

Lab File 48

Expedite  
(T.T.ans)

4/6/68

*J. J. [unclear]*

PLAIN TEXT                      AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI            ATTN: FBI LABORATORY  
FROM : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN  
         CIVIL RIGHTS

5(a)

BK  
Clark

Q 69 70, 71, 72

LFPS

PC-A 5505

Submitted herewith are additional items recovered in connection with the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.:

*Q 69*

(1) One pair of men's shorts. (Waistband in unstretched condition, one side, measures approximately 11 3/4 inches, which would be waistband of approximately 23 1/2 inches. Fully extended waistband measures approximately 17 1/2 inches, one side or a total of 35 inches.

*Q 70*

(2) T-shirt, size 42-44, designated "Jockey Power Knit" T-shirt, large size. It appears on visual examination that lower portion of T-shirt has been cut.

Laboratory requested to examine T-shirt and shorts for any hidden laundry marks and any other examination that may help to determine origin of garments. In connection with the laundry tape that appears on both the shorts and T-shirt, the number 02B-6 appears. Since a portion of the left side of each of these tapes is missing, the possibility that the "0" might be the remnant of the letter "D" or some other combinations should not be overlooked.

Inquiry of the Albany Office discloses that the Textile Marking Machine Co., Syracuse, N.Y., has a representative, JOE COMBS, 5232 Devonshire Dr., Oxenhill, Maryland, Tel. 301-248-6123, in residence in Oxenhill. COMBS reportedly has the ability to determine on inspection of laundry marking tape as to whether or not this is type tape produced by his company and type of machine producing same.

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. - )
  - 1 - Albany
  - 1 - Birmingham
  - 2 - Memphis
- RGJ:ME  
(7)

*Evid personally delivered 4/6/68 by SA Robt Fitzpatrick of Memphis office.*

*all evidence*

*Supv O'Keefe says Div. 6 will handle*

MEM 44-1987

// Request that Laboratory prior to conducting its examinations arrange for COMBS to view tape.

Q72 In addition, there is submitted herewith one <sup>from</sup> board which is part of a window sill in window of bathroom at 492 1/2 South Main, from which it appears that fatal shot was fired.

Laboratory requested to examine board to ascertain any possibility of breech powder burns or any other identifiable markings that may be made by weapon in question. Possibility that recoil marks may appear on board. Texture of board was such that no latents of significance could be developed. Suggest however that the Bureau reexamine for possibility latents might be developed by FBI.

In addition, there is submitted herewith five cards appropriately identified of various latents lifted by representatives of the Memphis PD. These latents should be examined against any latents developed in examinations conducted by FBI.

11:50  
pm 4/6 *Supv. O'Keefe advised that SAC Juvon wanted  
laundry paper processed for latents but only  
after they had been examined by Combs*

PLAINTEXT

APRIL 7, 1968

TELETYPE

URGENT

1- Mr. Tolson  
1- Mr. Mohr  
1- Mr. DeLoach  
1- Mr. Rosen  
1- Mr. Elshob  
1- Mr. Martindale  
1- Mr. Conrad  
1- Office, 7133  
1- Mr. Brazier  
7133

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI

UNSUB; AKA JOHN WILLARD; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., VICTIM;

CR

REURAIRTEL APRIL SIX LAST.

UNDERSHORTS AND T SHIRT EACH BEARS LAUNDRY TAG WITH WHAT APPEARS TO BE CHARACTERS "O 2 B - 8." ONLY PORTIONS OF FIRST CHARACTER PRESENT ON EACH TAG. LABORATORY DOES NOT MAINTAIN VISIBLE LAUNDRY MARK FILE. NO INVISIBLE LAUNDRY MARKS FOUND ON EITHER GARMENT.

UNDERSHORTS SMALL IN SIZE WHILE T SHIRT IS LARGE. NO BRAND LABEL ON UNDERSHORTS. T SHIRT HAS "JOCKEY" BRAND LABEL WHICH IS HELD FLAT WITH FOLDED PIECE THREE QUARTER INCH WIDE CELLOPHANE TAPE ABOUT ONE INCH LONG HAVING ONE CUT END AND ONE TORN END.

