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SL 44-775
HRD/leh

RE: SUSPECT ERNEST SUMPTER GAULT

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by SA JACK A. FRENCH, on April 11, 1968:

Mr. LOUIS F. CLOVIS, Official of the Seafarers International and Inland Boatmen's Union, 805 Delmar, St. Louis, Missouri, advised that a thorough search of the records of his union failed to disclose any record for an individual named E.S. GAULT. Mr. CLOVIS stated he was not acquainted with any person by that name.

Mr. BARRY WILSON, Official of the National Maritime Union, 203 $\frac{1}{2}$ North 7th Street, St. Louis, Missouri, advised that an ERNEST S. GAULT, born [redacted] in Arkansas, had been employed during the early 1950s with Inland Waterways Corporation, which was commonly referred to as the Federal Barge Lines, in the St. Louis, Missouri, area. His records disclose that ERNEST GAULT has Z959231-01. His residence as of 1953 was indicated as 1911 West 18th Street, North Little Rock, Arkansas. No social security number for him appeared in the file.

Mr. WILSON stated he was not acquainted with GAULT and had no additional information concerning him.

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SL 44-775
EJM/leh

RE: SUSPECT ERNEST SUMPTER GALT

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

A review on April 12, 1968, of the personnel records, National Personnel Records Center (Civilian Personnel Records), St. Louis, Missouri, by IC EDWARD J. MERGEN, indicated that ERNEST SUMPTER GAULT, (also shown as EARNEST), was employed on March 18, 1942, as a Hospital Attendant with the Veterans Administration, at North Little Rock, Arkansas. This employment was terminated on July 13, 1942, as a Hospital Attendant, by reason of termination for failure to report for duty.

He was employed on December 5, 1947, as a Hospital Attendant (Mental) with the Veterans Administration, Veterans Administration Hospital, Ward, at North Little Rock, Arkansas. Effective October 14, 1948, he was suspended for a period of five days for making a false statement. This employment was terminated on August 12, 1949, as a Hospital Attendant (Mental), by reason or resignation because of leaving the State of Arkansas due to illness in the family.

He was employed on December 13, 1951, as a Deckhand, when actually employed, with the Department of Commerce, Inland Waterways Corporation, Federal Barge Lines, Marine Division, St. Louis, Missouri. This employment was terminated on January 28, 1952, as a Deckhand because of separation for abandonment of position - failed to return from authorized leave.

He was employed on March 4, 1952, as a Deckhand, when actually employed with the Department of Commerce, Inland Waterways Corporation, Federal Barge Lines, Marine Division at St. Louis, Missouri. This employment was terminated on July 21, 1952, as a Deckhand by reason of separation for abandonment of position - failed to return from authorized leave.

He was employed on May 25, 1953, as a Deckhand, when actually employed, with the Department of Commerce, Inland Waterways Corporation, Federal Barge Lines, Marine Division, St. Louis, Missouri. This employment was terminated on October 19, 1953, as a Deckhand, by reason of reduction in force "Action taken because of sale of Barge Lines necessitating abolishment of all positions in commuting area in accordance with provisions of an Act of Congress..."

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The record contained a letter, marked CONFIDENTIAL, dated September 27, 1948, from the Civil Service Commission, to the Deputy Administration, Veterans Administration Branch Office #9, 420 Locust Street, St. Louis, Missouri, which is quoted as follows:

"Dear Sir:

"Reference is made to the case of ERNEST SUMPTER GAULT born [redacted] at Danville, Arkansas, who was probationally appointed subject to investigation, to the position of Hospital Attendant (Mental), at the Veterans Administration Hospital, North Little Rock, Arkansas, effective 12/5/47.

"Mr. Gault's case has been processed under Executive order No. 9835, Part 1, Section 3, and the information developed was favorable with the following exception: In his application dated December 5, 1947, Mr. Gault denied ever having been convicted, fined, imprisoned, placed on probation, or ordered to deposit bail, for the violation of any law, police regulation or ordinance (exclusive of minor traffic violations for which a fine of \$25.00 or less was imposed) since his sixteenth birthday. Information has been received by the Commission indicating that Mr. Gault has been arrested, since his sixteenth birthday as follows:

January 15, 1938, by the Police Department, Little Rock, Arkansas, for burglary and two (2) counts of Grand larceny. Turned over to Juvenile Court. No disposition shown.

July 20, 1939, by the State Police, Little Rock, Arkansas, for investigation. No disposition shown.

October 11, 1939, by the Police Department, Little Rock, Arkansas, for petit larceny. Discharge.

July 15, 1941, by the Police Department, Little Rock, Arkansas, for assault and battery. Discharged.

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" January 24, 1947, by the Police Department, Saginaw, Michigan, for desertion. Placed on probation for ninety (90) days and required to pay \$3.75 costs.

"On August 18, 1948, this office called Mr. Gault's attention to the discrepancies in his application and requested an explanation. On August 26, 1948, he replied to our letter and admitted that he had intentionally falsified his application with respect to his arrest record. He stated he deliberately concealed the information to avoid having 'it all come out again.'

"In 1942, in connection with a prior period of employment at the Veterans Administration Hospital, North Little Rock Arkansas, this employee failed to admit his entire arrest record. The matter was called to the attention of the hospital authorities who decided no action should be taken against him and he was retained in the service. He subsequently voluntarily resigned.

"Inasmuch as this is the second occasion that this matter has been called to the attention of this employee, you are instructed to suspend him from duty and pay for a period of five (5) consecutive working days...."

The following background and descriptive information was contained in the record:

Date and place of birth	[redacted] at Danville, Arkansas
Height	5'7"
Weight	145
Education	9th grade
Addresses	317 E. 15th, Little Rock, Arkansas (March, 1942) (May, 1947) 706 West 24th Street, North Little Rock, Arkansas (October, 1947)

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1911 West 18th Street,
North Little Rock,
Arkansas (December, 1951)

119 Cornell Street, Route 41,
Saginaw, Michigan (August,
1949)

Military Service

United States Army,
August 25, 1942, to
January 2, 1946, serial
number 38 212 167, Company
E, 357th Infantry, 90th
Division

Employments

DELBERT MOUDY, farmer,
Bellville, Arkansas (1946
to January, 1951)
C.W. GALLAWAY, Detroit,
Michigan (January, 1951,
to June 1951)
State Hospital, Little Rock,
Arkansas (June, 1951, to
December, 1951)
Chevrolet Foundry, Saginaw,
Michigan, Supervisor,
FLOYD PARKER, April, 1946,
to January, 1947.
Western Union, dates and
city unknown.
Rainwater Grocery, city
and dates unknown.
Standard Ice Company,
North Little Rock, Arkansas,
July 12, 1941, to October 15,
1941.

