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NATIONAL ARCHIVES

FEDERAL BUREAU

10024567



DO NOT DESTROY
HISTORICAL VALUE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number 44-38861

DO NOT DESTROY -
PRESERVE FOR SELECT
COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

See also Nos.

DO NOT DESTROY -
PENDING LITIGATION
ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED
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1574 H

Sers.

13-

VOL.

5

1
NO 157-10673
SMC:nmb

On April 15, 1968, information was received from the FBI, Washington, D.C., that an examination of the indented writing obtained on the paper from the Provincial Motel had developed the following names and phone numbers of possible significance: "524-1131," "288-3904," "482-0894," "899-3061." In addition were the words "Herbie" or possibly interpreted as "Shirley," with the last name possibly "Porich" or "Porick"; also the number "3619-Robert"; also a name interpreted as "Jane Fenney" or "Fenney."

On April 17, 1968, information was received from the FBI Laboratory, Washington, D.C., that an examination of the Provincial Motel registration card dated December 17, 1967, at New Orleans, and signed "Eric S. Galt," had been conducted. It was determined that there were no latent impressions of value on this registration card, that the handwriting appearing on this registration card does not sufficiently augment previous writings of GALT to permit a satisfactory comparison of the "Harvey Lowmyer" signature with writings attributable to GALT.

The Laboratory further advised that no latent impressions of value were developed on the two sets of stationery which had previously been obtained from Room 126 of the Provincial Motel at New Orleans, Louisiana.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/16/681

Records, Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, New Orleans, Louisiana, Central District Office, which are available only upon issuance of a subpoena duces tecum, directed to J. T. PFANKUCHE, District Accounting Manager (Toll), reflect the following information:

Telephone number 524-1131 is subscribed to by the Chamber of Commerce, New Orleans area, located at the Medallion Towers, Suite 301, Camp Street. This number was connected before 1962.

On 4/15/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
by SA JOHN E. DECKER:mah 37 Date dictated 4/16/68

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Date 4/16/681

Records, Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, New Orleans, Louisiana, Gentilly District Office, which are available only upon issuance of a subpoena duces tecum, directed to J. T. PFANNKUCHE, District Accounting Manager (Toll), reflect the following information:

Telephone number 288-3904 is subscribed to by EDWARD M. TSOI, 6246 Pratt, Apartment 620. This number was connected on August 7, 1967. Telephone records reflect that TSOI is self employed as an architect contractor.

On 4/15/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673

by SA JOHN E. DECKER:mah 38 Date dictated 4/16/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/16/681

Records, Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, New Orleans, Louisiana, Metairie District Office, which are available only upon issuance of a subpoena duces tecum, directed to J. T. PFANNKUCHE, District Accounting Manager (Toll), reflect the following information:

Subscriber to telephone number 482-0894 is S. R. TORTORICH, 3623 Joliet. This number was connected on September 24, 1965. Telephone records reflect that TORTORICH is employed as a private secretary to President of Landis Construction Company, telephone number 866-7437.

On 4/15/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
by SA JOHN E. DECKER:mah ³⁹ Date dictated 4/16/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date: 4/16/681

Records, Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, New Orleans, Louisiana, Uptown District Office, which are available only upon issuance of a subpoena duces tecum, directed to J. T. PFANNKUCHE, District Accounting Manager (Toll), reflect the following information:

Telephone number 899-3061 is subscribed to by Mrs. JANE FINNEY, 3619 Robert. This number was connected on December 11, 1957. Telephone records reflect that FINNEY is employed as a secretary at the Garig Transfer Company.

On 4/15/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673

by SA JOHN E. DECKER:mah 40 Date dictated 4/16/68

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1Date April 17, 1968

EDWARD M. TSOI, also known as, Mang Yok Choy, 823 Julia Avenue, advised that he is the outgoing President of a nationwide social club known as "Parents without Partners". He advised that this organization holds a meeting once each month at the YMCA and also has numerous other social functions.

TSOI advised that S. H. TORTORICH is a Vice-President of this organization, JANE FINNEY is the Recording Secretary for the organization.

He stated that he can not recall receiving a telephone call from a motel in the French Quarter but added that if an individual called him, TORTORICH, or FINNEY it was more than likely about "Parents without Partners".

He advised he has never heard of an individual using the names ERIC S. GALT, JOHN WILLARD, or HARVEY LOWMEYER or any variations of these names.

On 4/16/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
by SA THOMAS E. DUHADWAY/dca ⁴¹ Date dictated 4/17/68

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NO
137-10673

SHIRLEY TOPFORICI was contacted by Special Agent JAMES D. HILL and PAUL C. HENSEL on April 16, 1968 at OLIVER MEYER Construction Company, 1333 Japonica Street relative to any telephone calls she received from the Provincial Motel in New Orleans. She advised that her home phone number is 482-0094 and that she recalls receiving a call from JOHN HICOK on March 26, 1968 while he was at a French Quarter motel but that she does not know if it was the Provincial.