RAF:jls

(11)

TELETYPE SAC, MEMPHIS  
RE: UNSUB; AKA JOHN WILLARD  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,

CROTCH SEAMS OF UNDERSHORTS REPAIRED IN TWO  
PLACES WITH BROWN THREAD.

NO HAIRS FOUND ON EITHER GARMENT.

BOARD FROM BATHROOM WINDOW SILL FOUR TWO TWO  
AND ONE HALF SOUTH MAIN BEARS RECENT DENT WHICH COULD  
HAVE BEEN PRODUCED BY LIGHT BLOW FROM MUZZLE OF WEAPON  
SUCH AS REMINGTON RIFLE SERIAL NUMBER FOUR SIX ONE FOUR  
SEVEN SIX. DENT CONTAINS MICROSCOPIC MARKS OF TYPE WHICH  
COULD BE PRODUCED BY SIDE OF BARREL AT MUZZLE BUT INSUFFI-  
CIENT MARKS FOR IDENTIFICATION LEFT ON BOARD DUE TO PHYSICAL  
NATURE OF WOOD. NO OTHER MARKS FOUND ON BOARD.

NO WOOD, PAINT, ALUMINUM OR SIGNIFICANT MARKS FOUND  
ON RIFLE BARREL. NO GUNPOWER OR RESIDUE FOUND ON BOARD.

LATENT RESULTS AND CONFIRMING LABORATORY REPORT  
BEING FURNISHED SEPARATELY.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

1-Mr. Rosen  
(Attn: Mr. Martindale)  
1-Mr. Trotter  
(Attn: Mr. Bonebrake)

1-Mr. Long  
1-Mr. Conrad

To: FBI, Birmingham

Date:

April 10, 1968

1-Mr. Frazier  
1-Mr. Griffith  
(Attn: Mr. Mortimer)  
1-Lab Files  
1-Office, 7133

Re: MURKIN

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No.  
Lab. No.

44-38861  
PC-A5524 BX

Examination requested by: Birmingham

Reference: Teletype 4-5-68

Examination requested: Firearms - Toolmarks - Document - Fingerprint

Remarks:

The enclosed report confirms the teletype to Birmingham and Memphis on April 9, 1968.

The results of the latent and document examinations requested are being furnished separately.

All of the evidence listed in the enclosed report is being temporarily retained in the Laboratory.

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

2 - Memphis (44-1987) Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

RAF:nlb (17)<sup>2</sup>

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REPORT  
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Birmingham

Date: April 10, 1968

Re: MURKIN

FBI File No. 44-38861

Lab. No. DC-A5524 BX

Specimens received 4-6-68

- Q72 .243 Winchester caliber Remington bolt-action rifle,  
Model 700, Serial Number 283749 from Aeromarine  
Supply Company
- Q73 Telescope sight mount from .243 Winchester caliber rifle
- Q74 Original invoice dated 3-29-68, Number 2251A, covering  
sale of rifle to Harvey Lowmeyer
- Q75 Copy of invoice, Number 2251A

## ALSO SUBMITTED:

Factory box for .243 Winchester caliber rifle  
Nine boxes of caliber .243 Winchester ammunition  
Elimination major case prints of Donald F. Wood  
and U. L. Mathew Baker

## Results of examination:

Debris found on the face of the bolt of the  
Q72 rifle shows that this rifle has not been fired  
recently. The debris has been present for a considerable  
length of time and this weapon probably has not been fired  
since manufacture.

The Memphis Office submitted a .30-06 Springfield  
caliber Remington Model 760 rifle, Serial Number 461476,  
to the Laboratory in connection with this case. A Redfield  
telescope sight is mounted on this rifle. No marks were found  
on the telescope sight tube and, therefore, the telescope  
sight mount, Q73, cannot be associated with this sight tube  
on the basis of a toolmark examination. Therefore, it was  
not possible to determine whether or not the telescope  
sight was ever on the telescope mount.

