

The history sheet reflects that JOHNNY SAUNDERS WILLARD, 4524 Chaney Avenue, Apartment 101, Alexandria, Virginia, was born July 10, 1946, Richlands, Virginia. He was then 5'9", 145 lbs., had brown hair and blue eyes. He had a tattoo on left upper arm, specifically the word "Penny". It was indicated that he had attended school in Dublin, Virginia, and had gone to the ninth grade.

A brother was listed as CECIL WILLARD, 4524 Chaney Avenue, Apartment 101, Alexandria, Virginia; another brother was TEX WILLARD, Wytheville, Virginia, and another brother GERRY WILLARD, Pulaski, Virginia. He also had another brother WAYNE WILLARD, Roanoke, Virginia; a sister, FRANKIE BARHAM, Roanoke, Virginia, a sister, PATSY MICHAELS, Dublin, Virginia, a sister, SHIRLEY WILLARD, Vinton, Virginia. His father was listed as LEE WILLARD, however, he was listed as deceased. He also indicated his mother was HAZEL VIRGINIA PAULEY, Dublin, Virginia, and his stepfather was listed as WARREN H. PAULEY, Route 2, Box 220, Dublin, Virginia.

RH 44-657

APR/vlr

1

Lt. NORMAN GRIMM, Detective, Alexandria, Virginia, Police Department, on April 6, 1968, advised SA ARTHUR P. ROEHRL the records of his department reflect that JOHNNY SAUNDERS WILLARD, 4524 Chaney Avenue, Apartment 101, Alexandria, Virginia, was charged on December 2, 1962 with Grand Larceny, reckless driving and operating a motor vehicle without a permit. No disposition of this charge was shown on the records.

The records further reflect that WILLARD was a white male, born July 10, 1946, Richlands, Virginia, was 5'10", 145 lbs., blue eyes, brown hair, and was a service station attendant.

Lt. GRIMM informed that the arresting officer was JAMES L. OUTLAND. He related that OUTLAND was no longer employed by the police department; however, he is employed by the Secret Service in Washington, D.C. He stated his full name was JAMES L. OUTLAND, and his residence address was 709 Chatworth Place, Alexandria, Virginia.

Lt. GRIMM informed that he could not find the folder with reference to this particular case; however, he would make it available as soon as it had found.

On April 11, 1968, Lt. GRIMM made available the folder with reference to WILLARD. The records indicate that WILLARD on December 1, 1962 at approximately 6 P.M., was getting off work at his place of employment, the Harper's Flying-A Service, 1000 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia. At this time the owner, HENRY HARPER, paid him and informed him that he no longer needed his services inasmuch as he needed a man with more experience. A customer had left a 1962 Corvair at the station, and the keys were in this automobile. WILLARD took the automobile, then picked up JAMES W. BROWN of 1926 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia. They then drove to Washington, D.C., Maryland and various areas in Alexandria and during the period were drinking beer.

WILLARD was driving on Duke Street west when he hit a pedestrian. WILLARD was then charged with reckless driving, Grand Larceny of an automobile and operating a motor vehicle without a permit.

44-657-85

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Man Indicted In Slaying In Roanoke

ROANOKE (AP) — A Roanoke Circuit Court Grand Jury called into special session Friday indicted a 29-year-old Roanoke man on a charge of murder in the death of a man whose decomposed body was found in a coalbin more than three years ago.

The indictment returned against John Saunders Willard was believed to have been the result of information supplied police by an acquaintance of Willard.

The victim named in the indictment, Raymond Keith Wilmer, was not known to have been murdered until the new information was received.

Wilmer's body was found Sept. 25, 1970, and was so badly decomposed a medical examiner was unable to determine the cause of death. Police at the time said they had no evidence of foul play.

Willard was being held in the city jail Friday without bond. He was arrested earlier this week on an assault charge.

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

PAGE B-2

RICHMOND TIMES - DISPATCH
RICHMOND, VA.

Date: 5/11/74
Edition: EVENING
Author:
Editor: JOHN E. LEARD
Title: JOHN SAUNDERS
WILLARD

Character:

Classification: 44-657-85A
Submitting Office: RICHMOND

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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Original sent to Bureau by R/S 5-13-74 (R)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 12, 1968

CECIL WILLARD, 4813 Edwards Street, Alexandria, Virginia, Phone Number 354-0693, advised that he has a half-brother known as JOHN SAUNDERS WILLARD. He informed that his half-brother's true name is JOHN SAUNDERS ARCHIE, JR.; however, he had never utilized this name inasmuch as his father had died shortly after his birth.

WILLARD informed that his half-brother was approximately 22 years of age, was a white male, 5 feet 11 inches, 160-170 pounds, sandy hair, blue eyes, and had no scars or marks that he could recall. He stated he does not know of any rifle that his half-brother ever owned; however, he knows that he has gone target shooting with him on several occasions and he was a good shot.

WILLARD informed that his half-brother, JOHN, to the best of his knowledge, was in Roanoke, Virginia, and had been in Roanoke, Virginia, up to two months ago. He related that he was presently residing with a girl named PENNY, and PENNY at the present time was pregnant. He stated that PENNY was from Pulaski, Virginia, and she left her husband to live with his half-brother, JOHN. He informed that his half-brother, JOHN, had been arrested in Alexandria, Virginia, for stealing an automobile. After stealing the automobile, he hit a pedestrian on Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia, and that subsequently the matter was taken to court. The lawyers for his brother, JOHN, were Duff and Slinker, Professional Building, 2009 14th Street, North Arlington, Virginia.

WILLARD further advised that he believes that JOHN and PENNY were arrested for shoplifting in Roanoke, Virginia. WILLARD advised that his brother also was confined to the Bland County Correctional Farm several years ago.

WILLARD further stated that JOHN has been molesting small girls ever since he was a boy; and, although he has never been arrested for it, the family has always taken precaution with children at the time JOHN was present.

WILLARD related that he has no reason to believe that his half-brother, JOHN, was in Memphis, Tennessee; however,

On 4/6/68 at Alexandria, Virginia File # Richmond 44-657

by SA ARTHUR P. ROEHRL : wsk Date dictated 4/9/68

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44-657-86

RH 44-657

he has not seen or heard from him for over two months and, therefore, he could have gone to Memphis, Tennessee. He informed that he doubted his brother would have joined an organization such as the Ku Klux Klan or any other form of hate group. He advised his brother, JOHN, resembles the artist's sketch which was in the "Washington Daily News" and his description generally fitted.