Relatives

Mrs. LULA "GAULD", 1911 West
18th, North Little Rock,
Arkansas, December, 1951, in
1942 he listed her maiden
name as CAMPRELL.

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Father, W.O. GAULT, 317 East 15th Street, Little Rock, Arkansas (1942);
Wife, FLORENCE H. GAULT, 706 West 24th, North Little Rock, Arkansas (December, 1947)
HARRY GAULT, United States Army, 1942;
EVART HOFFMAN, father-in-law, 119 Cornell, Route 41, Saginaw, Michigan (1947)
ROY NELSON, brother-in-law, 706 West 24th Street, North Little Rock, Arkansas, (1947);
Mrs. LORRAINE CARTER, sister-in-law, 305 South Jefferson, Route 41, Saginaw, Michigan, (She stated she worked with him at Consumers Power Company, Milwaukee, Michigan, February 8, 1947, to March 1, 1947, and states she "chummed" with him).

References

B. HOLDEN, State Hospital, Little Rock, Arkansas (December, 1951)
Mr. STALEY, State Hospital, Little Rock, Arkansas (December, 1951)
LEROY GARNER, 2311 West 14th Street, Little Rock, Arkansas (December, 1951)
JUDE SMITH, #3 Fire Station, North Little Rock, Arkansas, (May, 1947)
J.R. SPOON, SR., 1711 Chandler Street, North Little Rock, Arkansas (May, 1947)
None available

Photograph
Social Security Number

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On application for Federal employment he listed employment with Camp Joseph T. Robinson, North Little Rock, Arkansas, April 8, 1941, to July 10, 1941, as a waiter in the mess hall, however, personnel of this center were unable to locate such a record.

The record indicated that he was a student with the National Youth Administration, June, 1939, to September, 1939, taking a course in Welding. Personnel of this center advised that they could locate no records for this and stated that he was probably employed as a youth worker and these records have been destroyed per congressional authority.

A review of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) records indicated that ERNEST SUMPTER GAULT was enrolled in the CCC on April 8, 1940, at Little Rock, Arkansas, and was assigned to a CCC Camp at Pierce, Idaho, performing Blister Rust Control Work. He was honorably discharged on September 23, 1940, at Little Rock, Arkansas, by reason of expiration of term of enrollment.

The CCC Records listed the following background and descriptive information:

Born	[REDACTED] at Dan-
	ville, Arkansas
Height	5'10"
Weight	133
Race	Caucasian
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Gray
Relatives	WILLIAM OSCAR GAULT, father, and LULA EMMA GAULT, mother both residing 317 East 15th Street, Little Rock, Arkansas
Address	Same as parents
Employments	J.D. PIKE, as a trucker, at Little Rock, Arkansas (prior to April, 1940)
Photograph	None available

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The CCC records also indicated that he worked for a contractor at a CCC Camp in Arkansas, during November, 1939, however, no further information was shown.

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RE: SUSPECT ERNEST SUMPTER GAULT

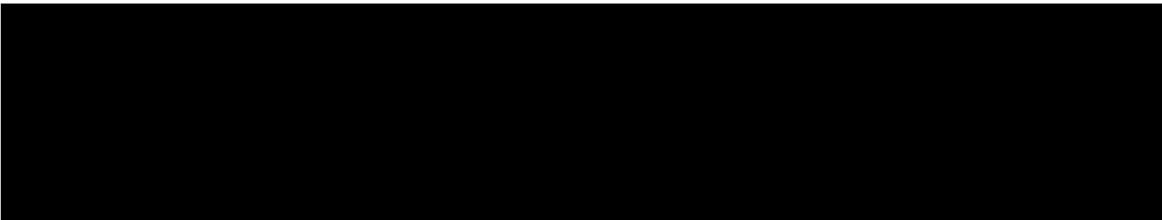
AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

A review of the Army service records on file at the Military Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri, on April 15, 1968, by IC EARL M. RANEY for ERNEST SUMPTER GAULT, Army serial number 38212167, disclosed he was inducted August 11, 1942, at Little Rock, Arkansas, and entered on active duty on August 25, 1942, at Camp Robinsin, Arkansas. He was thereafter honorably discharged at Jefferson Barracks,

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Missouri, on January 2, 1946. He served in the Enlisted Reserve Corps from January 3, 1946, to an honorably discharge on January 2, 1949. He reenlisted in the Enlisted Reserve Corps May 9, 1949, and was called to active duty on November 8, 1950, and he thereafter received an undesirable discharge on August 28, 1951, as a Private at Fort Bliss, Texas, because of unfitness due to undesirable traits of character.



While in service, he received six Summary and one Special Courts-Martial. He spent one year, five months and twentysix days foreign service. Among his decorations was the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster.

His description from both his civilian personnel and Army service records is as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Born	at Danville, Arkansas
Height	5'8"
Weight	145 pounds
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Gray
Scars	2" scar on left forearm;
Education	9th Grade
Social Security Number	
Veterans Administration Claim Number	C-6886995, filed at the Veterans Administration Regional Office, New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1956
Parents	WILLIAM O. and LULA GAULT, 709 West 24th Street, North Little Rock, Arkansas

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Sister

CLEO, residing at 1911
West 18th Street, North
Little Rock, Arkansas

He was divorced at the time of his Army entrance
and subsequently married one FLORENCE HOFFMAN of Saginaw,
Michigan, on February 21, 1944, at Lawton, Oklahoma.

Father-in-Law

EVART HOFFMAN,
Route 41, Saginaw,
Michigan

Sister-in-Law

LORRAINE E. CARTER,
305 South Jefferson,
Route 41, Saginaw,
Michigan

Residences

1911 West 18th Street,
North Little Rock,
Arkansas; (1956);
Post Office Box 534,
Jessups, Maryland, 1959;
401 East Eager, Baltimore,
Maryland, May, 1962;
None appeared in file.

Photograph

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HRD: amb

RE: SUSPECT, ERNEST SUMPTER GAULT

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

Personnel at the Veterans Administration Records Processing Center, St. Louis, Missouri, advised IC JOHN D. DYER, JR. on April 15, 1968, their records failed to contain a claim file for ERNEST SUMPTER GAULT under Veterans Administration Claim #C6886995.

