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396

Martin Luther King Jr
Memorandum

218 Page.

2nd Circuit

Section 49

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SI (Springfie Id)
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE SPRINGFIELD	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 5/24/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 3/25/68 - 5/22/68
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, Aka - FUGITIVE; IO 4182 WF 442-A TOP TEN FUGITIVE; DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA WILLIAM ROBERTS, III	TYPED BY sjs
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY	

REFERENCES:

Bureau airtel to All Offices, dated 5/7/68.

- P -

LEADS:SPRINGFIELD DIVISIONAt Springfield, Illinois.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						None	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN: PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☒ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☒ NO
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
APPROVED						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		
COPIES MADE:						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
SI 44-561						111-37761-21 REC-21		
See Cover Page B						25 MAY 29 1968		
1cc-CHUnit, Rm 2260								
5 - Bureau (44-38861)								
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations		
Agency	FBI Chicago					FUG-80p. SIX STAT. SECT.		
Request Recd.	FBI Chicago							
Date Fwd.	8-28-68							
How Fwd.	6-44							
By	S. J. [Signature]							
79 JUN 11 1968								

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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TELETYPE

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TO DIRECTOR, FBI (100-441100)

FROM SAC, NEW YORK (100-157100)

URGENT

5/29/68

RE: JAMES EARL RAY

ALBANY, NEW YORK

RE: NEW YORK TELETYPE TO BUREAU, 5/29/68

END

100-441100

RE: JAMES EARL RAY, ALBANY, NEW YORK

100-157100

100-157100

RE: JAMES EARL RAY

ALBANY, NEW YORK

END

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REC-50

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SI 44-561

3 - Bureau (44-38861)
3 - Memphis (44-1987)
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1 - New Orleans (157-10673)(Info)
1 - St. Louis (44-775)(Info)
2 - Springfield (44-561)

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Will continue efforts to locate subject RAY.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA:

Information copies sent Atlanta, Birmingham, Chicago, Houston, Jackson, Kansas City, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and St. Louis Divisions in view of pending investigation in those Divisions.

No leads are being set forth in this report as they have been and are being set out by more expeditious communications.

For the sake of brevity, the body of this report does not contain the voluminous negative information obtained by the Springfield Division during the period of this report. This information is a matter of record in the Springfield Division and reflects negative information re:

- (1) ERIC STARVO GALT, agency checks; barge lines; dance studios
- (2) Laundry checks
- (3) Agency checks re HARVEY LOWMYER or LOWMEYER
- (4) Canvass of unsolved bank robberies in the Springfield Division
- (5) Canvass of law enforcement agencies re unidentified latent fingerprints
- (6) Automobiles stolen from the State of Georgia
- (7) Possible suspects and lookalikes which originated and were resolved wholly within the Springfield Division
- (8) Nonproductive interviews as a result of various telephone and mail coverage

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(9) Contacts with informants and sources,
Springfield Division

(10) Surveillances of subject's family and
associates, Springfield Division

During the course of this investigation, appropriate dissemination has been made by the Springfield Division to all law enforcement agencies and mass media contacts within the Division.

Interviews with SI 1656-C

On March 25, 1968, a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A, made at Missouri Department of Corrections on March 17, 1960 was exhibited by SA ELYON H. DAVIS to SI 1656-C. Informant advised that the photograph was familiar to him and was someone that he thought he had known in St. Louis, Missouri, in either 1959 or 1960. Informant stated that he had never seen RAY to his knowledge in Quincy, Illinois. Informant advised that he is very close to WALTER TERRY RIFE and sees RIFE on a daily basis. He advised that RIFE had been living at the home of his brother, LONNIE RIFE at Baylis, Illinois, however, in February, 1967, WALTER TERRY RIFE had started running the restaurant in the Virginia Hotel, in Quincy, Illinois. Informant advised that he would contact WALTER RIFE and determine if RIFE knew anything concerning RAY's whereabouts. Informant advised that he did not feel that WALTER RIFE would cooperate with the Federal authorities inasmuch as it was RIFE's nature to not cooperate with police. Informant advised that WALTER RIFE had been working on a daily basis at the Virginia Hotel in Quincy, and informant knew that in the recent past, RAY has not been in contact with WALTER RIFE.

On April 7, 1968, SI 1656-C was recontacted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS concerning JAMES EARL RAY. Informant advised that he had contacted WALTER TERRY RIFE on several occasions since last contacted and that WALTER RIFE had no information as to the present whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY. He advised

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that WALTER TERRY RIFE had told him he had not seen RAY since RIFE left Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary in 1957.

On April 19, 1968, SI 1656-C was contacted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and SA THOMAS M. SCHOENHOFER and was exhibited photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A, made at Missouri Department of Corrections on March 17, 1960, as well as a photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT. Informant advised that he has never to his knowledge seen this individual in the Quincy, Illinois area. He advised that he had been contacting WALTER TERRY RIFE almost on a daily basis and that this individual is definitely not with JAMES EARL RAY at the present time. The informant advised that he is certain that WALTER TERRY RIFE was working at his restaurant at the Virginia Hotel during the period from March 29, 1968 through April 4, 1968. Informant advised that he cannot remember exactly where he had ever seen RAY, however, he feels it was in bars located on Olive Street in St. Louis, Missouri, and to the best of his knowledge, it would have been sometime around 1959 or 1960. The informant advised that he is certain that RAY has not been in the Quincy area in the recent past or else the informant would know of it.

