

PAGE TWO

SL -44-775

ADDRESS ALTHOUGH HE PROMISED TO FURNISH ONE WHEN HE BECAME
ESTABLISHED.

MIAMI, ENDEAVOR TO LOCATE SUSPECT AND INTERVIEW AS
SUSPECT.

EXHIBIT SUBJECT'S PHOTO AND DETERMINE IF KNOWN TO HIM. *N#6*

1 AIR MAIL COPY FURNISHED KANSAS CITY.

END.

/////CORR PAGE ONE LINE 4 WORD 7 SHOULD READ STARVO

END

RGT

FBI MIAMI

TU @

*W. J. SMITH, SUP.
MR. SCITLER*

F B I

Date: 4/24/68

PLAINTEXT

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM MIAMI (44-1854)

MURKIN. CR.

RE ST. LOUIS TELETYPE APRIL EIGHTEEN, LAST.

RE: SUSPECT JAMES EUGENE GAULT

GAULT LOCATED MIAMI AND ELIMINATED AS SUSPECT BASED
ON PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AND FACIAL CHARACTERISTICS. GAULT
INJURED ON CONSTRUCTION SITE APRIL THIRTEEN, SIXTYSEVEN,
AND HAS BEEN CONFINED TO VARIOUS LOCAL HOSPITALS SINCE
THAT DATE.

JJM:vc
(1)

Subject Ray Armed & Dangerous

*See Serial
237
264*

Searched _____
Serialized *RP*
Indexed _____
Filed *RP*
4/13 ME
4/26 P WA
44-1854-265

Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *[Signature]* M Per *[Signature]*

4/23/68

TELETYPE

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861), ATLANTA (44-2386),
MEMPHIS (44-1987) AND HOUSTON
FROM: CHARLOTTE (44-1365) (P)

MURKIN.

RE CHARLOTTE TELETYPE APRIL TWENTY-TWO LAST, MIAMI
TELETYPE APRIL TWENTY-TWO LAST AND TELEPHONE CALL FROM
ATLANTA TODAY.

RE: AIRLINE FLIGHT, ATLANTA TO HOUSTON, APRIL TWELVE
LAST.

PETER S. GILCHRIST, JR., CHARLOTTE, N. C., REINTERVIEWED
TODAY; ADVISED THAT ON EAL FLIGHT ONE THREE THREE, APRIL
TWELVE LAST, FROM ATLANTA TO HOUSTON, HE SAT ON THE RIGHT
SIDE OF THE PLANE NEAR THE TRAILING EDGE OF THE WING. THE
INDIVIDUAL HE THINKS LOOKS LIKE JAMES EARL RAY SAT DIRECTLY
ACROSS THE AISLE FROM HIM IN THE INSIDE SEAT ON THE LEFT SIDE
OF THE PLANE. HE DID NOT OBSERVE THIS INDIVIDUAL BEFORE
BOARDING THE PLANE AND DID NOT OBSERVE THIS INDIVIDUAL AFTER
THEY LEFT THE PLANE AT HOUSTON. HE ADVISED THAT HE, GILCHRIST,
END PAGE ONE.

① - Miami (AM)
CFW:JLB
(2)

See Serial 212

44-1854-246

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Jellison Ong

CE 44-1365

PAGE TWO

WAS SITTING ON THE SIDE OF THE PLANE WHICH HAD THREE SEATS AND THE UNKNOWN MAN WAS SITTING ON THE SIDE WHICH HAD TWO SEATS. THERE WERE NOT ANY PASSENGERS SEATED BETWEEN THEM. IN FRONT OF GILCHRIST WAS A NEGRO GIRL. OTHER PASSENGERS SURROUNDING THEM WERE NOT OBSERVED.

GILCHRIST DESCRIBED THE UNKNOWN MAN HE THINKS LOOKS LIKE RAY AS A WHITE MALE, THIRTY-FIVE TO FORTY YEARS, MATURE LOOKING, FIVE FEET TEN INCHES, ONE SEVEN ZERO TO ONE SEVEN FIVE LBS., MEDIUM BUILD, WELL DRESSED, NOT A HAT OBSERVED, WEARING BROWN SUIT WITH FLECK OF GOLD OR YELLOW IN IT, WHITE SHIRT, TIE, BROWN SHOES. NO SCARS OR MARKS OBSERVED, NO GLASSES, LOOKING IN GOOD HEALTH, NO NERVOUS HABITS OBSERVED, HAD CONVENTIONAL HAIRCUT, HAIR WAS LIGHT BROWN, COMBED TO ONE SIDE. UNKNOWN MAN GAVE OVERALL NICE-LOOKING APPEARANCE. GILCHRIST WAS CARRYING WITH HIM A SMALL GRAY SUITCASE AND WAS WEARING OLIVE-COLORED SPORT COAT AND GRAY-GREEN SLACKS. HE DID NOT OBSERVE UNKNOWN MAN WITH ANY BAGGAGE ON THE PLANE.

END PAGE TWO.

CE 44-1365

PAGE THREE

GILCHRIST WAS SHOWN VARIOUS PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY, AND ADVISED THAT THE PROFILE PHOTOGRAPH OF RAY TAKEN MARCH SEVENTEEN, SIXTY, LOOKS LIKE THE MAN HE OBSERVED, EXCEPT FOR THE HAIR. HE SAID HE DID NOT OBSERVE THE MAN'S EARS AND WOULD HAVE SEEN ONLY HIS RIGHT EAR IN ANY EVENT. DURING THE FLIGHT, WHICH LASTED ABOUT ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS, THE UNKNOWN MAN WAS NOT OBSERVED TALKING TO ANYONE, INCLUDING PASSENGERS OR FLIGHT PERSONNEL. HE STOOD UP ONCE IN THE AISLE AND STRETCHED HIS ARMS OVER HIS HEAD AND IMMEDIATELY SAT DOWN AGAIN. GILCHRIST CAN FURNISH NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THIS MAN, BUT REITERATED THAT HE LOOKED LIKE THE PROFILE DRAWINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF KING'S ASSASSIN.

AIR MAIL COPY TO MIAMI.

END.

4/23/68

AIRTEL

TO: Director, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, Philadelphia (44-1368)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Newark airtel to Director, 4/15/68; and New York airtel to Director, 4/17/68.

RE: DONALD CAMERON GAULT

Commander GEORGE BUNKE, U.S. Naval Air Base, Willow Grove, Pa., advised that DONALD CAMERON GAULT, Serial Number [REDACTED], is an aircraft ordnance chief senior grade. On 3/29/68 GAULT departed on a training mission to the Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, which is located in the vicinity of Coco Beach, Fla. GAULT returned with his crew to Willow Grove on 3/31/68.

3 - Bureau (44-38861)
1 - Birmingham (Info)
1 - St. Louis (Info)
1 - Memphis (Info)
1 - Miami (Info)
1 - Newark (44-854) (Info)
1 - New York (Info)
1 - Philadelphia (44-1368)

KKS:ELS
(10)

See Serial 32
64
89
123
157

44-1854-267

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Jellman *long*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MIAMI (44-1854)

DATE: 4-23-68

FROM : SA ERNEST WARRISON, JR.

ATTN: SA JELLISON

SUBJECT: MURKIN

LAUNDRY MARKING MACHINE CODES

On 4-22-68 Mrs. WILLIAM WENDRY, Manager, Prather's Laundry, Naples, Florida, advised her laundry has never used the code 20R-3. She again stated that her laundry never uses letters in their code, only numbers.

EW
(1)

*See Serial 261
187*

44-1854-268

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Jellison *Pmg*



5010-108-01

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MIAMI (44-1854)

DATE: 4-23-68

FROM : SA Ernest Warrison, Jr. ATTN: SA JELLISON

SUBJECT: MURKIN

ReMemo SA JACK L. MARSHALL 4-20-68.