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RE: SUSPECT ERNEST SUMPTER GAULT
FBI Number 144 0493

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

By communication received April 17, 1968, the Identification Division of the FBI advised that the remaining unidentified latent fingerprints and latent impression in this case were not identical with the fingerprints of ERNEST SUMPTER GAULT, Army service number 38212167, FBI Number 144 0493.

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HRD: amb

RE: SUSPECT, ERNEST SUMPTER GAULT

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

The following investigation was conducted by SA
RICHARD T. HRADSKY on April 18, 1968:

Mr. J. C. GAULT, also known as JAMES C. GAULT, Mac Arthur Hotel, 100 North Broadway, St. Louis, Missouri, advised that he is employed as a vendor by Missouri Sport Service, Inc., 350 Stadium Plaza, St. Louis, Missouri, and that his Social Security Number is [REDACTED]. He stated that he has not seen or heard from his brother, ERNEST SUMPTER GAULT, since 1958, that his whereabouts at this time are unknown to him.

He stated that in 1958, his brother telephonically advised him he was a seaman shipping out of Boston, Massachusetts. He did not know where his brother was then residing or by whom he was employed.

He stated his brother spent approximately one month in St. Louis in about 1952, when he was on vacation and that he stayed at his apartment.

He stated he did not know any friends of his brother and was not aware of whether or not his brother corresponded with any of the relatives in Little Rock, Arkansas. He suggested contact with his own son, BILLY GAULT, who resides on Sinora Drive in North Little Rock, Arkansas, and is employed by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company there, for information as to the location of other members of the family.

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JEROME WALLIS VERNON

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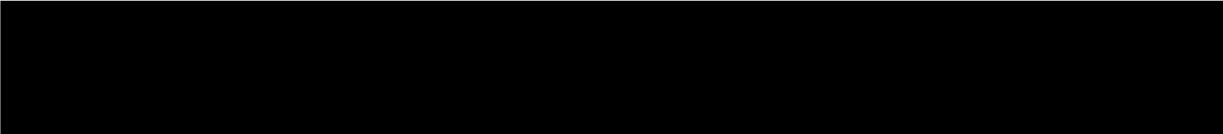
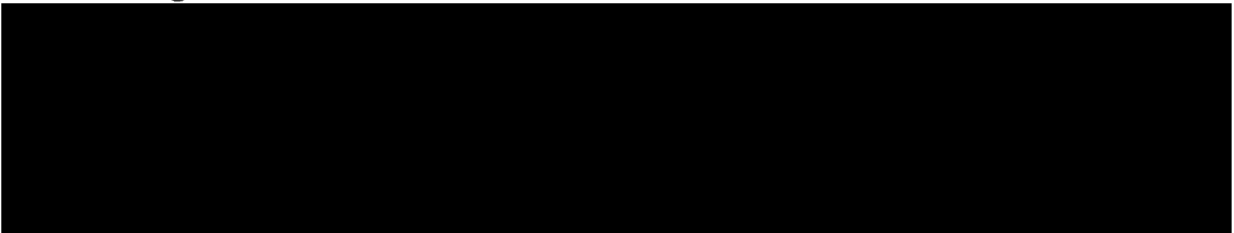
SL 44-775
HRD/leh

RE: SUSPECT JEROME WALLIS VERNON, also known as
J. WALLIS VERNON - ARMY AND AIR FORCE RECORDS

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

The following reviews were made by IC EARL M. RANEY
on April 11, 1968:

Review of the Army records on file at the Military Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri, disclose that J. WALLIS VERNON, Army serial number 19464736, enlisted in the United States Army at Los Angeles, California, and served from February 6, 1953, to September 4, 1954, and he received an Undesirable Discharge on the latter date as a Private at Fort Ord, California, due to unfitness, habit of character rendering retention undesirable.



The following disciplinary actions were noted:

Special Court-Martial June 19, 1953, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, for absence without official leave, from May 2-6, 1953, and May 6-9, 1953. Received fifteen days restriction and forfeiture of \$64 pay.

Special Court-Martial December 16, 1953, Camp Carson, Colorado, for absence without official leave, from July 6, 1953, to October 25, 1953. He was sentenced to three months confinement at hard labor and forfeiture of \$150 of his pay.

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Special Court-Martial, July 14, 1954, at Fort Ord, California, for absence without official leave from May 17, 1954, to June 21, 1954. He was sentenced to three months confinement at hard labor a forfeiture of \$165 of his pay.

His assignments were shown as Fort Ord, California; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Camp Carson, Colorado; Fort Lewis, Washington; Las Vegas, Nevada, (surrendered to military authorities at Nellis Air Force Base, June 27, 1954); Camp Irwin, California; Lackland Air Force Base, Texas; Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas; Mather Air Force Base, California; and Travis Air Force Base, California.

A review on the same date of the Air Force Service Record of JEROME WALLIS VERNON, Air Force Service Number 19707383, disclosed he enlisted and served in the United States Air Force from August 18, 1961, to March 26, 1964. He was honorably discharged on the latter date as an Airman Basic, by reason of physical disability, diagnosed at the United States Air Force Hospital, Travis Air Force Base, California, by a Medical Board Report dated February 17, 1964, as follows:

[REDACTED]

The records revealed that on April 3, 1963, at Mather Air Force Base, California, VERNON [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This record showed VERNON was a deserter and was apprehended by FBI Agents, October 18, 1963, at Las Vegas, Nevada.

No associates were identified in the service record.

He received the following disciplinary actions while in the Air Force:

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February 26, 1963, reduced from Airman Second Class to Airman Third Class, events not shown.

April 10, 1963, reduced to Airman Basic, warranted 45 days extra duty as commanding officer punishment for disorderly conduct on March 31, 1963, at Non-Commissioned Officers open mess, Mather Air Force Base, California.

Summary Court-Martial, July 18, 1963, at Mather Air Force Base for being disorderly in a station and damaging military property as well as Pacific Telephone Company property. He was sentenced to be reduced to Airman Basic and given 30 restriction.

The following background information concerning him appeared in the files:

Born

[REDACTED]
Pampa, Texas

Height

69" - 6'

Weight

175 pounds - 190 pounds

Race

White

Hair

Brown

Eyes

Brown

Complexion

Fair

Scars and marks

Tattoo on left arm;
Mole on left cheek.

Marital Status records indicate he had two wives at one time and that this condition existed prior to his Air Force service. It was indicated he met a girl in Texas, and impregnated her and married her while still legally married to his first wife. The first marriage took place September 19, 1955, and the second on March 19, 1962. He had four children by his first marriage and one by his second marriage.