Informant advised that he personally is acquainted with all of the Country Music Night Clubs in the Quincy, Illinois general area and visits these places quite frequently and he is certain that RAY has not recently been to any of these night clubs.

Informant was instructed to work full time concerning the development of any information concerning the whereabouts, activities or background concerning RAY.

Interviews with SI 1661-R-Prob:

On May 1, 1968, SI 1661-R-Prob was exhibited the photograph of an unknown male allegedly resembling the subject in this matter taken at a Minutemen Meeting. Informant was unable to identify this individual as being anyone he has come in contact with within the Minutemen Organization.

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Re Prior Threats to MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

On May 3, 1968, Mrs. EUGENE WALDON (protect), Route 3, West Frankfort, Illinois, mother of JOHN C. MEDIZER, advised her son is presently residing at 5506 E. R. L. Thornton (possibly Thornton) Freeway, Dallas, Texas.

During the course of this investigation, WILLIAM HICKLE, Service Representative, Illinois Bell Telephone Company, Quincy, Illinois, (whose identity should be protected,) has furnished information affording appropriate coverage of all of subject RAY's family and associates in the Springfield Division. All leads derived from this source have been checked and telephone subscribers eliminated as having no connection with this matter.

Records of the Illinois Bell Telephone Company, should they be needed in the future, can be obtained through the issuance of a Subpoena Duces Tecum directed to Mr. HICKLE.

It should be noted that the investigative period of this report precedes the date of KING's assassination; this fact due to Springfield Division's prior investigative interest in JAMES EARL RAY, SI file 88-5361, Bufile 88-41730, entitled "JAMES EARL RAY, Aka - Fugitive, UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST."

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA WILLIAM ROBERTS, III Office: Springfield
Date: May 24, 1968
Field Office File #: SI 44-561 Bureau File #: 44-38861
Title: JAMES EARL RAY
IO 4182
WF 442-A
TOP TEN FUGITIVE
Character: DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM
Synopsis: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

Springfield files reflect HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER located and interviewed and determined not identical with subject in this case. Birth and other pertinent records located for subject JAMES EARL RAY. Numerous files reviewed re family of JAMES EARL RAY and those within Springfield Division located and interviewed. Prison records checked re RAY. Contact being maintained with all relatives at this time. Information developed and furnished re actual and alleged past associates of RAY. Interviews with possible fellow inmates of RAYs at Illinois State Penitentiary, Pontiac, Illinois, negative. Information developed and set forth re BENNY K. PINKSTON and JOHN C. MEDIZER, who have made prior threats against MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Investigation conducted to eliminate numerous possible suspects and lookalikes to JAMES EARL RAY. Wife of ROBERT HOOD STRADER located and interviewed. Investigation continuing to locate CECIL RAY. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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I. HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER

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On April 8, 1968, a check of Springfield Division indices reflected a reference to HARVEY LOHMEYER, white male, age 23 in 1955; 5' 8" tall; FBI #730 979A; home address, Palmyra, Illinois.

On April 13, 1968, a recheck of the records of the Illinois State Prison Farm, Vandalia, Illinois, regarding the sentence served by HARVEY LOHMEYER, inmate number 33316, FBI # 730 979A, was verified as June 5, 1951 to October 20, 1951. LOHMEYER was sentenced from Adams County, Quincy, Illinois, on a charge of riot.

His previous identification and arrest record contains only an arrest on August 10, 1959, by Adams County Sheriff's Office on the charge of robbery and the disposition for the charge is shown as "pending". His inmate number 33316 and FBI number 730 979A do not show other sentences at this institution for this person under the name LOHMEYER or in the alias file.

Also, on April 13, 1968, the records of the penitentiary show HARVEY LOHMEYER, Illinois State Penitentiary Menard Number 24525, received at Menard, May 19, 1955, to serve 2 to 5 years on a charge of burglary. He was paroled July, 1958. A review of the file for associates and correspondents reflects no information that LOHMEYER associated for corresponded with ERIC GALT.

On April 13, 1968, THOMAS R. LOHMEYER, DONALD L. LOHMEYER, WALTER R. LOHMEYER, JR, all brothers of HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER, FBI #730 979 A were interviewed and all presently reside in Quincy, Illinois area. DONALD L. LOHMEYER is employed by Durst Dairy at Quincy, Illinois, and was working during period March 29, 1968 and April 4, 1968 and his attendance at work was verified. THOMAS R. LOHMEYER and WALTER R. LOHMEYER, JR. are both employed by Monogram Industries, Quincy, Illinois, and both were in Quincy, Illinois, from March 29, to April 4, 1968.

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On April 12, 1968, investigation was conducted in the Quincy, Illinois area in an effort to locate HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER, FBI #730 979A.

Investigation showed that HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER has not been in the Quincy area for many years and that his last known place of residence was somewhere in the State of California.

On April 13, 1968, the records of the Quincy, Illinois Police Department, were reviewed and showed the following records for brothers of HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER:

WALTER R. LOHMEYER, JR.