WILLARD advised that his mother is Mrs. W. H. PAULEY, who resides with her husband, W. H. PAULEY, in Dublin, Virginia. He emphasized that his mother is on the verge of a nervous breakdown; and, therefore, if any contact is made with her, it should be done through W. H. PAULEY, his stepfather, who is employed by the Radford Arsenal. WILLARD stated that his stepfather knows PENNY's parents from Pulaski, Virginia.

WILLARD further informed he has a sister, Mrs. CLARKE BONHAM, who resides on Oliver Road, N. E., Roanoke, Virginia. She would undoubtedly know how to be in contact with JOHN WILLARD. He informed he also has a sister, Mrs. PATSY GOLDEN, who resides with her husband on Wright Street, Richmond, Virginia. He also has a brother, WAYNE WILLARD, who resides with Mrs. GOLDEN. There are also a brother, GARY WILLARD, who resides in Pulaski, Virginia, and a brother, TEXAS LEE WILLARD, who resides in Wytheville, Virginia.

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On 4/6/68 at Alexandria, Virginia File # 44-657-86 Richmond 44-857

by SA ARTHUR P. ROEMER : wak Date dictated 4/9/68

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FBI RICHMOND

FBI CHARLT

8:14PM 4-18-68 URGENT CPO

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS, ATLANTA, RICHMOND, PITTSBURGH, AND
JACKSONVILLE

FROM CHARLOTTE /44-1365/ 4P

MURKIN.

*Re: look-alike seen by N.C. Highway Patrolman
at Newton, N.C. 4/9/68.*

TODAY, N. C. HIGHWAY PATROL TROOPER HARRY L. WILLIAMS,
CATAWBA COUNTY, N.C., SEVENTEEN YEARS EXPERIENCE, ADVISED
AFTER VIEWING PHOTOGRAPH OF ERIC STARVO GALT WHICH APPEARED IN
TODAY'S PAPER, THAT HE RECALLED ON NIGHT OF APRIL NINE LAST,
NCHP WAS CONDUCTING ROAD CHECK AT NEWTON, N. C. BETWEEN NINE
AND NINE THIRTY P.M., WHILE MALE DRIVING FIFTY-FIVE OR FIFTY-
SIX DODGE, FOUR-DOOR, THREE TONE, WAS STOPPED AT ROAD CHECK.
CAR HAD OFF WHITE TOP, DARK GREEN ON SIDES, HOOD AND TRUNK AND
OFF WHITE BOTTOM. CAR HAD SIXTY-EIGHT FLA. LICENSE WITH
PREFIX ONE ZERO W DASH, FOLLOWED BY FOUR OR FIVE DIGITS NOT
RECALLED. DRIVER WAS IN CAR ALONE AND CAR WAS HEAVILY LOADED
WITH LUGGAGE, POSSIBLY FIVE OR SIX SUITCASES.

DRIVER PRODUCED A VALID FLA. DRIVER'S LICENSE. WILLIAMS
DOES NOT RECALL NAME ON LICENSE, BUT SAID IT WAS UNCOMMON

END PAGE ONE

*Info from SA Tierney
advised 4/18/68 and
wytheville.
Lemo*

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TIERNEY	

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NAME IS THIS AREA AND WAS A VERY SHORT NAME WITH ABOUT FOUR LETTERS. LICENSE REVEALED THE DRIVER WAS EMPLOYED AS AN AIRLINE PILOT, AND HE ASKED DRIVER WHAT AIRLINE HE FLEW FOR AND DRIVER NAMED AN AIRLINE, NOT WELL KNOWN, WHICH WILLIAMS CANNOT RECALL. AIRLINE HAD TWO NAMES.

ON SEAT NEXT TO DRIVER WAS A FOLDED MAP OF SEVERAL SOUTHEASTERN STATES, WHICH WAS NEATLY MARKED SHOWING A ROUTE FROM SOMEWHERE IN DEEP CENTRAL GEORGIA TO WYTHEVILLE, VA., WILLIAMS ASKED DRIVER WHERE HE WAS GOING AND DRIVER STATED HE WAS GOING TO WYTHEVILLE TO VISIT FRIENDS AND WAS THEN GOING TO CHARLESTON OR BLUEFIELD, W. VA., TO VISIT FRIENDS AND OR RELATIVES. HE DID NOT MENTION ANYONE BY NAME. HE INSTRUCTED DRIVER AS TO HOW TO GET ON HIGHWAY SIXTEEN NORTH.

WILLIAMS STATED, AFTER LOOKING AT PHOTOGRAPH OF GALT, HE IS CERTAIN THAT GALT WAS THE DRIVER OF THIS CAR. HE SAID THERE IS NO DOUBT IN HIS MIND THAT THIS WAS GALT. HE STATED THE DRIVER'S CHEEKS WERE NOT AS FULL AS IN THE PHOTOGRAPH. HE HAD SHARP FEATURES AND HIS FACE WAS NARROWER AND LONGER

END PAGE TWO

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PAGE THREE

THAN IN THE PHOTOGRAPH. HE HAD A LONG, NARROW, POINTED NOSE AND LARGE EARS. FACE WAS LESS FLESHY THAN PHOTOGRAPH OF GALT. HE DESCRIBED DRIVER AS AGE ABOUT THIRTY, NOT LARGE FRAME, BROWN HAIR, NOT DARK, WHICH WAS SHORT, RECEDING AND MUCH SHORTER THAN IN PHOTOGRAPH AND BRUSHED STRAIGHT BACK. DRIVER WAS VERY COMPOSED AND RESERVED DURING CONVERSATION. DID NOT VOLUNTEER, INFORMATION, BUT ANSWERED QUESTIONS. GAVE IMPRESSION OF BEING PRECISE AND IMMACULATE. WAS WELL GROOMED AND NEAT.

TROOPER MARVIN WRIGHT, NCHP, WAS PRESENT AT THE ROAD CHECK AND DESCRIBED CAR AS FADED GREEN. HE DID NOT TALK WITH DRIVER, BUT RECALLED TROOPER WILLIAMS MENTIONING THE CAR HAD FLA. LICENSE BEGINNING WITH ONE ZERO W AND DRIVER HAD AN EXTREMELY SHORT NAME.

RICHMOND, AT WYTHEVILLE, VA., AND PITTSBURGH, AT CHARLESTON AND BLUEFIELD, W. VA., CONTACT LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING AUTOMOBILE FITTING DESCRIPTION.

