

U. S. Department of Justice

THIS MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED
FOR HISTORICAL
DECLASSIFICATION

DO NOT DESTROY - PENDING LITIGATION

CASE # 117

Case # 117-639

CASE CLOSED PER BUREAU

DO NOT DESTROY - HISTORICAL
VALUE, NATIONAL ARCHIVES

CASE CLOSED PER BUREAU

Case # 117-639

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DO NOT DESTROY - PENDING LITIGATION

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CASE CLOSED PER BUREAU

DO NOT DESTROY - PENDING LITIGATION

Case # 117-639

INVESTIGATION

R/S DATED

Bureau File Number

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/10/01 BY 3142

FOIPA MATTER

DO NOT DESTROY

DO NOT DESTROY - PRESERVE FOR SELECT

COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Case # 117-639

R/S DATED

DO NOT DESTROY - HISTORICAL
VALUE, NATIONAL ARCHIVES

See Report

See Report

See Report

114-268
Volume Number

F B I

Date: 4/18/68Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO MEMPHIS AND CHARLOTTE
FROM NORFOLK (44-268) 1P

MURKIN; SUSPECT DASH ROBERT FRANKLIN WILLIAMS.

~~NORFOLK~~
MRS. LLOYD BLACK, SISTER-IN-LAW OF SUSPECT ADVISED
THIS DATE NEWSPAPER PICTURES AND DESCRIPTION IDENTICAL.
SUSPECT ESCAPED APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR AGO FROM CONFINEMENT
AT ASHVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA. HAS REPEATEDLY STATED
THAT HE WOULD KILL DR. KING. WIFE OF SUSPECT, CAROLYN
RUTH WILLIAMS, ONE ONE ZERO SEVEN RAY AVE., SANFORD, N.C.,
RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT SUSPECT CALLED ANOTHER SISTER
(UNKNOWN) FROM ATLANTA AND REQUESTED MONEY ABOUT ONE
WEEK AGO.

CHARLOTTE DETERMINE IF UFAC, INTERVIEW WIFE AND PRISON
AUTHORITIES, OBTAIN PICTURES AND PRINTS.

Norfolk only:

Norfolk advised of the above by Mrs. Lloyd Black,
839 Marvin Ave., Norfolk, Va.

① - Norfolk
RAB/plm *plm*
(1)

44-268-38
Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed
APR 19 1968
FBI - NORFOLK

Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 11:59 PM M Per [Signature]

FBI WASH DC

732PM URGENT 4/12/68 GJM

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR 1P

MURKIN.

CONTACTS SHOULD BE MAINTAINED WITH ALL MASS COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA IN YOUR TERRITORIES TO INSURE THAT THERE IS FREQUENT REFERENCE TO PHOTOGRAPH OF GALT AND HIS CONNECTION WITH THIS CASE. IF NOT ALREADY DONE, PHOTOGRAPHS SHOULD BE SHOWN OR DISTRIBUTED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER APPROPRIATE AGENCIES IN YOUR AREAS TO INSURE THE BROADEST POSSIBLE PUBLICATION OF SUBJECT'S PHOTOGRAPH AND BACKGROUND.

OFFICES COVERING POINTS OF ENTRY OR EXIT FROM COUNTRY INSURE THAT SUBJECT'S PHOTOGRAPH AND BACKGROUND HAVE BEEN WIDELY DISTRIBUTED AND/OR APPROPRIATELY DISPLAYED AND THAT STOPS ARE BEING MAINTAINED.

OFFICES COVERING DEPARTURE OR ARRIVAL OF OVERSEAS FLIGHTS SHOULD ALSO RENEW STOPS AND DISPLAY PHOTOGRAPHS OF SUBJECT APPROPRIATELY. SUBJECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS.
END

CE CFP

FBI CHARLT

PH...ECS

FBI RICHMOND

NY....JEG

FBI NORFOLK

TU CLR

*Koball advised 4/18 X
DEAC advised 4/18*

44-268-151

Koball WER

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC NORFOLK (44-268) (P)

DATE: 4/18/68

FROM : SA DAVID G. FLANDERS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Memo of SA BONNER this date, and Butel to all SAC's 4/17/68
The following investigation was conducted by the writer on
4/18/68:

LES LEHIGH, Reporter, VB Sun, 3108 Pacific Ave., VB, Va.
was furnished copies of the 2 photos of suspect GALT and the
press release as per reButel. He advised that if any additional
info develops prior to Tuesday 4/23/68 when his paper next
goes to press to call him. He gave his phone # at home as
587-4829.

This date Mrs TAWANA SMITH, asst. mgr., Sporting Goods
Dept, Kings Dept. Store, VB Blve, NF, Va. furnished their
log of firearms sales from 12/17/67 to the present. A review
of the log revealed that ~~XXXX~~ there had onle been one sale of
a 30-.06 rifle. It occured on 3/21/68 to one J. T. BUCHANAN,
3625 E. Sewells Pt., Road, NF, Va. The rifle was a 30-.06
caliber Kodiak bolt action rifle, SN 11156. Mrs. SMITH advised
that her mgr, JIM PEARSON made tha actual sale according to the
records.

Photos of GALT were shown to the following clerks at the
aforementioned Kings store with negative results:

Mrs. Smith(supra)
Nina Collier
JEANNETTE GREEN
PEGGY HEATH

A review of the log failed to reveal any name similar to
that of GALT under true name and aliases.

This date JAMES W. PEARSON, 274 Sedgefield Ave, VB, Va.
was interviewed and advised that he does not recall the sale of
the above mentioned rifle. He was shown photos of GALT with
negative results. He then recalled that he ~~had~~ had one man in
mind re above sale: a white male about 24, 5'6", 150#, with
dark brown hair. He could not recall whether it was the same
man as was recorded as J. T. BUCHANAN, the buyer in the log.

2 - (44-268)
DGF:agf



5010-108-02

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

44-268-40
Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

2 - (44-268)
DGF:dgf

PEARSON noted that he is so busy at the Kings Dept. Store that he does not pay any attention to the looks of any of his costumers.

It is noted that PEARSON is the step-father of PAUL ODOM, clerk in the NORFOLK DIVISION.

This date a neighborhood investigation was conducted in the area of 3625 Sewells Point Rd., NF, Va. It was determined that TOMMY BUCHANAN, age about 21 resides at this address with his parents. TOMMY BUCHANAN was described as being about 21 years old, white male, 6'2", 160#, Brown hair, employed at the Naval Base, Norfolk, Va. He drives an International jeep. His father, EARL BUCHANAN drives a red late model Ford. Neighbors noted that TOMMY BUCHANAN is single and has been in the area continuously for some length of time. It has been their belief that he had served in the U.S. Army.

This date the writer contacted Mrs. MAUDE BUCHANAN, at 3625 Sewells Pt., Rd, NF, Va. She advised that her son's full name is JOSEPH THOMAS BUCHANAN, dob [redacted] (age 23) at NF, Va. He is 6'2", 180#, Dard Brown hair, with hazel eyes. He served three years in the U.S. Army. She stated that he did purchase a new rifle from Kings Dept. Store recently. She showed it to the writer. She advised that he has not been out of town in months. He is employed at the Naval Base, NF, Va.

She exhibited a photo of her son to the writer and it was apparent that he was not identifiable with GALT.

P11

FBI NORFOLK

FBI WASH DC

305PM URGENT 4-19-68 SAA

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR 4F

MURKIN

THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE HAS JUST BEEN ISSUED AT WASHINGTON THIS AFTERNOON AND YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE IT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE TO THE LEADING NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO AND TV STATIONS IN YOUR DIVISION. EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO INSURE REPEATED AND WIDESPREAD DISTRIBUTION OF THIS INFORMATION. COPIES OF THE 1963 PHOTOGRAPH OF SUBJECT ALREADY IN YOUR POSSESSION AND WANTED FLYERS SHOULD ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MEDIA CONTACTS. NO ELABORATION WHATSOEVER MAY BE MADE REGARDING THIS RELEASE. ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING INVESTIGATIVE LEADS WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY.

