently incarcerated at the Missouri State Penitentiary, has number 09297. He recalls JAMES EARL RAY as an inmate and believes he was addicted to "Bennies" and amphetamine. RAY and NEAL AEBY, another inmate, were receiving this material at the Missouri State Penitentiary through a guard who was later transferred to one of the farms and subsequently fired for smuggling a watch into the prison farm.

GUINAN believes there was an elderly con, about 65 or 70 years of age, named JIMMY CARPENTER, who would have known RAY, but he never knew them to cell together.

STERLING JUNIOR HILL, 9104 Walnut, Kansas City, Missouri, was an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary at the same time that JAMES EARL RAY was incarcerated there. HILL worked in the prison hospital, becoming supervisor of nursing. He was never a close friend of RAY's but RAY would come into the hospital a few times on sick call.

Although he knew RAY to speak to, he never had an extended conversation and knew very little concerning his personal life or friends at the prison. He described him as a loner who always acted like he was troubled.

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TOR:mnr

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FLOYD EVANS HILL, California State Prison #B11112, is an inmate at this institution having been arrested June 1967 and having been in continual confinement since that time. He is presently serving a 6 month to 10 year sentence for grand theft of a pistol.

In November 1966 he arrived at the MSP to serve a sentence for another charge and remained there for about a month and a half. He knew a lot of inmates but upon viewing photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, he could not be sure of his recognition of this individual as having been one of his cellmates. The center photograph on the Wanted Flyer of JAMES EARL RAY resembles a man who worked in the wood shop at the Men's Institution Training Center, Moberly, where HILL remained for 6 months. This individual who resembled JAMES EARL RAY claimed to know quite a bit about safes, was to get out soon, wanted to score on safes in California, and go to Mexico to "cool it."

Other than this, he has no knowledge of the location of JAMES EARL RAY.



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TOR:LF

JOHN EDWARD JOHNSON, # 00876, Men's Training Center, Moberly, Missouri, knew JAMES EARL RAY when they were prisoners at the penitentiary. He never considered himself a close associate and last saw RAY in 1964. He never heard RAY make any antagonistic remarks concerning Negroes and never heard him mention Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

JOHNSON has no knowledge of any person who would be a close associate or confidant of RAY, nor does he know where RAY could be located.

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TOR/acp

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BILLY EDWARD MILES, Missouri State Penitentiary Number 02185, is serving a life sentence in the Missouri State Penitentiary, and said he was interviewed by reporters with the permission of Warden SWANSON and has been quoted without the use of his name about his knowledge of RAY,

He has known RAY since February 1961 and heard RAY mention he had a brother and sister.

No one was actually a "friend" of RAY's as he had no close friends, but the person nearest to this category is a former inmate named CARL DRAKE with whom RAY did get along quite well.

RAY was always looking for a means to escape and was considered by some of the inmates to be "crazy" for his attempts at escape.

He and RAY operated a book shop together at the prison and they made some money from this. They would sell and trade them for small amounts to the various inmates.

WALTER E. NOLAN has FBI No. 41847 and when interviewed by the St. Louis Division was extremely hostile. He remembered JAMES EARL RAY from being incarcerated with him at the Missouri State Penitentiary, but he knew nothing about RAY now and would not tell law enforcement officials any information he did have.

He denied having anything to do with the escape of RAY from the penitentiary and he said he had not seen RAY or been contacted by him since the escape.

NOLAN said that he knew RAY for ten years in prison and was aware of his planning to escape on three occasions, but had no knowledge as to the details or modus operandi. He considers himself the closest associate of RAY as an inmate and walked in the prison yard with him daily.

It is his opinion that RAY does not trust any convict and regards all as potential "stool pigeons," since RAY felt that two of his escape attempts had been thwarted by informants.

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NOLAN's conversations with RAY concerned their preparation of legal briefs in their attempt to gain freedom. RAY was quite interested in law if it concerned his case and spent extra money to purchase law books.

HOWARD NUNN has number 68889 and is an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary. He was in K Hall at the penitentiary during the time JAMES EARL RAY celled there in 1967, and at the time RAY escaped.

He did not work directly with RAY but did see him and spoke with him. He worked in the bakery on the day after RAY's escape but never heard any talk concerning this escape nor does he have any information as to the identity of any inmate who may have aided him in his escape.