On 4-23-68 Mrs. PEARL BOST, Smith's Trailer Park, Immokalee, Fla. was shown photos of subject RAY. She stated she believes the two men who live next door to her both resemble RAY. Her description for both men did not fit that of RAY inasmuch as she stated both were heavy set.

Mrs. VIOLA SMITH, Manager, Smith's Trailer Park, viewed the photos of RAY and stated in her opinion neither of the two men favored RAY. A review of her files reflected the people registered as THOMAS and KATHERINE WARD and J. BROWN. She stated these people left the Trailer Park that date and were not returning.

On 4-23-68 a review of the Collier County Sheriff's Office Log revealed PEARL BOST had contacted the Sheriff's Office on 4-19-68 re the above individuals and Officer KEENE checked the 1966 Chevy II bearing Ill. lic AX2920 and determined it to be registered to KATHERINE WARD, 849 W. Armington, (no city), for a 1966 Chevy II.

THOMAS WARD, KATHERINE WARD, and JAMES PEARSON BROWN were located residing at the Terra Park Trailer Park. They advised they are from 849 W. Armington, Chicago, Ill., and came to Immokalee looking for work. Neither man resembled RAY, ~~however~~ and a further check of their fingerprints revealed neither were identical to RAY.

EW
(1)



5010-108-01

44-1854-269

see list #199

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Jellison DMJ

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MEMO TO ALL AGENTS (44-1854) DATE: 4/23/68

FROM : SAC F. A. FROHBOSE

SUBJECT: MURKIN

SUPERVISORS _____
MM AGENTS _____
RA'S _____
CLERKS _____
STENOS _____
FILE _____

Re Memo to All Agents, captioned as above, dated 4/22/68.

The Bureau has advised that subject JAMES EARL RAY should be considered a suspect in all unsolved bank robberies, burglaries, armed robberies (possible ITSP violations) and in other matters handled by this Bureau occurring after 4/23/67. RAY should also be considered suspect in any future such violations and the Bureau advised telephonically of any tentative identification.

Any pertinent leads developed during a review of past violations should be expeditiously run out and the Bureau advised.

All Agents are instructed to review all Unsub cases assigned in accordance with Bureau instructions. This should likewise include any Unsub cases which have previously been assigned to you and closed without the identification of the subject since 4/23/67.

Any pertinent information developed in connection with this review should be handled in accordance with Bureau instructions set out above.

This should be handled immediately.

1 - All Agents

1 - 44-1854

HAN:jth

44-1854-270

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MM 44-1854

ADDENDUM:

The Bureau has further reiterated the fact that all leads in this case must be covered within 24 hours and all leads must be set forth by telephone or teletype. All border Offices covering entry into Mexico and Canada and exit therefrom should insure that appropriate stops are maintained regarding subject and all names known to be used by him, at respective offices of U. S. Immigration and Border Patrol. You should also insure that previous stops placed with any facility should include all names used by the subject.

A sufficient quantity of wanted flyers and IOs should be distributed to Narcotic investigative agencies in order that their informants may be contacted. You should contact all criminal informants and appropriate racial and security informants.

Each Senior Resident Agent should insure that the above instructions have been complied with in his respective Resident Agency.

REPORTING PROCEDURE:

In connection with covering leads in this matter, in addition to preparing the necessary outgoing communication, teletype or airtel, as required by the circumstances, the results of each lead covered should be placed in the form of an insert and directed to the file with a cover memo, the cover memo indicating briefly the nature of the lead covered and referencing the pertinent communication to which the lead pertains. You need submit only one copy of the investigative insert.

SUBJECT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

FBI MIAMI

FBI CHARLT

459 PM URGENT 4-24-68 BSH

TO MIAMI

FROM CHARLOTTE (44-1365) (P) 2P

✓
MURKIN.

BY AIRTEL APRIL NINE LAST, SAVANNAH ADVISED THAT BOYD GAULT (PROTECT), BOYD'S HARDWARE AND WESTERN UNION OFFICE, DARIEN, GA., ON APRIL NINE LAST, ADVISED THAT ON THAT MORNING AN INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS JOSEPH LUNCEFORD, WHO CLOSELY RESEMBLES ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF ASSASSIN OF KING, INQUIRED CONCERNING WESTERN UNION MONEY ORDER WHICH WAS TO BE FORWARDED TO HIM AT NEW SMYRNA, FLA. GAULT CONTACTED NEW SMYRNA, FLA., AND ASCERTAINED MONEY ORDER NOT RECEIVED BY THAT OFFICE. LUNCEFORD THEN PLACED TWO TELEPHONE CALLS TO CLINTON, N.C. LUNCEFORD WAS ACCOMPANIED BY WHITE FEMALE AND SMALL CHILD, AND WAS DRIVING NASH OR RAMBLER, PINK WITH LIGHT-COLORED TOP, BEARING SIXTY-EIGHT N.C. LICENSE HF DASH SEVEN ZERO FIVE ZERO.

RECORDS OF NCDMV, RALEIGH, N.C., REVEAL THIS LICENSE ISSUED TO MONNIE MATTHIS PETERSON, ROUTE TWO, CLINTON, N.C., FOR A SIXTY-TWO RAMBLER.

END PAGE ONE

*See Serial 284
314
Copy sent
to
Schneider
H*

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CE 44-1365

PAGE TWO

ON APRIL ELEVEN LAST, MR. MAMIE MATTHIS, CLINTON, N.C., ADVISED THAT HER DAUGHTER, BONNIE LEONE PETERSON IS THE OWNER OF THE SIXTY-TWO RAMBLER. ON APRIL FIVE LAST, HER DAUGHTER TOLD HER SHE WAS LEAVING CLINTON, AND MRS. MATTHIS BELIEVES SHE IS IN THE COMPANY OF AN INDIVIDUAL NAMED JOSEPH LUNCEFORD. SHE RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM DAUGHTER APRIL SIX LAST, AT WHICH TIME DAUGHTER WAS IN TOWN NEAR WEST PALM BEACH, FLA. MRS. MATTHIS BELIEVES LUNCEFORD IS ORIGINALLY FROM DURHAM, N.C., AND IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED IN THE CLINTON AREA IN THE PAST.

DAILY CONTACT HAS BEEN MAINTAINED WITH MRS. MATTHIS REGARDING THE WHEREABOUTS OF LUNCEFORD SINCE THAT TIME. TODAY, MRS. MATTHIS ADVISED SHE RECEIVED LETTER FROM HER DAUGHTER TODAY, WITH RETURN ADDRESS OF TWENTY-SIX A GARDEN APARTMENTS, BOCA RATON, FLA. PROTECT MRS. MATTHIS AS SOURCE.

MIAMI, AT BOCA RATON, FLA., INTERVIEW LUNCEFORD AND DETERMINE IF IDENTICAL WITH JAMES EARL RAY. AIR MAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

CORRECTIO N PAGE TWO FIRST LINE WORD 5 SHOULD BE "MRS." INSTEAD OF MR.

END.

;SHR

FBI MIAMI

FBI MIAMI

FBI TAMPA

405PM URGENT 4-24-68 BLW

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), BIRMINGHAM AND MEMPHIS
FROM TAMPA (157-3231)

✓
MURKIN, CR, OO MEMPHIS.