She advised that she is a member of Parents Without Partners, an international organization and that HICOK is also a member. She advised that this was the purpose of the call. She advised that they had a meeting and that JANE FINNEY and EDWARD TSOI, also members of the organization, were also present at the meeting. She advised that HICOK said he was from Pontiac, Michigan.

BRYAN DUPEPE, owner and manager, Provincial Motel 1024 Chartres Street, advised that FRANCIS HICOK stayed at the motel on March 26, 1968 and that he listed his address as Pontiac, Michigan.

A review of the New Orleans City Directory shows that TSOI's phone number is 522-5551 and FINNEY's number is 899-3061. TSOI's home phone is 288-3904 and this number was also called from the motel.

Date 4/18/681

Mrs. JANE FINNEY, Secretary, Central Truck Lines,
6128 Gentilly Road, New Orleans, advised as follows:

She is an officer in the local chapter of Parents Without Partners, a nationwide social organization. Approximately three weeks ago, an individual from some Northern State, name and location not known, was in New Orleans, and apparently called the Young Mens Christian Association from some local motel to obtain names and phone numbers of representatives of the club. She was made aware at a later time that he had called others of the officers, but she received no such call herself. She said it was her belief the finding of her phone number at the Provincial Motel was brought about by the described incident.

On 4/16/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
by SA DONALD L. HUGHES cjm : 43 Date dictated 4/16/68

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1Date 4/17/68

Mr. BRIAN DUPEPE, owner and manager, Provincial Motel, 1024 Chartres Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, furnished the interviewing agent the motel records for the date of March 26, 1968:

These records reflect that Mr. FRANCIS HICOK, 8963 Tacklos Street, Pontiac, Michigan, registered at the motel on March 25, 1968 and left the motel on March 27, 1968. These records further reflect that HICOK had occupied room 126 and had made telephone calls to the following New Orleans numbers:

524-1131

288-3904

522-5551

899-3061

482-0894

On 4/16/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673

by SA JAMES D. HILL /jmc Date dictated 4/17/68

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NY 100-20673
SNC-kbz

INTERVIEWS WITH RELATIVES
OF CHARLES J. STEIN AT
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

The Los Angeles Office of the FBI advised on April 14, 1968, that according to CHARLES J. STEIN, he and ERIC GALT arrived in New Orleans, Louisiana, on December 17, 1967, and STEIN stayed with his mother at 1907 1/2 Royal Street.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/15/68

Mrs. CLOVINA OLONZO, 1907½ Royal Street, advised that her son CHARLES J. STEIN came to New Orleans some time just before Christmas, 1967, and stayed at her residence 1907½ Royal Street but she was unable to recall the exact dates that STEIN was in New Orleans.

Mrs. OLONZO advised that STEIN informed her he had traveled to New Orleans by automobile from California with a man whose name he did not mention. STEIN also advised Mrs. OLONZO that MARIE "MINNIE" MARTIN, a cousin residing in California, had heard a man state that he was coming to New Orleans on business and MARIE approached this man to ask this man if he would take CHARLES STEIN to New Orleans with him. This unknown man agreed to transport STEIN to New Orleans.

STEIN also advised Mrs. OLONZO that he came to New Orleans to pick-up RITA STEIN's two children, who were residing with Mrs. OLONZO.

Mrs. OLONZO advised STEIN remained in New Orleans only one or two days. During his stay in New Orleans STEIN advised Mrs. OLONZO that the man, who brought him to New Orleans, was staying at a hotel, name not stated. STEIN also advised Mrs. OLONZO that he did not work with this man and that he did not know him.

Mrs. OLONZO advised that she did not see the man, who brought STEIN to New Orleans in the automobile in which they were traveling. Mrs. OLONZO advised that no telephone calls were made by or received by STEIN while he was visiting at her residence as she did not have a telephone. She advised that after one or two days STEIN, RITA STEIN's two children, and the unknown man departed New Orleans for California.

On 4/14/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673

by SA's PIERRE D. FOURNIER and THOMAS E. DU HADWAY/TED/ac 46 Date dictated 4/15/68

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2

NO 157-10673

She stated she has not heard from STEIN since that time.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/15/68

Mr. WILLIE OLONZO, 1907½ Royal Street, advised that CHARLES J. STEIN, the son of his wife, Mrs. CLOVINA OLONZO, came to their residence some time shortly before Christmas, 1967. He stated that he was bedridden during the period of time that STEIN was in New Orleans and he did not see STEIN except for one occasion and he did not converse with him about the trip. He stated that he had heard that STEIN was transported from California by an unknown man but he could furnish no details concerning this trip.

