ME 44-1987
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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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 1965.

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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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. 5049773, 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. 127115C, 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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

THOMAS BEECHER CREWS, Missouri State Penitentiary No. 71845, is currently serving a life sentence for murder. He came to the Missouri State Penitentiary in 1956.

He said he did not know JAMES EARL RAY in the Missouri State Penitentiary, though the photograph of RAY contained in the newspapers 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 1955 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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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, Schantzmeyer 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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

LAMPHERE was called on the telephone at the City Union Mission, Warsaw, Missouri, by ROBERT DALE PORTER, FBI Number 459042, 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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

ME 44-1987
TOR:mnr
1

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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

ME 44-1987
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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

ME 44-1987
TOR/acp
1

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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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 braggert. 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,



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

ME 44-1987
TOR:ngm
1

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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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" RICHARDSON, Missouri State Penitentiary No. 49632, 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, 1965.

He described JAMES EARL RAY as one of the "nuts" or "cowboys" who according to RICHARDSON 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 03959, Missouri Training School for Men, Moberly, Missouri, and had been an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary from December, 1951, 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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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. 73723, 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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

HAROLD DEAN KLEMP, an inmate at Folsom State Penitentiary, Folson, 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



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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,



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

ME 44-1987
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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

ME 44-1987
TOR:tjm
1

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 568 123 B 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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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 #892355 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.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

JOHN R. KELLER possessed Leavenworth Prison #72614-L.

He was located at 2150 Apache Boulevard, Mesa, Arizona, and stated he formerly served time at Leavenworth from 1955 to 1957. He denies any knowledge or association with JAMES EARL RAY and disclaims recognition of the photograph of RAY as a former inmate at Leavenworth. He states he has no knowledge of RAY's present whereabouts.

WALTER TERRY RIFE, FBI #4558766, was located at Quincy, Illinois, and disclaims having seen JAMES EARL RAY since he was incarcerated at Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1957. He has no information concerning the current whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY nor his close associates.

When arrested with RAY in 1955, he fabricated the name WILLIARD J. MC BRIDE as the individual from whom they purchased stolen money orders obtained in the Kellerville, Illinois, Post Office burglary. He also used the name VERNON ELMO RIFE on his first arrest.

RIFE stated that RAY was prejudiced against Negroes in a general way and he has never known RAY to belong to any organization or to make any threat against Negroes.

Both he and RAY were sentenced on July 1, 1955, to Leavenworth and RIFE was released in 1960.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

ASSOCIATES

DYRELL DENNIS, located at the Towne Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, listed her home address to be 1151 Wilcox, Los Angeles, California. When initially contacted on April 25, 1968, she advised she had no knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY and through viewing his photographs said she did not know him or anyone named ERIC STARVO GALT.

Subsequently, she was recontacted on April 27, 1968, at the Belmont Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She advised she had resided at the St. Francis Hotel, Los Angeles, California, from March 1 to March 9, 1968. One night in the Sultan Room, Hollywood Boulevard, she was approached by a man who introduced himself as ERIC (Last Name Unknown). She described him as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Race | White |
| Sex | Male |
| Age | Late 30's or early 40's |
| Height | 5'10" |
| Build | Slender |
| Hair | Salt and pepper |
| Eyes | Light blue |
| Wearing apparel | Dressed very neatly |
| Characteristics | Appeared very nervous; pointed facial features; spoke with a nasal twang. |

This person drank screwdrivers and claimed to have worked with computers. He had in his possession a large sum of money in $10 and $20 bills. She talked him into giving her a $20 bill after which they left the Sultan Room and went to another club where they continued to drink and then went to ERIC's room, #403 in the St. Francis Hotel. As they drank he told her on more than one occasion that he could become violent. She began to fear that he might possibly be a psychopath and decided against having relations with him. Under pretext, she left the St. Francis Hotel.

Subsequently, she again encountered ERIC at the Sultan Room at which time he asked for and she returned his $20 bill.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

She stated she has not seen this person since that time.

ANITA LOUISE KATZWINKEL, Apartment 9, 1727 North Garfield Place, Hollywood, California, was unable to identify photographs of ERIC STARVO GALT as anyone she knew. She also did not know CHARLES J. STEIN.

KATZWINKEL stated she has never made any obscene films although SUE HARRIS had told her that she had made a nude film with a female named LOU (Last Name Unknown).

GINGER DAY, also known to her as GINGER NANCE, like the news broadcasts concerning GALT, favored beer and vodka and would listen only to country and western music.