*Radio, TV, & Newspaper
Contacted by 4:45 PM
WPK*

*4/19/68 4:45 PM
WPK*

PAGE TWO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 19, 1968

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE FBI HAS IDENTIFIED JAMES EARL RAY, AN ESCAPEE FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, AS ERIC STARVO GALT, AGAINST WHOM A FEDERAL COMPLAINT WAS FILED LAST WEDNESDAY IN CONNECTION WITH THE FATAL SHOOTING OF THE REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER SAID THAT A SYSTEMATIC AND EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH OF LATENT FINGERPRINTS UNCOVERED IN THE DR. KING CASE AGAINST THE FINGERPRINTS OF THE OVER 53,000 PERSONS FROM WHOM "WANTED NOTICES" HAVE BEEN POSTED IN THE FILES OF THE FBI'S IDENTIFICATION DIVISION LED TO THE DETERMINATION THAT GALT AND RAY ARE IDENTICAL.

MR. HOOVER SAID THAT RAY, WHO IS 40 YEARS OF AGE, WAS REPORTED MISSING FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, SINCE APRIL 23, 1967. HE HAD BEEN RECEIVED AT THAT INSTITUTION ON MARCH 17, 1966, TO SERVE A 20-YEAR SENTENCE FOLLOWING CONVICTION IN ST. LOUIS FOR ARMED ROBBERY AND FOR OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE OWNER.

PAGE THREE

IN SEPTEMBER, 1966, WHILE SERVING THIS SENTENCE, HE WAS CONFINED FOR A TIME IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY WARD AT THE STATE HOSPITAL AT FULTON, MISSOURI.

ACCORDING TO MR. HOOVER, RAY HAS A KNOWN ARREST RECORD DATING BACK TO 1949. PRIOR TO THE 1964 CONVICTION FOR WHICH HE RECEIVED THE 20-YEAR TERM, RAY HAD BEEN CONVICTED OF BURGLARY IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, IN 1949; ARMED ROBBERY IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, IN 1952; AND FORGING UNITED STATES POSTAL MONEY ORDERS IN MISSOURI IN 1955.

HE HAS SERVED TERMS IN THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY JAIL IN 1949; IN STATE PRISONS AT JOLIET AND FONTIAC, ILLINOIS, IN 1952-54; AND IN THE FEDERAL PENITENTIARY AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, IN 1955-58.

RAY WAS AN ENLISTED MAN IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY FROM FEBRUARY, 1946, TO DECEMBER, 1948, AT WHICH TIME HE WAS GIVEN A GENERAL DISCHARGE DUE TO INEPTNESS AND LACK OF ADAPTABILITY FOR MILITARY SERVICE. WHILE IN THE ARMY, HE RECEIVED A THREE-MONTH SENTENCE AT HARD LABOR FOR BEING DRUNK AND BREAKING ARREST.

MR. HOOVER SAID THAT DURING HIS CRIMINAL CAREER, RAY HAS ALSO USED THE NAMES OF JAMES MORRIS, JAMES WALTON, W. C. PERRYON AND JAMES O'CONNOR. HE IS A WHITE MALE; CLAIMS TO HAVE

P11

PAGE FOUR

BEEN BORN [REDACTED], IN ILLINOIS: IS APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET 10 INCHES TALL AND WEIGHS ABOUT 163 TO 174 POUNDS. HE HAS BLUE EYES AND BROWN HAIR. THERE IS A SMALL SCAR ON THE CENTER OF HIS FOREHEAD AND A SCAR ON THE PALM OF HIS RIGHT HAND.

RAY HAS CLAIMED THAT HE ATTENDED SCHOOL THROUGH THE 10TH GRADE IN ALTON, ILLINOIS. HE HAS HAD THE REPUTATION OF BEING A "DRIFTER" SINCE LEAVING SCHOOL. HIS VOCATIONAL EXPERIENCE INCLUDES WORKING AS A PAKER, LABORER AND COLOR MATCHER.

IN CONNECTION WITH HIS ESCAPE FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, AN FBI COMPLAINT WAS FILED IN JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, ON JULY 20, 1967, CHARGING RAY WITH UNLAWFULLY FLEEING FROM THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO AVOID CONFINEMENT. HE HAS BEEN A FEDERAL FUGITIVE SINCE THEN.

RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION CONCERNING HIM SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT FBI HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, D. C., OR THE NEAREST FBI OFFICE.

ENZYX END

CBS

FBI NORFOLK

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PAGE TWO

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44-268-41

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Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

PAGE THREE

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ENSXX END

CPS

FBI NORFOLK

X

FBI NORFOLK

1139PM 1033PM IMMEDIATE 4-19-68 LLD

TO ALL SACSEXCEPT KANSAS CITY, ANCHORAGE, HONOLULU AND SAN JUAN
MESSAGE RELAY PLAN

FROM DIRECTOR 5P

MURKIN. OO: MEMPHIS.

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA. EARL JAMES RAY, W. C. HERRON, EARL JAMES,
JAMES MC BRIDE, JAMES O'CONNOR, JAMES WALTON, JAMES WALYON, JIM
- FUGITIVE; UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST, BUFILE 88-41730. OO: KANSAS
CITY, KC FILE 88-9449; DETERMINED TODAY BY BUREAU TO BE IDENTICAL
WITH ERIC STARVO GALT, AGAINST WHOM FEDERAL COMPLAINT FILED APRIL
SEVENTEEN LAST IN CONNECTION WITH FATAL SHOOTING OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.

JAMES EARL RAY, INMATE, MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, JEFFERSON
CITY, MO., ESCAPED PEN APRIL TWO THREE, SIXTY-SEVEN. INVESTIGATION
INDICATED RAY CONCEALED HIMSELF IN A BREAD BOX AND ESCAPED FROM
TRUCK MAKING DELIVERY TO AN AUXILIARY FARM. RAY WAS SERVING TWENTY
YEARS ON CHARGE OF ARMED ROBBERY - FIRST DEGREE AND FOR OPERATING A
VEHICLE WITHOUT OWNER'S CONSENT. ON JULY TWENTY, SIXTY-SEVEN,
END PAGE ONE

SAC

ASAC

44-268-42
~~44-28~~

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - NORFOLK	

MB *P* *W*

PAGE TWO

FEDERAL COMPLAINT AUTHORIZED BY AUSA WILLIAM A. KITCHEN, WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY, MO., FILED BEFORE USC, JEFFERSON CITY, MO., CHARGING RAY WITH VIOLATION TITLE EIGHTEEN, SECTION ONE ZERO SEVEN THREE, USC. WARRANT ISSUED.

INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED BY CHICAGO, SPRINGFIELD, ST. LOUIS, AND KANSAS CITY OFFICES IN UNPRODUCTIVE EFFORT TO LOCATE THIS FUGITIVE. KANSAS CITY IS INSTITUTING A FULL AND COMPLETE REINVESTIGATION IN AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP BACKGROUND DATA, RELATIVES, AND ASSOCIATES OF SUBJECT, WHO MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO ASSIST IN HIS LOCATION.

IN THIS CONNECTION, JAMES EARL RAY AND WALTER TERRY RIFE ON MARCH SEVEN, FIFTY-FIVE, BURGLARIZED THE U. S. POST OFFICE AT KELLEERVILLE, ILL., AND STOLE SIXTY-SIX PLANK U. S. POSTAL MONEY ORDERS WHICH THEY PASSED DURING MARCH, FIFTY-FIVE, IN NUMEROUS STATES, WITH THE RESULT THAT BOTH WERE SENTENCED IN U.S.D.C., KANSAS CITY, MO., ON JULY ONE, FIFTY-FIVE, TO USP, LEAVENWORTH, END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

KANSAS. SUBJECT RAY HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A LONER AND RIFE APPARENTLY IS ONE OF HIS FEW CLOSE ASSOCIATES, SUGGESTING POSSIBILITY THEY COULD HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATES IN MURDER OF DR. KING, AND INVESTIGATION ALSO INSTITUTED IN KANSAS CITY AIRTEL TO SPRINGFIELD MARCH ELEVEN LAST TO DEVELOP BACKGROUND INFO RE RIFE AND TO LOCATE HIM FOR INTERVIEW. THIS INVESTIGATION SHOULD ALSO BE RECOVERED AND EXPEDITED TODAY, IT BEING NOTED RIFE AND RAY HAVE BACKGROUND HISTORY IN THE QUINCY, ILL., AREA.