His education was shown as three years high school at John Brown High School, Solom Springs, Arizona, 1953.

Civilian Occupations

Roofer helper for Percy F. Dennett, Whittier, California, 1950-1952
He was also employed by Baron Brothers, 4107 Franklin Boulevard, Sacramento,

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Military Occupations

California, dates not indicated.

Light Weapons Infantryman, and Aircraft mechanic reciprocating engines

The record indicated he attended a course in reciprocating engines at Sheppard Air Force Base, September, 1961, to February, 1962.

Residence address were given at 785 North Skiland Drive, Sierra Madre (Los Angeles County), California, February, 1953; 3009 West 8th Street, Los Angeles, California, September, 1954; 3103 Carly Way, Sacramento, California, August, 1961.

Relatives were listed as Father, JAMES MACK VERNON and mother, BONNIE LASSIE VERNON, 3103 Carly Way, Sacramento, California; Brother, JOE E. VERNON, Mayflower Street, Monrovia, California, August, 1963; Ex-wife, LORRAINE M. VERNON, 3040 East Meadow Lane, Visalia, California, August, 1963, and 1215 West Goshen Avenue, Sierra Madre, California, February, 1963; Wife, DIANNE VERNON, 8179 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento, California, August, 1963. It was indicated he has FBI Number 743 226 B.

The records indicate he qualified as an expert with the M-1 rifle.

Social Security Number is His Selective Service Number was 49135486 with Local Draft Board Number 91 at Pasadena, California.

No photograph appeared in the files.

JCO

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JAMES EARL RAY

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JAD:klr

Re: JAMES EARL RAY
NEIGHBORHOOD

AT EWING, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent JAMES A. DUFFEY:

Mr. JOHN VICKERS, retired postmaster, Ewing, Missouri, advised he recalled the RAYNES family as having drifted into this area during the depression era. Mr. JERRY RAYNES and his family lived on a farm one mile east of town. The family was large and very poor at the time. Mr. RAYNES tried to farm and did odd jobs. During the early 1940's, the family moved to Quincy, Illinois, and never returned to this town to his knowledge. Their closest neighbor and only person now living near where they lived is Mrs. JOHN LOSCHER.

Mrs. JOHN LOSCHER, Route 1, on April 22, 1968, advised she recalled the RAYNES family as living in a house nearby. This house has since been torn down. She stated the family of RAYNES was a large one as she recalled and very poor at that time. The father tried to farm and did odd jobs in the area. They lived here from the mid-thirties until they moved to Quincy, Illinois, during the early World War II period. She stated they did not neighbor with the RAYNES and she knows of no one who did. She stated she has not seen any of this family since they moved. She recalled that there were several small children in the family when they came here and that several more were born while the family lived here. She stated she could not recall the names of these children.

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JAD:klr

Re: JAMES EARL RAY
SCHOOL RECORDS

AT EWING, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent JAMES A. DUFFEY:

Mrs. THELMA BALL, Principal, Ewing School, Ewing, Missouri, on April 22, 1968, advised school records reflect that JIMMY RAYNS (father JERRY RAYNS), born [redacted] place not given, entered the first grade at Ewing, Missouri, August, 1935. He attended until May, 1943, completing the eighth grade. Grades during last year were mostly "I"s (inferior). No record of transcript being sent anywhere.

Mrs. BALL also produced the record of the only other person with a similar name. It is the record for JACK RAYNES, parents JERRY and LUCILLE RAYNES, born [redacted] place not shown, entered this school in the first grade, August 28, 1939, and attended only until May, 1940.

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WCJ:jfb

JAMES EARL RAY - BACKGROUND

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

On April 22, 1968, BOB CRABILL, employee, McDonnell-Douglas Corporation, telephonically advised this Office his sister, Mrs. ORVILLE ROBBINS, 1680 Crowder, Florissant, Missouri, attended grade school with subject RAY. Mrs. ROBBINS has background information on the subject during his early years at Ewing, Missouri.

On April 22, 1968, Mrs. ORVILLE ROBBINS, 1680 Crowder, Florissant, Missouri, residence telephone - TEmples 7-0697, advised Special Agent WALTER C. JOHNSON between 1936 and 1943 she attended grade school with one JIMMY RAINES at Ewing, Missouri. She did not connect him with JAMES EARL RAY until her brother, MARTIN CRABILL, Ewing, Missouri, telephoned her on the night of April 21, 1968, that JIMMY RAINES was RAY.

Mrs. ROBBINS recalled that there were several children in the RAINES family but the only two members she was acquainted with was JIMMY and his younger brother, JACK. She said there were some smaller sisters but she did not know them. She had never met the mother but recalled the father, JERRY RAINES, and remembered him as being trifling and an individual who would not work and drew welfare all the time his family was residing in Ewing, Missouri. She recalled the boys, JACK and JIMMY, as well as the girls, all went by the last name of RAINES and never knew of the name RAY.

In 1943 after JIMMY finished the eighth grade he moved with his family to Hannibal, Missouri, where she understood the father had a job with a shoe company. This was the last time she had heard from the family except some time ago her brother, MARTIN, indicated that one of JIMMY's brothers had driven off the Mississippi River Bridge at Quincy, Illinois, and had drowned.

She knew nothing further concerning the family's whereabouts and her last contact was in 1943.

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HRD: amb

JAMES EARL RAY
BACKGROUND-EMPLOYMENT

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

On April 22, 1968, Mr. PAUL NAEGLE, Personnel Manager, International Shoe Company, 1509 Washington, advised SA S. T. JOHNSON the records of his company disclosed a single frame of microfilm which showed that JAMES EARL RAY, no address or Social Security Number shown, was employed, capacity not shown, from May 20, 1944, to a lay-off, December 10, 1945, from which he did not return, at the Wood River, Illinois, plant of the company. No additional information concerning him appeared in the microfilm or other records of the company.

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HRD: pdp

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

RE: RAY BACKGROUND -
ARMY SERVICE RECORD

A review on September 13, 1967, by IC EARL M. RANEY of the military service records on file at the Military Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri, for JAMES EARL RAY, Army Serial Number 16 163 129, indicated he enlisted in the U. S. Army on February 19, 1946, at East St. Louis, Illinois, and served on active duty until December 23, 1948, at which time he was given a general discharge as a Private First Class at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, by reason of inaptness and lack of adaptability for military service.