JACKSONVILLE, AT TALLAHASSEE, FLA., WILL AT DMV DETERMINE FEASIBILITY OF CHECKING REGISTRATION RECORDS FOR FIFTY-FIVE
END PAGE THREE

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OR FIFTY-SIX DODGE BEARING LICENSE WITH PREFIX ONE ZERO W.
END.

LLC

FBI RICHMOND

CLR@

FBI WASH DC

732PM URGENT 4/18/68 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 CPP

FBI CHARLT

RH...ECS

FBI RICHMOND

NF...JEG

FBI NORFOLK

TU CLR

*ED Long handling
H/EX R/H AIR Port
Dulles Paper Travel
advised 4/18/68
us*

*H/EX
LEAD*

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ED LONG SEA	

SAC [signature]

FBI WASH DC

732PM URGENT 4/13/68 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.

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END

CE GPR

FBI CHARLT

RH...ECS

FBI RICHMOND

NF...JEG

FBI NORFOLK

TU CLR

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SAC [initials]

[Signature] [initials]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : ALL AGENTS

DATE: 4/18/68

FROM : SAC, RICHMOND (44-657) -P-

SUBJECT: MURKIN

ERIC STARVO GALT, aka
Harvey Lowmyer,
John Willard - FUGITIVE

For the information of all Agents, the Bureau authorized a press release as of 4/17/68 in connection with a Federal warrant obtained by the FBI in Birmingham, Ala., 4/17/68, charging ERIC STARVO GALT with conspiring to violate the civil rights of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., in violation of Title 18, Section 241, of the U. S. Code. GALT is being sought by the FBI as a fugitive on the Federal charge arising from the fatal shooting of Dr. KING in Memphis, Tenn., on 4/4/68.

The complaint charges that on or about 3/29/68 in Birmingham, Ala., GALT and an individual, whom he alleged to be his brother, entered into a conspiracy which continued until on or about 4/5/68, to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate Dr. KING in the free exercise or enjoyment of a right secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the U.S.; namely, the right to free travel from state to state. The complaint further charges that in furtherance of this conspiracy, GALT did, on or about 3/30/68, purchase a rifle at Birmingham, Ala.

In connection with the finding of a 30.06 rifle equipped with telescopic sight near a rooming house in Memphis immediately after the fatal shooting, it has been determined that this rifle and sight had been purchased from a gun dealer in Birmingham, Ala., on 3/30/68.

- 1 - Each Agent (Encs. 2)
- 1 - SAC (Encs. 2)
- 1 - ASAC (Encs. 2)
- 1 - Mr. WAGNER (Encs. 2)
- 1 - Mr. HUMPHRIES (Encs. 2)
- 1 - Mr. TROW (Encs. 2)
- 1 - Richmond (44-657)

MEL/pfm

LLD

44-657-89

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GALT, who has used the names JOHN WILLARD and HARVEY LOWMYER in the past, is the owner of a 1966 white Mustang, bearing Alabama license plates, which was located abandoned in Atlanta, Ga., on 4/11/68. It has been determined that GALT purchased this car from a private citizen in Birmingham, Ala., on 8/30/67. GALT's travels in the Mustang include trips to Los Angeles, New Orleans, Birmingham, Memphis, Atlanta, and Mexico. He was reported to have been in Memphis on 4/3 and 4/68 and to have departed there for Atlanta.

Investigation disclosed that 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 September and October, 1967; and in Long Beach, California, from 12/67 - 2/68. He left Los Angeles on December 15, 1967, and drove his white Mustang to New Orleans. He left New Orleans on December 19, 1967, and arrived back in Los Angeles on December 21, 1967. While in the Los Angeles area early this year, GALT took a course at a school of bartending and was graduated 3/2/68.

GALT is described as a white male, 5'8" to 5'11", weighing between 160 - 175 pounds, and is said to be a neat dresser, with medium build. He has brown hair, worn in a "brush" cut; blue eyes; straight, narrow nose; clean, straight teeth; and has listed his date of birth as 7/20/31. He reportedly has a nervous habit of occasionally pulling at an ear lobe with his hand. His left ear protrudes farther from his head than his right ear. GALT is described as a "loner" and his language and diction have a "rural" quality which suggests he probably does not have a high degree of education. He is said to drink alcoholic beverages with a preference for vodka and beer, and he is a fan of western and country music.

GALT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

There are attached for information and assistance in covering possible fugitive leads in this matter two (2) photographs of GALT. The photograph with the eyes closed is an actual photograph taken in 3/68. The photograph with the eyes open is the same photograph in which the eyes have been drawn in by an artist.

April 17, 1968

Attorney General Ramsey Clark announced today that Eric Starvo Galt is being sought by the FBI as a fugitive on a Federal charge arising from the fatal shooting of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968.

Director J. Edgar Hoover stated that a Federal complaint was filed by the FBI in Birmingham, Alabama, today charging Galt with conspiring to violate the civil rights of Dr. King in violation of Title 18, Section 241, of the United States Code.

The FBI complaint charges 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..."

According to Mr. Hoover, 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 Dr. King occurred. The rooming house overlooks the Lorraine Hotel and Motel where Dr. King was staying.

Mr. Hoover said that FBI Agents determined that the 30.06

*Sent to all
publicity
outlets
RH office
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of*

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rifle had been purchased from a gun dealer in Birmingham, Alabama, on March 30, 1968. The telescopic sight also was purchased from this dealer.

The FBI Director said that Galt, who has used the names of John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer in the past, 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's odometer showed that it had been driven more than 19,000 miles between late August, 1967, and early April, 1968.

According to Mr. Hoover, 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 and 4, 1968, and to have departed from there for Atlanta.

Intensive investigation by the FBI has disclosed that 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 September and October, 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 19th and arrived back in Los Angeles on December 21, 1967.

While in the Los Angeles area early this year, Galt took a course at a school of bartending and was graduated on March 2, 1968.

The fugitive is described as white male. He is approximately 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighs between 160 and 175 pounds. He is said to be a neat dresser and has a medium build.

Galt has brown hair, which he wears in a "brush" cut. He reportedly has blue eyes; his nose is straight and narrow; his teeth are straight and clean; and he has given his date of birth as July 20, 1931.

The fugitive is said to have a nervous habit of occasionally pulling at an ear lobe with his hand. His left ear protrudes farther from his head than his right ear.

According to Mr. Hoover, persons who have met Galt describe him as a "loner" and state his language and diction have a "rural" quality and suggest that he probably does not have a high degree of education. He is said to drink alcoholic beverages and has a preference for vodka and beer. He is fan of western and country music.

Galt should be considered armed and dangerous. Any information concerning him should be furnished immediately to the nearest FBI office.