DAVID O. CONGER, THE THIRD, EIGHT SIX NINE SEVEN -
ONE ONE SEVEN ST., NORTH, LARGO, FLA., ADVISED ON APRIL
TWENTY FOUR INSTANT, THAT ON APRIL EIGHT LAST, HE HAD
FLOWN FROM MIAMI, FLA., TO ST. CROIX, VIRGIN ISLANDS ON
PAN AMERICAN FLIGHT NO. FOUR TWO NINE, DEPARTING MIAMI
NINE THIRTY AM. ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL ABOARD THIS FLIGHT
RESEMBLED THE ARTIST CONCEPTION OF ERIC STARVO GALT, WHICH
WAS PUBLISHED IN LOCAL NEWSPAPER. COPIES OF IO AND WANTED
FLYER DISPLAYED TO CONGER AND STATES HE DOES NOT BELIEVE
INDIVIDUAL IDENTICAL TO JAMES EARL RAY, HOWEVER, NOT
CERTAIN. CONGER STATED THIS INDIVIDUAL SEATED IN TOURIST
CABIN AND IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN SEATED IN SEAT SEVEN
F, IF SEATS ARE NUMBERED FROM REAR OF CABIN OR SEAT
NINE F IF NUMBERED FROM FRONT OF CABIN. THIS INDIVIDUAL
END PAGE ONE

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335
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391
390
387

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J. L. ...

PAGE TWO

READING AN ELECTRONICS MAGAZINE, SIMILAR TO POPULAR MECHANICS.
CONGER EXPLAINED HE DID NOT OBSERVE THIS INDIVIDUAL CLOSELY
AND COULD ONLY DESCRIBED HIM AS A W/M, FORTY YEARS, DARK
THIN HAIR, COMBED STRAIGHT BACK, AND DID NOT APPEAR TYPE
TO BE TRAVELING TO ST. CROIX. CONGER APPEARS TO HAVE
SOMEWHAT OF A "DETECTIVE COMPLEX."

MIAMI AT MIAMI, FLA. WILL OBTAIN PASSENGER MANIFEST

AND ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUAL MENTIONED ABOVE TO
DETERMINE IF IDENTICAL WITH JAMES EARL RAY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

PJL

FBI MIAMI

@

727PM URGENT 4-24-68 BJP
TO ALL SACS - RELAY MESSAGE PLAN
FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 2P

✓
MURKIN

CONTACTS SHOULD BE MAINTAINED WITH ALL MASS COMMUNICATIONS
MEDIA IN YOUR TERRITORY TO INSURE THAT THERE IS FREQUENT
REFERENCE TO RAY AND HIS CONNECTION WITH THIS CASE.

SINCE YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN ADVISED THAT JAMES EARL
RAY IS IDENTICAL WITH ERIC STARVO GALT AND YOU HAVE BEEN
FURNISHED IO'S AND WANTED FLYERS ON RAY, YOU ARE TO BE
CERTAIN THAT ALL APPROPRIATE STOPS HAVE BEEN RENEWED ON
JAMES EARL RAY AND UNDER ALL OF HIS KNOWN ALIASES AS SET
FORTH ON THE IO'S AND WANTED FLYERS. THIS IS TO INSURE THAT
THE BUREAU WILL BE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED IF THE SUBJECT IS
ARRESTED OR COMES TO THE ATTENTION OF AUTHORITIES WITH WHOM
STOPS PLACED.

OFFICES COVERING DEPARTURE OR ARRIVAL OF OVERSEAS
FLIGHTS SHOULD HAVE RENEWED STOPS AND SUBJECT'S PHOTOGRAPH
SHOULD BE DISPLAYED APPROPRIATELY.

END PAGE ONE

*Nummer
advised 8/12
4/24/68*

*TP
JK
5N
NO*

*733
736
738
743
P*

*MO 752
P*

*427
428
237*

#5

jh

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Jellison

PAGE TWO

ALL OFFICES SHOULD CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION
AT ALL "HIPPIE" ROOMING HOUSES AND SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS TO
OBTAIN ANY INFORMATION WHATSOEVER CONCERNING RAY.

APPROPRIATE LEGATS BEING ADVISED SEPARATELY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

RGT

FBI MIAMI

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MIAMI

FROM : SA DAVID N. JELLISON

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

DATE: 4/25/68

Re Bureau airtel to all offices dated 4/19/68.

Attached hereto is an investigative insert reflecting investigation that was requested by the Bureau in referenced airtel which was answered in Miami airtels dated 4/23 and 4/24/68.

1 - 44-1854
DNJ:vc
(1)

*See Serials
187
243
261*

44-1854-274

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5010-108-01

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

MM 44-1854

DNJ:vc

1.

The following investigation was conducted by
SA DAVID N. JELLISON at Miami, Florida, on April 24, 1968:

Re: Laundry Marking Machines and Code 20R-3

On April 24, 1968, ROBERT BERMAN, proprietor, Famous Cleaners, 3454 N. W. 7th Avenue, Miami, Florida, advised that he uses Code 20R-3 about ~~once~~ every three weeks for the Royal Palm Cleaners, 4016 Royal Palm Avenue, Miami Beach, Florida. BERMAN believed that this code would have appeared on a yellow tape two or three times since April, 1967.

BERMAN further advised that after a complete review of his records since April, 1967, that this code appeared on a yellow tape for the Royal Palm Cleaners on September 28, 1967, and October 24, 1967.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MIAMI

FROM : SA DAVID N. JELLISON

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

DATE: 4/25/68

Re Bureau airtel to all offices dated 4/19/68.

Attached hereto is an investigative insert reflecting investigation that was requested by the Bureau in referenced airtel which was answered in Miami airtels dated 4/23 and 4/24/68.

1 - 44-1854
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(1)

UK

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1



5010-108-01

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

MM 44-1854

DNJ:vc

1.

The following investigation was conducted by
SA DAVID N. JELLISON on 4/22/68:

Re: Laundry Marking Machines and Code 20R-3

On April 22, 1968, IRVING SHANKIN, proprietor,
Crown Cleaners and Laundries, 2025 N. E. 163rd Street,
Miami, advised that his laundry uses Code 20R-3 during the
second week in April and second week in October each year.
However, his establishment does not mark any flat work such
as bedsheets and pillow cases with Thermo Seal tapes.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MIAMI

FROM : SA DAVID N. JELLISON

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

DATE: 4/25/68

Re Bureau airtel to all offices dated 4/19/68,
and Miami airtel to Bureau dated 4/23/68.

Attached hereto is an investigative insert
reflecting investigation that was requested by the Bureau
in referenced airtel which was answered in Miami airtels
dated 4/23 and 4/24/68.

1 - 44-1854

DNJ:vc

(1) *MC*

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5010-108-01

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

44-1854

DNJ:vc

1.

The following investigation was conducted by
SA DAVID N. JELLISON at Miami, Florida:

Re: Laundry Marking Machines and Code 20R-3

On April 24, 1968, ROBERT ROTH, proprietor, Royal Palm Cleaners, reviewed his records for September 28, 1967, and October 24, 1967, and determined that Code 20R-3, appearing on yellow Thermo Seal tape was used on three shirts, three undershirts and six handkerchiefs in the name of Mr. LAURENT on September 28, 1967. His records further indicate that on October 24, 1967, Code 20R-3 was used on two shirts in the name of Mr. COHEN.

At no time did this code on a yellow tape appear on any sheets or pillow cases.

FBI MIAMI

FBI KAN CITY

1256 PM URGENT 4/25/68 PHM

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS, MIAMI, ST. LOUIS
FROM KANSAS CITY 44-760 1P

MURKIN

W. L. RUDDELL, POST OFFICE INSPECTOR, KANSAS CITY, MO.,
ADVISED IN ADDITION TO INFO IN PRE-SENTENCE REPORT FOR JAMES EARL
RAY DATED APRIL TWENTYSIX, FIFTYFIVE, USDC, WDM, PREVIOUSLY
FURNISHED YOUR OFFICE, HE COULD FURNISH FOLLOWING INFO:

SUBJECT AND WALTER RIFE, WHEN ARRESTED ON MARCH TWENTYTWO,
FIFTYFIVE, IN HANNIBAL, MO., WERE DRIVING FORTYNINE LINCOLN,
WHICH HAD BEEN PURCHASED AMACKER MOTORS, ONE THREE FIVE NE
THIRTYSIXTH ST., MIAMI, FLA., AND ON THIS CAR THEY TRADED IS A
FORTYSIX OR FORTYSEVEN NASH. THIS PURCHASE POSSIBLY COULD HAVE
BEEN MADE ON ABOUT MAY FOURTEEN, FIFTYFOUR. HE ALSO STATED WHEN
APPREHENDED, SUBJECT AND RIFE HAD BEEN STAYING AT PARK HOTEL,
MONTGOMERY CITY, MISSOURI.