PHOTOS OF JAMES EARL RAY AND WALTER TERRY RIFE ARE BEING FORWARDED AMSD TO BUREAU AND ALL OFFICES.

FOLLOWING IS DESCRIPTION OF JAMES EARL RAY AS FURNISHED BY FBI IDENTIFICATION DIVISION UNDER FBI NO. THREE ZERO SIX FOUR FOUR THREE A: WHITE MALE, DOB [REDACTED] AT PII DECATUR, QUINCY OR ALTON, ILL.; APPROXIMATELY FIVE FEET TEN; ONE SEVEN FOUR LBS., IN SEPTEMBER SIXTY-SIX; BUDDY COMPLEXION; BLUE EYES; BROWN HAIR; MEDIUM BUILD; OCCUPATIONS LABORER AND BAKER; SCARS AND MARKS--SMALL SCAR ON CENTER OF FOREHEAD AND SCAR IN PALM OF RIGHT HAND. ADDRESSES--ST. LOUIS, MO., MARCH SIXTY, TWO ZERO ONE FIVE PARK, ST. LOUIS, MO., OCTOBER FIFTY-NINE; QUINCY, ILL., JULY FIFTY-FIVE, MARCH FIFTY-FIVE, AND APRIL FIFTY; HOTEL QUINCY, QUINCY, END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

ILL., MARCH FIFTY-FIVE; VICTOR HOTEL, QUINCY, ILL., MARCH FIFTY-FIVE;
EIGHT FIVE THREE WEST FULLERTON, CHICAGO, ILL., MAY FIFTY-TWO; EIGHT
ZERO FIVE ALBY STREET, ALTON, ILL., JULY FIFTY-ONE. FPC--SIXTEEN,
M OVER M, NINE OVER FOUR, U OVER W, OOO OVER IOI, TWELVE, REF NINE
OVER TWELVE. NCIC FPC--ONE SIX ONE THREE ONE ONE ZERO ZERO ONE TWO
ONE TWO I I ONE TWO I I ONE SEVEN. MILITARY RECORD--JAMES EARL RAY,
SN ONE SIX ONE SIX THREE ONE TWO NINE, ENLISTED U. S. ARMY FEBRUARY
FORTY-SIX, AT EAST ST. LOUIS, ILL., AND SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY UNTIL
DECEMBER TWENTY-THREE, FORTY-EIGHT, AT WHICH TIME GIVEN GENERAL
DISCHARGE AS PRIVATE FIRST CLASS AT CAMP KILMER, N. J., BY REASON
OF INEPTNESS AND LACK OF ADAPTABILITY FOR MILITARY SERVICE. RECORDS
ALSO INDICATE HE RECEIVED TREATMENT FOR GONORRHEA AND SYPHILIS WHILE
A MEMBER OF THE MILITARY.

FOLLOWING IS A DESCRIPTION OF WALTER TERRY FIFE, FBI NO.
END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

FOUR FIVE FIVE EIGHT SEVEN SIX SIX, AS OBTAINED FROM FILES OF USP,
LEAVENWORTH: WHITE MALE, AGE FORTY-FOUR, DOB [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FIVE FEET NINE AND ONE HALF, ONE SIX ONE LBS., BROWN
HAIR, EYES BLUE GRAY.

P11

KANSAS CITY IS SETTING OUT ALL PERTINENT LEADS TODAY BY
TELETYPE AND TELEPHONE FOLLOWED UP BY TELETYPE CONFIRMATION.
ALL LEADS MUST BE COVERED WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS WITH BUREAU,
KANSAS CITY, AND MEMPHIS BEING KEPT ADVISED BY APPROPRIATE
COMMUNICATION OF PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS.

SUGGEST BUREAU MAKE IMMEDIATE COMPARISON OF ANY LATENT
FINGERPRINTS DEVELOPED DURING KING INVESTIGATION WITH THOSE
OF WALTER TERRY RIFE TO DETERMINE IF IDENTICAL.

AIR MAIL COPIES SENT ANCHORAGE, HONOLULU AND SAN JUAN.
LEGAT MEXICO CITY AND OTTAWA ADVISED.

SUBJECT RAY HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF ROBBERY WITH DEADLY
WEAPON, HAS BEEN CONFINED IN STATE HOSPITAL, FULTON, MO., IN
SIXTY-SIX, AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

-P-

END

JCP

FBI NORFOLK

CLS

4/18/68

TELETYPE

TO: BUREAU, MEMPHIS, ATLANTA, INDIANAPOLIS
FROM: CHARLOTTE (44-1365)

MURKIN

FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU AND ALL OFFICES EXCEPT
MEMPHIS, BY TELETYPE TODAY NORFOLK ADVISED AS FOLLOWS RE
"SUSPECT DASH ROBERT FRANKLIN WILLIAMS:"

"MRS. LLOYD BLACK, NORFOLK SISTER-IN-LAW OF SUSPECT
ADVISED THIS DATE NEWSPAPER PICTURES AND DESCRIPTION IDENTICAL.
SUSPECT ESCAPED APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR AGO FROM CONFINEMENT
AT ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA. HAS REPEATEDLY STATED
THAT HE WOULD KILL DR. KING. WIFE OF SUSPECT, CAROLYN
RUTH WILLIAMS, ONE ONE ZERO SEVEN RAY AVE., SANFORD, N. C.,
RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT SUSPECT CALLED ANOTHER SISTER
(UNKNOWN) FROM ATLANTA AND REQUESTED MONEY ABOUT ONE WEEK
AGO.

CHARLOTTE DETERMINE IF UFAC, INTERVIEW WIFE AND PRISON
AUTHORITIES, OBTAIN PICTURES AND PRINTS."

① NORFOLK (AM)
1 - CHARLOTTE *WLB*
CFW:DMB
(2)

44-268-43
SEARCHED
SERIAL
WLB
K. Hall WLB

PAGE TWO

REVIEW OF N. C. PRISON DEPARTMENT RECORDS REVEAL WILLIAMS, FBI NUMBER TUREE SEVEN TWO FOUR THREE THREE F SENTENCED SEPTEMBER SIXTEEN SIXTY-FIVE FOR ASSAULT ON A FEMALE WITH A DEADLY WEAPON, TO SERVE TEN YEARS. HE ESCAPED JULY TWELVE SIXTY-SEVEN AND PRESENT WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN.

PRISON DEPARTMENT RECORDS SHOW HE IS WHITE MALE, BORN AT HARNETT COUNTY, N. C.,
FIVE FEET NINE INCHES, ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE POUNDS, FAIR COMPLEXION, BROWN EYES, BLACK HAIR, OCCUPATION WELDER AND USED CAR SALESMAN, HOME ADDRESS SANFORD, N. C.

P11

WILLIAMS EX-WIFE, CAROLYN RUTH WILLIAMS, INTERVIEWED AT SANFORD, N. C. TODAY AND ADVISED SHE DIVORCED HIM WHILE HE WAS SERVING PRISON SENTENCE AND HAS NOT SEEN HIM SINCE TIME OF SENTENCE. SHE STATED WILLIAMS WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE KLAN BUT ATTENDED PUBLIC RALLIES OF KLAN. WHEN HE GOT DRUNK HE OFTEN TALKED ABOUT MARTIN LUTHER KING AND SEVERAL TIMES SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO KILL THE SOB. SHE ADVISED SHE THOUGHT OF HER HUSBAND WHEN SHE HEARD OF
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

KING'S ASSASSINATION BECAUSE OF REMARKS MADE BY HIM. SHE STATED WILLIAMS' SISTER, MRS. FRANK WIMBERLY, DUNN, N. C., RECENTLY TOLD HER HE HAD CALLED ANOTHER SISTER NAMED EUNICE WHO LIVES IN INDIANA SOMETIME BEFORE CHRISTMAS LAST AND HAD ASKED HER TO SEND HIM MONEY IN ATLANTA. PRISON DEPARTMENT RECORDS REFLECT WILLIAMS SISTER IS MRS. EUNICE SMITH, HAMPTON, INDIANA.

BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO COMPARE FINGERPRINTS OF WILLIAMS, FBI NUMBER THREE SEVEN TWO FOUR THREE THREE F WITH LATENTS DEVELOPED IN THIS CASE.

INDIANAPOLIS ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW EUNICE SMITH, HAMPTON, INDIANA, CONCERNING TELEPHONE CALL RECEIVED FROM WILLIAMS AND FOR HIS WHEREABOUTS.

ATTEMPTS BEING MADE BY CHARLOTTE TO OBTAIN PHOTOGRAPHS OF WILLIAMS WHICH WILL BE FORWARDED TO MEMPHIS UPON RECEIPT.

NO UFAC PROCESS OBTAINED ON WILLIAMS INASMUCH AS PRISON AUTHORITIES HAD NO INFORMATION HE HAD LEFT STATE AND DID NOT REQUEST FBI ASSISTANCE.

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING AT CHARLOTTE.

NORFOLK ADVISED BY AIR MAIL.

END.

4-18-68

airtel

air mail

To: SAC, Charlotte (44-1365)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Reurtel 4-18-68.

Unidentified latent fingerprints and latent impressions
this case are not identical with fingerprints of ROBERT FRANKLIN
WILLIAMS, FBI #372 433 F. No palm prints here for Williams.

- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 1 - Atlanta (44-2386)
- 1 - Norfolk
- 1 - Indianapolis

44-268-44

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 19 1968	
FBI - NORFOLK	

1, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100

WPK

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, Norfolk (44-268) DATE: 4/20/68

FROM : SPC. James C. Parker

SUBJECT: Murkin

on above date office was contacted by Officer Beal, NF PD to advise that Andy Neski's, 443 Grosby St, White House Hill had seen an individual that resembled James Earl Ray. This individual used the name of D. Whith and was staying at 244 Freeman Street and operating a 1955 Buick along with a man named Donny E. Leber, 1115 West Baylar St. York, Pa.

Sa Rafferty advised of above.

Sa Raball advised of above.

44-268-45

for
for

for
for

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI (44-38861)

FROM : SAC, Kansas City (44-760)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/19/68

Enclosed to the Bureau are six copies and to each office one copy of the following photographs:

JAMES EARL RAY, Missouri Department of
Correction #00416, dated 3/17/60 and
9/8/66

WALTER TERRY RIFE, Kansas City SO #29636
FBI #4558766

Stand up photographs of RAY on the left, Kansas City SO
#29637 and RIFE, Kansas City SO 29236, taken 3/28/55.

2 - Bureau (Encs. 24) (AM)
2 - Each Field Office (Encs. 4) (AM)
2 - Kansas City
(120)

*Enclosures per 1A
WPK 4/22/68*

44-268-46

SEARCHED	
SERIALIZED	
FBI - NORFOLK	
WPK	



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

F B I

Date: 4/19/68

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

TO: SAC, ALBANY
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN - COST DATA

ReButel to ME 4/17/68.

For information of all offices, the Bureau by retel requested of the Memphis Division as follows:

"Please furnish following information on above matter compiled or estimated through 4/30/68, and thereafter submit cumulative totals through the end of each month until further notice:

- 1) Number of man hours spent on case broken down as to regular hours, overtime hours, and total man hours by following employees (separate figures for each class of employees shown):
 - A. Special Agents
 - B. Clerical Employees
- 2) Total mileage (estimated or actual) traveled by Bucars used on case. Include mileage for cars traveling to and from other field offices on special assignment and any personally-owned cars.
- 3) Any unusual or out-of-ordinary costs, such as cost of chartering airplane, rental of special office space, leased telephone lines, etc. These should be itemized and cost of each item shown.

① - Each Office
2 - Memphis
HEG:LF
(59)

NF

44-268-47

Approved: RG Jensen
Special Agent in Charge

Sent M Per
H Batt WIK

ME 44-1987

- 4) Peak number of Special Agents working on case during month for which report is submitted.

You should promptly request all Bureau offices involved in this case to furnish information requested herein to you and it should be included in your report."

Each office is requested to expeditiously furnish the Memphis Division with the above designated data within two work days after the close of each month. Secondly, each office is also requested to advise the Memphis Division even in the event each category is zero or no work is performed on this case during the month.

F B I

Date: 4/19/68

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

TO : ALL CONTINENTAL OFFICES
FROM : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS
(OO: ME)

Re Albany airtels 4/10/68 and 4/11/68, setting forth concerns who purchased Thermo-Seal marking machines, and Bureau teletype to Memphis, 4/12/68.

The FBI Laboratory advised that pillowcase and bed sheet were found in trunk of 1966 white Mustang registered to ERIC STARVO GALT, which was located at Atlanta 4/11/68. These items contain Thermo-Seal laundry tapes of approximately same size as tapes on items previously recovered, but are yellow in color and contain code, "20R-3." In opinion of Textile Marking Machine Company, Syracuse, New York, the tapes were produced by a different machine than previous tapes since the first three characters are 15 point type and the last two characters are 18 point type.

The Textile Marking Machine Company suggests the twenty in above code would be the lot number, the R may mean that this was a return of a batch of laundry, and the three is the bundle number.

LEADSALL CONTINENTAL OFFICES

Will recontact laundries determined to be operating Thermo-Seal Marking Machines in an effort to locate laundry using the code, "20R-3."

2 - All Continental Offices NF
2 - Memphis
GMR:jms (118)

44-268-98

Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M/ Per call
N.D. Hunter
K. C. Cummings

F B I

Date: 4/19/68

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

TO: SAC, ALBANY

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN

At about 6 p.m. on 4/4/68, while standing on the second floor balcony outside Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry Street, Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was struck in the right side of the face by a single bullet fired from a 30-06 rifle. The bullet severed KING's spinal cord and death was almost instantaneous.

This investigation, predicated upon a specific request from the Attorney General of the United States, disclosed that the fatal shot had been fired from the bathroom of a cheap rooming house located at 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, which bathroom was located at the rear of the rooming house, and had a window overlooking the Lorraine Motel.

At about 3 p.m. on 4/4/68, an individual using the name JOHN WILLARD had rented Room 5-B in the rooming house at 422½ South Main Street and had paid one week's rent. After hearing the rifle shot at about 6 p.m. on that same day, other tenants in the rooming house observed a man presumably identical with WILLARD, fleeing from the rooming house carrying a large package which was subsequently abandoned by him on the sidewalk in front of the Canipe Amusement Co., 424 South Main Street, Memphis. A neighborhood investigation in the vicinity of 424 South Main Street disclosed that the subject had fled from the scene in a white Mustang.

Found abandoned in front of 424 South Main Street was a 30-06 Remington model 760 rifle which was determined to have been

2 ALBANY

2 ALL CONTINENTAL OFFICES

1 MEMPHIS

RGJ:BN
(111)

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

Per _____

ME 44-1987

sold to one HARVEY LOWMEYER on 3/30/68 by Aeromarine Supply Co., Birmingham, Alabama.

Investigation at Memphis disclosed that an individual had purchased a set of binoculars at the York Arms Company in Memphis on 4/4/68. These binoculars were among the material abandoned with the rifle and recovered in Memphis. Also recovered was a brown and green herringbone bedspread. The items abandoned in Memphis were all wrapped in this bedspread. The blue bag which was inside the bedspread contained numerous items, among which were the binoculars and a set of underwear consisting of a T-shirt and shorts. The T-shirt and shorts are those on which appears the laundry mark which has been a matter of interest in this case.