The records indicated he was tried and convicted by a Special Court-Martial for being drunk in quarters and breaking arrest. He was sentenced to be confined at hard labor for three months and forfeit \$45 per month for four months.

The records also indicated he received treatment for gonorrhea and syphilis while he was a member of the military.

The following background and descriptive information appeared in the record:

Date, place of birth	[REDACTED] Alton, Illinois
Height	5'11"
Weight	145
Race	White
Hair	Black
Eyes	Blue
Military Occupation	Military Policeman
Civilian Occupation	Colormatcher
Addresses	538 Broadway, Alton, Illinois (February 1946); 215 Oak Street, Quincy, Illinois (December 1948);

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Relatives	Father	Care of Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN, 214 Spring, Quincy, Illinois (July 1952)
	Mother	GEORGE RAY
		LUCILLE RAY, both of 538 East Broadway, Alton, Illinois (February 1946)
Photograph		None available

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HRD:hcv
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RE: JAMES EARL RAY
BACKGROUND

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

On April 22, 1968, in order to determine duty stations of JAMES EARL RAY while overseas in the U. S. Army for possible use in reconstructing his activities while there, his Army service record was reviewed by IC EARL M. RANEY and the following overseas assignments were noted for him:

53rd Quartermaster Base Depot, APO 124, Nurenberg, Germany, one day, August 12, 1946;

626th Quartermaster Refrigeration Company (M), APO 162, Nurenberg, Germany, August to December, 1946;

Companies C and B, 382nd Military Police Battalion, APO 69, Bremerhaven, Germany, December, 1946 to April, 1948. It is noted that during this assignment he was temporarily assigned to "D/S W/Brake MP School, APO 751, Bremen, Germany", February to March, 1947;

Company B, 7892nd Infantry Regiment, APO 757, Frankfort, Germany, April to June, 1948;

Company B, 16th Infantry, APO 757, and 696 (note APO 696 was Firth), June to December, 1948;

7749th Staging Area, APO 69, Bremerhaven, Germany, December, 1948.

The foregoing was from RAY's service record serial number 16 163 129.

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JDD:pdp

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

RE: JAMES EARL RAY
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

The following investigation was conducted by
IC JOHN D. DYER, JR.:

On April 25, 1968, a review of the records at the Veterans Administration Record Processing Center disclosed JAMES E. RAY, born [redacted] at Alton, Illinois, U. S. Army Serial Number 16163129, Veterans Administration Claim Number C-766 1340, filed a claim for education or training allowance on April 19, 1949, at the Veterans Administration Regional Office, Chicago, Illinois.

Additional details concerning this claim were not shown; however, the claim file indicated RAY's Rehabilitation and Education Folder was retired to the Federal Records Center, Chicago, Illinois, by the Veterans Administration Regional Office, Chicago, Illinois, on March 15, 1955.

RAY's claim file disclosed the following addresses:
5050 North Broadway, Chicago, Illinois, April 1949 and 459
St. James Place, Chicago, Illinois, November 1950.

RAY's claim file failed to contain further information with the exception of miscellaneous papers verifying his military service.

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HCJ:pjh

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

RAY EDUCATION

The following investigation was conducted by SA
HARRY C. JUNG on April 25, 1968:

Current directories contain no listing for American
Television School. The 1947-48 St. Louis Directory contains
a listing for American Television, Inc., 721 Olive Street,
Room 1301, KENNETH K. LANDESS, District Manager of School.

KENNETH K. LANDESS, 2101a South Grand Boulevard,
advised he was formerly employed as indicated above. He
stated that the actual school was located in Chicago, Illinois,
and there was merely an enrollment office in St. Louis. The
St. Louis office was closed in 1949 and all records are in
Chicago. LANDESS advised that subject was unknown to him.

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HRD:pjh

RAY 1955 POST OFFICE MONEY ORDER ARREST

AT HANNIBAL, MISSOURI:

The following investigation was conducted by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY; on April 19, 1968:

Mrs. MIGNONE KILIAN, Record Room, Police Department, Hannibal, Missouri, advised that JAMES EARL RAY was arrested at Hannibal, Missouri, and printed under Hannibal Police Department #40714. He was actually arrested by the Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) and was brought to the Hannibal Police Department for safekeeping. He was described as a white male American, born Alton, Illinois, on [REDACTED]. He is 5'10", 170 pounds, medium build, dark brown hair, blue eyes. His parents were listed as deceased. He gave an address of 1429 Cherry (no city listed). His associates were listed as WALTER TERRY RIFE and CATHERINE BUSKIRK, Quincy, Illinois. Disposition of the arrest was released to the Postal Inspector, Kansas City, Missouri. No photograph appeared in the file.

Neither RIFE or BUSKIRK were fingerprinted and no descriptive arrest record was made at that time.

AT MACON, MISSOURI:

The following investigation was conducted by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY, on April 20, 1968:

Sergeant WILLIAM MABE, MSHP, Troop "B" Headquarters, advised his records reflect JAMES EARL RAY, WALTER TERRY RIFE and CATHERINE DORIS BUSKIRK were arrested March 23, 1955, by Troopers JAMES CASSIDY and LARRY FORREST, near Hannibal, Missouri, and charged with uttering postal money orders taken in a burglary of the Kellerville, Illinois, Post Office. They were lodged at the Hannibal Police Department. All were released on March 24, 1955, to Postal Inspector W. L. RUDELL of Kansas City, Missouri.

The following description of RAY was taken at that time:

Name	JAMES EARL RAY, also known as JIM RAY, JAMES MC BRIDE, JAMES WALTON, W. C. HERRON
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Address	Victor Hotel, Quincy, Illinois
Sex	Male
Race	White - American
Born	[REDACTED]
Birthplace	Quincy, Illinois
Height	5'10"
Weight	165
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Dark Brown
Complexion	Ruddy
Occupation	Laborer
Parents	Deceased
Relatives	None listed

There was no descriptive arrest data for RIFE.

CATHERINE BUSKIRK was described as follows:

Sex	Female
Race	White - American
Born	[REDACTED]
Birthplace	Quincy, Illinois
Height	5'7½" tall
Weight	128
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Blonde
Complexion	Medium
Teeth	False
Occupation	Waitress
Scar	4" scar right wrist
Father	MYRON ALTGILDERS, 825 South Fifth Street, Quincy, Illinois
Mother	MARY HELEN ALTGILDERS, 825 Crocker, Los Angeles, California
Husband	ROBERT LEE BUSKIRK, 428 North 6th Street, Quincy, Illinois
Brother	RICHARD ALTGILDERS, 825½ South Fifth, Quincy, Illinois
Brother	MYRON ALTGILDERS, 911 Adams, Quincy, Illinois.