Mr. OLONZO advised that on one occasion while STEIN was in New Orleans he heard STEIN conversing with a male in the kitchen but since he was bedridden he did not see or hear any pertinent parts of this conversation.

Mr. OLONZO advised that since he was bedridden he did not see the vehicle in which STEIN had traveled from California.

Mr. OLONZO advised he suffers from extreme high blood pressure which causes fainting spells and to the best of his recollection he spent most of the time while STEIN was in New Orleans in Charity Hospital.

He advised he could furnish no additional information concerning STEIN's visit to New Orleans.

On 4/14/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
 by SA's PIERRE D. FOURNIER and THOMAS E. DU HADWAY/TED/ac 48 Date dictated 4/15/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/15/68

RICKY TOMASO, 1907 1/2 Royal Street, advised his half-brother CHARLES J. STEIN came to New Orleans shortly before Christmas, 1967, but he was unable to recall the exact date. TOMASO advised that he only talked to STEIN on one occasion and STEIN informed him that he had traveled by car with the un-named male from California. TOMASO stated that he knew nothing more about STEIN's trip to New Orleans and while he did talk to STEIN he could furnish no further information. He advised that he did not see the vehicle in which STEIN and the unknown man were traveling.

On 4/14/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
 by SA PIERRE D. FOURNIER and
THOMAS E. DU HADWAY/TED/ac **49** Date dictated 4/15/68

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1

Date 4/25/68

RICKY TAMASO was interviewed at his residence, 1907½ Royal Street. TAMASO advised that he is currently on probation for petty theft and that his probation officer from the Juvenile Court is C. J. WARE. He advised that he does not currently attend school as no school in the city of New Orleans will grant him admission.

TAMASO was advised that the FBI had received word from several sources that he (TAMASO) was claiming that he knew ERIC STARVO GALT and that he had ridden in GALT'S car and that while GALT was in New Orleans in December of 1967 GALT was afraid to use his own name and was registering in hotels in New Orleans under the name CHARLES STEIN.

TAMASO denied telling anyone that he knew GALT or had ridden in GALT'S car. He advised that he had never heard of ERIC STARVO GALT until he read the name in the newspaper and he had no idea that his brother, CHARLES STEIN, knew anyone named GALT until he was interviewed by the FBI on Easter Sunday and associated this interview with the newspaper accounts of GALT'S travel to New Orleans.

He stated that while CHARLES STEIN was in New Orleans in December, 1967, he did not see the man, who he assumed was GALT, that brought STEIN to New Orleans and he did not see the vehicle in which this man and STEIN had traveled.

He stated that he could not understand why anyone would be spreading the rumor that he knew GALT and had ridden in his car. He vehemently denied telling anyone that he knew anything about GALT.

The following description and background information was obtained from TAMASO through observation and interview:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	<input type="text"/>
Place of Birth	New Orleans, Louisiana

On 4/23/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673

by SAs THOMAS E. DUHADWAY & WILLIAM F. KUSCH - TED/can 50 Date dictated 4/25/68

²
No 157-10673

Height
Weight
Hair
Eyes
Education
Mother
Step-father
Arrests
Telephone Number

5'3"
116 pounds
Brown
Brown
Sixth Grade
CLOVINA OLONZO,
1907½ Royal Street
WILLIE OLONZO,
1907½ Royal Street
Petty theft,
date unrecalled
945-7312

NO 157-10673

SUC:kbz

CONTACTS WITH ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES,

CHALMETTE, LOUISIANA AREA

On April 15, 1968, the Los Angeles Office of the FBI advised that according to CHARLES J. STEIN, ERIC GALT had mentioned contacting two men in New Orleans, associated with either an engineering or contracting firm probably in Chalmet (phonetic).

1 NO 157-10673
TED/dca

The following investigation was conducted by
SA's THOMAS E. DUHADWAY and JOHN E. DECKER:

The following engineering and construction
companies in the Chalmette, Louisiana, area were contacted
on the possibility that suspect ERIC S. GALT may have
contacted one of these firms. All firms checked advised
they had never heard of ERIC S. GALT, JOHN WILLARD, or
HARVEY LOWMYER or an individual using a variation of one
of these names.

The following firms were contacted:

Ralph M. Parsons Construction Company, River Road

Eugene Estopiral and Associates, 7002 Paceham

Frank Fromherz Engineers, 1539 Jackson Avenue,
New Orleans, Louisiana

H. B. Fowler and Company, Inc., 1901 Destrahan
Avenue, Harvey, Louisiana

Frank J. Jackson and Associates, 7011 St. Claude
Avenue, Arabi, Louisiana

Legardeur and Associates, 1901 Destrahan Avenue,
Harvey, Louisiana

Earl P. Desselle and Associates, 413 E. Prosper

Welcker Corporation, 1334 St. Bernard Avenue,
New Orleans, Louisiana

NO 107-10873
SERIAL 422

CONTACTS WITH FORD DEALERS,
NEW ORLEANS

1
NO 157-10673 - mak

The following investigation was conducted by SA JOHN DECKER on April 14, 1968, at New Orleans, Louisiana:

Mr. G. P. LABATU, Director of Finance, City of New Orleans, City Hall, advised that a check of the records of his agency revealed that there was no traffic ticket or parking ticket outstanding against a 1966 Mustang bearing Alabama license 1-38993.