Cover Sheet for Informant Report or Material
FD-306 (3-21-58)

Date received 4/5/68	Received from (name or symbol number) RH 313-R	Received by SA WILSON B. WADDY
Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks) ☐ in person ☒ by telephone ☐ by mail ☒ orally ☐ recording device ☐ written by Informant		
If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent: Dictated <u>Date 4/9/68</u> to <u>dictaphone</u> Transcribed _____ Authenticated by Informant _____		Date of Report 4/5/68 Date(s) of activity 4/4/68
Brief description of activity or material <u>Meeting of Unit #16-L</u>		File where original is located if not attached 170-138A-327

Remarks: "In the event of dissemination, information should be paraphrased to protect source."

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1-157-2100 Wall
1-157-2199 Cross
1-157-1391 Cliborne
1-157-1708 Martin
1-157-846 Counterintelligence
1-44-657 Merkin

LOUISE CHURCH
EVELYN CLIBORNE
MARGARET CLIBORNE
ALICE CLINE
MARY OVERTON
DORA JEAN MOORE
SANDRA GLASS
EVELYN CRITCHER
SADIE MOORE

WBW/gs
(12) *q*

44-657-91
Block Stamp

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APRIL 12, 1968
FBI - RICHMOND *X*

4/5/68

A meeting of ladies Unit #16-L, Petersburg, Virginia was held 4/4/68 in Matoaca, Virginia.

Those present were:

RUTH WALL, E. C.
EVELYN CLIBORNE
ALICE CLINE
DORA JEAN MOORE
MARGARET JENKINS
EVELYN CRITCHER
DOROTHY GETTINGS
BUCK WALL
WILLIE CLIBORNE
RONNIE JENKINS

LOUIS CHURCH
MARGARET CLIBORNE
MARY OVERTON
IRMA CROSS, Secretary
SANDRA GLASS
RUBY HOUSTON
SADIE MOORE
NORRIS CROSS
JIMMY MARTIN

This meeting was opened by the E.C. One new member was sworn in.

IRMA CROSS, secretary, read the minutes of the previous meeting and they were approved.

The new member, as all new members are, was charged \$8 initiation fee.

At this meeting, the obtaining of permits to burn crosses was discussed. It was felt these crosses should be burned on property owned by persons who give permission to this burning but placed as close to the property line of neighbors whom the Klan wishes to influence.

A letter was read from MARSHALL R. KORNEGAY, Grand Dragon, stating that the letter written over his name which instructed that money be sent to Alabama to help elect WALLACE was not written by him. He stated that members must be aware of this type and not conform to suggestions therein.

The charter for Unit #27 Petersburg is maintained in a safe at SCHRUM'S garage. Everybody cheered when MARTIN LUTHER KING'S assassination was announced. Members stated that they hope the murderer will not be found and many expressed the belief that a member of the UKA shot KING. The men present were very jubilant and stated they were going to buy whiskey with which to celebrate this murder.

MARGARET CLIBORNE and MARGARET JENKINS furnished the refreshments for this meeting.

FBI WASH DC

FBI-HOUSTON

1:27PM URGENT 4-14-68 LVB

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861 AND MEMPHIS 44-1987

FROM HOUSTON 44-1503

✓ 44-657*

MURKIN

RE WASH DC TELETYPE LAST AND RICHMOND TEL

APRIL TWENTY LAST

JOHN A. GALT LOCATED INTERVIEWED AND ELIMINATED AS
SUSPECT. GALT SURVIVED BUT UNABLE TO FURNISH ANY INFO
RE IDENTITY OF ERIC STARVO GALT, JOHN WILLARD OR HARVEY
LOWMEYER, AAA.

RE AND CE ADVISED AA.

END

GOI

FBI WASH DC

CAF

FBI MEMPHIS

Richmond
air mail

44-657-92

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 18 1968	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Barnett

4/18/68

1

Mr. CLAUDE E. WRAY, Assistant Manager of the Holiday Inn at the intersection of Orange Avenue and Williamson Road, N.W., Roanoke, Virginia, advised that records of the motel reflect that JAMES HENRY SHORT, 1722 Tullamore Street, Alexandria, Louisiana, representing the AFCO Corporation, checked into the motel at 1:44 A.M., April 6, 1968, and checked out at 11:57 A.M., April 11, 1968. Mr. WRAY stated that SHORT paid his motel bill of \$103 with a Gulf Oil Company Credit Card No. [REDACTED]. He stated there were no telephone calls charged to the bill, and the record indicates that SHORT was driving a 1967 Comet with 1967 Louisiana license 48D933.

*File on memo
that destroyed
JEA*

4/11/68

Roanoke, Virginia

Richmond 44-657-93

SA ICEALTIUS A. HALL/vlr

4/15/68

4/18/68

Mr. IRA GLENN WISEMAN, 521 Wingfield Avenue, N.E., Roanoke, Virginia, telephone number 366-5734, advised that his wife has a brother, JAMES HENRY SHORT, who resides with his wife, JACQUELINE, in Alexandria, Louisiana. Mr. WISEMAN stated they had been informed earlier that morning that SHORT had disappeared from his home in Alexandria, Louisiana, about ten days before, and his wife, JACQUELINE, had not known his whereabouts until the morning of April 11, 1968, when she received an inquiry from her bank concerning a check her husband had given to the Holiday Inn No. 2 at Roanoke, Virginia. She immediately contacted Mr. WISEMAN, and he went to the Holiday Inn No. 2, Roanoke, Virginia, where he located Mr. SHORT.

Mr. WISEMAN then took SHORT to his home and in attempting to find out why Mr. SHORT had run away from his wife and children in Alexandria, Louisiana, he was informed by SHORT that SHORT was involved in the murder of the Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. at Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968.

Mr. WISEMAN stated that he has not observed anything about SHORT which would indicate that he is mentally deranged or that he had been drinking to excess. However, he knows that within the past year, SHORT has been drinking. Mr. WISEMAN advised that SHORT was in U. S. Air Force for about eight years and was discharged six or eight months ago. He informed Mr. WISEMAN that while he was in the Air Force, he furnished some information of a military nature to a communist in Louisiana.

Mr. WISEMAN stated that SHORT was then at his home and would be receptive to an interview with an FBI Agent; therefore, Mr. WISEMAN was accompanied to his home and SHORT was interviewed in the presence of Mr. WISEMAN.

Not Referred
File a memo.