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JAMES EARL RAY
POST OFFICE ARREST - 1955

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted on April 23, 1968, by Special Agent JOSEPH A. DUBYAK:

JOHN SHICKER, Postal Inspector, United States Postal Department, St. Louis, Missouri, advised the original postal office inspection reports of JAMES EARL RAY's and WALTER TERRY RIFE's postal money order passing activity in 1955 has been forwarded to the United States Post Office Department, Chief of Inspection, Washington, D. C. SHICKER provided a photostatic copy of the report for review by Special Agent DUBYAK.

A review of the report revealed on March 7, 1955, blank money order numbers 742, 239, 535 to 600 were stolen in a burglary of the Kellerville, Illinois, Post Office. On or about March 20, 1955, RAY and RIFE cashed eight money orders at Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas. RAY also cashed one postal money order at Tallahassee, Florida. Both were apprehended at Hannibal, Missouri, by the Missouri State Highway Patrol on March 23, 1955. On April 1, 1955, RAY and RIFE pleaded guilty to violating Title 18, Section 500, United States Code, for unlawful issuing, passing and uttering of stolen money order forms. RAY received a sentence of three and three-quarter years and RIFE was sentenced to three years.

The report revealed that RIFE admittedly wrote out the face side of all the money orders. The payee on the money order was WILLARD J. MC BRIDE, and the remittor on the money order was VERNON MC BRIDE. The name "WILLARD MC BRIDE" is that of a real person in St. Louis, Missouri, whose identification was purchased by RAY for use in cashing the money orders.

J. LEE SIMPKINS, Probation Officer, St. Louis, Missouri, advised St. Louis Postal Inspectors that JAMES EARL RAY was released from Federal custody on May 20, 1958. SIMPKINS stated RAY was

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residing with his aunt, Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN, 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri. SIMPKINS described RAY as a professional money order forger.

The following descriptive information of JAMES EARL RAY was obtained from the review of the file:

Name	JAMES EARL RAY
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Quincy, Illinois
Height	5'10"
Weight	180 pounds
Hair	Black
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Medium
Build	Medium
Marital Status	Single
Education	Tenth grade
Military Service	Three years in United States Army; received General Discharge under honorable conditions
Occupation	Painter.

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JAD:klr

Re: ROY WILLIS

AT HANNIBAL, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent JAMES A. DUFFEY:

WILLIS, an ex-Hannibal, Missouri, policeman, purchased a Lincoln car from JAMES EARL RAY after he was arrested at Hannibal, Missouri, March 23, 1955. It is recalled that RAY, after his arrest, learned that he would be removed to Kansas City by postal inspectors and wanted to sell the car in which he was arrested. Officer ROY WILLIS bought it. The then Chief of Police raised a question as to the propriety of WILLIS' actions in buying the car from a prisoner.

Chief ARLO BALDWIN, Police Department, Hannibal, Missouri, on April 22, 1968, advised that Officer ROY WILLIS resigned from this department August 1, 1957, and moved from town. Police records show that an inquiry by a prospective employer, B. F. Goodrich Company Store, 1300 North Collet Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota, was received December 3, 1957, No other inquiry since and it was Chief BALDWIN's recollection that he had heard WILLIS had been employed by this firm and was last known to be in Minneapolis.

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AT HANNIBAL, MISSOURI

RAY - ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent JAMES A. DUFFEY:

CHARLES GUNN, owner of the Alibi Tavern, Hannibal, Missouri, advised on April 25, 1968, that prior to RAY's Post Office conviction in 1955 RAY patronized his tavern occasionally but that he has not seen him since and has no information concerning him or his present whereabouts.

He could furnish no personal history or background information concerning RAY.

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HRD:mjb

RAY'S BACKGROUND

AT MONTGOMERY CITY, MISSOURI

Sheriff GARLAND BETHEL, Montgomery County, Missouri, advised SA JAMES A. DUFFEY on April 25, 1968, that the Park Hotel in Montgomery City, Missouri, where RAY allegedly stayed in 1955 is no longer in operation. He had no knowledge as to whether or not records of that hotel are still in existence or if so in whose possession they might be.

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RE: RAY'S BACKGROUND

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by SA JOSEPH A. DUBYAK on April 28, 1968 in regard to the facts surrounding the stolen postal money order which JAMES EARL RAY cashed at Downs Men's Shop, St. Louis, Missouri, on March 9, 1955.

CHARLES JOSEPH DALSON, Schmitt, Biermann, Spitznagel & Vogel, Accountants for Downs Men's Shop, St. Louis, Missouri, advised that all records for Downs Men's Shop are only retained ten years and all records dating before 1958 have been destroyed by Downs Men's Shop. DALSON further advised that he was the Accountant for Downs Men's Shop in 1955 and is unable to remember any circumstances concerning RAY.

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LBC/leh

REVIEW OF UNITED STATES PROBATION OFFICE RECORDS
CONCERNING JAMES EARL RAY

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted on April 24, 1968, by SA LAWRENCE B. CURTIN:

The file regarding JAMES EARL RAY was made available by JOHN L. BRENNAN, Chief, United States Probation Officer, St. Louis, Missouri.

A review of that file reflected the following information:

JAMES EARL RAY, Federal Records Center (Kansas City, Missouri) number 811041. Date of Birth was at Alton, Illinois.

A classification study by officials of the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, on August 10, 1955, reflected that RAY listed his mother and father as deceased and the only other relative listed is an aunt, LUCILLE RYAN, 801 North 12th Street, Quincy, Illinois. This study further reflects that the co-defendant in the case involving Post Office money orders was WALTER TERRY RIFE. In the section of the study under the heading "Previous Employment" RAY provided the name WILLIAM MAHER, 1118 East 7th Street, Alton, Illinois, although no explanation was given regarding this name. The study also reflects that when RAY had previously been in custody at the Illinois State Prison, he had been transferred to the Honor Farm where he worked in the kitchen.

An annual review of RAY by officials at the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, in October, 1956, reflected that during the previous year RAY had worked at the fire department, paint shop, and bakery where he was considered an outstanding "bench hand." This review further reflects that the only family contact with RAY was through letters from his aunt, Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN, 701½ Washington Street, Quincy, Illinois. At that time RAY indicated that when he was released he planned to go to Denver, Colorado, as he felt the climate would be "better for his health."