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Quincy, Illinois
Height	5' 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Weight	180 lbs.
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Ruddy
Build	Medium
Tattoo	Two swords on left forearm
Occupation	Laborer, Monogram Industries 825 South Front Street Quincy, Illinois

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The file showed the following arrests for WALTER LOHMEYER, JR.:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHARGE</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
6-16-40	Selling liquor	\$25 fine
10-2-43	Speeding	\$10 fine
3-15-51	Peace disturbance	\$25 fine
7-19-52	Careless driving	\$15 fine
7-16-54	Reckless driving	Sentenced 90 days Vandalia State Prison Farm
3-16-55	Peace disturbance	\$25 fine
8-23-59	Careless driving	\$15 fine

The Quincy Police Department files showed the following physical description of DONALD LOHMEYER:

RACE:	White
SEX:	Male
DATE OF BIRTH:	
HEIGHT:	5'7"
WEIGHT:	153 lbs.
HAIR:	Brown
EYES:	Brown

The file showed the following arrests for DONALD LOHMEYER:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHARGE</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
4-26-47	Investigation	Released
1-29-51	Careless driving	\$25 fine
4-29-52	Speeding	\$20 fine
10-27-56	Speeding	\$5

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The files showed the physical description of THOMAS R. LOHMEYER as follows:

RACE:	White
SEX:	Male
AGE:	not shown
HEIGHT:	5'7 1/2"
WEIGHT:	150 lbs.
HAIR:	Brown
EYES:	Brown
COMPLEXION:	Ruddy
HOME ADDRESS:	1501 North 4th St. Quincy, Ill.

The files showed the following arrest record for THOMAS R. LOHMEYER:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHARGE</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
6-28-45	B & E	Released
3-15-51	Peace disturbance	\$25 fine
5-25-52	Peace disturbance	\$10 fine
3-15-55	Peace disturbance	\$15 fine

On 4-13-68 ELIZABETH ROTH, Credit Bureau of Quincy, Inc., Quincy, Ill., furnished the following information concerning the LOHMEYERS in the files of her office:

WALTER RAY LOHMEYER, JR., in 1/68 was residing at 1377 Hampshire Street, Quincy, Illinois. He presently owns his home at that address and is very slow in payment on credit bills. He has been employed by Monogram Industries, Quincy, Ill., for approximately 20 years. No information of any connections of WALTER R. LOHMEYER, JR., outside Quincy, Illinois.

The file showed that THOMAS R. LOHMEYER's last known address was 1527 South Fifth Street, Quincy, as of 6/65. He later made inquiries concerning purchasing a home in Payson, Illinois. As of 4/66 a credit check showed he had been employed by Monogram Industries in Quincy for 11 years. Nothing was contained in the file that would indicate that LOHMEYER had ever lived anywhere except the Quincy area.

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The credit bureau files showed that DONALD L. LOHMEYER was last known to reside at 1501 North Fourth Street, Quincy, Ill., as of 8/66. On 11/66 the records show he was employed as a laborer at Durst Dairy, Quincy, and his wife at Illinois Bell Telephone Co., Quincy, Ill. The file did not show any residence for DONALD LOHMEYER outside the Quincy, Ill., area.

On 4-13-68, CHARLES GARRIN, Office Manager, Durst Dairy, Quincy, Ill., advised that DONALD L. LOHMEYER is employed by that company as a laborer and that he was working on 3-29-68 and 3-30-68 and 4/1-4/68. He advised that LOHMEYER did not work on 3-31-68 as that was his day off. He also advised that LOHMEYER has been a good employee for many years and was a very quiet individual and had not been involved in any violence during the period of time he was employed by Durst Dairy.

On 4-13-68, DONALD L. LOHMEYER was interviewed at his place of employment, Durst Dairy, Quincy, Ill. He advised he has not been out of the State of Illinois, for a number of months and that he was working on 3-29 and 3-30-68 as well as 4/1-4/68. He advised he has not seen his brother, HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER for many years and only knew that HARVEY was living somewhere in California. He stated during the period from 3-29-68 until 4-4-68 he had seen his brothers, WALTER R. LOHMEYER and THOMAS R. LOHMEYER almost on a daily basis and knew for certain that neither one had been outside the Quincy, Ill., area. He advised that the name ERIC STARVO GALT was completely unfamiliar to him and he has never known anyone by that name to be associated with any member of the LOHMEYER family. He also advised he has never known any member of his family other than HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER, to use the name HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER.

On 4-13-68 Mrs. WALTER R. LOHMEYER, JR., 1877 Hampshire Street, Quincy, Ill., was interviewed and furnished the following information:

Her husband has not been out of the State of Illinois since 3/29/68 and he has been employed regularly at Monogram Industries with the exception of the dates 3-29 and 30-68 and 4-1 and 4-2-68 during which dates the union was on strike at Monogram. She advised that on these dates her husband was on the picket line and did not leave Quincy. She stated also that THOMAS R. LOHMEYER is employed by Monogram Industries and was at work on 4-3 and 4-4-68 and was on the picket lines at Monogram Industries on 3/29-30/68 and 4/1-2/68.