KATZWINKEL has no knowledge of the location of JAMES EARL RAY, known as ERIC STARVO GALT.

MARIE MARTIN, residing at the St. Francis Hotel, room 201, Los Angeles, California, listed her original name to be MYRIAL TOMASO, and she has also used the names MARIE DENNINO and MARIE MARTINELLO. She is a cocktail waitress at the Sultan Room in the St. Francis Hotel.

She first met a person who introduced himself as ERIC GALT on approximately December 4, 1967, in the Sultan Room. He had been drinking at the bar and carried on a conversation with her while she was waiting on other customers.

She obtained GALT's agreement to drive her cousin, RITA STEIN to New Orleans, Louisiana, to pick up RITA's two children and return them to Los Angeles. GALT agreed to make the trip if MARIE MARTIN and RITA STEIN and her brother, CHARLES STEIN, would register to vote and list the political party sponsoring former Governor GEORGE C. WALLACE as their political candidate.

The day after the group registered for the WALLACE political party, MARIE MARTIN, RITA STEIN and CHARLES STEIN were issued registration receipts. Subsequently, MARIE MARTIN went to her room and brought a box of clothing



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

down to GALT's car which she had requested to be delivered to her mother, LORRAINE CALLAWAY, at New Orleans. At this point, RITA and CHARLES STEIN and GALT left.

About one week later, she again saw GALT at the St. Francis Hotel, and he gave her a $20 bill after asking her if she were short of money. GALT told her he had visited some friends who lived in the Industrial Canal area of New Orleans near Chef Menteur Highway. GALT became a regular customer at the Sultan Room and on her recommendation, he moved into the St. Francis Hotel.

On February 14, 1968, GALT came to her room and they arranged to trade television sets. He took her portable set and gave her his set and a $20 bill. He told her he was going south and agreed to drop off another package at her mother's house at New Orleans.

She said that GALT used Spanish phrases on occasion, though he told her he could not speak Spanish. He told her he had lived in Mexico for about six years and knew a girl in Guadaljara.

Referring back to her portable television set, she described it as a 21 inch General Electric set of plastic material with built in rabbit ear antennas and a handle on top.

The last time MARIE MARTIN saw GALT was on the day they traded television sets, February 14, 1968.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

RITA STEIN resides at 5666 Franklin Avenue, Los Angeles, California, and first met ERIC S. GALT in mid-December 1967 at the Sultan Room, St. Francis Hotel, Los Angeles, California. In conversation with GALT relative to her two children residing at her mother's home in New Orleans, Louisiana, she was able to determine that GALT would drive to New Orleans in his own car and return the children to Los Angeles. He agreed to take her brother, CHARLES STEIN, with him on the trip. Conditions for making this trip were that she, her brother and her cousin, MARIE MARTIN, all register with GEORGE WALLACE's party in California.

The following morning GALT drove the three of them to a location where they registered for the WALLACE party. Following this, they all returned to her residence, after which her brother left for New Orleans with GALT.

She next saw GALT when he returned with her two children approximately one week. He entered her house upon his return but stayed only a few moments and then departed. He returned again the next day to bring one of her children's toy blackboard which had been left in his car the previous day.

Following this, she saw GALT in the Sultan Room in mid-January 1968 and had no conversation with him. This was the last time she saw him.

A photograph of ERIC S. GALT obtained from the International School of Bartendering, Los Angeles, California, when displayed to RITA STEIN, reflected that this indeed was the ERIC S. GALT known to her.

JEROME WALLIS VERNON, known also as Jay Wallis Vernon, resides in Apartment B, 1246 Woodbury Court, Upland, California.

He operated the Home Service Laundry and Dry Cleaning Company, Los Angeles, from January 16 to March 23, 1968, and a man by the name of GALT was a regular customer at the laundry. He believes GALT came in each Saturday afternoon.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

He first saw GALT on Saturday, January 20, 1968, and last recalled seeing him on March 16, 1968. GALT would always leave a bundle of laundry consisting of underwear, T-shirts and dress shirts, and he would pick up the finished laundry the following Saturday. Photographs of the T-shirt and shorts recovered near the scene of the assassination were similar to the ones brought in by GALT, according to VERNON, but he could not be sure whether the two pieces belonged to him. The laundry markings on the underwear were identified by him as being similar to the mark used by his laundry.