RAF: all

(13)

1-Mr. Tolson 1-Mr. Bishop  
1-Mr. Mohr 1-Mr. Martindale  
1-Mr. DeLoach 1-Mr. Conerly  
1-Mr. Rosen Rm. 6129, 15  
1-Mr. Trotter

4-9-68

PLAINTEXT

1-Mr. Conrad 1-Mr. Griffith  
1-Mr. Frazier 1-Office, 7133

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO SACS BIRMINGHAM  
MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FACH DIRECTOR FBI

MURKIN. REFERENCE BIRMINGHAM TELETYPE TO BUREAU AND  
MEMPHIS APRIL FIVE. ON APRIL FIVE SPECIAL AGENT NEIL P.  
SHARPLEY, BIRMINGHAM, DELIVERED EVIDENCE FOR FINGERPRINT AND  
LABORATORY EXAMINATION IN ACCORDANCE REFERENCED TELETYPE.

DEBRIS ON FACE OF BOLT SHOWS POINT TWO FOUR THREE  
WINCHESTER CALIBER REMINGTON RIFLE, SERIAL NUMBER TWO EIGHT  
THREE SEVEN FOUR NINE, FROM AEROMARINE SUPPLY COMPANY, BIRMINGHAM,  
HAS NOT BEEN FIRED RECENTLY AND PROBABLY NOT FIRED SINCE  
MANUFACTURE.

NO MARKS FOUND ON TELESCOPE SIGHT TUBE SUBMITTED BY  
MEMPHIS ON REMINGTON RIFLE, SERIAL NUMBER FOUR SIX ONE FOUR SEVEN  
SIX, AND THEREFORE TELESCOPE SIGHT MOUNT FROM AEROMARINE SUPPLY  
COMPANY CANNOT BE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS SIGHT TUBE.

DOCUMENT AND LATENT EXAMINATIONS RESULTS SEPARATE REPORT  
FOLLOWS.

PC-A5524 BX

RAF:MLB (14)

500PM IMMEDIATE 4-3-68 JGA  
TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS  
FROM BIRMINGHAM

*White*  
*James*  
*W. J. ...*  
*...*

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., RM.

RE ALSARY TEL TO BIRMINGHAM AND BIRMINGHAM TELEPHONE CALLS  
TO THE BUREAU AND MEMPHIS THIS DATE.

RECORDS OF WINBERLY THOMAS HARDWARE COMPANY INDICATE RIFLE  
IN QUESTION SOLD TO AEROMARINE SUPPLY COMPANY, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA.  
SALESMAN AT AEROMARINE SUPPLY COMPANY FURNISHED INVOICE THIS  
DATE INDICATING RIFLE, TOGETHER WITH A REDFIELD SCOPE WITH A  
WEAVER - TYPE MOUNT, SOLD TO ONE HARVEY LOWMEYER, NINETEEN  
NAUGHT SEVEN SOUTH ELEVENTH STREET, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, ONE MARCH  
THIRTY, SIXTYEIGHT. SALESMAN INDICATED THAT LOWMEYER ORIGINALLY  
PURCHASED A REMINGTON SEVEN ZERO ZERO MODEL RIFLE ON MARCH  
TWENTYNINE, SIXTYEIGHT, AND MADE ARRANGEMENTS THE FOLLOWING  
MORNING TO EXCHANGE IT FOR A REMINGTON SEVEN SIXTY MODEL BEARING  
SERIAL NUMBER FOUR SIX ONE FOUR SEVEN SIX, TOGETHER WITH ONE

*White*  
*4-9-68*  
*...*



PAGE TWO.

BOX OF THREE ZERO DECIMAL ZERO SIX AMMUNITION. PURCHASE PRICE WAS TWO FOUR EIGHT DOLLARS AND FIVE NINE CENTS, WHICH WAS PAID IN BILLS OF TWENTY DOLLAR DENOMINATIONS. TELEPHONE DIRECTORY AND CROSS INDEX INDICATE FICTITIOUS NAME AND ADDRESS USED. NO CRIMINAL OR CREDIT RECORD FOR LOWMEYER LOCATED BIRMINGHAM. DISCREET INQUIRY AT ADDRESS GIVEN INDICATES LOWMEYER UNKNOWN.