He never heard RAY speak of any "bounty" for the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

RAY, in his conversations, did comment on New Orleans, Louisiana, and he got the impression that RAY had lived in New Orleans; however, he does not recall any specific comments concerning this city.

JAMES LOAMA OWENS was interviewed by the St. Louis Division and advised he met JAMES EARL RAY in 1959 at the St. Louis Rescue Mission as a friend of BLACKIE AUSTIN. When he met RAY he knew him as JIM O'CONNOR, but RAY used the names RYAN and RAY, always with the first name of JIM. He described him as a professional thief, specializing in robbery and burglary. He described RAY as a loner and thinker, but never a braggart. He liked cars and pistols and once demonstrated his marksmanship by hitting a can successively on a bounce. He is a moderate drinker of bourbon highballs, no beer. RAY's theory was that women were to use and forget and he preferred female street bums with no attachment to any female.

RAY once was seen with an older man named JACK GAWRON who, with AUSTIN, appeared to be his only close associate.

RAY once displayed \$1,000 in travelers checks and said he was going to Canada and the following month told OWENS that he had been to Canada. RAY also indicated at least a dozen trips to many parts of Mexico to cool off,

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mentioning Vera Cruz, Acapulco, Nogales, and Mexico City. He reportedly had to leave Mexico City when he struck a man in the head with a pistol as the man came at him with a knife.

OWENS learned from other inmates that RAY sold pills, believed to be bennies, and had a 3 for 2 loan business at the Missouri State Penitentiary where they were both incarcerated.

OWENS was in Menard Prison prior to the second escape attempt by JAMES EARL RAY. He last saw him at the Missouri State Penitentiary and has not contacted or corresponded with him since that time.

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TOR:ngm

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ROBERT LYNN POWELL, Doe Run, Missouri, was in prison at Jefferson City, Missouri, from January, 1967, to February, 1968, at which time he knew JAMES EARL RAY only slightly. They both had worked in food service in the prison.

He did not consider himself a friend of RAY's and did not know any background nor any information concerning RAY's escape.

He further advised that RAY's being somewhat of a loner resulted in no one being very close to him. POWELL had no idea of RAY's present whereabouts.

RAY PRUETT possesses Missouri State Penitentiary No. 2195 and is a Clerk in K Hall. He knew JAMES EARL RAY well and visited him on occasion in the hall of the Missouri State Penitentiary. He considered him a "neighbor."

RAY had no ill feelings toward the Negro race and had no abnormal sexual habits.

He first met RAY in St. Louis about 1959 and knew him all of the time they were in the penitentiary except for a brief period when he PRUETT, was on parole.

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TOR:ngm

2

RAY is a very quiet individual, always interested in escaping, and caused no one any trouble. He did not consider RAY to be the type who would kill Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

He could furnish no information concerning the possible whereabouts of RAY and had no information concerning who might have aided him in his escape from prison.

JAMES EDWARD "TED" RICHMOND, Missouri State Penitentiary No. 19622, is currently employed on South Jefferson Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

He entered the Missouri State Penitentiary on a murder charge from Trenton, Missouri, in May, 1935. The sentence was later commuted and he was released in March, 1955.

He describes JAMES EARL RAY as one of the "nuts" or "cowboys" who according to RICHMOND were small time hoodlums who would be involved in most any type of petty thievery going on inside the institution.

He knew RAY casually since he worked more than 20 years in the hospital of the penitentiary. RAY was one of the inmates who did use narcotics or medicine of any kind whenever obtainable, and he was most frequently with RAY upon the occasions of RAY's reporting to the hospital for sick call.

He has no knowledge of RAY's present whereabouts or anyone who would be able to furnish such information.

DONALD DEAN RIGGER possesses number 02938, Missouri Training School for Men, Moberly, Missouri, and had been an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary from December, 1957, through August, 1967. He worked in the kitchen there with JAMES EARL RAY.

RIGGER stated that prior to his apprehension he had jumped bond and had been in Mexico. When he received mail from Mexico at the penitentiary RAY asked him questions concerning the economy there. He was particularly interested in the Mexican Army structure. RAY explained that it was generally understood by inmates that if they could get into the Mexican Army they could effectively lose their identity.

RIGGER felt that the closest individual to RAY in the penitentiary was DONALD JOHNSON, who is still at the Missouri State Penitentiary.