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On 4-13-68 WALTER R. LOHMEYER, JR., 1877 Hampshire St., was interviewed and advised he has not been out of the Quincy, Ill., area since 8-15-67. He advised he has been to work every day during work days with the exception of 3/29-30/68 and 4/1-2/68 on which dates he was on the picket line at Monogram Industries his place of employment in Quincy, Ill. He stated that on each date from 3-29-68 until 4-4-68, he saw his brother, THOMAS R. LOHMEYER, who is also employed by Monogram Industries and was at work on each date with the exception of the dates the union was on strike.

On 4-13-68 BILL LONG, Personnel Manager, Monogram Industries, 825 South Front St., Quincy, verified that WALTER R. LOHMEYER, JR., and THOMAS LOHMEYER were employed on every date during the last two months, with the exception the days the union was on strike.

He advised on 3/29-30/68 and 4/1-2/68 both the LOHMEYERS had been observed on the picket lines at Monogram Industries.

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On April 20, 1968, the following investigation was conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and SA JAMES T. GOSS at Quincy, Illinois:

Five photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306443A were exhibited to WALTER R. LOHMEYER, 1877 Hampshire Street, Quincy, Illinois. LOHMEYER advised that he has never to his knowledge seen this individual before and he did not remember ever hearing any member of the LOHMEYER family mention JAMES EARL RAY. He advised that he specifically had never heard his brother HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER mention JAMES EARL RAY.

On April 20, 1968, photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A were exhibited to Mrs. RITA F. LOHMEYER, 1877 Hampshire Street, Quincy. She advised that she had never seen this individual to her knowledge in her life and had never heard any member of the LOHMEYER family mention him.

On April 20, 1968, photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443A were exhibited to THOMAS LOHMEYER, Payson, Illinois. He advised that the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, were not familiar to him and that he could not state that he had ever seen this individual in his life. He also advised that he had never heard his brother, HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER, mention this individual.

On April 20, 1968, the photographs of RAY were also exhibited to Mrs. THOMAS LOHMEYER, Payson, Illinois, who advised that she did not know RAY and had never heard any member of the LOHMEYER family mention RAY.

On April 20, 1968, DONALD LOHMEYER, 1507 North Fourth Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised while being interviewed by SA DAVIS and viewing photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, that he did not recognize the photograph of RAY as anyone that he had ever known. He stated that these photographs were vaguely familiar to him and that if he had ever seen RAY, it was only to see RAY and not that of an acquaintance. He advised that he had never heard his brother HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER ever mention JAMES EARL RAY.

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The photographs of RAY were also exhibited by SA DAVIS to Mrs. LUCY LOHMEYER, 1507 North Fourth Street, Quincy, Illinois and she advised that JAMES EARL RAY is not known to her and that the photographs of RAY are not familiar to her.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA
ELYON H. DAVIS:

On April 21, 1968, EARL JACK HILAND, Operator, Sky Ride Inn Tavern, 236 Front Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER was at one time a brother-in-law of HILAND and that HILAND was in jail at the Adams County Jail, Quincy, Illinois, with LOHMEYER and ROBERT KELLY in 1951 after they were involved in a brawl at the Barn Night Club, Quincy, Illinois. HILAND viewed a number of photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and advised that the photographs are vaguely familiar to him as someone he has seen in the past. He stated that he definitely is not an associate of RAY and has never been a close associate of RAY and stated he could not furnish any information concerning RAY, RAY's associates, activities, or whereabouts.

On April 21, 1968, ROBERT KELLY, 1210 Hampshire Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised he was arrested at the Barn Night Club in Quincy, Illinois, with JACK HILAND, HARVEY LOHMEYER and JOHN O'DEAR.

KELLY advised that he is not acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY and did not know anything concerning RAY's family, whereabouts, or activities.

On April 21, 1968, JOHN O'DEAR, Route 6, Quincy, Illinois, advised he had been arrested for causing a riot at the Barn Night Club in Quincy in the early 1950's and that he was arrested with HARVEY LOHMEYER, JACK HILAND and BOB KELLY. He stated that JAMES EARL RAY is not an associate of his. He also advised that he is not acquainted with RAY's relatives and could furnish no information concerning RAY.

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II. JAMES EARL RAY

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The following investigation was conducted
by SA ROBERT C. HAINES:

On April 19, 1968, Sergeant HAROLD COX, Alton
Illinois Police Department, made available Alton Police
Department file 7514 on James Earl Ray:

This file disclosed RAY was arrested by the
Alton Police Department as early as 1949 and as recently as
1959 for charges ranging from traffic violations through
vagrancy, burglary and armed robbery. A photograph of
RAY taken in 1955 was made available and will be submitted
to the case file.

Conference with officers at the Alton Police Depart-
ment, disclosed that the last known residence for RAY's
parents JAMES and LUCIE RAY was 1439 Locust Street, Quincy,
Illinois. Contact with relatives on RAY's mother's side
of the family with family name, MAHER, disclosed that
LUCILLE MAHER RAY divorced RAY's father and is currently
residing in East St. Louis, Illinois area but her exact
whereabouts are unknown. Likewise, her new married
name is unknown to relatives in Alton.

Mrs. MARGARET KESHNER, Circuit Clerk, Alton,
Illinois, made available a photo copy of a Certificate
of Birth. #123 which disclosed JAMES EARL RAY was born
[redacted] to JAMES RAY and LUCIE MAHER.

All Alton Police Department Units have been
furnished a photograph of RAY and have been alerted to
be on the lookout for him.