4/11/68

Roanoke, Virginia

Richmond 44-657-94

SA ICEALIVUS A. HALL/vlr

4/15/68

4/18/68

JAMES HENRY SHORT, 1722 Tullamore Street, Alexandria, Louisiana, was interviewed at the home of his brother-in-law, IRA GLENN WISEMAN, 521 Wingfield Avenue, N.E., Roanoke, Virginia, at the request of IRA GLENN WISEMAN, by Special Agent ICEALIUS A. HALL, who identified himself to SHORT as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

At the outset of this interview, SHORT was advised by SA HALL he was being interviewed for his possible involvement in the murder of the Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. at Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968.

SHORT was further informed that his brother-in-law, IRA GLENN WISEMAN, had indicated that he, SHORT, wanted to talk with an FBI Agent, and that Agent HALL was there to take any information concerning the murder of Dr. KING that he had to offer.

SHORT was warned of certain rights, and he waived them as shown on an executed warning and waiver form.

He declined to furnish a signed statement, but voluntarily furnished the following information:

SHORT stated that he served in the U. S. Air Force for seven years under Serial Number AF 13 705 516. He stated that he received an Undesirable Discharge on November 30, 1967 because of too many personal debts and for issuing fraudulent checks.

SHORT advised that while he was in the Air Force, he was assigned to the 319th Air Commando Squadron at Elgin Air Force Base, Florida, and during the latter part of April, 1966, this entire squadron was transferred to Alexandria, Louisiana. He stated that after their transfer to Alexandria, Louisiana, he was assigned to the Test Project "AGILE" at Greenville, Texas.

*No basis to story
Mats [unclear]
File as [unclear]*

4/11/68 Roanoke, Virginia

Richmond 44-657-95

SA ICEALIUS A. HALL, vlr

4/15/68

He stated that this project was not classified but was not widely known in the Air Force. SHORT advised that while he was working on this project, a Company clerk, EUGENE BATTLE, also assigned to the 319th Air Commando Squadron, came to him and informed him that since he was the Company clerk, he knew of SHORT's difficulty because of his financial matters with the Commanding Officer and that he could intercept the bills and letters coming to him without the Commanding Officer knowing about them, and he would be willing to do this for SHORT if SHORT would furnish information to him about the test project.

SHORT stated he did not know why BATTLE wanted this information but suspects now that he was furnishing the information to someone else.

SHORT advised that he did turn some information over to BATTLE but BATTLE could have obtained the information himself.

SHORT stated that they outfitted an aircraft with the test objects which he described as a "link temp volt" which was being sent to Vietnam, and he gave the flight pattern of the aircraft to BATTLE.

SHORT stated that BATTLE did not pay him any money for the information, and only intercepted the bills and letters concerning him to his Commanding Officer.

SHORT described BATTLE as a Negro male, 5'7" to 5'8", 150 - 160 pounds, black kinky hair, brown complexion, brown eyes, age 22, home address - Little Rock, Arkansas. SHORT stated that BATTLE was rated as a Specialist E-4 and was discharged from the Air Force four or five months before he, SHORT, was discharged.

SHORT advised that after being discharged from the Air Force, he obtained a position with the ASCO School Equipment Company, Alexandria, Louisiana, and he was living with his wife and two children at 1722 Tullamore Street, Alexandria, Louisiana.

SHORT advised that on Monday, April 1, 1968, he had been drinking some, but was not drunk, when he received a telephone call from a man, who informed him that he wanted SHORT to help out on a job at Memphis, Tennessee, between 2:30 A.M. and 3 P.M., on April 4, 1968. SHORT stated the man whom he did not know and who did not identify himself to him, said that he should meet him in Room 126 of the Downtowner Motel, Memphis, Tennessee, between 2:30 and 3 P.M.

SHORT stated that he did not know what the man wanted him to do, and the man did not tell him what kind of a "job" it was. He stated the man further informed him that he should go to Jackson, Mississippi, and pick up a man named "DICK COLLINS" at the Holiday Inn at Jackson. *by*

SHORT stated that the man who gave him these instructions did not tell him how he would know DICK COLLINS; however, he drove to the Holiday Inn at Jackson, Mississippi, and arrived there at about midnight on Wednesday, April 3, 1968. He stated that he got a room at the Motel and stayed all night and that at 11:30 to 12 noon the next day, Thursday, a man named COLLINS came to the room and stated he was to go to Memphis with him.

SHORT advised that they left Jackson, Mississippi, driving his 1967 ~~Comet~~ automobile which has a blue bottom and vinyl top. He stated that it took them approximately five hours to drive from Jackson to Memphis because it rained very hard all the way, and he could not drive faster than 40 miles per hour.

He stated that they arrived at the Downtowner Motel in Memphis at approximately 5:30 P.M., and he and COLLINS immediately went to Room 126. He stated when they arrived at the room, there were four men in the room, and he did not obtain any of their names.

He described these as Number 1:

A white man in his early fifties, 6'1" to 6'2" tall, approximately 230 pounds or more, hair black but turning gray.

Number 2:

A young white man, approximately 30, well dressed, medium height and medium build, who appeared to be holding a "gun case" on his lap.

Number 3:

A white male, 38 to 40, with light hair, tall and thin, approximately 6'4", to 6'5", and weighing approximately 180 pounds.

Number 4:

A Negro male, in his late twenties, 5'11" to 6', 170 pounds, light complexion, black hair, straight and cut close, and well dressed.

SHORT stated that as a matter of fact all four of the men were well dressed.

He advised that when he and COLLINS entered the room, Number 1, who appeared to be the leader of the group, jumped on him because he was so late in arriving, and pointed to the young man, who appeared to be holding the gun case and stated that he drove from New Orleans today and did not have any trouble and got there in plenty of time.

SHORT stated that Number 1 then informed them they would have to hurry because KING was staying in a motel about eleven blocks away from the Downtowner Motel. SHORT stated he does not recall the name of the motel in which KING was ~~to~~ supposed to be staying. He stated further that the Number 1 man did not mention anything about injuring or killing KING, but instructed SHORT, COLLINS and the other three men they were to go to the motel and create a disturbance in the vicinity of the motel so if there were any security guards around the motel or KING, their attention would be drawn from the motel.

SHORT stated the group left the Downtowner Motel and COLLINS and the Negro got into a light colored late model Buick or Oldsmobile. The Number 1 man and the other two men got into a late model Chrysler and SHORT drove his own automobile, the 1967 Comet.

SHORT stated that on the way to the motel, he realized that there was going to be trouble there, and he did not want to have any part in an attack on Dr. KING, and decided to leave there "fast".