A search of motel records in the Memphis area disclosed that an individual using the name ERIC S. GALT had spent the night of 4/3/68 at the Rebel Motel, Memphis, Tennessee, and was driving a 1966 white Mustang bearing Alabama License 1-38993. Investigation at Birmingham disclosed that this automobile had been purchased by ERIC S. GALT on August 30, 1968, from a private person in response to a newspaper ad. He paid a total of \$1995 cash. While in Birmingham he furnished the address of 2608 South Highland Avenue, Birmingham. This is also the address which appeared on a driver's license issued to him by the State of Alabama. The driver's license identifying data listed his birth date as [REDACTED], his height as 5'11", his weight as 170 and his eyes blue and hair brown. PII

The automobile in question, the white Mustang bearing the Alabama tags mentioned above, was recovered in Atlanta on 4/11/68 and determined to have been abandoned there prior to 9 a.m. on 4/5/68.

In connection with the evidence submitted by Atlanta, Birmingham, and Memphis, identifiable latent prints were recovered. It was on the basis of these latents that identification was made of JAMES EARL RAY. In handling future leads, all offices should be particularly interested in securing an identifying number, military, police, or FBI, in connection with suspects so that the necessary check can be made through the Identification Division.

On 4/17/68, AUSA R. MACEY TAYLOR, Birmingham, authorized the filing of a complaint charging ERIC STARVO GALT with a conspiracy to violate Section 241, Title 18, U. S. Code, and

ME 44-1987

recommended bond in the amount \$50,000. On that same date, SAC JOSEPH H. GAMBLE filed a complaint before USC MILDRED F. SPRAGUE, Birmingham, and warrant was issued that same date.

For further information re JAMES EARL RAY, all offices are directed to press release furnished them by the Bureau on 4/19/68.

ARMED & DANGEROUS.

SAC, NORFOLK (170-105)(P)

4/17/68

SA DAVID G. FLANDERS

RUTH SUZANNE CAPLAN
PROBATIONARY RACIAL INFORMANT (GHETTO)

CAPLAN was contacted on 4/5/68, and 4/12/68, re the following matters and furnished the following information:

Re 44-2680 - Assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

discreetly She has been in receipt of no information to date re captioned incident. She was notified of FBI interest and she stated that she will be alert to same and will ~~discreetly~~ inquire to her VISTA volunteers re this matter and emphasize the importance of their notifying her of any information re captioned murder or possible violence in response to his murder.

Re 157-1241 - Demonstrations at the National Democratic Convention, etc.

Re Memo of SA STEPHEN BOYLE, dated 2/28/68.

CAPLAN advised that she has heard nothing re any local people planning to attend said convention, but said that she would be alert to the possibility.

She advised that former VISTA volunteer, JOHN GALLAGHER, in the Norfolk - Portsmouth area was very close to the Negro populous and attended almost all of the meetings of the Negro people in the Ghetto areas. She stated that he possibly could be of some help in regard to furnishing information regarding the leaders and militants in the Ghetto areas. She advised that he presently is a student at the North Michigan College, and that his current address is 823 West Vine Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 49001.

CAPLAN stated that she was in receipt of information that one MILT MILLER, Negro male, 28, student at the Norfolk Division of the Virginia State College, is presently attempting to organize the Negro youths of the Ghent and Berkley areas.

④ - Norfolk 170-105
44-2680
157-1241
157-0

DGF:edg
(4)

44-268-50

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 17 1968	
FBI - NORFOLK	

NF 170-105

It is her knowledge that he has an excellent personality, that he is a former military personnel, and that he is having great success in said organization. As one example, she advised that in regard to the Federal Model City Program in the Tidewater area, that it was necessary to have an election of the residents of the East Ghent area to determine their representative to the Model City Program Council. A former VISTA volunteer had been considered for said position but at a meeting during the last part of March, 1968, MILT MILLER through his organizational ability had approximately 35 young Negro males present at the meeting at Lee School and through their vote one (first name unknown) PALIN, was elected to the position of the area representative to the afore mentioned council from the East Ghent area. Mrs. CAPLAN just used this as one example of MILT MILLER's organizational ability. She advised that he is well liked by the "street young Negro males".

Mrs. CAPLAN advised that one (first name unknown) KOKER (phonetic) of the Berkley area of Norfolk is very jealous of MILT MILLER'S organizational ability. KOKER is younger and does not possess the ability or personality of MILLER. KOKER is described as a Negro male, approximately 22 years old. It is known by CAPLAN that KOKER can organize a group of street fighters within a very short period of time in any area of the Norfolk - Portsmouth, Va. area. It is her knowledge that MILT MILLER will have nothing to do with KOKER.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, NORFOLK (137-1308)

DATE: 4/18/68

FROM : SA PETER V. MARCOLINE

☒ CI ☐ SI ☐ R (Prob)

☐ PCI ☐ PSI ☐ R

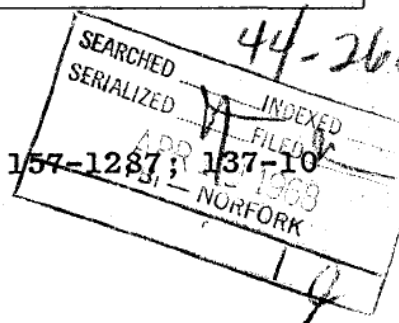
SUBJECT: NF 270-C

☐

Dates of Contact		
4/8 - 9/68		
Titles and File #s on which contacted		
UNSUB; Theft of Bruer Vac. Cleaner, Ft. Eustis/	TGP	52-7121
UNSUB; Theft of 200 Rds. Ammo, Ft. Eustis-TGP		52-7071
UNSUB; Theft of Scuba Gear, Ft. Eustis -TGP		52-6622
Assassination of M. L. KING, RM		44-268
NN Community Unity Congress, NNVA		157-1287
Purpose and results of contact		
☒ NEGATIVE ☐ POSITIVE ☐ STATISTIC		
Re: 52-7121 on 4/8/68		
CI stated that he had had a conversation with suspect JOHN OTIS EDWARDS while EDWARDS was working at the Service Club Cafeteria on the Fort Eustis reservation and during the course of this conversation, EDWARDS had mentioned to him that he, EDWARDS, had a business on the side besides his job at the Service Club. EDWARDS had given him one of his cards which reflected his name and also the suspect's address, which was 506 Middleboro Terrace in Hampton, Virginia, telephone number 723-4851. This card also reflected that the suspect, EDWARDS, was in a floor sanding and polishing business and also did some painting and carpentry. CI further advised that he had determined that EDWARDS stored his equipment in a garage behind his house, and had contacts with various organizations and companies in the Newport News-Hampton, Virginia, area, and through these contacts		
☒ Informant certified that he has furnished all information obtained by him since last contact.	Rating Excellent	Coverage Racial Matters
CI presently has part-time job at the Farm Fresh Dairy in Newport News, Virginia.		

1 - Each 137-1308; 52-7121; 52-7071; 52-6622; 157-1287; 137-10
PVM:lep 170-4; 44-268.

(8)



NF 137-1308

he gets business for his floor sanding and polishing establishment. EDWARDS was presently working as a bus boy and dishwasher for the Service Club and worked every day until approximately 2:30 p.m. He was presently running around with a girl who worked at the Service Club whose name he believed was ROSA MEEKINS but he was not sure of the last name of this individual. ROSA was the alleged wife of a GI presently somewhere in the State of Georgia. He described EDWARDS as approximately 150 to 170 pounds; light complexion; small mustache; and very broad shoulders.