RAY is not known to have been in the Alton, Illinois
area since 1959 when he perpetrated an armed robbery at
Wagoner's Foodliner, an independent grocery store
located on the corner of 9th and Alby Streets in Alton,
Illinois.

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Previous investigation concerning RAY was conducted in January, 1968, under the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement classification and efforts at that time to locate WILLIAM MAHER at 1118 East 7th Street, disclosed that MAHER no longer resides in Alton, Illinois and all public source records failed to disclose any information concerning his current whereabouts.

The Kansas City Division indicated that RAY was employed by the International Shoe Company at Hartford, Illinois, prior to incarceration at the Missouri State Penitentiary. It is to be noted that the tannery operated by the International Shoe Company at Hartford is no longer in business having shut down operations approximately 2 years ago.

On April 20, 1968, a certificate of birth was located showing JAMES EARL RAY was born [redacted] at Alton, Illinois to JAMES RAY and LUCIE MAHER.

The following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT BLUM RASCOE:

On April 19, 1968, a review of the files furnished by U.S. Probation and Parole Office, Springfield, Illinois, was made by SA ROBERT BLUM RASCOE: The following information was obtained for lead value:

Correspondence while JAMES EARL RAY was incarcerated in the Missouri State Penitentiary:

Aunt, Miss LUCY RYAN, 701½ Washington Street, address also given as 801 North 12th Street, Quincy, Illinois;

One time co-defendant was WALTER TERRY RIFE, who is incarcerated in Leavenworth, Kansas. RIFE now lives in Quincy, Illinois.

Employment:

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Dryden Rubber Company from July, 1949 to September, 1949, Chicago, Illinois;

International Shoe Company, May, 1944, to December, 1945, Hartford, Illinois;

Neo Product Company, April, 1950 to July, 1950, Chicago, Illinois;

Arbey Corporation, July, 1950, to July, 1951, Chicago, Illinois;

Borg - Erickson Corporation, August, 1951, to May, 1952, Chicago, Illinois;

Relatives:

Uncle who resides in Quincy, Illinois, no name given

Other names and addresses

WILLIAM MAHER, 1118 East 7th Street, Alton, Illinois.

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JLM/jac

1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA JOSEPH L. MC KINSTAY.

On April 23, 1968, EDNA BAER, coordinator, Selective Service System, St. Clair County, advised she had no record of JAMES EARL RAY under that name or any known aliases. She stated that the serial number given 16163129 indicates to her that the first "1" means the man was an enlistee and the second digit "6" indicates he enlisted in the Sixth Corp or Army area. She stated that she recalled that in 1946 inductees from this area were sent to Chicago, Illinois for induction and there was no induction center at East St. Louis, Illinois.

Mrs. ADA S. DANIELS, Selective Service System, Madison County, Illinois, advised she could locate no record identifiable with JAMES EARL RAY under that name or known aliases or through the above military service number or the birthdate March 10, 1928.

At East St. Louis, Illinois

Sergeant TOMMY CARROLL, Army Recruiter, 650 Missouri Avenue, advised that his office does not maintain old records concerning enlistments. He suggested that if the military service number of an individual is known, his record could be located at the Department of Defense, Military Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri.

On 4/22/68, ROY WEHRMAN, Personnel Manager, Quincy Compressor, Inc., Quincy, Illinois, advised that the records of his office show that JAMES EARL RAY, Social Security [REDACTED] was employed by Quincy Compressor on 8/6/51 and that he quit work on 9/4/51. He was employed as a drill press operator on the night shift and his application was filled out by the foreman PETER DUNKER.

The records show that JAMES EARL RAY's home address was 1439 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois. His education was listed as four years of grade school at Quincy, Illinois and four years of high school at Chicago, Illinois. Identities of the schools not shown.

The file showed previous employment with the Arvey Corporation or Avery Corporation, Chicago, Illinois, as a laborer for one year. Hourly wage \$1.40, dates of employment not shown.

The previous employment to that was apparently with Neo Produce Company, Chicago, Illinois. Period of employment was four months, position, labor.

The file showed the following description of JAMES EARL RAY:

Race	White
Height	5'11"
Weight	150 pounds
Date of application	8/6/51

On 4/23/68, PETER DUNKER, Superintendent, Drill Press Room, after viewing the application of JAMES EARL RAY and the photographs of RAY advised that he cannot

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remember or recall JAMES EARL RAY. He pointed out that RAY only worked in his department for three weeks and that many thousands of people had worked in the Drill Press Section of Quincy Compressor. He stated that the record showed that RAY FELKER would have been the immediate foreman of RAY.

On 4/23/68, RAY FELKER, supervisor, Quincy Compressor, Inc., advised that after viewing several photographs of JAMES EARL RAY that he does not remember JAMES EARL RAY and does not recall the name. He advised that there is no one presently employed in the drill press operation that was working on the night shift in 1951. He advised that he cannot furnish any further information concerning RAY.

On 4/23/68, ELSIE RUDER, clerk, Local Board #1, Quincy, Illinois, advised that the files of her office show that JAMES EARL RAY, 214 Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois, registered with the local board #1 on 4/13/49. His home address was shown as 214 Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois and his date of birth, [redacted] at Alton, Illinois. His closest relative was shown as LUCILLE RAY, his mother, at 214 Spring Street. His occupation was listed as student, American Television School, St. Louis, Missouri.