MIAMI, AT MIAMI, CONDUCT INVESTIGATION AT AMACKER MOTORS,
FOR ANY INFO THEY MAY HAVE RE SUBJECT.

ST. LOUIS AT MONTGOMERY CITY, CONTACT PARK HOTEL
FOR ANY INFO THEY MAY HAVE RE SUBJECT.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P

END

SH

FBI MIAMI

SHR OK

44-1854-277

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Jellison *Omj*

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FBI ATLANTA

10:25 PM URGENT 4/24/68 LBN

TO DIRECTOR MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, LOS ANGELES, KANSAS
CITY, SPRINGFIELD AND MIAMI.
FROM ATLANTA (44-2386)

MURKIN.

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION, APRIL TWENTYFOUR, SIXTYEIGHT:
NEW AND USED CAR DEALERS IN ATLANTA AND SUBURBAN AREAS
HAVE BEEN CONTACTED AND SHOWN PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY. SUCH CHECKS
CONCLUDED TODAY AND ALL NEGATIVE. PROJECT OF CONTACTING
INDIVIDUALS ADVERTISING AUTOMOBILES FOR SALE THROUGHT NEWSPAPER
ADS BETWEEN MARCH TWENTYFOUR AND APRIL FIVE LAST UNDERWAY.
NEGATIVE TO DATE, CONTINUING.

CAR RENTAL AGENCIES IN ATLANTA AND SUBURBAN AREAS
CONCLUDED TODAY WITH PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY EXHIBITED WITH NEGATIVE
RESULTS.

CONTACTS WITH CREW MEMBERS ON EASTERN AIRLINES FOREIGN
FLIGHTS THREE TWO ZERO AND THREE TWO EIGHT ON APRIL FIVE LAST
CONCLUDED EXCEPT FOR ONE STEWARDESS WHO WILL BE INTERVIEWED APRIL
TWENTYFIVE NEXT. SUCH CHECKS ARE NEGATIVE.

END PAGE ONE.

#5 14

*Nauman
advised 4/24/68
10:45 JLF*

*Phelan
Adm.*

*Who has in
atlanta advised
Deard covered by
Zachmanville & equal
tel he sent them. He
advised would handle JLF*

*See Serials
360 303
320
325 324*

44-1854-278

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Phelan JLF

PAGE TWO ..

STORAGE GARAGES, CITY OF ATLANTA, CONTACTED AND RAY'S PHOTOGRAPH EXHIBITED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. ALL OPEN PARKING LOTS VICINITY OF ONE ONE THREE FOURTEENTH STREET HAVE BEEN CONTACTED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY SHOWN TO OWNERS AND ATTENDANTS WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

REMAINING CREW MEMBERS OF EASTERN AIRLINES FLIGHT ONE THREE THREE, APRIL TWELVE LAST INTERVIEWED REGARDING A PASSENGER RESEMBLING RAY WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. THEY CONFIRMED INFORMATION FURNISHED APRIL TWENTYTHREE, SIXTYEIGHT, BY OTHER CREW MEMBERS WHO STATED GILCHRIST WAS IN ERROR BY STATING ONLY ONE PASSENGER DEBARKED AT HOUSTON, TEXAS. THEY STATED NO ONE ON PLANE RESEBLING RAY.

JIMMIE DELTON GARNER, GARNER'S SISTER AND WOMAN LINEN CHANGER AT ONE ONE THREE FOURTEENTH STREET, REINTERVIEWED THIS DATE AND FURNISHED NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA CONFINED COUNTY JAIL, MARIETTA, GEORGIA, ON ARMED ROBBERY CONVICTION INTERVIEWED. DOWDA WAS ACQUAINTED WITH RAY AT MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY FOR THREE
END PAGE TWO..

PAGE THREE...

YEARS, ENDING SEPTEMBER TWENTYTHREE, SIXTYSIX, WHEN DOWDA RELEASED. DOWDA STATED RAY WAS DOPE ADDICT, USING INJECTIONS AND WAS ADDICTED PRIOR TO INCARCERATION. RAY USED AMPHETIMINE. DOWDA STATED HAROLD SCHAEFER, GUARD ON GATE AT T PRISON, WAS FRIENDLY WITH RAY AND BELIEVED BY SOME TO BE SELLING THE AMPHETIMINE. DOWDA CLAIMED RAY HAD UNKNOWN OUTSIDE SOURCE OF INCOME TO SUPPORT A THIRTYFIVE TO FORTY DOLLAR PER WEEK DOPE HABIT AS WELL AS FIFTEEN TO TWENTY DOLLARS PER WEEK OTHER EXPENDITURES. DOWDA CLAIMS THREE NEGRO PRISONERS KILLED IN PRISON AFTER PROTESTING DEMIAL OF BLACK MUSLIMS TO WORSHIP. CLAIMED RAY KILLED THE NEGROES OR KNOW WHO DID. DESCRIBED RAY AS RACIST WHO FELT ALL NEGROES IN THAT PRISON SHOULD BE KILLED AND SAID RAY MADE SEVERAL STATEMENTS TO EFFECT IF PRICE WAS RIGHT WOULD KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING. DOWDA STATED RAY'S CLOSEST FRIEND IN PRISON WAS NEIL ABBEY (PHONETIC) WHO HANDLED DOPE AND GOT RAY A JOB IN THE KITCHEN. DOWDA DOES NOT KNOW NEIL ABBEY'S PRESENT WHEREABOUTS BUT ABBEY WAS AT ONE TIME CHIEF COOK AT THE PRISON. ANOTHER

END PAGE THREE...

PAGE FOUR....

CLOSE FRIEND WAS DONALD DEAN RIGGER FROM CALIFORNIA WHOSE WIFE WAS A PSYCHIATRIST AT NAPA STATE HOSPITAL LOCATED ABOVE SAN SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA. DOWDA STATED RAY WOULD ONLY HAVE AN ADDRESS FOR HIM IN CARE OF DOWDA'S FATHER, CHARLES ALFRED DOWDA, FORMELY ROUTE ONE, SANFORD, FLORIDA, BUT PRESENTLY ONE ONE ZERO SOUTH CHANDLER STREET, DELAND, FLORIDA. DOWDA DENIES CONTACT IN ANY MANNER WITH RAY SINCE DOWD'S RELEASE. STATED ANOTHER FORMER INMATE, PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR., AKA PAUL ALVIN CARTER, THIRTYFOUR BARBODS DRIVE, PALM SPRINGS, WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, WAS FRIENDLY WITH RAY AND DOWDA SAW LAIL EARLY MARCH, SIXTYEIGHT, BUT NO MENTION MADE OF RAY. DOWDA HAS NO IDEA WHY RAY WOULD GO TO ATLANTA.

MIAMI, CONTACT CHARLES ALFRED DOWDA. ONE ONE ZERO SOUTH CHANDLER STREET, DELAND, FLORIDA, AND PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR., WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, TO DETERMINE IF RAY HAS CONTACTED THEM.

KANSAS CITY AT JEFFERSON CITY, MO., INTERVIEW GUARD, HAROLD SCHAEFER, CONCERNING RAY. ALSO DETERMINE PRESENT WHEREABOUTS OF INMATE MEIAL ABBEY (PHONETIC) AND DONALD DEAN RIGGER AND
END PAGE FOUR.... *

PAGE FIVE.....