He stated he did not know where he was going, but intended only to get away from Memphis as fast as he could. He stated that he was driving north on Interstate 240 away from Memphis when he heard on his automobile radio that Dr. KING had been killed.

SHORT advised that he continued driving until he reached Kingsport, Tennessee, and checked into the Holiday Inn there at approximately 1:30 A.M., April 5, 1968. He stated that he used his correct name when he registered at the Holiday Inn.

SHORT advised that the next morning he continued to Roanoke, Virginia, and checked into the Holiday Inn Motel at the intersection of Orange Avenue and Williamson Road, N.W., at approximately 1:44 A.M., on April 6, 1968. SHORT stated that he stayed at this motel until he was found there by his brother-in-law, at approximately noon on April 11, 1968.

Short was given a master key to the motel.
~~SHORT~~ *was* ~~supposed to~~ *be* ~~SHORT~~ *was* ~~who~~ *was* whom he claimed to be strangers to him and whose names nor identities he knew, would ask him to join in a plot to assassinate a man. *He* ~~who~~ stated that he does not know why they did except that he thought they might have a "hold on him" because of his involvement with BATTLE when they were in the military service.

SHORT stated further that he feared for his safety and the safety of his wife and children if he did not do as he was instructed.

It was pointed out to SHORT that it would be very unlikely for a group of men to ask a man whom they did not know to help them in an assassination because to do so would "put their necks in a noose" if he did not want to help them in the assassination and went to the authorities and reported the matter to them. SHORT stated that he was aware of that, but insisted that he was telling the truth.

He was then asked if he had participated in anyway in the assassination, and he stated that he had not except to meet the men in the Downtowner Motel, Room 126, where they apparently had planned the assassination. He stated that when he realized what they intended to do, he got out of there as fast as he could.

SHORT insisted that he did not know the identities of any of the other five men except COLLINS, and that COLLINS was from Jackson, Mississippi.

SHORT was further asked if he had been drinking at the time he received the alleged telephone call, and he stated that he had drunk quite a bit that day, but insisted he was not drunk.

SHORT advised further that he has issued eight insufficient funds checks since he left Alexandria, Louisiana; one to the Holiday Inn at Roanoke, Virginia; one to Sears Roebuck and Company, Roanoke and one to Davidson's Men's Store Inc., at Roanoke. ~~He refused to state why he~~

SHORT furnished the following physical description of himself:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	1/11/43
Place of Birth	Charleston, West Virginia
Height	5'9"
Weight	180 lbs.
Hair	Dark brown and wavy
Eyes	Brown
Build	Medium
Marital Status	Married - wife - JACQUELINE and two children residing at 1722 Tullamore Street, Alexandria, Louisiana
Service Serial No.	AF13705516
Father	JAMES P. SHORT, Route 11, Kingsport, Tennessee
Father-in-law	WILLIAM F. HILL, 4750 Langridge Drive, Charleston Heights, Charleston, South Carolina

4-17-68

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, CHARLOTTE
FROM: SAC, KNOXVILLE (44-696) P

MURKIN
RM

JAY BOLES, Representative, Associated Press, Chattanooga, Tennessee, on 4-14-68, furnished information he attended college with one JAMES C. GALT of Richmond, Virginia. Further that GALT has been employed by the Dupont Company, Richmond, and recently transferred to Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Upon contact, JAMES COLQUHOUN GALT informed he has been with the Dupont Company approximately ten years. (The records of Dupont Company, Chattanooga, indicate GALT was at work in Chattanooga on 4-4-68). GALT further advised he is an only son, however, he does have a cousin, first name unknown, last name GALT, age 40 to 45. This individual is the son of his father's brother, THOMAS C. GALT, who resides in Raleigh, North Carolina and works at a railroad company.

Mrs. LAURA KICE, 720 Northwood Avenue, Charlottesville, Virginia, or J. W. SIEGFRIED, step-mother and cousin, respectively of JAMES C. GALT, possibly have knowledge of the whereabouts of the son of THOMAS C. GALT.

Knoxville Division is unaware if this individual has previously been checked and the above being submitted to Charlotte and Richmond for information purposes.

2 - Charlotte
2 - Memphis
② - Richmond
2 - Knoxville
KGP:gh
(8)

44-657-96

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 19 1968	
FBI - RICHMOND	

McCarthy

Charlotte
LEAD

Re Contact Mrs. Laura K.
Galt -

FBI RICHMOND

FBI MEMPHIS

936AM URGENT 4-19-68 SAB

TO CHARLOTTE AND RICHMOND

FROM MEMPHIS 44-1987 1P

MURKIN; CR: OO: ME. *44-657**

RE KNOXVILLE AIRTEL TO CHARLOTTE, APRIL SEVENTEEN,
LAST.

CHARLOTTE AND RICHMOND HANDLE AND ADVISE.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. P. END.

EJM

FBI RICHMOND

@

44-657-97

SEARCHED <i>✓</i>	INDEXED <i>✓</i>
SERIALIZED <i>✓</i>	FILED <i>✓</i>
APR 19 1968	
<i>McCarthy</i>	

4/18/68

Beritt

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703) (P)

MURKIN - CR

ReWFOtelephone call to Richmond (SA JESSIE C. HALL,
Alexandria RA) 4/18/68.

On 4/17/68, Mrs. JEROME POLAHA, 2413 North Utah
Street, Arlington, Virginia, telephone 527-4032, telephonically
advised the Washington Field Office that her husband had
immediately recognized the artist sketch of the unknown subject
in the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. as a former college
schoolmate. A review of school yearbooks revealed the girl
this individual married.

Mrs. POLAHA suggested that her husband be contacted
for further details. He can be reached at their residence
during the day and is employed at Billy's Restaurant, 1025
Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., as a waiter between
5:30 p.m. and 2:00 a.m.

Richmond contact JEROME POLAHA at his residence.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- 3 - Bureau
 - 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
 - 1 - Birmingham (44-1740) (Info)
 - 2 - Richmond (44-651) *copy sent*
 - 1 - WFO
- 651 1736201*

RWD:sas
(9)
AIRTEL

44-657-98

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 19 1968	
FBI - RICHMOND	
<i>J. HALL</i>	

*LEX
LEAD*

4/17/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703) (P)

MURKIN - CR

ReWFO telephone call to RH (Alexandria RA),
4/17/68.

On 4/17/68, GEARLD W. FREDERICK, 609 Medow Lane, Vienna, Virginia, telephone 938-2222, telephonically advised clerk JOSEPH P. DOYLE, WFO, that a white male, age 35, height 5'10", weight 160-170 pounds, brown hair, combed straight back, name unknown, resides with his next door neighbor, KENNETH MARTIN, 607 Medow Lane, Vienna, Virginia. This unknown male is the owner of a three year old Thunderbird, license unknown.