GALT always paid for his laundry in cash, using $10 and $20 bills.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

ME 44-1987
TOR:tjm
1

GINGER LEE NANCE (nee CUNNINGHAM) resides 405 First Street, Dixon, Illinois, On the first Saturday or Sunday of May, 1967, she and ANITA KATZWINKEL left Dixon, Illinois, and proceeded to Los Angeles, California, where they established residence at the Palms Apartments on Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood.

After about three weeks, she and KATZWINKEL moved to 1535 Serrano and resided there for about a month and a half.

In June, 1967, she hitchhiked back to Dixon, Illinois, accompanied part of the way by her boy friend, JIM LEEHY. She cannot recall writing her name and address on any paper nor did she give any name and address on a paper to any of the people who gave her a ride in a car. She did enjoy several rides across country during her hitchhiking trip in Mustangs.

She stated that SUE HARRIS and ANITA KATZWINKEL were working as prostitutes in California, working out of SUE's apartment.

NANCE further advised the name ERIC S. GALT is unknown to her.

CHARLES J. STEIN resides at 5666 Franklin Avenue, Los Angeles, California, and first met ERIC S. GALT at the Sultan Room of the Saint Francis Hotel, Los Angeles, California, on December 24, 1967. His sister, RITA STEIN, was present along with his cousin, MARIE MARTIN, at the time of the meeting.

GALT offered to drive STEIN to New Orleans to pick up RITA's two children, and return them to Los Angeles.

The morning after the initial meeting, the three of them registered at GALT's request in the political party of GEORGE WALLACE.

STEIN and GALT traveled to New Orleans along the southern route through Yuma, Tucson and El Paso. While en route, GALT made several telephone calls, mostly while traveling through Texas and these calls were made from pay telephones.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

GALT mentioned that he had recently returned from Mexico where he had formerly had a part ownership in a bar and that his former partner, a Mexican, had bought out his interest in the bar. This bar was located near a seaport or boats.

At New Orleans, GALT expressed the desire not to stay at STEIN's mother's residence, but to stay at a motel and he was directed to a motel in the 1000 block of Charter Street (determined to be the Provincial Motel), New Orleans. They had driven straight through from Los Angeles, arriving on December 17, 1967.

On the following day, he met GALT in the street near the residence of CLOVINA ALONZO, 1907½ Royal Street, STEIN's mother, and GALT told him he had contacted the individuals he needed to contact and wanted to begin the trip back to Los Angeles. Subsequently, he telephoned STEIN and delayed the departure due to a storm blocking their present route.

They returned to Los Angeles on December 19, 1967, with RITA STEIN's two children. GALT paid for all expenses of food and gasoline in cash.

STEIN stated that a girl, with blond hair, about 5'2", by the name of JERI, according to information developed by he and LOUIS LOMAX, a Los Angeles newspaper man, had lived with GALT while GALT resided in Los Angeles. JERI is presently in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and had used several names in the past, one of which he believed to be DYRELL.

STEIN further stated that he learned, following his initial meeting with GALT, that GALT must have thought he was being set up for a robbery because MARIE MARTIN told STEIN that GALT had made the comment following STEIN's departure from the Sultan Room that "He would hate to have to kill someone."

When STEIN loaded his suitcase into the trunk of GALT's Mustang, he noticed GALT's blue suitcase there, as well as what appeared to be a Kodak camera box. This box was yellow and black in color, two and one-half feet long and a foot wide.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Driving through New Orleans, STEIN told GALT he was grateful to him for driving down to pick up the children of RITA STEIN, but GALT mentioned that he was not doing anyone a favor because he had business to conduct in New Orleans, himself, and he mentioned an Italian-sounding name, which he cannot recall, but is a well-known name in New Orleans and the street he mentioned gave STEIN a mental picture of the Chalmette-Industrial Canal area of New Orleans.

Near El Paso, Texas, GALT purchased a used tire for the Mustang at a tire store. Later in the evening of the same date, December 16, 1967, STEIN recalled that he awoke from a sleep and found they had stopped and GALT was making a lengthy telephone call from a public coin box telephone booth. He believes this call was made somewhere in the vicinity of Houston, Texas, and since it was dark, he could recall the light in the telephone booth shining down on GALT while he made the call.

Later in the day, after arriving at New Orleans and GALT's going to the Provincial Motel, STEIN went for a walk with his sons through the French Quarter and over near the new Trade Mart Building on Canal Street. Later in the day, during the evening, GALT commented that he had seen STEIN and the two boys earlier that day near the Trade Mart Building while he was having a beer at a bar in the area. This was at the home of his sister, MARIE LEE, that the conversation with GALT took place.