S ET OUT LEADS FOR THEIR INTERVIEWS CONCERNING POSSIBLE CONTACT BY
RAY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

HEJ

FBI MIAMI

TU C

4/23/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS
FROM: SAC, ALBUQUERQUE (44-715)(P)
RE: MURKIN *XREF-157-2434**

Re New Orleans teletype to Albuquerque, 4/23/68.

Re: ERNEST H. GAULT

The following investigation was telephonically conducted by SA FRANK W. HAINES:

AT CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO

On 4/23/68 Mr. E. L. CARPENTER, General Delivery Window, U. S. Post Office, (CONCEAL IDENTITY) advised that he has been employed in this position since 12/4/67 and does not recall anyone by the name of ERNEST H. GAULT. CARPENTER advised that he caused a search of his General Delivery records and was unable to find any record or forwarding address of ERNEST H. GAULT. He advised GAULT was unknown to him.

On 4/23/68 GEORGE PATTERSON, U. S. Post Office, (CONCEAL IDENTITY) advised that he caused a check of available transfer records dating back to 7/1/67 and was unable to locate any record for ERNEST H. GAULT.

On 4/23/68 DORIS MAXWELL, Credit Bureau of Clovis, advised she was unable to locate any credit record identifiable with ERNEST H. GAULT.

2-Memphis
1-Miami (Info)(AM)
1-New Orleans (157-10673)(Info)(AM)
2-Albuquerque
FWH:dlb
(6)

AIRTEL

See Serial
281
283
327

44-1854-279

SEARCHED <i>ph</i>	INDEXED <i>ph</i>
SERIALIZED <i>ph</i>	FILED <i>ph</i>
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ph

AQ 44-715

On 4/23/68 Detective J. T. WARREN, Clovis Police Department, advised that the Clovis Police Department No. 10131 was concerning ERNEST HAZER GAULT described as a white male, 5'9½", 150 pounds, brown hair, blue eyes, born [REDACTED] at Lebanon, New Hampshire. WARREN advised that GAULT had been arrested for drunk in 1962 and 1963, at which time he was fingerprinted and photographed. WARREN compared the photograph of ERNEST HAZER GAULT, Clovis Police Department No. 10131, to the wanted flyer of JAMES EARL RAY and advised that there was absolutely no likeness.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MIAMI (44-1854)

FROM : SPECIAL AGENT FRANK J. SMITH

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

DATE: 4/25/68

On April 23, 1968, 24 copies of Wanted Flyer #442A on JAMES EARL RAY were sent to the special attention of STANLEY R. MOIR, Assistant Commissioner, Bahamas Police Force, Nassau, Bahamas. Mr. MOIR was contacted personally on the phone in connection with another matter, and was advised of the Bureau's vital interest in captioned case. Mr. MOIR said that he would alert his officers throughout the Bahamas and would immediately call Miami should he receive any information concerning subject.

44-1854
FJS/neb
(1)

*See Serial
287
286*

44-1854-280

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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5010-108-01

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

4/23/68

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: ALBUQUERQUE
FROM: NEW ORLEANS (157-10673)

MURKIN

*44-1854**
*XREF-157-2434**

ON APRIL TWENTYTHREE, INSTANT, MAJOR JAMES DUMIGAN, BATON ROUGE POLICE DEPARTMENT MADE AVAILABLE RECORD PORTION OF A SOCIAL SECURITY CARD TURNED OVER TO HIM ON APRIL TWENTY, LAST BY ONE CLARENCE POUNDERS, RUSSELLVILLE, ALABAMA. POUNDERS' SECURITY CARD BORE NAME ERNEST H. GAULT, GENERAL DELIVERY, CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO, NUMBER [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. POUNDERS CLAIMED HE FOUND CARD ON STREET IN HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA, SEPTEMBER, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN. HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF GAULT.

POUNDERS ELIMINATED AS SUSPECT IN THIS MATTER THROUGH FINGERPRINT COMPARISONS BY BATON ROUGE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

ALBUQUERQUE AT CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO. WILL IDENTIFY GAULT TO DETERMINE IF IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT.

① - Miami (AM)
1 - Memphis (AM)
1 - New Orleans
ERP - cst
(3)

ADDENDUM: MIAMI IS BEING FURNISHED AM COPY OF THIS COMMUNICATION IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE FURTHER INQUIRY CONCERNING E. H. GAULT.

See Serial
327
283
279

SEARCHED <i>h</i>	INDEXED <i>h</i>
SERIALIZED <i>h</i>	FILED <i>h</i>
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FBI - MIAMI	
<i>Jellison ong</i>	

44-1854-281

NO 157-10673

PAGE TWO.

AIR MAIL COPIES TO MEMPHIS AND MIAMI.

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861), MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: MIAMI (44-1854) (P)

MURKIN

RE SAN FRANCISCO TEL APR. TWENTYFOUR, LAST.

INQUIRY OF BOCA RATON CLUB, BOCA RATON, FLA., APR.
TWENTYFOUR, LAST, REFLECTS WILLIAM RAYMOND STEKLY EMPLOYED
AS HOUSE MAN APR. THREE TO APR. NINETEEN, LAST. STEKLY
LEFT APR. NINETEEN, LAST GIVING FORWARDING ADDRESS IN CARE
OF WANDA JEAN STEKLY, LUPIN LANE, CARMEL VALLEY, CALIF.
STEKLY'S SUPERVISOR AT BOCA RATON CLUB STATED STEKLY DOES
NOT RESEMBLE SUBJECT'S PHOTO AND STEKLY WAS DEFINITELY
WORKING AT BOCA RATON CLUB ON APR. THREE TO APRIL NINETEEN,
LAST.

*Lu sent
260*

1-Kansas City (AM)
1-San Francisco (173-65) (AM)
1-Miami
RS/mev
(3)
mev

Searched _____
Indexed _____
Serialized *m* _____
Filed *m* _____

Approved: *h*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *6:30 PM - ME* *WA* M Per *pl*

44-1854-282

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND SACS MEMPHIS (44-1987) KANSAS
CITY (44-760) AND BIRMINGHAM
FROM MIAMI (44-1854)

MURKIN

RE JAMES EARL RAY

OLIVER BRIGHT, VICE PRESIDENT, HIALEAH-MIAMI SPRINGS
BANK, HIALEAH, FLA., ADVISES THAT HIS BANK PURCHASED CONTRACT
FROM FINCHER OLDSMOBILE, MIAMI, FLA., MADE BY GUY E. RAY AT
FINCHER MOTORS, INC., MIAMI, FLA., ON APRIL THREE SIXTYEIGHT.
ON APPLICATION RAY GAVE MIAMI ADDRESS AS RESIDENCE PAST TWO
AND ONE HALF YEARS. RAY REPORTEDLY NOT HAVING LIVED AT THIS
ADDRESS. RAY FURTHER GAVE FICTITIOUS EMPLOYMENT AND ADVISED
HE HAD PREVIOUSLY LIVED ROUTE TWO, BOX ONE FOUR A, KILLEN,
ALA., AND ROUTE ONE, OWENS CROSS ROADS, ALA. MR. BRIGHT
HAS CONTACTED A MR. BUFORD GARNER, STATE NATIONAL BANK OF

① - Miami
WOT/vjl
(1) *njl*

Approved: *[Signature]*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent *6 52 PM - KC*

M

Per *[Signature]*

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)MM 44-1854
PAGE TWO

MUSCLE SHOALS, NINE ZERO NINE WOODWARD AVE., MUSCLE SHOALS, ALA. GARNER ADVISES RAY AND WIFE DIANE RAY KNOWN TO BANK FOR ONLY THREE MONTHS. TYPE OF BUSINESS NOT KNOWN, BUT DEPOSITS TO ACCOUNT ARE WITH FLA. CASHIER CHECKS. GARNER HAS NEVER SEEN RAY AND ALLEGED WIFE HAS HANDLED ALL BANK CONTACTS. RAY ACCOUNT CAME TO STATE NATIONAL BANK OF MUSCLE SHOALS AS A REFERENCE FROM FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BIRMINGHAM. BIRMINGHAM WILL MAKE PROPER INQUIRIES AT MUSCLE SHOALS, KILLEN AND OWENS CROSS ROADS, ALA., TO ELIMINATE GUY E. RAY AS IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY. SUBJECT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date: **4/25/68**Transmit the following in **PLAINTEXT**
(Type in plaintext or code)Via **TELETYPE**
(Priority)

TO: MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: MIAMI (44-1854) (P)

MURKIN**RE CHARLOTTE TEL APR. TWENTYFOUR, LAST.**

JOSEPH LUNCEFORD LOCATED AT BOCA RATON, FLA., APR.
TWENTYFIVE, LAST AND ELIMINATED AS SUSPECT BY FINGERPRINTS
CHARLOTTE ADVISED AM.