On 4/9/68, CI advised that he had been in the home of suspect EDWARDS in Hampton, Virginia, and stated that EDWARDS lives in a house valued at about \$25,000 or \$30,000, which was somewhat high for a bus boy and dishwasher working at Fort Eustis. He stated he had driven past the home of EDWARDS trying to determine what his activities were after the march in downtown Newport News in commemoration of the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING and EDWARDS has seen him drive past and called him over to his home and asked him if he wanted to see his house and have a couple of beers. CI stated he was escorted and shown the home and garage of EDWARDS and CI noted inside the garage a sander, air-compressor, and other items, but did not notice a large vacuum cleaner. EDWARDS was driving either a red Ford or Chevrolet panel truck and kept a lot of material in this truck. CI advised that also in the floor sanding business with the suspect, was his brother, name unknown. The brother also owned a fabulous home, which was across from the Wythe School in Hampton, Virginia. CI stated he would continue efforts to develop more information on EDWARDS and determine if he was in possession of the stolen vacuum cleaner or if the vacuum cleaner was being used by EDWARDS or his brother.

Re: 52-7071; 52-6622

CI stated he had been unable to develop any information concerning the theft of 200 rounds of 7.62 millimeter ammunition at Fort Eustis, Virginia, since he had learned about the theft on approximately March 1, 1968, and he further advised that he had been unable to develop any more information on D. K. CRANE or the theft of scuba gear in July, 1967. He also stated he had not developed further information on HARRY THEOPHOLIS JACKSON.

Re: 44-268; 157-1287

CI stated it would be possible for him to take part in the parade in downtown Newport News in commemoration of the

NF 137-1308

death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. CI was instructed to participate in the march and to be alert for any individuals attempting or actually causing trouble or trying to stir up trouble over this incident. He was also advised to be alert for any individuals actually looting in downtown Newport News.

On 4/9/68, CI advised that he had participated in the above-described march that had taken place in the afternoon of April 9, 1968, in downtown Newport News, Virginia. He stated the march was peaceful throughout and there had been no problems with the individuals in the march. The police had covered the march adequately and the police were helmeted and there were many of them the whole length of the march. The policemen were seen to be on the rooftops of the buildings along the way of the march and it was also noted that there were numerous police dogs in the area. He stated that he could not accurately estimate the number of people in the march but it was huge. He had been asked to be a parade marshal as he was dressed in a suit and this had given him an opportunity to watch the whole march. The march itself had formed across from the Whitacker Hospital and had gone from there to the Arch near 25th and 26th Street in downtown Newport News. He had noticed along the way that there were some remarks from the spectators standing on the street as the marchers went past but these had not caused any problems. CI stated that he had noticed about eight or nine young Negro men ranging in age from about eighteen to twenty-five years that traveled in a group by themselves and did not associate much with the other marchers. He had noticed these individuals at the beginning of the march as they had been one of the first groups there when the march formed. He did not know what these individuals were called but he had noted no violence or attempted violence on their part. He noted that these individuals all had Afro-type haircuts and had worn a safari-type jacket and also the same type of trousers. They appeared to be dressed in some kind of uniform but he did not know what they were representing. He did not notice these individuals carrying any weapons and had not overheard any of their conversation because, as he stated before, they kept mainly to themselves. They may have done some talking but this talking was to themselves. He could not recall having seen any of these individuals depart from cars when the parade was formed and did not recall seeing them talking to any particular group of people when the parade started or even after it finished. CI stated that he would attempt to develop more information concerning these individuals such as where they met and what their purpose was.

NF 137-1308

At the conclusion of the contact with CI on 4/9/68, he was instructed to be alert to any information concerning possible racial violence or demonstrations in the Peninsula area of Virginia and to immediately report this to case Agent.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Elusive Galt Hunted Nationwide

By JAY BOWLES

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — The nation's police agencies intensified a nationwide search today for Eric Starvo Galt, the elusive fugitive sought in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

They were aided by thousands of wanted posters, just gaining wide distribution two days after the FBI publicly identified Galt,

36, as the man it had sought secretly since a week after the April 4 slaying.

The FBI refused comment on queries about whether it believes Galt is the man's real name or was simply a cover built painstakingly over a number of months by the beer-drinking lover of hillbilly music.

Two aliases—John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer—were listed on the federal conspiracy

warrant issued against Galt in Birmingham, Ala., Wednesday afternoon and the first degree murder warrant issued by the state against him here Wednesday night.

"John Willard" was the name used by the man who checked into a Main Street rooming house three hours before King was shot as he stood on the balcony of a motel here. There has

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

— Page 17

— Ledger-Star

— Norfolk, Virginia

Date: 4/19/68

Edition:

Author: Jay Bowles

Editor:

Title: Elusive Galt Hunted Nationwide

Character:

or

Classification: 44-268

Submitting Office: Norfolk

☒ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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APR 22 1968	
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44-268-52

been no reference to the second alias.

The federal agency denied a report that it had taken into custody the man it said Galt described as his brother and that the brother was aiding in the search. The federal warrant, issued Wednesday, claimed that Galt and the brother entered into a conspiracy March 29 to violate King's civil rights.

The statement disclosed for

the first time that Galt was in Memphis the day before King was shot, although he did not move into the rooming house from which the fatal bullet was fired until the day of the assassination.

There were these other developments.

The U.S. attorney's office in Kansas City quoted an informant of "apparent reliability" as saying King was among persons

marked for death if Robert Bolivar Depugh, leader of the militant right-wing Minutemen organization, ever went to jail.

★ A Birmingham man who said he had a brief business dealing with Galt told reporters that the hunted man once told him he had a wife living in the Rocky Ridge section of the Alabama City. There was no official confirmation.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Hunted Man of Today Began Running in '49

By JERRY COHEN

Times/Post News Service

LOS ANGELES—The criminal career of James Earl Ray, the man suspected of killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. began in downtown Los Angeles early on an October evening in 1949.

He tried to steal a typewriter from the third-floor office of The Forum Cafeteria.

The assistant manager caught him in the act and scuffled with him, but Ray got away—not for long, however.

As he fled across a parking lot, an attendant heard the assistant manager's cries and grabbed Ray. The two struggled. Ray broke free, but a bank savings book and his army discharge papers fell to the pavement from his torn shirt pocket.

That happenstance, and an extraordinary coincidence, led to the first arrest in Ray's long career of lawlessness—a span of misconduct which apparently reached a climax in Memphis April 4, when Dr. King was assassinated.

Four days later, Oct. 11, 1949, the parking lot attendant recognized Ray emerging from a bank.

He attracted the attention of nearby policemen, who arrested Ray and matched him up with the bank book and army papers.

Ray was given 90 days in the county jail and placed on two years probation by Superior Judge W. Turney Fox, now retired.

Judge Fox's leniency was based on the report of Deputy County Probation Officer Herbert W. Audit and the plea of Deputy Public Defender Richard S. Buckley, who represented Ray, unemployed and broke.

Audit today is in the Probation Department's Santa Monica office, while Buckley has risen to head of the public defender's office.

Buckley, in appealing for probation when Ray appeared Dec. 30, 1949, before Judge Fox for sentencing, said:

"I feel he not only is eligible for probation but that he is a fit subject for probation. This man is in a position to stand on his own feet, and apparently has done so for a period of time.

"He apparently is thrifty, acquired some savings and also did fairly well in the Army. In view of these circumstances, I feel he is a good risk on probation. . . ."

"I think you have a point there," Judge Fox told Buckley.

Then the judge turned to Ray and informed him that as a condition of his probation:

"I want you to stay out of drinking places and not indulge in the use of alcoholic liquor or frequent or go to places where it is the principal order of sale."

Audit, the probation officer, had noted that Ray "spends much time on dates with girls" and admitted to "occasional excessive use of intoxicants."

His remarks, and those of the judge, have an ironic echo today, since women and liquor appear to have played major roles in the subsequent life of Ray, who was only 21 at the time.

Audit also observed that Ray appeared to be of normal intelligence, was a Roman Catholic but did not attend church, attended movies two or three times a week and "likes to read magazines and common ordinary books."

Ray, who had been in Los Angeles only two days when he got into the trouble at The Forum Cafeteria, was the oldest boy in a family of three, Audit reported to Judge Fox.