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TOR:ngm

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JAMES R. RUSSELL, inmate, Missouri Training School for Men, advised that he had been committed to the Missouri State Penitentiary in November of 1965 and remained there until January of 1966. In February, 1967, he was released but in June returned to the penitentiary as a parole violator. He celled with ROBERT POWELL.

He knew JAMES EARL RAY by reputation only, but not personally, since he was in the prison kitchen and worked with RAY and POWELL. He stated that it was because of RAY's escape that prison officials cut down the size of the boxes used to hold bread transferred from the main kitchen.

GEORGE WILLIAM RUSSELL, currently a salesman at Houston, Texas, advised that although he was an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary during JAMES EARL RAY's incarceration he did not know him.

He had no knowledge as to RAY's current location or friends.

ORLAN EUGENE ROSE, inmate No. T3723, Missouri State Penitentiary, was incarcerated there in 1958.

He first met JAMES EARL RAY in jail at Kansas City, Missouri, in 1955 and celled with him and WALTER RIFE prior to the time that all three went to Leavenworth, Kansas. Although RIFE may have been a homosexual as he liked to fool around with young boys, RAY gave no indication of abnormal sexual behavior.

RAY would follow baseball. RAY did not associate with more than five men in the penitentiary. He used amphetamines when he could get them and he paid from \$2 to \$5 a shot. He did not get into debt and did not gamble.

He described RAY as "tight" with his money and could not imagine him spending money for dancing lessons or leaving a gun behind because of this characteristic.

He has no knowledge of RAY's present whereabouts nor any additional associates.

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TOR:cjs

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HAROLD DEAN KLEMP, an inmate at Folsom State Penitentiary, Folsom, California, had met RAY through RAY's crime partner, JAMES "SHORTIE" OWENS. He and OWENS had been cell mates from October, 1961, to December, 1964, at the Missouri State Penitentiary and it was at this time that he met RAY.

He described RAY as a quiet, close-mouthed, even-tempered individual who minded his own business and a person people would not remember unless they had direct dealings with him.

RAY's mind was consumed with the idea of escape and he, KLEMP, did not think in his own mind that after escaping from prison he would be so stupid as to shoot a "big wig like KING".

KLEMP had no idea as to RAY's current location or anyone who associated with him.

FRANK MAYBERRY, #13763, Moberly, Missouri Men's Training Center, was only in the Missouri State Penitentiary from 1962 until 1963 when he was paroled. He is unable to recall ever seeing or hearing anything about JAMES EARL RAY until after the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

He was unable to suggest the identity of any individual who might have been closely associated with RAY and he had no information concerning RAY's whereabouts.

HARRY SERO resides at 295 North McNeil, Memphis, Tennessee, and was formerly in Missouri State Penitentiary and had number 01903J. He became friendly with JAMES EARL RAY during the period of February - June, 1964, while incarcerated in "B" Block at the Missouri State Penitentiary. He also became acquainted with another inmate, RAYMOND CURTIS, who recently has talked to newspaper reporters concerning his association with RAY.

SERO can recall making the statement in the presence of RAY and CURTIS, as well as other inmates, that while he, SERO, had been in Memphis, Tennessee, an unknown individual had speculated that if MARTIN LUTHER KING ever attempted an economic boycott in the City of Memphis it would



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be worth a large amount of money to Memphis businessmen to have KING killed. This conversation had taken place in his, SERO's, presence in Memphis but it was mere speculation and had no basis in fact. This conversation was related to his prison mates but he had no intention of implying that any person or group of persons had or was contemplating placing a bounty on MARTIN LUTHER KING.

It was his recollection that RAY had a great dislike for Negroes and although he would not describe him as a "loner", he would say RAY did not know how to make friends or how to mix with other people. RAY was a regular user of amphetamines in prison but he did not believe RAY used any other narcotics.

He did not believe RAY had any important criminal connections and he had no idea where RAY might presently be. He has not heard from RAY since he left the Missouri State Penitentiary.

IVAN DALE UNDERWOOD, former Missouri State Penitentiary inmate, was interviewed by the St. Louis Division. He stated he was not acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY while at the penitentiary but upon viewing his photograph he believed RAY to be identical with an individual who worked with RALPH RENFRO for a short period during the late 1950's at Joplin, Missouri. RENFRO carried on a furnace and heating business and would also "finger" residences and business establishments in the Joplin area. Under the pretext of a free inspection of the premises, RAY would gain entrance to case the place for a possible robbery or burglary or, if the owner appeared gullible, would attempt to sell a new heating outfit.