On the evening of December 19, 1967, GALT, STEIN and RITA STEIN's two children departed New Orleans for Los Angeles. They drove straight through, arriving on December 21, 1967, in the morning.

After this trip, STEIN did observe GALT on a couple of occasions in the Sultan Room of the Hotel Saint Francis. On one of these occasions, GALT mentioned the fact that he had "just finished bartending school." Sometime after this, either RITA STEIN or MARIE MARTIN



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

mentioned to STEIN that GALT was going to New Orleans again, and his comment was that GALT liked hamburgers because that was all he ate on the trip to New Orleans.

STEIN did advise that he had helped LOUIS LOMAX, the newspaper reporter, identify DYRELL DENNIS, who is now in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who allegedly dated GALT on one occasion while he resided in Los Angeles. STEIN feels that LOMAX "Used" him for publicity purposes, identifying STEIN as the "Key to the case." This upset STEIN because he felt whoever shot KING might take a shot at him.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

ME 44-1987
TOR:PEH
1

JOHN EUGENE GAWRON, residing at 1807 South 11th Street, St. Louis, Missouri, was born on July 12, 1897, at Chicago, Illinois, and estimates that he has spent about 45 years of his life in penal institutions.

Paroled in 1954 to a Soldier's Home, Quincy, Illinois, GAWRON became acquainted at a tavern in Quincy with LUCILLE RYAN who was separated from her husband, JERRY RAYNES. LUCILLE had a daughter named CAROL, then living with her; a son named JERRY, who was also living with her; a son named JIMMY (JAMES EARL RAY), who was then serving a Federal sentence in the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas; a son named FRANKLIN DENNIS RAYNES, deceased; a daughter named MELBA, who was in a mental hospital in Jacksonville, Illinois; [redacted] a daughter named SUSAN, who was in a Catholic orphanage located at Alton, Illinois; and a son named JOHN (JACK), who was serving a sentence in the Illinois State Penitentiary, Menard, Illinois.

GAWRON, allegedly involved in a burglary at Quincy, Illinois, in 1956, had his parole revoked and was returned to the Illinois State Penitentiary, but in 1959 he escaped from this institution. After a few days, he went to the home of LUCILLE RYAN (RAYNES) where her mother, MARY MAHGR, was operating a rooming house, and GAWRON resided with LUCILLE at 1913 Hickory, St. Louis, Missouri.

During a period of several months in 1959, he was closely associated with JAMES EARL RAY and taught him to be a burglar and they went together on a number of burglaries, estimated to be twelve. They were committed outside St. Louis in the northern part of Missouri, in Iowa, and in Illinois. GAWRON taught JIMMY (JAMES EARL RAY) to always wear gloves on any kind of a job, and he was surprised that he would now go on any job without wearing gloves at the risk of leaving fingerprints.

Together they spent a great deal of time, and in St. Louis they frequented a tavern known as Ruby's Bar, later known as the Haven Bar, Lafayette Street, just west of 18th.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

RAY generally drank bourbon, which he mixed with sweet soda. He did not drink beer or smoke. When meeting any girl for the first time, he (RAY) had a tendency to lisp or stutter in his speech. When RAY wanted a girl, GAWRON usually found a girl for him and on such occasions, his relationship with the girl was only brief and temporary at some second or third rate hotel room.

RAY dresses extremely well when he has money, likes good food, and buys expensive clothes, but he always chooses a second or third rate hotel or a cheap rooming house in which to live.

GAWRON, RAY, and JAMES OWENS, with whom RAY was arrested and sentenced to the Missouri State Penitentiary, cased the Kroger Store in East St Louis, Illinois, for a robbery. GAWRON declined to participate because of the danger involved.

The following day RAY and OWENS were arrested and subsequently RAY was transferred to the Missouri State Penitentiary. GAWRON has not seen RAY since that time.

In 1961, GAWRON, ALBERT PEPPER, and JOHN RAY, brother-in-law and brother of JAMES EARL RAY, respectively, were arrested at Louisiana, Missouri, and while his parole was revoked, the other two persons received sentences of ten days in jail. He does not believe that JAMES EARL RAY knows ALBERT PEPPER, who is married to RAY's sister.

GAWRON is on friendly terms with JERRY RAY and CAROL RAY PEPPER. All of RAY's family referred to him as "Uncle JACK," although he has no family relationship. The PEPPERs have two young sons, the youngest being named JIMMY, reportedly named for JAMES EARL RAY. The PEPPERs operate the Grapevine Tavern, and JOHN RAY is active in the operation of this tavern at St. Louis, Missouri.