ORIGINAL INVOICE BEING HAND CARRIED TO BUREAU THIS DATE, TOGETHER WITH THE RIFLE WHICH WAS RETURNED BY THE UNKNOWN SUBJECT, AS WELL AS THE CARTON IN WHICH IT WAS CONTAINED, FOR EXAMINATION PURPOSES.

ALL HOTELS, MOTELS, AIRLINES, AND RENTAL CAR AGENCIES IN THE AREA ARE BEING CHECKED FOR PERTINENT PERIOD. ALL LEADS RECEIVING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED.

RECEIVED: 5:58PM MSE

MR. SHERMAN

*6/11/68*  
*Handwritten signature*

SOVE

4/6

1-Mr. Conrad  
1-Mr. Frazier  
1-Office, 7183  
4-8-68 TTAMS

Mr. Conrad

1-Mr. Bonebrake, 6129, IB  
1-Mr. Griffith

R. H. Jevons

UNKNOWN SUBJECT, also  
known as John Willard;  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -  
VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS

See TJ 4/5/68 to  
Rev + Memphis from PH

FC-A 5524

5a  
7  
BX  
BX  
Doc  
JFS  
(Bonebrake)

As a result of investigation, the Birmingham Office advised that the .30-06 Remington rifle involved in this case was sold to a person giving the name Harvey Lowmeyer on 3-30-68 by the Aeromarine Supply Company, 5701 Airport Highway, Birmingham, Alabama. The purchaser originally bought a caliber .243 Winchester rifle on 3-29-68 upon which he had mounted a Redfield telescope sight. The purchaser returned this rifle the following day and exchanged it for the .30-06 caliber Remington rifle, Serial Number 461476, which was recovered in Memphis immediately following the shooting of Martin Luther King, Jr. Aeromarine Supply Company transferred the telescope sight to this rifle, using a new mount.

The Birmingham Office submitted the following material for Laboratory and latent examination:

- Q72 .243 Winchester caliber Remington bolt-action rifle, Model 700, Serial Number 283749 from Aeromarine Supply Company
- Q73 Telescope sight mount from .243 Winchester caliber rifle
- Q74 Original invoice dated 3-29-68, Number 2251A, covering sale of rifle to Harvey Lowmeyer
- Q75 Copy of invoice, Number 2251A
- A/S Factory box for .243 Winchester caliber rifle

- 1-Mr. Tolson
- 1-Mr. Mohr
- 1-Mr. DeLoach
- 1-Mr. Rosen
- 1-Mr. Trotter
- 1-Mr. Bishop
- 1-Mr. Martindale

RAF:nlb (13)

(CONTINUED - OVER)

Memorandum to Mr. Conrad  
Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT, also  
known as John Willard;  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -  
VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS

AS

Nine boxes of caliber .243 Winchester  
ammunition

AS

Elimination major case prints of Donald F. Wood  
and U. L. Mathew Baker

Birmingham requested the Laboratory determine whether  
this .243 Winchester rifle had been fired. The Laboratory  
determined it had not been fired.

Birmingham requested we determine whether we could  
associate the telescope sight on the rifle recovered in  
Memphis with the sight mount originally used with this sight  
on the .243 Winchester rifle. The Laboratory determined there  
were no marks left on the telescope sight by this mount and  
therefore no association was possible.

A document examination is being made of the signature  
appearing on the gun sale invoice and fingerprint examinations  
are being made on all of the items listed above.

In this connection, the nine boxes of ammunition were  
submitted since the Aeromarine Supply Company clerks stated  
the purchaser of the rifle may have handled one or more of  
these boxes.

Birmingham and Memphis will be advised of the results  
of all examinations by teletype.

ACTION: For information.