The probation report also disclosed that:

He was reared by his parents in Alton and Quincy, Ill., across the Mississippi River from St. Louis.

His father, Gordon, died in 1946, by which time young Ray had quit high school in Ewing, Mo., across the river from his home. He got only as far as the ninth grade.

Ray joined the Army Feb. 19, 1946, got a general discharge—still a private—on Dec. 23, 1948.

He spent most of that time in Germany, and during part of his service career there he was assigned to the Military Police.

After his discharge, he apparently lived at the home on his serviceman's readjustment pay, and when that ran out moved to Chicago where he got a job operating a mold in a rubber plant, while attending a television repair school five nights a week.

He earned \$55 a week but was laid off work in September 1949. He remained in Chicago only a few days before heading for Los Angeles.

He denied that he had entered the cafeteria in Los Angeles to steal. He claimed he had attended a downtown movie earlier, then had climbed a fire escape into The Forum's third-floor office because:

"I guess maybe I had some beers or something."

When apprehended, he denied he ever had been in trouble with the law. A check of FBI files could establish no previous arrest record.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

— Page 8

— Virginian-Pilot

— Norfolk, Virginia

Date: 4/20/68

Edition:

Author: Jerry Cohen

Editor:

Title: Hunted Man of Today
Began Running in '49

Character:

or

Classification: 44-268

Submitting Office: Norfolk

☒ Being Investigated

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44-268-53

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Also Galt, 4 Others

FBI Names Ex-Con As Suspected Slayer

Ray started running in 1949. Page 8.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The elusive Eric Starvo Galt, who is wanted for the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was identified by the FBI Friday as a 40-year-old drifter and ex-convict named James Earl Ray.

The FBI said Galt's real identity was traced through "a systematic and exhaustive search of latent fingerprints" developed in the King case against the fingerprints of more than 53,000 persons for whom wanted notices are on file in the bureau's identification division.

Galt is only one of the names Ray has used in brushes with the law which began, according to the FBI dossier, when he was 21.

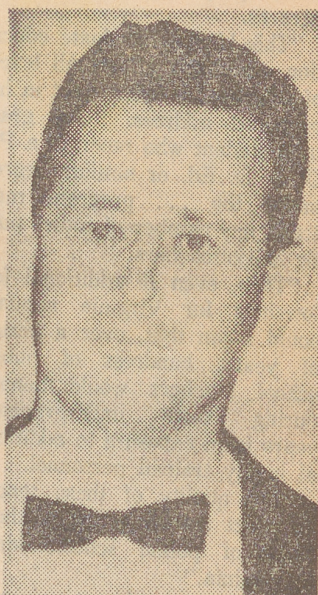
The FBI said he has used the names of James McBride, James Walton, W. O. Herron and James O'Connor.

He is described as about 5 feet 10, weighing 163 to 174 pounds, with blue eyes and brown hair and two scars: a small scar in the center of the forehead and another on the palm of his right hand.

At the time King was shot and killed by a sniper in Memphis, Tenn., April 4, Ray was being sought on a jailbreaking charge.

The FBI said he escaped on April 23, 1967, from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, where he was serving a 20-year sentence for armed robbery in St. Louis.

Ray, sought on a Tennessee murder charge in the King slaying, has an arrest record dating at least to 1949 when he served



The FBI has announced that James Earl Ray (left, photographed in St. Louis before his prison escape a year ago) and Eric Starvo Galt (right, as he appears on a wanted poster) are the same.

time in Los Angeles on a burglary charge.

This followed his discharge from the Army. The FBI said he was an enlisted man from February 1946 to December 1948 when he received a general discharge for ineptness and lack of adaptability.

His Army record showed a three-month sentence at hard labor for being drunk and breaking arrest, the FBI said.

The bureau's dossier on Ray indicates he has been a drifter since he left school in the 10th grade at Alton, Ill.

He has worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher.

In 1952, according to the FBI, he was convicted in Chicago for armed robbery and served two years in Joliet and Pontiac, Ill. state prisons. In 1955, the FBI

said, he was convicted of forging U.S. postal money orders in Missouri and was confined to Leavenworth penitentiary until 1958.

The FBI said Ray was sent to the Missouri State Penitentiary on March 17, 1960, and spent some time in September 1966 in the maximum security ward at the state hospital in Fulton, Mo.

The FBI said Ray has listed his birthdate as March 10, 1928, and his birthplace as Illinois.

The city clerk at Alton, Ill., Paul A. Price, said a James Earl Ray was born there on March 10, 1928, the son of a laborer.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

Virginian-Pilot

Norfolk, Virginia

Date: 4/20/68

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: FBI Names Ex-con
As Suspected Slayer

Character:

or

Classification: 44-268

Submitting Office: Norfolk

☒ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - NORFOLK	

44-268-54

The principal at Alton Senior High School said his records showed three James Rays attended the school during the period Ray would have been there, and he was trying to determine whether any of them was the man identified by the FBI as Galt.

The bureau did not say what set of fingerprints in the King case was matched with those of Ray, but it is presumed that prints were found on a rifle dropped near the scene of the killing as well as in the furnished room occupied by the sniper.

The FBI also has reported recovering a white Mustang automobile in Atlanta, Ga., believed to have been used by the killer.

In a warrant obtained by the FBI Wednesday, the fugitive was accused of conspiring with an individual "alleged to be his brother" to "injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate Martin Luther King Jr."

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : ALL AGENTS

DATE: 4/18/68

FROM : SAC, NORFOLK (44-268)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

RE: ERIC STARVO GALT, - FUGITIVE

Attached for each Agent are two photographs of ERIC STARVO GALT, aka Harvey Lowmyer and John Willard. GALT is described as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'8" - 11"
Weight	160-175 pounds
Build	Medium
Hair	Brown (worn in "Brush" cut)
Eyes	Blue
DOB	 (not verified)
Nose	Straight and narrow
Teeth	Straight and clean
Characteristics	Neat dresser;

P11

Left ear protrudes farther from his head than his right ear;

Has nervous habit of occasionally pulling at ear lobe with his hand;

Described as a "loner";

Language and diction have a "rural" quality

Drinks alcoholic beverages, preferring Vodka and Beer

A fan of Western and Country music

36- One each Agent
(2) Norfolk file 44-268
WRK:dmb
(50)

dmb

12-One each law enforcement agency listed

44-268-55

7 *7* *WRK*

NF 44-268

The photograph of GALT with his eyes closed is an actual photograph, while the photograph of GALT showing his eyes open was prepared from the actual photograph by an FBI artist.

A federal complaint was filed in Birmingham, Alabama, on 4/17/68, charging GALT with conspiracy to violate the Civil Rights of Reverend Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., in violation of Title 18, Section 241, United States Code. The complaint charged that "on or about March 29, 1968, at Birmingham, Alabama, ERIC STARVO GALT and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother, entered into a conspiracy which continued until on or about April 5, 1968, to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., in the free exercise or enjoyment of a right secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States; namely, the right to freely travel from state to state. In furtherance of this conspiracy, ERIC STARVO GALT did, on or about March 30, 1968, purchase a rifle at Birmingham, Alabama..."

A 30.06 rifle equipped with a telescopic sight was found near a rooming house on South Main Street in Memphis, immediately after the fatal shooting of Doctor KING occurred. The rooming house overlooks the Lorraine Hotel and Motel where Dr. KING was staying. It was determined that the rifle and telescopic sight had been purchased from a gun dealer in Birmingham, Alabama, on March 30, 1968. The name HARVEY LOWMYER was used by GALT when purchasing this gun. He used the name JOHN WILLARD when registering at the rooming house.

GALT is the owner of a 1966 white Mustang bearing Alabama license plates which was located abandoned in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 11, 1968. Investigation disclosed that GALT purchased this car from a private citizen in Birmingham on August 30, 1967. The Mustang odometer showed that it had been driven more than 19,000 miles between late August, 1967, and early April, 1968. GALT'S travels in the Mustang included trips to Los Angeles, California; New Orleans, Louisiana; Birmingham, Alabama; and Mexico, as well as to Memphis, Tennessee and Atlanta, Georgia. GALT was reported to have been in Memphis on April 3-4, 1968, and to have departed from there for Atlanta.