GAWRON stated that insofar as he knows, the subject has not been in St. Louis since his escape from the



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Missouri State Penitentiary in view of the fact he is too well known. GAWRON has not seen JAMES EARL RAY since 1959.

GAWRON believes JAMES EARL RAY trafficed in drugs or barbiturates at the Missouri State Penitentiary and also had a loan shark business there. On three different occasions, he made purchases of inhalers, normally used for colds, at the request of RAY. His request, though originating from RAY in prison, was relayed to him by CAROL PEPPER. On each of these occasions, GAWRON purchased a gross of these inhalers (probably Benzedrine) and on three separate occasions, he was contacted by a guard from the prison at Jefferson City, Missouri, who would pick up the inhalers and take them to RAY at the prison. Reportedly, the guard told GAWRON that each trip was worth a "C" to the guard.

GAWRON recalls being told by JOHN RAY that JAMES EARL RAY was in Omaha, Nebraska, during well, making good money as some sort of a salesman. This was in June, 1967. Shortly thereafter, JOHN RAY told GAWRON that JAMES was now in Los Angeles, California. GAWRON had no knowledge as to how JOHN RAY and CAROL PEPPER would have come into possession of information relative to the location of JAMES EARL RAY in June, 1967.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

## V. IDENTIFICATION RECORD AND DESCRIPTION



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

The following is subject's identification record as furnished by the FBI Identification Division on April 23, 1968, under FBI # 405 942 G:

| CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS | NAME AND NUMBER | ARRESTED OR RECEIVED | CHARGE | DISPOSITION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Army | James Earl Ray #16 163 129 | 2/19/46 | | |
| Sheriff's Office Los Angeles, Calif. | James Earl Ray #B-119908 | 10/11/49 | suspicion of burglary | |
| PD, Los Angeles Calif | James Earl Ray #139648 | 10/11/49 | suspicion 459 Penal (burglary) | 8 months County Jail suspended; 2 years probation served; first 90 days County Jail; 146 12/30/49 Cs129438 |
| SO Cedar Rapids, Iowa | James E. Ray #5937 | 4/18/50 | vagrancy | |
| PD Alton, Ill. | James Earl Ray #7514 | 7/23/51 | no operator's license - no City License | released to pay later |
| PD Chicago Ill | James Ray #D90696 | 5/6/52 | robbery (Gun) | Grand Jury $3000 |
| Cook County Jail Chicago Ill | James Ray #131165 | 5/9/52 | robbery | 6/13/52 sentenced to penitentiary 1 to 2 years |
| State Penitentiary, Joliet, Ill. | James E. Ray #32419 | 6/13/52 | robbery | 1 to 2 years |



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

| CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS | NAME AND NUMBER | ARRESTED OR RECEIVED | CHARGE | DISPOSITION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| State Penitentiary Pontiac, Ill. | James E. Ray #19121 | 7/7/52 1952 in transfer from Joliet | robbery | 1 to 2 years 3/12/54 discharged |
| SO Edwardsville, Ill. | James Earl Ray #2640 | 8/30/54 | burglary & larceny | |
| PD Hannibal Missouri | James E. Ray #40714 | 3/23/55 | investigation of breaking & entering Post Office | |
| State Highway Patrol Macon, Mo. | James Earl Ray #B-3376 | 3/23/55 | cashing stolen postal money orders | released to Postal Inspector Kansas City Mo., 3/24/55 |
| USM Kansas City, Mo. | James Earl Ray #12018 | 3/28/55 | forgery U.S. Postal Money Order | sentenced to 15 months custody Attorney General |
| SO Kansas City Mo. | James Earl Ray #29637 | 3/28/55 | forgery - Government | 3/7/55, 3 years and 9 months |
| U. S. Penitentiary Leavenworth, Kan. | James Earl Ray #72498-L | 7/7/55 | Post Office Laws Forge Money Orders | 3 years and 9 months 5/20/58, conditional release 3/31/59, maximum 4/5/58, conditional release on charge of Post Office forgery Post Office Money Orders |
| PD St. Louis, Mo. | James Earl Ray #81071 | 10/10/59 | suspicion of robbery | |