FREDERICK stated that MARTIN is divorced from his wife and approximately one year ago, the above unknown male came to live with MARTIN. About eight months ago, the male left and did not return until 4/16/68. The red Thunderbird was left at the

- 3- Bureau (44-38861)
- 2- Memphis (44-1987)
- 2- Richmond (44-651)
- 1- WFO (44-703)

RWD:bdc
(8)

AIRTEL

44-657-99

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 19 1968	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Alex Lemo

4-17-68

4-17-68

4-17-68

WFO 44-703

residence of MARTIN and was sometimes used by MARTIN while the unknown male was absent. FREDERICK stated the unknown male resembles the composite picture of the unsub in instant case.

WFO indices negative regarding FREDERICK.

LEAD

RICHMOND

AT VIENNA, VIRGINIA. Will process above unknown male as suspect in this matter.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

FBI RICHMOND

FBI WASH DC

330PM URGENT 4-19-68 SAA

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR 4P

MURKIN

✓ 44-657*

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 1968 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.

John

(D)

44-657-100

SEARCHED <i>AB</i>	INDEXED <i>sk</i>
SERIALIZED <i>sk</i>	FILED <i>sk</i>
APR 19 1968	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Sevick

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, 1960, 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 1960 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 PONTIAC, 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 MCBRIDE, JAMES WALTON, W. C. HERRON AND JAMES O'CONNER. HE IS A WHITE MALE; CLAIMS TO HAVE

PAGE FOUR

BEEN BORN MARCH 10, 1928, 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 BAKER, 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.

END

RSB

FBI RICHMOND

@

F B I

Date: 4-19-68

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

TIME URGENT 4-19-68 INITIALS

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND CHICAGO

FROM RICHMOND (44-657)

MURKIN. CR. OO MEMPHIS.

RE BIRMINGHAM TEL TO BUREAU, APRIL FIFTEEN, LAST.

ROBERT LLOYD, DEPUTY COMMANDER, NSWPP, ARLINGTON, VA., ADVISED THAT ROY JAMES WAS FORMER MEMBER WHO ASSAULTED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN MONTGOMERY, SIXTYTWO. LLOYD HAS NOT SEEN JAMES SINCE ABOUT SIXTYTHREE WHEN RESIGNED FROM NSWPP. RH TWO SIX NINE DASH R ADVISES JAMES PRESENTLY RESIDING FOUR TWO SIX FIVE W. MONTROSE, CHICAGO. SEE CHICAGO FILE ONE FIVE SEVEN DASH ONE ONE NINE TWO. CHICAGO ASCERTAIN WHEREABOUTS OF JAMES DURING PERTINENT PERIOD.

AIRMAIL COPIES FURNISHED MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

- 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AIRMAIL)
- 1 - Birmingham (44-1740) (AIRMAIL)
- (4) - Richmond (1- 157-93)
(1- 157-486) (post pending)
(1- 170-47A)

RMC/lmm

(6)

SEARCHED.....

SERIALIZED.....

INDEXED.....

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

FILED.....

44-657-101

FBI RICHMOND

FBI LOS ANG.

255AM URGENT 4-20-68 RJM

TO DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON FIELD, RICHMOND AND MEMPHIS
FROM LOS ANGELES (44-1574) (1P)

MURKIN.

RE SACRAMENTO TEL FOUR NINETEEN LAST RE JOSEPH A. BENDERAVAGE.

DONIS KNOX, TWO FIVE ZERO ZERO CULVER BOULEVARD, LOS
ANGELES, ADVISED JOSEPH A. BENDERAVAGE MOVED FROM ONE TWO
FIVE ZERO FOUR CULVER BOULEVARD, LOS ANGELES, EARLY FEBRUARY
NINETEEN SIXTY-EIGHT, LEAVING NO FORWARDING. DESCRIBED
BENDERAVAGE AS WHITE MALE AMERICAN, APPROXIMATELY TWENTY
SEVEN YEARS, SIX FEET FIVE INCHES, ONE HUNDRED FORTY FIVE
POUNDS, LIGHT COMPLEXION, SANDY HAIR AND MUSTACHE, AND BEARING
NO RESEMBLANCE TO GALT PHOTOS. GALT PHOTOS UNFAMILIAR TO
KNOX. USPO, CULVER CITY, ADVISED BENDERAVAGE FURNISHED
FORWARDING OF GENERAL DELIVERY, PLACITAS, NEW MEXICO, ON
FEBRUARY EIGHT LAST.

LEAD RE FORWARDING BEING LEFT DESCRETION RICHMOND.

END

DWS

FBI RICHMOND

44-657-102

Alex Leas

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 20 1968	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Barrett

Blay

FBI RICHMOND

FBI WASH DC

FBI RICHMOND

444PM URGENT 4/19/68 GJM

TO RICHMOND AND SACRAMENTO
FROM WASHINGTON FIELD 44-703 1P

MURKIN

DR. THOMAS M. CRISP, SIX FIVE TWO ZERO HITT AVENUE,
MC LEAN, VIRGINIA, ADVISED TODAY AN INDIVIDUAL ANSWERING
GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF GALT MOVED IN LOWER DUPLEX AT THIS
ADDRESS ON APRIL NINE LAST. INDIVIDUAL HAS NO FURNITURE
AND A CAR WITH CALIFORNIA LICENSE TNE SIX ZERO FIVE WHICH
HE PARKS DOWN STREET FROM RESIDENCE.

SACRAMENTO OBTAIN LISTING. RICHMOND IDENTIFY INDIVIDUAL.

END

LES

FBI RICHMOND

4/19/68
Blay advised

Alex
Lead

44-657-103

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 19 1968	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Blay

See Serial 102

FBI RICHMOND

FBI WASH DC

FBI RICHMOND

444PM URGENT 4/19/68 GJM
TO RICHMOND AND SACRAMENTO
FROM WASHINGTON FIELD 44-703 1P

MURKIN

DR. THOMAS M. CRISP, SIX FIVE TWO ZERO HITT AVENUE,
MC LEAN, VIRGINIA, ADVISED TODAY AN INDIVIDUAL ANSWERING
GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF GALT MOVED IN LOWER DUPLEX AT THIS
ADDRESS ON APRIL NINE LAST, INDIVIDUAL HAS NO FURNITURE
AND A CAR WITH CALIFORNIA LICENSE TNE SIX ZERO FIVE WHICH
HE PARKS DOWN STREET FROM RESIDENCE.