1-Charlotte (44-1365) (AM)
1-Miami
RS/mev
(2)
mev

*See Serial 271
314*

Searched_____
Indexed_____
Serialized *✓*_____
Filed_____

44-1854-284

Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *6:28 pm* M

Per *[Signature]*

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

Transmit the following in PLA INTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)TO DIRECTOR, (44-38861), AND SACS, MEMPHIS (44-1987),
AND KANSAS CITY (44-760)

FROM MIAMI (44-1854)

MURKIN. CR

RE KANSAS CITY TELETYPE TO BUREAU, MEMPHIS, MIAMI,
ST. LOUIS, APRIL TWENTYFIVE, INSTANT.RE: PURCHASE OF AUTOMOBILE BY JAMES EARL RAY AND WALTER
RIFE ON OR ABOUT MAY FOURTEEN, FIFTYFOUR, AT MIAMI, FLA.LUKE SELLARS, PROPRIETOR, LUKE SELLARS MOTORS, MIAMI,
FLA., ADVISED HE WAS THE PROPRIETOR OF AMACKER MOTORS, ONE
THREE FIVE N.E. THIRTYSIX ST., MIAMI, IN NINETEEN FIFTYFOUR.
HE DISSOLVED THIS BUSINESS IN NINETEEN SIXTYONE AND HAS
SINCE DESTROYED ALL RECORDS. FORSELLARS ADVISED WHEREABOUTS OF FORMER EMPLOYEES AMACKER
MOTORS UNKNOWN. SELLARS STATED DOES NOT RECALL SALE OF VEHICLE
TO SUBJECT AS MENTIONED IN REFERENCED TEL, HOWEVER, IF THERE
WAS SOMETHING UNUSUAL ABOUT SALE, HE WOULD RECALL CIRCUMSTANCES.1 - St. Louis (Info)
① - Miami
DNJ:vc
(2)Approved: ME
Special Agent in ChargeSent 4 38 P KC M Per 44-1854-285
4 31 P WIA
4 35 P ME Serial 289
301
289

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____
(Priority)

MM 44-1854

PAGE TWO

SELLARS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY PHOTOGRAPHS OF SUBJECT AND
RIFE.

SUSPECT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.
ST. LOUIS ADVISED BY AM.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, Miami (44-1859)

FROM : SA FRANK J. SMITH

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/26/68

Re Buffalo teletype to Bureau and Miami, 4/25/68.

At 9:00 a.m., 4/26/68, STANLEY R. MOIR, Assistant Commissioner, Bahamas Police Force, Nassau, was advised that a Mrs. GLADYS D. MEEHAN, wife of DONALD MEEHAM, observed an individual whom she stated resembled JAMES EARL RAY at the Rock Sound Club Beach Cottages, Eleuthera, Bahamas. This man appeared to be a guest; was wearing a business suit and is believed to have just arrived.

Mr. MOIR advised that he has received the Wanted Flyers on RAY which were sent to him by the writer. He will dispatch one of the Flyers to Eleuthera by plane and request his officer there to make necessary inquiries. He will advise of the results of this inquiry by telephone.

FJS:amc
(1)

*See Serials
287
280*

44-1854-286

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FBI — MIAMI	

Jellison



5010-108-01

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

FBI MIAMI

FBI-BUFFALO

4:37PM URGENT 4/25/68 SKC

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND MIAMI
FROM BUFFALO (44-374) 1P

✓
MURKIN

ON APRIL TWENTYFIVE INSTANT, MRS. GLADYS D. MEEHAM, WIFE OF DR. DONALD MEEHAM, SPRINGVILLE, NY, ADVISED SHE AND HER FAMILY HAD JUST RETURNED FROM THE ROCK SOUND CLUB IN BEACH COTTAGES, ELEUTHERA, BAHAMAS. SHE HAD SEEN THE TODAY SHOW ON APRIL TWENTYFIVE INSTANT, WHEREUPON SHE OBSERVED A PICTURE OF JAMES EARL RAY.

MRS. MEEHAM SAW A MAN IN ROCK SOUND CLUB ON THE EVENING OF APRIL EIGHTEEN OR NINETEEN LAST WHO BORE A REMARKABLE RESEMBLANCE TO RAY. SHE OBSERVED THIS MAN AT BREAKFAST THE FOLLOWING MORNING. HE WAS DRESSED IN BUSINESS SUIT AND APPEARED PALE AS THOUGH HE HAD JUST ARRIVED. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ANOTHER MAN WHOM SHE COULD NOT DESCRIBE EXCEPT THAT HE WAS SIMILAR IN APPEARANCE TO THE MAN SHE OBSERVED AS TO AGE, HEIGHT, WEIGHT AND BUILD.

MIAMI HANDLE.

AM CCS TO BIRMINGHAM, KANSAS CITY AND MEMPHIS.

RAY ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P.

END

PJL

FBI MIAMI

*4/26/68 9 AM
SR Moir, asst
comm. face
Bahamas Police
Hassan will
called - will
check out -
7/2/68*

44-1854-287

SEARCHED ☒	INDEXED ☒
SERIALIZED ☒	FILED ☒
APR 25 1968	
FBI - MIAMI	

Jellison *DMJ*

*see serial
286
280*

Docket No. 1911-8
Judge Charles A. Hittaker

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Kansas City, Missouri
April 26, 1955

WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

PRESENTENCE REPORT

NAME James Earl Ray **172498** CITIZENSHIP United States
ADDRESS Transient MARITAL STATUS Single
AGE 27 years (Born March 17, 1928) NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS None
SEX Male OFFENSE Forgery of U. S. Postal Money Order
RACE White

I. OFFENSE:

This defendant on April 1, 1955 entered a plea of guilty to an information in one count which charges that he on or about March 21, 1955 at Kansas City, Missouri knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully, and feloniously forged a material endorsement on a U. S. Post Office Department Money Order No. 7-12,239,597. On this same date a companion, Walter Terry Rife, entered a plea of guilty in Docket No. 1911-9 to an information in one count charging him with the forgery on March 21, 1955 of postal money order No. 7-12,239,598. Imposition of sentence as to defendant and his companion was deferred and this presentence investigation was ordered.