The following investigation was conducted on April 17, 1968, by SA PATRICK J. DENTE at New Orleans, Louisiana.

The following individuals advised that a check of the worksheets of their respective companies during the period of December 17-19, 1967, determined that no work had been performed on a 1966 Mustang, white in color, bearing Alabama license 1-38993.

Mr. PHILIP BARBIN,
Service Manager,
Canal Ford Company
1801 Canal Street.

Mr. JOHN LEWIS
Service Manager
Bohn Ford Company
2700 Washington Ave.

NO. 157-10673
SNC-1212

CONTACTS WITH STEAMSHIP AND AIRLINE COMPANIES

NO 157-10673
SNC-282

On April 11, 1968, the identities of the fifty-three ships that had sailed from the Port of New Orleans, from April 4, 1968, through April 9, 1968, were determined.

An examination of the passenger and crew lists for these ships was conducted; however, the lists did not contain anyone by the name of ERIC STARVO GALT, HARVEY LOWMYER, or JOHN WILLARD or variations of these names.

1
NO 157-10673
SMC:jpb

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent JAMES D. HILL on April 12, 1968, at New Orleans, Louisiana:

The manifests containing the names of passengers for Eastern Airlines as well as Pan American Airlines for the period of April 4 through April 12, 1968, were personally checked by Special Agent HILL. These manifests are contained with the respective airlines at the New Orleans International Airport and are in regard to flight of Eastern Airlines from New Orleans, Louisiana, to Mexico City, Mexico, and Pan American Airlines from New Orleans, Louisiana, to the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico.

These names contained no record of any passengers by the name of ERIC STARVO GALT, HARVEY LOWMYER, or JOHN WILLARD or any variations in the spelling of these names.

NO 157-10873
SNC-RBZ

INTERVIEWS WITH RELATIVES OF FRANK LIBERTO,
PRESIDENT OF LL AND L PRODUCE COMPANY,
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Date 4/23/68

1

Mr. ANTHONY LIBERTO located and interviewed at his residence, 2211 Almonaster, New Orleans, Louisiana, and advised as follows:

He is currently retired and living alone at this address. He formerly worked for a 17 year period with Viking Truck Lines, but for medical reasons was forced to retire. He stated that he is a diabetic with a heart condition. For that reason he cannot do strenuous labor. He stated that he has not been in telephonic contact with his brother, FRANK in Memphis in several years and the only member of his immediate family residing in New Orleans who may have possibly been in touch with FRANK would have been his mother, Mrs. EMMA LIBERTO, who resides at 2219 Almonaster.

He viewed a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY stating this individual looked familiar but he could not identify it.

He stated that his brother SALVATORE lives some where on the West Bank of the Mississippi River, exact address unknown; however, his telephone number is 367-3020. He stated that both his brother, SALVATORE and VINCENT are employed with trucking firms and have been so employed for many years. He stated no one in his immediate family is employed in the produce business in New Orleans. He knows that his brother FRANK occasionally makes trips to the Hammond, Louisiana, area to purchase particularly strawberries but has no knowledge of any other business contacts of his brother in New Orleans. He stated he would have no knowledge of any disparaging remarks made by his brother or any of his employees concerning KING or the Negro element.

The following is a description gained through observation and interview:

Name	ANTHONY LIBERTO
Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'8"
Weight	300
Hair	Brown, bald on top

On 4/22/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
 by SAS THOMAS L. COLARELLI 60
PATRICK J. COLLINS, JR. TLC:mah Date dictated 4/23/68

NO 157-10673

2

Eyes
Birth data
Occupation

Blue
 Memphis
Retired, formerly with Viking
Truck Lines

4/23/68

Date

1

Mrs. EMMA LIBERTO, 2219 Almonaster, was interviewed in the home of her son, ANTHONY LIBERTO, 2211 Almonaster and advised as follows:

She is the widow of VINCENT LIBERTO, and her maiden name was HARDIN. She was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee, and is 71 years of age. She and her husband came to New Orleans about 39 years ago and she has seven living children, of which three sons and one daughter reside in New Orleans.

She stated she saw her son FRANK last Friday when he stopped in to see her after a trip to the Hammond, Louisiana, area for the purpose of purchasing strawberries for his produce business.