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On April 5, 1958, RAY was conditionally released from the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, and at that time lived at the Blackstone Hotel, 817 Cherry Street, Kansas City, Missouri. It is noted that a handwritten letter attached to RAY's conditional release statement, from LUCILLE RYAN, 1135 South 10th Street, St. Louis, Missouri, and addressed to RAY at the Blackstone Hotel was signed "Your Aunt Lucille."

A handwritten notation by J. LEE SIMPKINS, United States Probation Officer, St. Louis, Missouri, indicates that on January 29, 1958, he visited LUCILLE RYAN at 1135 South 10th Street, and at that time found her living with a younger woman, who she introduced as her daughter, MELBA and an older woman whom she introduced as her mother.

Correspondence between the United States Probation Office at Kansas City, Missouri, and St. Louis, Missouri, reflects that after his release on April 5, 1958, RAY was dis-satisfied with life in Kansas City and repeatedly expressed an interest in coming to St. Louis, Missouri, so as to live with his aunt.

The following information was taken from the type-written work sheet of the Chief United States Probation Officer, JOHN L. BRENNAN, which is set up in chronological order:

On May 7, 1958, investigation by the United States Probation Officer reflects that LUCILLE RYAN presently resides at 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri, in a rooming house which she recently purchased. Lived at that address with her are three individuals as follows:

One [REDACTED] daughter, age 19, name unknown;

One employed daughter, age 17, name unknown.

LUCILLE RYAN's mother, age 76.

On May 15, 1958, supervision of JAMES EARL RAY was officially transferred from the United States Probation Office at Kansas City, Missouri, to the office at St. Louis, Missouri.

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On May 15, 1958, JOHN L. BRENNAN advised RAY to go to the bakery union in St. Louis regarding employment.

In June, 1958, the record reflects that RAY had worked as a cook's helper for one day at the Glen Echo Country Club during the preceding month and was laid off. He was otherwise unemployed during this period.

On August 4, 1958, RAY indicated that when his supervision is terminated, he plans to get a job as a baker on a ship going to South America and he indicated that his occupation is a baker not a cook. The record further reflects during the time since his last contact, he was unemployed.

On September 4, 1958, RAY indicated that he had worked for four days in August at a bakery on North 18th Street, St. Louis, Missouri, but that he was otherwise unemployed during that month. He further indicated that when his conditional release expires in October, 1958, he planned to get a job as a baker on a boat and leave the United States.

On October 2, 1958, RAY's condition release expired and supervision by the United States Probation Office was terminated. The records reflect that there was no further contact with RAY since that date.

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SJP:amb

RE: CHECK WITH COMMERCIAL BAKERIES FOR EMPLOYMENT

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

On April 24, 1968, a check of current and previous St. Louis and St. Louis County Street Directories was conducted by SA SPURGEON J. PETERSON for the purpose of determining if a bakery establishment was located on North 19th Street in St. Louis, Missouri. No such firm or establishment was located.

Bakeries listed in the current St. Louis, Missouri, telephone book as commercial bakeries were contacted with the result that no record of subject's employment as a baker was found.

Name of Company and Individual Contacted	Date of Contact	Agent
Mrs. Alison's Cookies Company, 1780 Burns, ANNA MIEBERHOFF, Personnel Officer	April 24, 1968	SA SPURGEON J. PETERSON
American Bakeries Company, 3900 Washington Boulevard, (also has records of the Taystee Bread Company) Mrs. JANE SUNDLING, Payroll Clerk	"	"
American Bakeries Company, 4101 Cook, T. L. CALVERT, Personnel Manager. Records of this company are available for past six years only as previous records were destroyed in a fire.	"	"
The Bommarito Bakery, 1810 North 18th Street, NICK BOMMARITO	April 25, 1968	"

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Name of Company and Individual Contacted	Date of Contact	Agent
The Continental Baking Company, 37 South Vandeventer, (also has records of the Hostess Cake Bakery) MARY ELDRIDGE, Personnel Assistant	April 24, 1968	SA SPURGEON J. PETERSON
The Colonial Bread Company, 4410 Gravois, BILL DAVIS, Personnel Officer	"	"
The Forest Park Bake Shop, 4579 Laclede, EARLINE PENNY, Employment Office	"	SA HOWARD G. SLACK
The Freund Baking Company, 920 South Taylor, CAROL BRANT, Personnel Department	"	"
The Haas Baking Company, 7969 Reavis Park Drive, Mrs. BETTY GRIESHAVER, Manager	"	"
Good Taste Cookies, 4380 Olive Street, HAROLD BAILEY, Manager	April 25, 1968	"
The Imperial Baking Company, 1514 North 22nd, JANICE KNIEST, Personnel Department. Records prior to 1958 have been lost. (Also has records of The Dolly Madison Cake Company.)	April 24, 1968	"
Caesar Bommarito Bakery, 3737 Airport Road, Mrs. BOMMARITO	"	"
The Lickhalter Bakery, 1309 Franklin, WILLIAM TARVER	"	SA HARRY C. JUNG

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Name of Company and Individual Contacted	Date of Contact	Agent
The Manchester Bakery, 4222 Manchester, WALTER LEDNER	April 24, 1968	SA HARRY C. JUNG
Petrofsky's Bakery, 7949 Delmar, LUCILLE COX	"	"
Sunshine Biscuit Company, 4400 Geraldine, RITA HOERR. This company has not been engaged in baking in St. Louis in over three years.	April 25, 1968	"
The Jansen Pastry Shop, 9426 Watson Industrial Park, RUTHIE CARTER, Manager	"	"
The Tip-Top (Ward Baking Company), 4500 Parkview Place, Mrs. TINA GREEN, Office Manager	"	"
Rold-Gold Foods, 2445 South Wharf, SAM MEYER, Employ- ment Office	"	"
The Shenandoah Baking Com- pany, 3135 Park, TOM MANGLIS, Owner.	"	"

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HCJ:pjh

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

RAY EMPLOYMENT

The following investigation was conducted by SA HARRY
C. JUNG:

On April 25, 1968, EDWARD STANI, Financial Secretary,
Bakers Union #4, AFL-CIO, 2615 Winnebago Street, St. Louis,
Missouri, advised that he was unable to locate any record of
subject having been a member of this union.