NF 44-268

GALT has claimed to have been employed as a cook on Mississippi river vessels and as a Merchant Seaman. He is said to be an avid dancer and took dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965; in Birmingham during August and September, 1967, and in Long Beach, California, from December, 1967 to February, 1968.

GALT left Los Angeles on December 15, 1967, and drove his white Mustang to New Orleans where he claimed he contacted either an engineering or a contracting firm. He left New Orleans on December 19, 1967, and arrived back in Los Angeles on December 21, 1967. While in Los Angeles area, early this year, GALT took a course at a school of bartending and was graduated on March 2, 1968.

The pertinent dates for elimination purposes in this case are March 29,30, 1968, in Birmingham, Alabama, and April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee

The following below listed Agents are requested to provide the indicated law enforcement agencies with the above background information and attached photographs.

Chesapeake PD	SA RAY
Hampton PD	SA BRANON
Newport News PD	SA LOWE
Norfolk PD	SA RAFFERTY
Portsmouth PD	SA RAPER
Virginia Beach PD	SA CUMMINGS
Suffolk PD	SA MC NABB
Williamsburg PD	SA BURRELL
Eastern Shore	SA TUBERSON
NISO	SA MCNERNEY
LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE	SA DAVIS
Fort Eustis	SA MARCOLINE

GALT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS

NF 44-268

PHL/drb

1

On April 17, 1968, the names, ERIC STARVO GALT, JOHN WILLARD, and HARVEY LOWMEYER were checked through the below listed records by SA PATRICK H. LANG.

Miss JANE E. DAVIS, Secretary for FRANK WATKINS, Voter Registrar for Nansemond County, Virginia, furnished the Voter Rolls for the county and a survey of these records failed to reflect the above referenced names.

Mrs. GLORIA MORGAN, Records Division, Nansemond County Courthouse produced the county arrest records. A survey of these records failed to yield any positive information.

Mrs. LIBBY SAUNDERS, Clerk, Municiple Court, Franklin, Virginia, furnished the arrest records for the City of Franklin. These records did not yield any positive information.

44-268-56

h-268

Robert WER

X

FBI NORFOLK

FBI PHILA

449 PM JUL 4 00 PM URGENT 4/22/68 GJM

TO ALL SACS RELAY MESSAGE PLAN
FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 1P

MURKIN

YOU ARE REMINDED THAT ALL LEADS IN THIS CASE MUST BE
COVERED WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR 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 RE
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.

DISTRIBUTE SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES OF WANTED FLYERS
AND IO'S TO NARCOTIC INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES IN ORDER THAT
THEIR INFORMANTS MAY BE CONTACTED. YOU SHOULD CONTACT
ALL CRIMINAL INFORMANTS AND APPROPRIATE RACIAL AND SECURITY
INFORMANTS. LEGATS OTTAWA AND MEXICO CITY BEING ADVISED
SEPARATELY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

FBHP

FBI NORFOLK

CLFX

44-267-57

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JUL 4 1968	
FBI - NORFOLK	

K Ball WER

FBI NORFOLK

PLEASE HIT

FBI NORFOLK

FBI WASH DC

715PM URGENT 4/23/68 GJM

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 1P

MURKIN

REMEAIRTEL TO ALL OFFICES APRIL ONE NINE LAST FURNISHING
BACKGROUND DATA CONCERNING JAMES EARL RAY.

SUBJECT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED POSSIBLE SUSPECT IN ANY
UNSOLVED BANK ROBBERIES, BURGLARIES OR ARMED ROBBERIES
(POSSIBLE ITSP VIOLATIONS) OCCURRING AFTER APRIL TWO THREE
ONE NINE SIX SEVEN. RAY SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED SUSPECT IN
ANY FUTURE SUCH VIOLATIONS AND BUREAU ADVISED TELEPHONICALLY
OF ANY TENTATIVE IDENTIFICATION.

ANY PERTINENT LEADS DEVELOPED DURING REVIEW OF PAST
VIOLATIONS SHOULD BE EXPEDITIOUSLY RUN OUT AND BUREAU ADVISED.

SUBJECT'S HANDWRITING AND HAND PRINTING NOT IDENTIFIED
IN BANK ROBBERY NOTE FILE AND HIS FINGERPRINTS ARE BEING
SEARCHED AGAINST LATENTS SUBMITTED IN UNSOLVED BANK ROBBERY AND
BURGLARY VIOLATIONS.

SUBJECT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

JFG

FBI NORFOLK

TG

Koball advised 4/23/68
O'Hara
Raper
Roy
Cummings
Howe

44-268-58
44-268-62

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FBI PHILA

RELAY TEL FROM PURAE BUREAU

502 AM JMV

432 AM RDR

URGENT 4-22-68 RNK

TO ALL SACS PLAINTEXT

FROM DIRECTOR (44-38861) 1P

MURKIN

REMEAIRTEL TO ALL OFFICES APRIL ONE NINE LAST FURNISHING
BACKGROUND DATA CONCERNING JAMES EARL RAY.

SUBJECT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED POSSIBLE SUSPECT IN ANY
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BURGLARY VIOLATIONS.

SUBJECT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

JEF-

FBI NORFOLK

X

*No unsolved BR - BB.
in Norfolk Division in
which a white male was
involved as co-conspirator
to date.*

*Respectfully
O'Hara*
MR
SPB

44-261-58
SEARCHED
SERIAL

Robell
Handle with care & O'Hara

FBI NORFOLK

FBI RICHMOND

404 PM URGENT 4-23-68 LMG

TO NORFOLK

FROM RICHMOND (44-657)

MURKIN; RE JAMES EARL RAY

RE BALTIMORE TEL TO RICHMOND, APRIL TWENTYTHREE, INSTANT.

BALTIMORE ADVISED ANONYMOUS FEMALE CALLER ADVISED BALTIMORE PD THAT ABOUT FIVE PM, APRIL TWENTY LAST, SHE OBSERVED INDIVIDUAL WHO FITTED DESCRIPTION OF JAMES EARL RAY OPERATING NINETEEN FIFTYSIX FADED GREEN PLYMOUTH, VA. LIC. A THREE TWO SIX NINE TWO FOUR. INDIVIDUAL WAS DRIVING NORTH ON ROUTE FORTY, VICINITY ABERDEEN, MD. HE WAS WEARING SUNGLASSES AND PULLED HAT DOWN OVER EYES WHEN HE NOTICED CALLER LOOKING AT HIM.

DMV RECORDS, RICHMOND, VA., INDICATE THIS LICENSE ISSUED TO PAUL DARDEN GOLDEN, 150 TWO FOUR FOUR LYNN RD., VIRGINIA BEACH, VA., FOR FIFTYFIVE PLYMOUTH SEDAN. NORFOLK DETERMINE IF OWNER OF PLYMOUTH IS IDENTICAL WITH RAY. MAIL COPY SENT MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END.

CBA

FBI NORFOLK

P

44-268-59

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FBI NORFOLK	

Koball

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, NORFOLK (44-268)

DATE: 4/22/68

FROM : SA JOHN P. BUNSZEL

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Memo to SAC, 4/18/68.

On 4/18/68, the City Repair crew, working on Liberty Street, Berkley, were observed by SAS JOHN P. BUNSZEL and JOSEPH E. SMITH as a result of information received that one of them resembled ERIC STARVO GALT.

It was determined from JAMES SOREY, Foreman, that he has had a crew at that location for the entire day, all employees of the City of Norfolk, Department of Public Works. Only two of the crew were Caucasian and neither of the two individuals even remotely resembled GALT. SOREY confirmed that both of the Caucasian employees have worked on his crew for several months.

44-268-60

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Koball WRK 9



1 Norfolk
JPB:dmb
dmb

5010-108-02

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