She occasionally contacts him by telephone and in fact called him a couple of days after the KING assassination purely out of concern for the family and to inquire as to the local situation.

She viewed a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that it looked familiar; however, she could not identify it specifically. She advised she has no knowledge of the KING assassination, other than what she has read in the newspapers and seen on television.

On 4/22/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673

by SAS THOMAS L. COLARELLI TLC:mah Date dictated 4/23/68
PATRICK J. COLLINS, JR.

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4/23/68

Date

1

Mr. VINCENT LIBERTO located in the vicinity of his employment, Viking Truck Lines, 6750 Gentilly Road, New Orleans, and interviewed. He voluntarily furnished the following information:

There is only one member of his immediate family that is in the produce business and that is his brother FRANK, in Memphis, Tennessee. He has not talked to FRANK by telephone in at least four years. He stated FRANK is the oldest of the brothers and there are two other brothers residing here in New Orleans, at present. One is ANTHONY who resides at 2211 Almonaster, who is a retired diabetic with a heart condition, having previously been employed by Viking for many years. The other brother is SALVATORE, who works for West Brothers Trucking Lines, and has for many years. SALVATORE lives in Terry Town, just across the Mississippi River Bridge, and he believes the address is on Matador Drive.

He stated he was born and raised in Memphis and his father was in the produce business for many years, but none of the brothers in New Orleans are in the produce business. He knows that FRANK occasionally travels to Hammond, Louisiana, to purchase strawberries but he knows of no other business contacts of FRANK in the produce line in New Orleans.

He examined a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, and advised he has seen this individual in the newspapers and television and has no knowledge of the KING assassination other than that gained from the news media.

He stated he resides at 705 North Upton and his mother, Mrs. EMMA LIBERTO, resides alone at 2219 Almonaster. He stated he would have no knowledge of any disparaging remarks made by his brother FRANK concerning KING or the Negro element.

The following is a description gained from observation and interview:

Name	VINCENT LIBERTO
Sex	Male
Race	White

On 4/22/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
 by SAS THOMAS L. COLARELLI 63
PATRICK J. COLLINS, JR. TLC:mah Date dictated 4/23/68

NO 157-10673

2

Height	5'8"
Weight	185
Birth data	 Memphis, Tennessee
Hair	Black, graying
Eyes	Blue
Occupation	Truck driver-Viking Truck Lines, 6750 Gentilly Road, New Orleans
Residence	705 North Upton

Date 4/23/681

SALVADOR ALBERT LIBERTO, 856 Matador, Gretna, Louisiana, telephone number 367-3020, advised that he was born [redacted] in New Orleans, Louisiana. On January 22, 1954, at New Orleans, he married PATRICIA KRELLER and has one son and three daughters. For the past thirteen (13) years, LIBERTO has been employed as a checker at the West Trucking Company, New Orleans.

LIBERTO stated that sometime just before the MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., assassination, exact date unrecalled, he telephonically spoke to his brother, FRANK LIBERTO, in Memphis, Tennessee. LIBERTO made this telephone call from his mother's residence. The purpose of this call was to borrow \$200 from his brother. LIBERTO did not make this call from his own residence, as he did not want his spouse to know about the loan. His brother, FRANK LIBERTO, wired him \$200 in care of his mother's residence in New Orleans.

While on the telephone with his brother FRANK, FRANK invited him to visit him in Memphis, or to meet him at Hot Springs, Arkansas. LIBERTO advised that his brother, FRANK, follows the race horses and likes to go to a race track at Hot Springs, Arkansas, and bet horses. FRANK LIBERTO discussed his winnings and loses on the telephone with SALVADOR LIBERTO. SALVADOR LIBERTO does not recall the exact amounts of money he discussed.

LIBERTO viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and WALTER TERRY RIFE and advised that he did not know either of these individuals and he did not believe that he had ever seen either of these individuals.

On 4/23/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
by SA PATRICK J. COLLINS, JR.:sja 65 Date dictated 4/23/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE JACKSON	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 5/2/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 4/10 - 4/24/68
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE IO # 4182, WF # 442-A, TOP TEN FUGITIVE; Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. (DECEASED) - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA JOHN L. PUDDISTER	TYPED BY clm
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY	

REFERENCE:

Memphis report of SA JOE C. HESTER, 4/30/68.

- P -

LEAD:

JACKSON

AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Will continue efforts to locate JAMES EARL RAY. All leads being handled immediately upon receipt.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
APPROVED				SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:						<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 10px;">44-1574-115</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> SEARCHED SERIALIZED MAY 6 1968 FBI - LOS ANGELES </div>	
5 - Bureau (44-38861)							
<div style="font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em; margin-bottom: 5px;">D. Los Angeles</div> (Continued on Cover Page B)							
2 - Jackson (157-9586)							
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations	
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Request Recd.							
Date Fwd.							
How Fwd.							
By							

JN 157-9586

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- 2 - Atlanta (44-2386)
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 - 5 - Memphis (44-1987)
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ADMINISTRATIVE:

The Jackson Division, at the outset of this matter, conducted investigation concerning the names ERIC STARVO GALT, HARVEY LOWMEYER and JOHN WILLARD in Federal agencies, state and local agencies, with negative results.