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SJP:amb

RE: EMPLOYMENT

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

On April 26, 1968, SA SPURGEON J. PETERSON contacted Miss MICKEY BIERMANN, Office Manager at the Glen Echo Country Club, Lucas and Hunt Road and Natural Bridge Road, in St. Louis County. After reviewing previous employment records Miss BIERMANN found one card indicating that CHARLES E. RAY of 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Social Security [redacted] had been employed at the country club for one day on May 28, 1958. There was no further information available. There was nothing to indicate who hired him, the job for which he was hired, or the reason why he worked only the one day. Miss BIERMANN stated that after checking with other employees at the club she was unable to find anyone who is employed there now who would have been with the club in May of 1958.

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JAMES EARL RAY - EMPLOYMENT

Mr. CHARLES ELLIOTT, Personnel Department, Kroger Bakery Company, Chouteau and Spring, St. Louis, Missouri, advised after a review of their personnel records that JAMES EARL RAY was never a permanent employee of the Kroger Company, St. Louis, Missouri. He further advised, however, that RAY could have worked as a jobber on a day to day basis as needed and that if RAY worked under this arrangement, there are no personnel records kept for this type of job. This interview was on April 29, 1968.

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HCJ/ral

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by
SA HARRY C. JUNG:

On May 1, 1968, FRANK MOSKUS, Proprietor, Gaslight Bar, 457 North Boyle Street, St. Louis, Missouri, advised that he has operated the bar since 1965 and that subject was unknown to him. The bar was previously owned by RICHARD MUTTRUX.

On May 1, 1968, RICHARD MUTTRUX, Proprietor, Three Fountains Restaurant, 4306 Olive Street, St. Louis, advised that he originated the Gaslight Bar in 1954 and operated same until 1965. He stated that subject was unknown to him and he knew of no other Gaslight Bar in St. Louis.

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DRS:jfb

JAMES EARL RAY - ARREST - 1959

On May 6, 1968, a copy of St. Louis Police Department Summary Report of Complaint Number 222 015, was reviewed by Special Agent DEAN R. SHUMWAY. This report was originally prepared on October 10, 1959, by the St. Louis Police Department, Third District, regarding a hold-up which occurred on that same date at 8:45 a.m. The hold-up involved a Kroger Grocery and Baking Company at 3417 Ohio Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri. DONALD SCHAEFER of 723 Larkin Avenue, Ferguson, Missouri, is shown on this report as the co-manager of the store and as the complainant.

The details of this report reflect that two men appeared in the store and robbed the store of an undetermined amount of currency. The two men then fled from the store, making their escape in an old model Ford automobile, dark in color.

Later, at about 9:30 a.m. on the same date, St. Louis Patrolmen RALPH KING and EDWARD MC GRATH and Detectives HARRY CONNERS and EMMETT RIMMER placed under arrest at 2019 Park Avenue JAMES LOAMA OWENS and JAMES EARL RAY. OWENS, St. Louis Police Department LB Number 42884, was described as a white male, date of birth - [REDACTED] at Elvins, Missouri, age - forty, 5 feet 3 inches, 152 pounds, brown hair, blue eyes, marital status - single, occupation - barber, address - 4023 Olive Street.

JAMES EARL RAY was described as a white male, age - thirty, born in Illinois, marital status - single, occupation - baker, address - Room # 5, 2023 Park Avenue, St. Louis.

The above arrests were effected after Patrolmen JOSEPH SHORMAN and HAROLD SIEFERT, of the Seventh District, who had been originally dispatched to the scene of the robbery, obtained information that the hold-up men, after fleeing from the scene of the crime, entered an old model Ford, bearing Missouri License A13-331. The description of this automobile was broadcast to all St. Louis Police Department Units.

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Additional information was then obtained by store manager DONALD SCHAEFER which reflected that the two bandits had switched automobiles, abandoning the previously mentioned Ford at Indiana and Potomac Street, St. Louis, and then entered a 1958 Plymouth, Missouri License M83-671. The subjects were last seen in this automobile heading west on Wyoming Street in St. Louis.

This same auto was later observed by Patrolmen KING and MC GRATH parked in front of 2017 Park Avenue, St. Louis, headed in a westerly direction and unoccupied. Assistance was requested by these patrolmen and thereafter a white male, who entered this automobile and prepared to drive away, was placed under arrest. Upon arrest, he identified himself as JAMES LOAMA OWENS. The vehicle was then searched and no weapons were found.

Under questioning, OWENS readily acknowledge that he had committed the armed robbery, advising that his partner in crime was on the second floor of the rooming house at 2023 Park Avenue, as well as both of the guns used in the hold-up.

The investigating officers then proceeded to the second floor of this house and at the top of the stairs observed a white male coming from the bathroom at the end of a hallway. This individual was commanded to halt and to raise his hands, whereupon he turned, began cursing and ran back toward the bathroom from where he had come. RAY was overtaken by the investigating officers and placed under arrest, after a scuffle in which RAY was struck over the head with the service revolver of one of the officers.

The prisoner was then escorted to his room but broke away and began to run toward the end of the hallway where he was initially subdued. At this time Detective CONNERS fired one shot from a service revolver in the direction of the fleeing suspect, at which time the prisoner halted and submitted to arrest without further resistance.

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A search of the subject's room, located a .765 caliber Belgium Browning Automatic, Serial Number 57195, which contained one live cartridge in the chamber and five live cartridges in the clip. A second .38 caliber revolver, "American Double Action," five shot revolver, Serial Number 249, was also located and found to contain three live cartridges in the cylinder.

Upon questioning, JAMES EARL RAY admitted that he was the owner of these weapons and made the statement to the officers, "I guess you want me for that Kroger Store stick-up." RAY was thereafter conveyed to City Hospital for examination and found to be suffering from a laceration of the scalp, which was not considered to be serious, and with no other apparent injuries. He was thereafter conveyed to the Police Station where he was charged.

The second individual involved in the burglary, JAMES OWENS, was conveyed directly from the place of apprehension to the St. Louis Police.

The 1958 Plymouth sedan used in the commission of the robbery was determined to be the property of JAMES L. OWENS and was towed away from in front of the Park Avenue address and held in custody by local police.

When questioned further at the District Station, OWENS stated he had first become acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY about three months prior to the offense, having met him at the St. Louis Rescue Mission located at 4023 Olive Street. Both eventually began speaking to each other of financial difficulty and eventually came to an agreement to pull a hold-up.

OWENS advised that in the early p.m. of October 9, 1959, he and RAY "cased" the store, which they eventually robbed on the following day. OWENS admitted that JAMES EARL RAY had given him the snub-nose revolver which he had used in the hold-up and that he had driven RAY to a place where he let RAY out of his 1958 Plymouth automobile for the purpose of stealing a second automobile to use in the hold-up.

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