The facts of the case are as follows: On March 7, 1955 the U. S. Post Office at Jolietville, Illinois was burglarized and sixty-six blank U. S. Postal Money Orders, Serial Nos. 7-12,239,535 to 7-12,239,600 inclusive, and the office validating stamp were stolen. On March 8, 1955 at Alton, Illinois an unsuccessful attempt was made to cash one of these stolen money orders. On March 21, 1955 one of the stolen money orders, order No. 7-12,239,597, was presented to Askin's Clothing Company, 1226 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, by an unknown person in payment for a suit of clothes which was never picked up after alterations had been made. This money order, which was in the amount of \$75.00, was made payable to Willard J. McBride with the purchaser being shown as Vernon McBride. On this same date an unknown person presented stolen money order No. 7-12,239,568 to the Chaffee Office Machine Company, 1410 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, in payment for a used portable Remington typewriter. This money order, too, was in the amount of \$75.00 payable to Willard J. McBride with the purchaser being shown as Vernon McBride. The manager of this firm, being suspicious of this transaction, directed an employee to follow the customer. The employee noted the model and make of the automobile entered by the customer and the license number of the car. Later upon this money order was ascertained

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Jellman *DM*

44-1854-288

to have been stolen a description of the customer and his automobile was given to post office inspectors who alerted the Missouri State Highway Patrol. A highway patrolman on March 23, 1955 at Hannibal, Missouri arrested in this automobile Walter Terry Rife, James Earl Ray, and a woman companion who has been released. Thirty-four of the money orders stolen from the Mollerville, Illinois Post Office were found hidden under the dash above the glove compartment in this automobile. All of them had been stamped with the validating stamp. Some were made out ready for cashing while others were not.

On March 24, 1955 Rife executed a statement for postal inspectors in which he admitted he had prepared, forged and uttered the postal money order presented to the Chaffee Office Supply Company in Kansas City. He admitted preparing the same order which was uttered on forged endorsement at Askin's Clothing Company, Kansas City, Missouri. He admitted that he had prepared the face of the money orders made ready for cashing and which were found in the automobile in which he was arrested. He admitted cashing numerous other money orders on forged endorsements in the states of Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri. He recalled unsuccessfully attempting to cash the money order at Alton, Illinois on March 8, 1955. In his statement he admits that he purchased in Quincy, Illinois the stolen money orders. They were sold to him by an unidentified man for \$20. On March 24, 1955 Ray, declining to execute statement for postal inspectors, did verbally state that he had participated with Rife in the cashing of the stolen money orders in the various states. He denied actually knowing that the money orders were stolen. However, he admittedly presumed that they were for he had been told by Rife that they had been purchased for \$20. He admitted that it was he who forged and uttered the money order presented at Askin's Clothing Company in Kansas City, Missouri. He stated that he purchased for \$1 in St. Louis, Missouri from a "Wino" named Willard J. McBride the identification he and Rife used in uttering the money orders.

The two money orders uttered by Rife and Ray in Kansas City, Missouri and as well the money order Rife attempted to utter in Alton, Illinois have been recovered. As noted previously thirty-four of the money orders were recovered in the automobile. On April 18, 1955 when reinterviewed by postal inspectors Rife and Ray gave particulars relating to the cashing of twenty-seven additional stolen money orders located by the Regional Accounting Office. The particulars are as set out in the following table:

Last three digits	Cashed by	Cashed at	Second Endorser	Date of earliest discernible back stamp	Am.
530	Rife	St. Louis, Mo.	(Illegible)	Mar. 10	\$50
543	Ray	do	Donas Men's Shop	Mar. 10	\$50
547	Ray	Hot Springs, Ark.	Eastway Art Galleries	Mar. 21	\$75
548	Rife	do	Brown's Dept. Store	Mar. 21	\$75
550	Rife	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Topp's	Mar. 15	\$75

552	Rife	Memphis, Tenn.	Borg & McCargo	Mar. 11	\$85
557	Ray	New Orleans, La.	Bright Tailors	?	\$75
558	Rife	do	Schneiders	Mar. 21	\$75
559	Rife	do	Todd's Sportswear Shop	Mar. 18	\$50
560	Rife	Hot Springs, Ark.	None apparent	Mar. 21	\$50
561	Ray	do	Dinos (?) J. C. Ross	Mar. 21	\$75
562	Rife	do	Lockwood's Men's Store	Mar. 23	\$50
577	Rife	do	Pfelfers of Arkansas	Mar. 21	\$75
578	Ray	do	Biles Music Co.	Mar. 21	\$75
582	Rife	Daytona Beach, Fla.	Squires, Inc.	Mar. 16	\$50
583	Ray	do	C. K. Slaughter	Mar. 15	\$50
585	Rife	St. Petersburg, Fla.	(Ivan C. Whipple I. Zucker)	Mar. 16	\$50
586	Ray	do	Arnold's Mens Wear	Mar. 14	\$75
587	Ray	do	Dunoffs Footwear	Mar. 14	\$50
589	Rife	do	Isabelle Abramo	?	\$75
591	Ray	Tampa, Fla.	Rio Liquors Inc.	Mar. 16	\$75
592	Rife	do	Knox (?) Bar & Luncheonette	Mar. 18	\$75
593	Rife	do	The Hub	Mar. 14	\$50
595	Ray	Tallahassee, Fla.	Alford Bros. Inc.	Mar. 12	\$50
596	Ray	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Kings Credit Clothing	Mar. 14	\$50
598	Ray	Daytona Beach, Fla.	(Illegible)	Mar. 15	\$75
599	Rife	Hot Springs, Ark.	Chas. Hearn(?)	Mar. 21	\$75

*Both Rife and Ray say no money orders cashed by them in banks.

Two of the stolen money orders have not yet been recovered. They, however, are accounted for as Ray has admitted cashing one of them at a luggage store in Kansas City, Kansas and Rife admits cashing one of them at Miami Beach, Florida.

It is pertinent to note that following the apprehension of Rife and Ray postal inspectors obtained from the room which they occupied a quantity of merchandise they had acquired by passing the stolen money orders. Found in their room were a typewriter, several pieces of luggage, a radio, a camera, a wristwatch, a considerable quantity of new wearing apparel for men, and other items. They have authorized the postal inspectors to return this merchandise to the stores or individuals from whom it was obtained.

II. PRIOR RECORD:

Defendant's F. B. I. Fingerprint Return No. 306 443 A reveals the following arrests and dispositions:

10-11-49 : Sheriff's office, Los Angeles, California - suspicion of burglary. 12-30-49 sentenced to 6 months in county jail for burglary. Served 90 days and released on probation for period of 2 years. Defendant states that he was drink-

ing in the rear of a cafe when he was seen by the cafe manager. He ran from the scene and was later apprehended. He says that after being placed on probation he went to Chicago, Illinois to reside and that he reported to a probation officer in Los Angeles, California by mail.

- 1-18-50 : Sheriff's office, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. - vagrancy. Disposition not shown, but defendant states he was released and instructed to leave town.
- 7-23-51 : Alton, Illinois Police Department - no operator's license, no state license, no city license. Released to pay later. Defendant states he was fined \$55 and required to purchase the necessary licenses.
- 5-6-52 : Chicago, Illinois police - robbery. 6-13-52 sentenced to term of 1 to 2 years in Illinois State Penitentiary, Joliet, Illinois. Defendant reluctantly admitted to the writer that while intoxicated he held up a taxicab driver. On 7-7-52 he was received at the Illinois State Prison, Pontiac, Illinois in transfer from Joliet, Illinois institution. He was released by minimum expiration on 3-12-54.
- 8-30-54 : Sheriff, Edwardsville, Illinois - burglary and larceny. Defendant states that he burglarized a cleaning shop in East Alton, Illinois but denies stealing anything. Although no disposition has been made on this charge of burglary he apparently is not wanted.
- 3-23-55 : Hannibal, Missouri police for instant offense. Released to federal authorities following day.

III. FAMILY HISTORY:

Defendant

This defendant, age 27, was born March 10, 1928 in Alton, Illinois.

He is an only child. He resided in the parental home in Alton until age 18. During that time, however, he frequently visited with his paternal grandparents in Quincy, Illinois. When about age 18 he entered the army. Following discharge from military service in 1948 he resided for a short time in Quincy, Illinois. He then moved to Chicago, Illinois where he resided for a period of about six months before moving to Los Angeles, California. As noted in the section, Prison Record, he was convicted of burglary and sentenced to jail in Los Angeles. When released on probation from that sentence he returned to residence in Chicago where he lived alone until he was committed in June of 1952 to the Illinois State Penitentiary. Since his release from the Illinois State Penitentiary in March of 1954 he has been rather transient living principally in Quincy, Illinois.