All credit and arrest agencies in the 82 counties in Mississippi were contacted. All city directories and telephone directories were checked. Selective Service System, State Office, as well as each local board, county voter registration records, county Departments of Public Welfare, county Tax Assessor Offices, county Clerks of Court, each county, marriage and divorce records, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Board of Health, Workmen's Compensation and Employment Security Commissions, all utility companies, electricity, gas and telephone, financial institutions, registrar's office in major universities, Port Director, Gulfport, Mississippi, all shrimp boat operators in the Gulf Coast area, all barge and towing companies at river ports at Greenville, Vicksburg and Natchez, Mississippi, were checked. One million, two hundred thousand drivers licenses checked through IBM computer concerning the birth date , all of the above with negative results.

All airports, motel and parking garage facilities in Mississippi were checked in an attempt to locate a 1966 white Mustang with negative results.

All dancing schools or academies were checked. Civilian personnel records, Keesler AFB, Biloxi, checked with negative results.

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Ingalls Shipyard at Pascagoula, Mississippi, checked with negative results.

All criminal and racial informants contacted with negative results.

Whereabouts of each major bombing suspect in the State of Mississippi checked and verified to eliminate as possible suspects.

In addition to the above, numerous lookalikes reported to the Jackson Office were located, interviewed and eliminated as possible suspects.

All of the above information has been reviewed, indexed, and filed in the Jackson Office.

For the sake of brevity, negative type information is not being set out in this report.

No copies of this report are being disseminated outside the Bureau; however, sufficient copies of report being furnished to the OO in the event of future dissemination.

COVER PAGE
D*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA JOHN L. PUDDISTER
Date: May 2, 1968

Office: JACKSON

Field Office File #: JN 157-9586

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
(DECEASED) - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

Synopsis:

Motels and Standard service stations on major highways in North Central and Northeastern section of State of Miss. contacted in attempt to identify individual depicted in artist conception of ERIC STARVO GALT, also known as Harry Lowmeyer, John Willard. Color photo received from Memphis FBI Office of a bedspread and bath towel exhibited to personnel at motels in attempt to identify as being property of the particular motel with negative results. Investigation at Southaven Minnow Shop, Highway 51, Southaven, Miss., just south of the Tenn. State Line, disclosed this shop is the only establishment located which handled Schlitz 12-ounce beer in pop-top cans, as well as Homestead Stubby No. 20, brown paper bags. One empty Schlitz beer can and one brown paper bag obtained from Southaven Minnow Shop and forwarded to FBI Lab., Washington, D. C., for examination purposes. Results of FBI Lab. examination discloses brown paper bag similar in all observable characteristics to paper bag previously submitted. Personnel at minnow shop unable to identify artist conception and unable to identify photo of JAMES EARL RAY as depicted on Wanted Flyer No. 442-A. IN VIEW OF THE CRIME FOR WHICH SUBJECT BEING SOUGHT, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- P -

DETAILS:

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JN 157-9586

JWS/bls

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA JAMES W. SAMMON:

On the dates indicated, motels and Standard Service Stations on the below listed major highways in north central and northeastern portion of the State of Mississippi were contacted in this matter. Personnel at motels were exhibited composite drawings of ERIC STARVO GALT, also known as John Willard, Harvey Lowmeyer, received from the Memphis and Birmingham Divisions, along with a color photograph of a bedspread and bath towel received from the Memphis Division. Personnel at these motels failed to identify the composite photographs of GALT, as well as the bedspread or towel as property of their particular motel. The guest registration cards of motels contacted were personally checked by SA JAMES W. SAMMON from the period of March 29 to April 5, 1968, inclusive in an effort to determine if any guest using the name GALT, WILLARD, or LOWMEYER registered at that motel. These checks met with negative results.

Standard Service Stations on the indicated highways were also contacted and personnel at those service stations were also exhibited artist's conceptions of GALT, along with the colored photographs of the Standard Oil map of the United States and the Standard Oil map of Georgia - Alabama. Personnel at these service stations were questioned regarding a 1966 white Mustang with an Alabama tag. Contacts at these service stations also met with negative results.

April 10, 1968 - Highway 55 Interstate and Highway 51, north from Batesville, Mississippi, to the Tennessee State Line. Highway 78 southeast from the Tennessee State Line to the City Limits of Holly Springs, Mississippi.