The file showed previous military service with the United States Army from 2/19/46 until 12/23/48 and this was with the First Division, 16th Infantry Regiment. The file showed RAY to be holder of Serial Number 16163129.

The file showed his description as:

Eyes	Blue
Hair	Black
Complexion	Ruddy
Height	5'11"
Weight	157 pounds

Mrs. RUDER advised that this was all of the information located at Local Board #1. The complete file would be located at the Illinois State Headquarters of the Selective Service System Springfield, Illinois.

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On April 18, 1968, the following individuals were recontacted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and advised that they had no information concerning JAMES EARL RAY:

VIOLA MAYFIELD,
2716 Cherry Street,
Quincy, Illinois;

FLOYD RIFE,
226 Lind Street,
Quincy, Illinois;

Sergeant ROLAND HANSON,
Quincy, Illinois Police Department,
Quincy, Illinois.

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EHD:ras

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA
ELYON H. DAVIS:

On April 23, 1968, JUDSON GREEN, Business Manager, Quincy Clinic, Quincy, Illinois, advised that the records of his office shows that JAMES RAY first visited the Quincy Clinic on August 15, 1938. The records showed he was in the third grade at that time and also the family consisted of two other living children and one that had died of burns. JAMES RAY was listed as the oldest member of the family and his home address at that time was in care of Mrs. JAMES RAY, 315 Cherry Street.

On this first visit, he was attended to by Dr. WHITAKER and at that time suffered from loss of consciousness, sudden onset, both legs withdrawn. He was unconscious for thirty minutes and jerked and twitched with no biting of tongue. He did not soil his clothes and later had no memory of this attack. He had a history of frequent out-cries at night. The records showed Dr. WHITAKER had diagnosed this as possible epilepsy, spontaneous in origin and not traumatic. No other symptoms at that time. He was also a persistent bed wetter and seemed to have no control at night.

Later, he was treated on July 3, 1940, by Dr. GUY TURNEY for a small blister right thumb and forefinger caused by a firecracker explosion. On the second day, this wound was cleaned. No other information available concerning any medical treatment. The file contained the following addresses, dates of the addresses not shown; however, the first entry made was on March 4, 1936 and the last on October 29, 1940: The addresses were shown all in Quincy, Illinois, as follows:

412 North Fifth Street

Rural Route 3, 18th Street

212 Spring Street

1258 Hampshire Street

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928 Lind Street

1616 North Second Street

121 South Ninth Street

1517 North Fourth Street

701 $\frac{1}{2}$ North Fifth Street

128 $\frac{1}{2}$ North Fifth Street

1439 Cherry Street

214 Spring Street

315 Cherry Street

413 Vermont Street

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1

The following investigation was conducted at Quincy, Illinois, by SA ELYON H. DAVIS:

On March 25, 1968, ROSIE RIFE, 400 College Avenue, Quincy, advised that she is the mother of WALTER TERRY RIFE. A photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A, was exhibited to her, however, she advised that she did not know RAY. She advised that she has not seen this individual with her son, WALTER TERRY RIFE, and knew nothing concerning RAY's whereabouts.

On March 25, 1968, VIOLA MAYFIELD, 2716 Cherry Street, advised that she is the sister of WALTER TERRY RIFE and operates VI's Style Salon at that address. She advised that her brother, WALTER RIFE, had been living with another brother, LONNIE RIFE, at Baylis, Illinois. She advised that the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY was unfamiliar to her and that she had, to her knowledge, never seen this individual in her life. She could furnish no information concerning JAMES EARL RAY.

On March 25, 1968, FLOYD RIFE, 226 Lind Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that he is the brother of WALTER TERRY RIFE. He viewed a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that he had never seen JAMES EARL RAY to his knowledge. He advised that WALTER RIFE has been operating for several weeks the restaurant located in the Virginia Hotel in Quincy, Illinois and he, FLOYD, is in that restaurant almost on a daily basis and he had not seen or heard anything concerning JAMES EARL RAY.

On March 25, 1968, Captain HAROLD HUNSAKER, Quincy, Illinois Police Department advised that his department has received no information in the recent past concerning JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A. He advised that the last record in his file concerning RAY was when RAY was arrested in Hannibal, Missouri, in 1955 with WALTER TERRY RIFE.

On March 25, 1968, DONALD G. OITKER, 321 South 7th Street, Quincy, advised that he has lived at that address for a number of years and that the name KATHERINE DORIS BUSKIRK is unfamiliar to him. He advised that the name JAMES EARL RAY is unfamiliar with him and after viewing a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A, advised that he does not know this individual.

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2

On April 11, 1968, Sergeant ROLAND HANSON, Quincy, Illinois Police Department, was contacted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS at which time Sergeant HANSON advised that he had no information concerning JAMES EARL RAY and that the Quincy Police Department has received no information concerning the present whereabouts of RAY.

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III. FAMILY OF JAMES EARL RAY

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A. SUMMARY

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On 4-20-68, GEORGE PARSONS, 2826 College Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed and furnished the following information:

PARSONS advised that he is a supervisor for the Illinois Youth Commission and has had numerous contacts with the family of LUCILE RYAN. He stated that this family is also known by the name RAY. PARSONS advised that around 1955 and 1966 he had kept a member of this family, MELBA MARIE RYAN, in his home and that he had always been close to MELBA MARIE RYAN. He stated that this individual has mental problems and that nothing says can be relied upon.