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

| CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS | NAME AND NUMBER | ARRESTED OR RECEIVED | CHARGE | DISPOSITION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| PD St. Louis Mo. | James Earl Ray #81071 | 10/16/59 | suspicion of robbery stealing & fugitive other authorities | |
| State Penitentiary Jefferson City, Mo. | James Earl Ray #00416 | 3/17/60 | "TC" operating motor vehicle without permission of owner robbery first "b/m DDW" (2 charges) | 20 years (20, 7, 5, concurrent) |



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

The following is a description of the subject, obtained from sources set out elsewhere in this report:

| | |
|---|---|
| Name: | JAMES EARL RAY, aka |
| Sex: | Male |
| Race: | White |
| Date of Birth: | |
| Place of Birth: | Alton, Illinois |
| Height: | 5'10" |
| Weight: | 163 - 174 pounds |
| Hair: | Brown |
| Eyes: | Blue |
| Social Security No.: | |
| Army Serial Number: | 16 163 129 |
| FBI Number: | 405 942 G |



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

INDEX


| | |
|---|---|
| ACORD, JOHN | 20 |
| ADAMS, JOSEPH | 48 |
| AEBY, BILLY BROWN | 47 |
| AEBY, NEIL | 57, 68, 69, 70 |
| AEROMARINE SUPPLY COMPANY | 30 |
| ALABAMA DRIVERS LICENSE | 12 |
| ALONZO, CLOVINA | 84 |
| AMERICAN - SOUTHERN AFRICA COUNCIL | 20 |
| ANDERSON, PATRICIA | 25, 26 |
| ASHE, BOBBY FRED | 69 |
| ATLANTA, GEORGIA ADDRESSES | 29, 30, 31 |
| AUSTIN, BLACKY | 61 |
| AUSTIN, JOSEPH ELMER | 69 |
| AUTOMOBILE PURCHASE | 11 |
| AUTOMOBILE REGISTRATION | 13 |
| AVALON CLEANERS & LAUNDRY, INC. | 18, 19, 37 |
| BANK OF AMERICA MONEY ORDERS | 20, 23, 24, 26, 27 |
| BANK, SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX | 11 |
| BARNETT, LEO | 48 |
| BARTENDING, INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF | 21, 28 |




2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

| | |
|---|---|
| BEDSPREAD | 35, 37 |
| BEER, SCHLITZ CAN | 35 |
| BEMAN, RICHARD | 47 |
| BINOCULARS, BANNER BY BUSHNELL | 33, 34 |
| BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA ADDRESS | 11, 19 |
| BLOCK, JULIUS | 47 |
| BOND, JAMES | 49 |
| BOOKMAN, CHARLES CALVIN | 76 |
| BRADLEY, JAMES H. | 49 |
| BRADLEY, JIMMY Z. | 49 |
| BRITTON, THOMAS | 50 |
| BROWN, JAMES W. | 51 |
| BURNS, BOBBY | 74, 75 |
| CALLAWAY, LORRAINE | 80 |
| CANADIAN POSTAL MONEY ORDERS | 8, 9, 10 |
| CANADIAN RESIDENCE | 8, 11 |
| CAPITOL HOMES | 36 |
| CARPENTER, JEROME | 50 |
| CARPENTER, JIMMY | 55, 57 |
| CARPENTER, RUBY | 40, 44 |
| CONTINENTAL DANCE CLUB STUDIO | 12 |
| CORT FOX FORD COMPANY | 25 |
| COX, EVERETT WAYNE | 52 |




2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

| | |
|---|---|
| CREWS, THOMAS B. | 53 |
| CURTIS, RAY LOUIS | 53, 54, 66 |
| DAY, GINGER | 79 |
| DANCING LESSONS | 12, 17, 18 |
| DeGRASSE, MARIAN | 29 |
| DENNINO, MARIE | 79 |
| DENNIS, DYRELL | 78, 86 |
| DONIAN, MICHAEL | 44 |
| DONIAN, SUSAN | 44 |
| DOWDA, LEWIE | 54, 55, 69, 70 |
| DRAKE, CARL BENTON | 50, 60, 71 |
| DYKEMA, DALE LEROY | 22 |
| EDMONDSON, GEORGE | 54 |
| FLETCHER, JAMES C. | 70 |
| FORMULA, E. Z. | 10 |
| FREEMAN, DR. MARK O. | 16 |
| FRIENDSHIP CLUB | 12 |
| FULLER, MABLE | 45 |
| FUTURA BOOKS, INC. | 8, 26 |
| GALT, ERIC | 8, 10, 12, 22, 23, 24, 33, 37 |
| GALT, ERIC S. | 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 38 |




2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176