UNDERWOOD knew RAY only through their mutual association with RENFRO and has no knowledge as to RAY's present whereabouts or close associates.

JAMES D. WALLACE, inmate #75682, Missouri State Penitentiary, stated he was raised with JIMMY OWENS who was arrested with JAMES EARL RAY prior to his incarceration at the penitentiary. WALLACE, himself, was in the penitentiary from 1959 until he was paroled in 1965 and was again returned to the penitentiary in March, 1968. Last summer, 1967, month unknown, he was coming out of the Jefferson Gravois Bank,

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St. Louis, Missouri, at which time he saw JIMMY OWENS and JAMES EARL RAY coming into the bank. He told them he was glad he got his money out before they got there. They, in turn, told him they were putting money in the bank.

WALLACE stated he had no further conversation with them and has not seen them since that time.

(It should be noted that BETTY WALLACE, wife of JAMES WALLACE, when interviewed, advised she had received a letter from her husband dated April 25, 1968, stating in part, "I guess you should remember the one guy that we met that time at the bank. He's the one that they are trying to rap that King death on". She was unable to recall the incident to which he referred. It is further noted that JAMES WALLACE was interviewed May 14, 1968, almost a month after he wrote the above-mentioned letter.)

JERRY WAYNE WHITE, Missouri State Penitentiary # 10743, is a native of the state of Georgia and is due to be released soon to a Federal Detainer filed against him.

In 1965 he worked in the kitchen at the Missouri State Penitentiary at which time RAY was pushing a food cart to the hospital. He stated he probably did not ever speak to him and does not recall having heard RAY speak. He has no information about RAY, his plans, or his possible whereabouts.

NEAL EDGAR AEBY was interviewed at the Ramsey Unit, Texas State Department of Corrections, Houston, Texas. He advised he and JAMES EARL RAY had been inmates at the Missouri State Penitentiary for about five years. He and RAY handled minor narcotics in order to get money for commissary items.

AEBY was the chief cook at the penitentiary and RAY worked as a slicer in the bread room.

AEBY refused to discuss any of the facts concerning RAY's 1967 escape since the escape route was probably still in use.

He stated RAY had a bad stomach which necessitated his eating special foods, which AEBY, on numerous occasions, would prepare. This included eggs for which RAY was very partial.

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4

While at the Missouri State Penitentiary RAY quit smoking.

RAY enjoyed tinkering with mechanical things, had built an air-conditioner out of spare parts for his prison cell, and was handy in the repair of radios, parts for which he would obtain from the penitentiary machine shop.

AEBY stated he would in no way render assistance to aid in the capture of RAY.

BOBBY FRED ASHE, Missouri State Penitentiary # 01562, knew JAMES EARL RAY at the penitentiary but was not too well acquainted with him. He stated no one was well acquainted with RAY as he was a quiet individual. He never knew RAY to express strong opinions on any subject, including racial matters, and he never heard of a bounty mentioned in connection with Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

ASHE did not feel that RAY was involved in the sale of amphetamines or "pills", or to operate or play in poker games.

JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN advised he is 69 years of age and he knew JAMES EARL RAY for about 6 months during 1959. He and RAY robbed a supermarket at Alton, Illinois, which was the only score they pulled together. He claimed RAY cheated him, AUSTIN, of his part of the loot from the robbery.

AUSTIN was unaware that RAY had escaped from prison or that he was being sought in the slaying of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA is an inmate of the Cobb County Jail, Marietta, Georgia, and was formerly incarcerated at the Missouri State Penitentiary. He was acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY for approximately three years. DOWDA was the chief cook at the prison during this time and RAY worked as a bread slicer.

He described RAY as an avid reader who participated in softball games as a pitcher and would watch all the baseball games at the prison.

In 1966, a group of Black Muslims petitioned for the right to have their own religious services and a subsequent

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search recovered weapons in their possession. This was followed by white prisoners arming themselves which in turn was followed by a riot. Three Negro prisoners were killed and, in his opinion, if RAY did not knife them himself he would know who did knife them. RAY was a racist and hated Negroes.