PARSONS advised that he does not have any exact dates concerning anything in the family but that he knows the family is supposed to have moved to Quincy, Illinois, sometime during the 1940s and that the entire family lived at 214 String Street, Quincy, Illinois, during the 1940s until approximately 1955. He stated that this area at that time was an area infested with houses of prostitution and a very rough neighborhood and a very poor neighborhood. PARSONS stated that the entire family had been very close to each other and that he felt that members of the family would certainly harbor JAMES EARL RAY. He stated this would be particularly true of JERRY RYAN and JACK or JOHN RYAN. He felt that these two would harbor JAMES EARL RAY if they thought it would be to JAMES EARL RAY's advantage.

He furnished the following names for members of the family:

Father	JAMES, JIM or JERRY RAY
Mother	LUCILE RAY or LUCILE RYAN
Son	JAMES EARL RAY
Son	JERRY RAY
Son	JACK RAY
Son	FRANKLIN DELEANOR RAY

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Son
Daughter
Daughter
Daughter

[REDACTED]
MELBA MARIE RAY
CAROL RAY
SUSAN RAY

He advised that this was all of the members of the family with whom he was acquainted and he felt this included the entire family.

He stated that when the family moved from Quincy, Illinois, in approximately 1965, the mother, LUCILE RYAN, moved to Alton, Illinois; however, during this period of time in approximately 1952, the father had run off with some woman and had gone to St. Louis, Missouri, to live.

After the father left, the entire family became practically wards of the court in charity cases and that Catholic charities had furnished most of the subsistence and supervision of the children.

He advised that several of the younger children of the family, including FRANKLIN DELEANOR RAY, CAROL RAY, SUSAN RAY and MELBA MARIE RAY, had been placed in a Catholic orphanage in Alton, Illinois.

He advised that during the period of time that he kept MELBA MARIE RAY in his home that she seemed to think a lot of JACK RAY and JERRY RAY; however, she never spoke favorably of JAMES EARL RAY or JIMMY RAY and often stated that she had no feeling for JIMMY as he was bad. He stated that he did not know the reason for this feeling; however, that JAMES EARL RAY had never to his knowledge contacted MELBA MARIE for any reason.

PARSONS advised that when JACK RAY had served a period of time in prison, he had gone to Mt. Prospect, Illinois, in the Chicago area, to work at a golf course and he had also obtained JERRY RAY a job at that golf course. PARSONS advised that this was several years before and he was not sure if this would be in the late 1950s or the early 1960s.

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PARSONS advised that LUCILE RYAN had worked as a prostitute in Quincy, Illinois, and had also [REDACTED]

PARSONS advised that he had never heard of JAMES EARL RAY working any where and from his knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY and that family, he did not know of any racial hatred or dislike of Negroes by the family. He stated, however, that he did hear JERRY RAY mention one time after being in St. Charles Reformatory, St. Charles, Illinois, in approximately 1952 or 1953 that he had had considerable trouble with Negroes at St. Charles. He stated that he had found this to be so with most white prisoners who had been in a penitentiary with Negroes and that sometimes there seems to develop some type of racial difficulty at prisons.

PARSONS advised that at the present time, MELBA MARIE RYAN is living on a disability pension. He stated that she had been arrested in Quincy on several occasions for breaking out window lights with a cross and claimed that God had told her to do this. He advised that MELBA MARIE will make a cross out of a large two by four and smash window lights on occasions. He stated he did not know of any violence on any other member of the family.

PARSONS advised that he had not had any recent contact during the last four years with any member of the family other than MELBA MARIE RYAN but he knew that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and that SUSAN RYAN was either adopted by some family in Quincy or else was placed in a foster home. He stated that the case worker for Catholic charities in Quincy, Illinois, should be able to furnish background information concerning the family.

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On April 22, 1968, Circuit Judge RICHARD SCHOLZ, Quincy, Illinois, made available the dependency files concerning the LUCILE RYAN family in Quincy, Illinois.

The file contained the following information:

On March 9, 1955, five members of the family became wards of Adams County Circuit Court, Quincy, Illinois. The file showed the following to be the complete list of the members of the family:

Father	GERALD RYAN
Mother	LUCILE MAHER RYAN
Son	JAMES, age 26, whereabouts not known
Daughter	MARJORIE, died at age 2
Son	JOHN, age 24, Pontiac Prison
Son	JERRY, age 20, Parolee from Pontiac
Daughter	MELBA, age 16
Daughter	CAROL, age 14, living with mother
Son	FRANKLIN, age 12, Catholic Children's Home, Alton, Illinois
Daughter	SUZAN, age 8, Catholic Children's Home, Alton, Illinois
Son	

On that date, MELBA, CAROL, FRANKLIN, SUZAN and MAX became wards of the Adams County Court.

The file showed that MELBA MARIE RYAN was born at Macomb, Illinois, and was taken from GEORGE PARSONS, Supervisor, Illinois Youth Commission, who had been caring for MELBA on June 28, 1955 and was given to a Mrs. TURNER FOLEY, 332 North 24th Street, Quincy, Illinois.