April 11, 1968 - Highways 78, 6, and 45 within the City Limits of Tupelo, Mississippi. Highway 45 north from Tupelo, Mississippi, to Corinth, Mississippi. Highways 45

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and 72 within the City Limits of Corinth, Mississippi.

April 12, 1968 - Highway 78 East from Tupelo, Mississippi, to the Alabama State Line. Highway 45 South from Tupelo, Mississippi, to Columbus, Mississippi. Highway 82 East from Mayhew, Mississippi, to the Alabama State Line. Highways 82 and 45 East within the City Limits of Columbus, Mississippi.

April 13, 1968 - Highway 82 West from Columbus, Mississippi, to Winona, Mississippi. Highway 51 North from Winona, Mississippi, to Grenada, Mississippi. Interstate 55 and Highway 51 North from Grenada, Mississippi, to Batesville, Mississippi.

April 16, 1968 - Highway 72 from the Alabama State Line to the Tennessee State Line. Highway 78 Southeast from Holly Springs, Mississippi, to Tupelo, Mississippi.

April 17, 1968, Highway 45 East from Shannon, Mississippi, to Columbus, Mississippi. Highway 278 East from Highway 45 East from New Wren, Mississippi, to the Alabama State Line. Highway 6 West from Tupelo, Mississippi, to Batesville, Mississippi. The notes from contacts with personnel at motels and Standard Oil Service Stations are being maintained in the Jackson file regarding this matter.

The following motels affiliated with Friendship Inns were contacted on the indicated dates and personnel there were interviewed as set forth above and in addition, the color photograph containing the Friendship Inn Cashmere Bouquet soap wrapper was exhibited with negative results.

MARY MILTON, Registration Clerk, Townhouse Motel, Friendship Inn, Highway 45 South, Tupelo, Mississippi, which motel uses Camay soap with Friendship Inn wrapper, on April 11, 1968.

Mrs. BROOKS PHILLIPS, Southern Motel, Friendship Inn, Corinth, Mississippi, which motel does handle Cashmere Bouquet with Friendship Motel wrapper, on April 11, 1968.

However, Southern Motel was negative on photographs of GALT; negative on bedspread; and negative on bath towel.

Mrs. ANNIE LOUISE HUDSON, Marshall Motel, Friendship Inn, Highway 45 North, West Point, Mississippi, contacted April 12, 1968.

WILLIAM DOVES, Registration Clerk, Columbus Motel, Friendship Inn, Highway 82 East, Columbus, Mississippi, does not use soap wrapped with Friendship paper, contacted April 12, 1968.

The following investigation was conducted by SA JAMES W. SAMMON on April 15, 1968, in the Southaven, Mississippi, area, Highway 51, south of the Tennessee State Line in Mississippi.

The following dealer outlets in that area were contacted in an effort to determine if they had any twelve-ounce Schlitz pop-top beer cans with the brewery date of March 15, 1968, which was sold by them in six packs held with a plastic ring. The following beer outlets in that area were contacted on April 15, 1968, with negative results:

SHIRLEY JERET, Stop and Go Store, Highway 51 South.
MARY SNELL, Cashier, BILL RAGLAND, Manager, and
LESTER ENOCHS, Stock Man, A and P Supermarket, Highway 51 South, Southaven, Mississippi.

BILL BEALE, Seven Eleven Store, Highway 51 South, Southaven, Mississippi.

MARY DRUMMOND, Drummond Drive-Inn, Highway 51 South, Southaven, Mississippi.

The composite photographs of GALT from Memphis and Birmingham were also exhibited to the above individuals at beer outlets in Southaven, Mississippi, with negative results.

In contacting motels on Highway 51 North on April 10, 1968, RAYMOND ROBINSON, owner of the Thrift Courts Motel

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at Senatobia, Mississippi, advised that for the past three or four weeks, a white male, name unknown, 25 to 30 years old, had been staying at that motel. ROBINSON said that this individual is employed in Stray Horn, Mississippi, on Highway 4 where he is employed constructing a water tower. ROBINSON said that this individual drives a white Mustang with an Alabama license.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/22/68

1

DONALD DICKSON was located in Stray Horn, Mississippi, at the sight of the construction of a water tower. DICKSON said that he has been in the Senatobia, Mississippi, area for the past three weeks and that he is employed for R. D. Cole Manufacturing Company of Newnan, Georgia, which company constructs water towers. DICKSON said he has been so employed for the past nine years and is a foreman of that company.

DICKSON said that on April 4, 1968, he was in bed asleep at the Thrift Courts Motel in Senatobia, Mississippi, when one of his employees came into the room advising him that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot and killed in Memphis, Tennessee. DICKSON said that an employee, TOM CANNON, and DOUG IVEY can vouch for his presence at the motel when KING was assassinated. DICKSON said that his 1967 white Mustang automobile was parked at the motel at that time.