SACRAMENTO OBTAIN LISTING. RICHMOND IDENTIFY INDIVIDUAL.

END

LES

FBI RICHMOND

Lead & Play

44-57-103

SEARCHED <i>sh</i>	INDEXED <i>sh</i>
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APR 19 1968	
FBI — RICHMOND	

Donnell

FBI RICHMOND

FBI RICHMOND

FBI SACTO

3-31 PM PST URGENT 4/19/68 EMC

TO DIRECTOR, LOS ANGELES, RICHMOND, MEMPHIS, WASHINGTON FIELD (44-703)
FROM SACRAMENTO 100-427 P

MURKIN. CR.

RE WFO TELETYPE, THIS DATE, WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

DR. THOMAS M. CRISP, SIX FIVE TWO ZERO HITT AVENUE, MC LEAN,
VIRGINIA, ADVISED TODAY AN INDIVIDUAL ANSWERING GENERAL DESCRIPTION
OF GALT MOVED IN LOWER DUPLEX AT THIS ADDRESS ON APRIL NINE, LAST.
INDIVIDUAL HAS NO FURNITURE AND A CAR WITH CALIFORNIA LICENSE TNE
SIX ZERO FIVE WHICH HE PARKS DOWN STREET FROM RESIDENCE.

SACRAMENTO OBTAIN LISTING. RICHMOND IDENTIFY INDIVIDUAL.

DMV RECORDS, SACRAMENTO, REVEAL CALIFORNIA LICENSE TNE SIX
ZERO FIVE, TAB NUMBER ONE EIGHT NINE THREE NINE TWO FIVE, REGISTERED
TO FIFTYFOUR CHEVROLET, TWO DOOR, VIN ZERO SEVEN SEVEN ZERO ZERO TWO
SIX F FIVE FOUR Z, IN NAME OF JOSEPH A. BENDERAVAGE, ONE TWO FIVE
ZERO FOUR CULVER BOULEVARD, LOS ANGELES, THE SOLE OWNER.

LOS ANGELES HANDLE.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

TWO

FBI RICHMOND

@

44-657-1032

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 19 1968	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Blay B

FBI RICHMOND

FBI LOS ANG.

450PM URGENT 4-19-68 SMS
TO RICHMOND
FROM LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

MURKIN

APRIL NINETEEN INSTANT, WHITE FORD, BEARING VIRGINIA
LICENSE EIGHT ZERO SIX SEVEN SEVEN ZERO, OBSERVED IN
NORWALK, CALIFORNIA, WITH INDIVIDUAL RESEMBLING PHOTOGRAPH
OF ERIC GALT (JAMES EARL RAY).

RICHMOND IDENTIFY OWNER AND SET OUT LEADS TO
DETERMINE IF IDENTICAL TO RAY

END
TWO

FBI RICHMOND

44-657-104

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>RA</i>	FILED
APR 19 1968	
FBI - RICHMOND	

Petersburg
lead
WAT

67 1/2 to GARRET ELY MORRIS, JR
1004 CONEHOUST, SALEM ON
63 ply Sedan - INDIAN NEG.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, RICHMOND (44-657)

FROM : SA RAYMOND CONNOLLY, JR.

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/20/68

Re Los Angeles teletype to Richmond, 4/19/68.

The following investigation was conducted by
SA RAYMOND CONNOLLY at Petersburg, Va., on 4/20/68:

Review of city directory and telephone directories,
Petersburg, Va., reflected no identifiable info re ROBERT O.
ROYSTER, Route 3, Box 10, Petersburg, Va. *Index*

DMV check, Richmond, reflected 1968 Va. license
806-770 registered to ROYSTER. PD check at Petersburg, Va.
revealed no record.

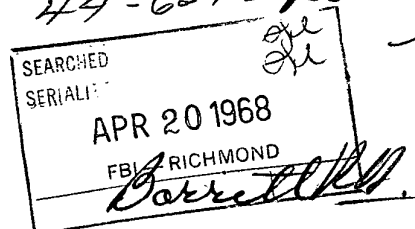
Credit check, Petersburg, reflects ROY OPIE
ROYSTER and MARY EUNICE, reside Route 3, Box 10, Petersburg.
The couple had been known to the files since 9/24/50.
Latest employment noted Park and Shop Parking Lot, Richmond,
Va.

Mr. A. S. FISHER, Route 3, Box 1, Petersburg,
advised ROYSTER approximately 65 years of age, and a
reputable member of community. ROYSTER seen by FISHER 4/18/68,
at his residence.

MARY EUNICE ROYSTER, wife of ROBERT O. ROYSTER,
contacted. ROYSTER currently residing at Petersburg, address,
and has not been out of the Richmond - Petersburg area
innumerable months. ROYSTER is 68 years of age, and employed
at Park and Shop, Richmond, as of 4/20/68.

No further inquiries being made, and instant
memo furnished for file purposes.

1 - Richmond
RC/lss
(1)



5010-108

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



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

P. O. Box 12325
Richmond, Virginia 23219
April 19, 1968

RE: JAMES EARL RAY,
Also Known As
Eric Starvo Galt,
Harvey Lowmyer,
John Willard,
James McBride,
James Walton,
W. C. Herron,
James O'Connor

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith a spot announcement (press release) concerning James Earl Ray, who has now been determined to be identical with Eric Starvo Galt.

You will recall that similar material, together with photographs, was transmitted to you by letter dated April 18, 1968, concerning Galt. James Earl Ray (Eric Starvo Galt), is being sought as a fugitive by the FBI in connection with the fatal shooting of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968.

It will be appreciated if you will use this material as frequently as possible in your programming, or publishing activities to assist in the possible location of this fugitive.

Your cooperation and assistance in this matter are greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours

Rowland C. Halstead

ROWLAND C. HALSTEAD
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure

*25 zero copies
sent to all
publicity outlets
ml*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>ml</i>	FILED <i>ml</i>
APR 20 1968	
FBI - RICHMOND	
<i>Barritt</i>	<i>ml</i>

44-657-106

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, 1960, 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.

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.

Page Two

According to Mr. Hoover, Ray has a known arrest record dating back to 1949. Prior to the 1960 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 Pontiac, 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 McBride, James Walton, W. C. Herron and James O'Conner. He is a white male; claims to have been born March 10, 1928, in Illinois; is approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighs about 163 to 174 pounds.

Page Three

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 baker, 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.