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On 7/55 [REDACTED] was tested by Dr. GRAVIS SMITH, Beverly Farms, Godfrey, Illinois, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On 8/9/55 MELBA MARIE RYAN was committed to the Jacksonville State Hospital, Jacksonville, Illinois, and custody of RYAN taken from GEORGE PARSONS and given to the Illinois Youth Commission. Judge SCHOLZ advised that apparently at that time MELBA MARIE RYAN had attempted to set fire to the PARSONS' home. He stated that this had been kept quiet by PARSONS and was not known generally.

On 3/20/56 Dr. GRAVIS SMITH, Beverly Farms, Godfrey, Illinois, had found [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The file showed that on [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Lincoln, Illinois.

On 6/13/56 CAROL RYAN was declared a delinquent for wandering about the streets at night without lawful business and also since her mother LUCILE RYAN was declared a depraved person.

Judge SCHOLZ advised that this was due to LUCILE RYAN soliciting prostitution date for CAROL RYAN. He advised that LUCILE RYAN had worked as a prostitute during most of her life and that the area around 214 Spring Street was an area infested by houses of prostitution at the time of the RYAN/RAY family lived in that area. He stated that there had been testimony that LUCILE RYAN had attempted to solicit prostitution dates for herself in a tavern and when she was unable to find any dates had brought in her fourteen year old daughter, CAROL, and attempted to obtain prostitution dates for CAROL.

On 8/6/57 MELBA MARIE RYAN was granted a discharge from the Jacksonville State Hospital.

On 10/24/57 custody of FRANKLIN RYAN and SUSAN RYAN was given to the Catholic Charities of Springfield, Illinois.

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On 11/26/57 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On 8/21/58 a court order gave custody of MELBA MARIE RYAN, CAROL RYAN, FRANKLIN D. RYAN and SUZAN RYAN and [REDACTED] to the Catholic Charities, Springfield, Illinois.

A notation was contained in the file that on 7/57 LUCILE RYAN moved to St. Louis, Missouri, and was residing at 1135 South Tenth Street, Apartment 8, St. Louis, Missouri.

At that time the father of the RYAN children, GERALD RYAN or GERALD RAY, was residing at 4149 West Pine Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

The file contained information that [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On 6/30/60 a letter was addressed to the Court from Mrs. JENNY RAYNES from St. Louis, Missouri.

Judge SCHOLZ advised that apparently this would be a woman living with the father of the RYAN children.

On 128/60 JERRY RAYNES was shown residing at 1727 South Eleventh Street, St. Louis, Missouri; his DOB was shown as [REDACTED] and employed by J & R Auto Sales, St. Louis, Missouri. At that time he was living with daughter, CAROL RYAN, DOB [REDACTED] who was employed by the Kresge Company in the St. Louis area.

At this time JERRY RAYNES gave JACK RANDOLPH, 5901 South Broadway, St. Louis, Missouri, as a reference. The file showed that JACK RANDOLPH was the owner of J & R Auto Sales and that RAYNES was employed as a car salesman on a used car lot for RANDOLPH.

The file showed that custody of FRANKLIN D. RYAN was given to his father JERRY RAYNES, 1727 South Eleventh Street, St. Louis, Missouri, on 3/30/60.

Judge SCHOLZ advised that FRANKLIN D. RYAN had died in approximately 1962 or 1963 when an automobile in which he was riding drove into the Mississippi River in West Quincy, Missouri. He advised that any records concerning the death of FRANKLIN D. RYAN would be in Missouri.

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Judge SCHOLZ advised that FRANKLIN D. RYAN was also known as BUZZY RYAN and that possibly some people would not know the true name of FRANKLIN D. RYAN.

The file showed that FRANKLIN D. RYAN was first declared a dependent on 9/8/52 and at that time was residing at 214 1/2 Spring Street.

Included in the FRANKLIN D. RYAN section of the dependency records was a letter dated 3/29/59 from LUCILE RYAN, his mother, who at that time was residing at 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri. In the letter she stated that "JIMMY is going to Chicago". The letter indicated that at that time JIMMY was residing with LUCILE RYAN at 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

The file contained information showing that before 9/24/59 Mrs. LUCILE BERNES, aka LUCILE RAY and LUCILE RYAN resided 1209 East Fourth Street, Alton, Illinois, and that she had moved from that address to 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis.

A notation was contained in the file that one 8/20/59 LUCILE RYAN's son, JAMES EARL RAY, and an accomplice JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN were arrested for an armed robbery of a supermarket in Alton, Illinois, and that this matter was pending in Circuit Court, Madison County, Illinois.

The file contained a section concerning JERRY W. RYAN, DOB [REDACTED]. He was declared a delinquent on 3/10/50 for unlawfully growing up in idleness and crime and was to be sent to St. Charles Boys' Reformatory, St. Charles, Illinois.

At that time his father was GERALD RYAN, 214 Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois, and mother, LUCILE RYAN, at same address.

Psychological tests given JERRY W. RYAN at that time showed he functioned between a low, average and dull in intelligence.

The file showed that SUZAN RYAN, aka SUSANNE RYAN, DOB [REDACTED] had been a ward of the court from 9/8/52 until 4/15/65 when she was discharged from the supervision of the court.