Father

George Ray reportedly died of a heart condition in 1947 at age about 49. He was an employee of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad and reportedly had no arrest record.

Mother

Lucille (nee Maher) Ray died of a liver condition in 1949 at age 51.

Other relatives

in Quincy, Illinois.

Defendant refuses to identify his several aunts and uncles who reside

IV. HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD:

When not incarcerated defendant has lived principally in Alton and Quincy, Illinois. Since his release from the Illinois State Penitentiary in March 1954, he has been rather transient. His last known residence for any period of time was at the Virginia Hotel in Quincy, Illinois.

V. EDUCATION:

Defendant states that he completed the 1st through the 8th grades at St. Mary's School in Alton, Illinois. He states that in 1952 while residing in Chicago, Illinois he attended the Academy of Adults and obtained the equivalent of a two-year high school education.

VI. RELIGION:

Defendant denies any affiliation. His mother was Catholic, and his father was Protestant. While in military service he infrequently attended Catholic services.

VII. INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES:

None.

VIII. HEALTH:

Defendant is 5' 10 1/2" tall, weighs 170 lbs., has a ruddy complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair. There are no apparent marks or scars of identification. He apparently is in good health. He states that before becoming involved in the instant offense he was in the process of petitioning for admittance to a Veterans Hospital in Illinois for a general physical checkup. He denies a history of surgery other than a tonsillectomy in Chicago in 1952. He denies a history of venereal disease or the use of narcotics. He states that he is a "moderate drinker."

IX. EMPLOYMENT AND MILITARY HISTORY:

Defendant states that at Alton, Illinois on February 19, 1946 he enlisted in the U. S. Army. He received his basic training at Camp Crowder, Missouri. He was then transferred to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey to await transportation to the European Theater of Operations. He states that he left the continental limits of the United States for Germany in July of 1946. Overseas he was attached to the 382nd Military Police Battalion. He admits that he was once AWOL for a period of two days which resulted in a suspended sentence to confinement for period of sixty days. He returned to the United States from Germany in December of 1948 and was, he states, on December 23, 1948 given a general discharge under honorable conditions.

Defendant states that his last employment was with an uncle whom he refuses to identify but who resides in Quincy, Illinois. He worked for this uncle as a painter for a period of time in the summer of 1954.

He claims that from August 1951 to May 1952 he was employed by the Borg Erickson Corporation, Chicago, Illinois. This employment was terminated when he was arrested for robbery, which eventually resulted in a penitentiary sentence.

He states that from July of 1950 to June 1951 he was employed by the Arby Corporation, Chicago, Illinois. He was discharged from this employment for absenteeism caused by his arrest in Alton, Illinois for vagrancy when visiting in that city.

He claims that from April 1950 to July of 1950 he was employed as a laborer at a wage of 90¢ per hour by the Neo Produce Company, Chicago, Illinois. He claims to have lost this employment to accept more lucrative employment.

From July 1949 to September 1949 defendant states he was employed as a laborer at a wage of \$1.10 per hour by the Dryden Rubber Company, Chicago, Illinois. He quit this job to move to California.

He purports that from May 1944 to December of 1945 he was employed at a wage of 65¢ per hour by the International Shoe Company, Hartford, Illinois. He indicates he was laid off by this employer in a general reduction of forces and that he then entered the army.

X. RESOURCES AND LIABILITIES:

None.

XI. SUMMARY:

This defendant, white male, age 27, no dependents, has entered a plea of guilty to an Information in one count which charges that he at Kansas City, Missouri -

on or about March 21, 1955 forged a stolen U. S. Postal Money Order. This money order was one of sixty-six such orders stolen in a burglary of the U. S. Post Office, Kellerville, Illinois on March 7, 1955. Defendant emphatically denies the burglary of the post office. He states that his companion, in the instant offense, Walter T. Rife, whom he met at a bar in Quincy, Illinois, suggested that he accompany Rife and cash the money orders which Rife reportedly had purchased from an unknown person. Defendant states that he purchased for \$1 the identification he and Rife used in uttering these stolen orders in various states. When arrested for the instant offense defendant was in possession of thirty-four money orders which had been stolen from the Kellerville, Illinois Post Office. He admits the forgery and uttering of fourteen money orders. His companion, Rife, has admitted the forgery and uttering or attempting to utter eighteen of the stolen money orders.

Approximately one year before becoming involved in the instant offense defendant was released from service of a sentence of one to two years for armed robbery in the Illinois State Penitentiary. In August of 1954, he burglarized a cleaning establishment in East Alton, Illinois. Although he admittedly was charged with burglary he apparently has never been before the appropriate court and apparently is not presently wanted on this charge. In 1949 in Los Angeles, California he was convicted of burglary and sentenced to eight months in the county jail. After serving ninety days of this sentence he was released on probation for a period of two years.

Defendant shows absolutely no remorse at this time. He anticipates receiving a substantial sentence for the instant offense. In writer's opinion he is a confirmed criminal and a menace to society when in the free world.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward B. Murray
U. S. Probation Officer

EBM:lo

F B I

Date: 4/23/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS

FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) P

MURKIN XREF - 157 - 2434 *

Enclosed for each Office is one copy of a pre-sentence report prepared regarding JAMES EARL RAY for the U. S. District Court, Western District of Missouri, Kansas City, Missouri, dated April 26, 1955. This report contains background information regarding JAMES EARL RAY, including his travel through numerous states in connection with the theft and passing of stolen money orders in March, 1955. RIFE located and interviewed Quincy, Illinois.

LEADS

All Offices are requested to review the enclosure thoroughly for the purpose of covering all pertinent leads suggested in the enclosure. This coverage should include, if not already done, a check of all places where the subject is listed as having been incarcerated, all places at which he is believed to have visited in the passing of stolen money orders, and any other investigation, including contact of law enforcement agencies, credit bureaus, public sources, informants and any other logical investigation suggested by the enclosed material which might assist in developing information helpful in locating JAMES EARL RAY at this time.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

3 - Memphis (Enc. 1)	2 - Miami (Enc. 1) <i>as</i>
2 - Chicago (Enc. 1)	2 - New Orleans (Enc. 1)
2 - Jacksonville (Enc. 1)	2 - Omaha (Enc. 1)
2 - Little Rock (Enc. 1)	2 - St. Louis (Enc. 1)
2 - Los Angeles (Enc. 1)	2 - Springfield (Enc. 1)
JLK:ak	2 - Tampa (Enc. 1)
(25)	2 - Kansas City

See Serial
285
277
301

44-1854-589

SEARCHED <i>ph</i>	INDEXED <i>ph</i>
SERIALIZED <i>ph</i>	FILED <i>ph</i>
APR 26 1968	
FBI - MIAMI	

Jellison Day

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

4/24/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS
FROM: SAC, HOUSTON (44-1509)
RE: MURKIN *Ref. 157-2434 **

Re Miami tel 4/23/68; New York tel to Miami 4/22/68.

RE: G. J. GALLAGHER
SUSPECT

On this date SHIRLEY MAYON, maid, residence of G. J. GALLAGHER, 5505 Briar Drive, Houston, advised GALLAGHER and wife presently in Florida on vacation. GALLAGHER is an executive of an oil company at Houston. Maid and sister-in-law, Mrs. WHITE, advised of above and stated no resemblance between JAMES EARL RAY and GALLAGHER.

GALLAGHER being eliminated as suspect.

- 2 - Memphis
- 1 - Miami (info)
- 1 - New York (info)
- 1 - Houston

JSW:mec
(5)

44-1834 - 290

SEARCHED <i>sk</i>	INDEXED <i>sk</i>
SERIALIZED <i>sk</i>	FILED <i>sk</i>
APR 26 1968	
FBI - MIAMI	

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