RAY often talked of going to the Lake of the Ozarks when he got out of prison. RAY was particularly interested in Western Music and a number of orchestras from the Lake of the Ozarks had played at the penitentiary.

DOWDA stated RAY's dope habit was costing him from \$35 to \$40 per week for shots and he appeared to be well fixed and never wanting for anything. While in prison he used amphetamines which he took in shots in the "main line" and he had known RAY to give free amphetamines to prisoners who needed a shot.

NEAL AEBY was RAY's closest friend in the Missouri State Penitentiary and was responsible for bringing RAY in to the kitchen. AEBY, at this time, was chief cook.

DOWDA claimed he had not been contacted by RAY and had heard nothing to indicate RAY had attempted to contact him. RAY had talked about traveling all over the United States but never mentioned anything to indicate RAY was associated with anyone in the Atlanta, Georgia area.

JAMES C. FLETCHER, #72071 of the Missouri Training School for Men, had been in the Missouri State Penitentiary at the same time JAMES EARL RAY was there and he knew him from going back and forth to the dining room to eat. Everyone knew JAMES EARL RAY by his reputation as he had attempted to escape several times.

FLETCHER reported RAY missing at the time of his April, 1967, escape to Lt. BILLY TURNER. It was rumored at the time that RAY was going to the State of Georgia if he was successful in his escape.

FLETCHER had no knowledge or information concerning RAY's current location nor had he been contacted by RAY since his escape.

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TOR:LF

ORVILLE ERNEST GANN was located at Dismas House, St. Louis, Missouri, at which time he advised his last Missouri State Penitentiary number was 69729. He first entered the penitentiary in August 1926 on a four-year sentence for burglary, re-entered the penitentiary in April 1931 on a 25-year sentence for murder, and the third time in April 1955 for a 20-year sentence for armed robbery. He was released on parole on April 9, 1968.

GANN knew JAMES EARL RAY casually while both were inmates at the penitentiary. During the period of this casual acquaintance, they had some slight association in the yard and personal association based on the fact that RAY worked on the food detail and sometimes served special dishes to GANN while GANN reciprocated by giving RAY special consideration in connection with his laundry service, since GANN was assigned to the laundry. He considered RAY to be a neat individual and clean.

Close associates of RAY at the penitentiary were identified to be CARL DRAKE, a tinner, and TED RICHARDSON.

At the time of RAY's escape, GANN was not confined at Jefferson City but was on the honor farm at Springfield, Missouri. He has no knowledge of where RAY would be now or whom he would seek out once he had escaped.

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JOHN KENNETH HURTT is an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary, having number 75502. In 1966 he celled in the same hall at the Missouri State Penitentiary as did JAMES EARL RAY for two or three weeks. He was not close to RAY and knows of no close associates of RAY.

RAY was always "planning an escape" but HURTT does not know who helped RAY escape in April 1967, if anyone did help him.

He never heard RAY mention a bounty on the life of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, nor did he ever hear anything from RAY to indicate one way or the other his feelings toward the Negro race.

In return for sending about a \$15 money order to a stationery company under the pretext of ordering some paper, all done at the direction of RAY, he (HURTT) was given cigarettes in return by RAY for accomplishing this feat. RAY was always talking about the man who owned the stationery company, and it is this person whom HURTT thought RAY said lived in Kansas City. The name it was directed to he believes was PEPPER. The paper never came and when he asked RAY about delivery RAY told him the paper would be delivered directly to RAY.

HURTT further advised that he never heard of "COOLEY's Organization" and he has been in the Missouri State Penitentiary for the past 15 years. He also has no information to indicate RAY was involved with the sale of amphetamine in the penitentiary.

DONALD JOHNSON, Missouri State Penitentiary inmate 19987, believes that when he was in the penitentiary during the 1960-1966 era he believes he may have known who RAY was during that time but was not associated or acquainted with him personally.

He returned to the Missouri State Penitentiary in February 1967 and worked in the bread room of the penitentiary in the early part of the year and he was working the morning shift during the time RAY escaped.

He does not know whether or not another inmate aided RAY in his escape and he does not subscribe to the theory that RAY escaped in the bread box being delivered to one of the prison farms. He (JOHNSON) personally loaded

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the bread into the wooden bread box and took it down the elevator operated by an inmate to the dock and assisted in placing the box on the truck.

JOHNSON denied having knowledge of any plan by JAMES EARL RAY to escape and had no knowledge as to his possible whereabouts.