DICKSON said that he is not responsible for the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, nor can he furnish any information in that regard.

The following is a description of DICKSON obtained through observation and interview:

Sex:	Male
Race:	White
Age:	29
Date of Birth:	<input type="text"/>
Place of Birth:	Fayetteville, Georgia
Residence:	Route 1, Fayetteville, Georgia
Height:	6 feet
Weight:	160
Eyes:	Brown

On 4/10/68 at Stray Horn, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586

by SA JAMES W. SAMMON/bls Date dictated 4/15/68

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Hair:	Light brown, short, curly, and parted
Complexion:	Ruddy
Build:	Slender
Education:	10th grade
Marital Status:	Single
Military Service:	U.S. Army, 53348507 from 1961 to 1963 - honorable
Employment:	Foreman for R.D. Cole Manufacturing Company, Newnan, Georgia, for past nine years
Automobile:	1967 white Mustang, 1968 Georgia license 112-D-484
Previous Arrests:	No admits

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/22/68

DONALD SEWELL, employee, 7-11 Store, Number 34, 6099 Millbranch, Southaven, Mississippi, after being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the investigation, furnished the following information:

He stated that the 7-11 Store purchases its beer from the Service Beverage Company at Clarksdale, Mississippi.

He stated that the Schlitz delivery man appears at that store every Wednesday.

He advised after examining his stock of Schlitz 12 ounce pop top cans that he had two six packs in his refrigerator with the date March 15, 1968. He stated that this 7-11 Store uses Toreador paper sacks. He advised they do not utilize a number or size 20 paper sack.

He was displayed artist's conception drawings from Birmingham and Memphis, Tennessee.

SEWELL recalled that in the latter part of March, 1968, a white male approximately 5'9" to 5'10" in height, age 27 to 28 years of age, small frame, with a dark crew hair cut, wearing a gray suit with black pin stripes, glasses with black rims, purchased beer at that store.

SEWELL stated that he could not recall what brand of beer this individual bought or how he paid for it.

SEWELL stated that he recalled this incident as the authorities in Memphis, Tennessee, had put a curfew on beer and liquor sales and that at the same time this individual was in the checkout line, a highway patrolman came to the store and told him to cut off beer sales.

On 4/15/68 at Southaven, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586

by SA KENNETH P. HUGHES/pac Date dictated 4/19/68

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According to SEWELL, the patrolman advised him that the individuals in line could make their purchases but no other individuals would be allowed to purchase beer. SEWELL estimated the time at 3:30 p.m.

He stated that he recalled this incident as after this white male purchased the beer, he, SEWELL, had to request him to leave the store as he was "cursing" due to the fact that the beer sales had been cut off.

SEWELL stated that he had to tell this individual to leave the store.

SEWELL again stated that he believes this incident took place during the latter part of March, 1968, when the City of Memphis first experienced racial problems.

SEWELL stated that he had never seen this individual before and has not seen him since. He stated he did not see which way he turned when he left the store nor did he observe an automobile.

He stated that this individual vaguely resembled the artist's conception drawing from Birmingham.

SEWELL stated that he doubted he could recognize this individual if he saw him again.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/22/68

Located at the Southaven Minnow Shop, Highway 51, just south of the Tennessee State Line in Mississippi, were numerous six packs of Schlitz twelve-ounce beer in the pop-top can, held together in the six pack with a plastic ring, which beer was brewed by the date March 15, 1968. A can of this beer was obtained.

Also located in that minnow shop was a brown paper bag stamped "Homestead. Stubby. 20". One of the brown paper bags was obtained.

BILL and JANE MC LAUGHLIN and their son WILLIE MC LAUGHLIN, the proprietors of that minnow shop, were all interviewed in this matter, and composite photographs of GALT exhibited to them with negative results. Neither they nor LAWRENCE PARKER, a frequent customer to the minnow shop, could identify GALT by photograph, nor did they recall an individual driving a white Mustang with an Alabama license purchasing a six pack of twelve-ounce pop-top Schlitz beer from their minnow shop.

Mr. MC LAUGHLIN advised that GUS (last name unknown), a salesman for the Service Beverage Company of Clarksdale, Mississippi, delivers their beer to them, and that from his records, on April 1, 1968, he purchased 17 cases of twelve-ounce Schlitz pop-top beer; on April 10, eight cases; on April 11, six cases; and on April 15, 1968, two cases.

It was noted that the Southaven Minnow Shop is one-half mile south on Highway 51 from the Tennessee State Line in Mississippi and exactly three miles south of the Oliver Rexall Drug Store on Highway 51, Whitehaven, Memphis, Tennessee.

On 4/15/68 at Southaven, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586
by SA JAMES W. SAMMON/bls Date dictated 4/19/68

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