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JOHN PAUL VELANTI, South 18th Street, St. Louis, Missouri, was in the Missouri State Penitentiary from February, 1960, to December, 1964. He does not believe he was ever housed in the same hall as RAY and therefore was not that familiar with him.

He described RAY as a quiet type, seldom noticed. RAY did not gamble or play sports or do anything to attract attention to himself.

He recalls RAY's face from having seen him at the penitentiary. RAY's escape attempts attracted no attention to RAY as there were frequent such attempts by numerous inmates.

He has no knowledge of RAY's present whereabouts.

When reinterviewed, VELANTI admitted he ran a poker game and lottery at the penitentiary, having numerous inmates working for him. He knew all of them personally, but JAMES EARL RAY never worked for him.

KENNETH LEE WADE, FBI number [REDACTED] currently incarcerated San Quentin Penitentiary advised he was confined to the Missouri State Penitentiary from 1958 through 1965 on a robbery charge. He knew JAMES EARL RAY from about 1960 until 1965. RAY came to the Missouri State Penitentiary with a man by the name of RAY PRUETT and they were "fall partners." WADE meant that he, WADE, and PRUETT were convicted at the same time, but PRUETT fought the conviction and did not enter the penitentiary until a later date and the entrance was timed with that of RAY.

The three of them lived in "K Hall" and RAY and WADE worked in the prison bakery.

RAY, PRUETT, WADE, BOBBY BURNS and GLEN SHURNICK (phonetic), were selling amphetamine and other stimulants to the inmates.



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WADE estimates that the five of them made about \$1,000 a month or more selling these pills each month. They paid a guard \$100 to bring the jar in and after expenses cleared, about \$1,000.

RAY had a friend who sent him narcotics, but WADE did not know any more about this matter.

He described RAY as closed mouth who never discussed with anyone and would not discuss any ideas or plans he had about escaping.

He stated RAY does not like Negroes and was capable of killing Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

PRUETT, who was a cell block mate, worked in the library and would bring books to RAY, who liked to read about foreign countries.

BURNS and SHURNICK each got 75 years so they are still in the Missouri State Penitentiary.

Money earned in the penitentiary could either be in currency and/or script, such as commissary chits. Money could be sent out by guards who were bribed by the prisoners to act as couriers involving items leaving or entering the prison, but WADE would not identify any guard as he still might be in use by the present penitentiary inmates. RAY would earn \$1.50 per month from his bakery work and \$15 or \$20 a month would be furnished to RAY by friends or the family outside of the prison for his personal use in purchasing commissary items.

WADE did not know how RAY handled his prison earnings.

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MILTON ZAVALCOFSKI, Moberly Training Center for Men, #01658, served from November 1960 until April 1968 at the Missouri State Penitentiary as a portion of his 20 year sentence for armed robbery. Subsequently he was transferred to his current place of confinement.

He knew JAMES EARL RAY as an inmate and remembers his hiding in the penitentiary as well as his escape.

He could furnish no information concerning his present whereabouts or close associates.

U. S. PENITENTIARY, LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

CHARLES CALVIN BOOKMAN possesses FBI [REDACTED] and resides in Room 201, Belmont Apartments, 948 South Figueroa, South Los Angeles.

BOOKMAN served time at Leavenworth with JAMES EARL RAY, becoming acquainted during the latter part of 1956 when both were in the kitchen of the trusty farm. He believes RAY was from the Biloxi - Gulfport, Mississippi, area and was able to pilot an airplane.

In August 1967 BOOKMAN returned to Los Angeles, California, from a trip and met JAMES EARL RAY at the Amber Room, Figueroa Hotel, Los Angeles. He estimated this to be August 12, 1967. RAY went with him to his room in the Belmont Apartments and he did not hear again from him until April 19, 1968, at around noon or 4:00 P.M. when he received a telephone call and states the person calling was JAMES EARL RAY.

Interview of BOOKMAN contained many inconsistencies and conflicts in his story and therefore no credibility could be given to the alleged phone call received by him from JAMES EARL RAY.

BOOKMAN has stated that he will contact the FBI should he again hear from JAMES EARL RAY.

The substance of the telephone call allegedly received from JAMES EARL RAY on April 19, 1968, was that he was "hotter than a cow marshal's pistol" and made a request of BOOKMAN for money, which was denied.