

U. S. Department of Justice

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

FEDERAL BUREAU

11/30/01 SP-1 CLK/Hjt of

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number 44-38861

See also Nos. Sub A

DO NOT DESTROY
HISTORICAL VALUE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

CLASSIFICATION NO.

44-775

Volume Number

5

Serials

531-667

Closed Section
Robson 4.5.68

SHAW-WALKER 16-32850

44.

7

7

5

Vol.

5

Secs.

531

667

FD - 245 (REV. 4-13-60)

U. S. Department of Justice

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

CLASSIFICATION NO

75

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS

FROM : SA JACK J. FISHER (44-775)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/23/68

Mrs. DELORES WALDEN, residing 1818 S. Eighth St., St. Louis, Mo., telephone CE1-7864, employed at the Western Printing Company but on sick leave, called to report that she had seen the photograph of RAY in the Sunday paper and had come to the conclusion that she had seen RAY last Friday night in the Petite Lounge at 39th and McRee. She recalled that the individual she believes was RAY was wearing faded bluejeans and a blue and grey, long-sleeved plaid shirt. This person was ^{SEATED} standing around the piano bar with the other customers and introduced himself as BOB. She first observed him there about 9:30 p.m. and he was there when she left at 11:45 p.m. He was drinking Budweiser Beer and was by himself. He said something about having just come back from Wyoming and spoke like a "hoosier" by which Mrs. WALDEN means an individual from the country. He requested "hoosier type" songs and acted as if his feelings were hurt when the pianist did not play them. He described him as 38 years of age, white male, appeared to be of powerful build, fair complexion, light brown hair. She cannot estimate his height or weight as she never saw him standing up.

531
44-775-~~6~~

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 23 1968	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

Walden
sent

300
1 St. Louis
JJF/ral
(1)



5010-108

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

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS, CHICAGO, AND SPRINGFIELD
FROM ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN - SUMMARY

RE: JOHN RAY. COVERAGE INCLUDING SPOT CHECKS CONTINUING.

RE: CAROL PEPPER. SAME. REVIEW OF BANK ACCOUNTS COMPLETED.
NO ITEMS OF SIGNIFICANCE IN LOCATING SUBJECT NOTED.

RE GRAPEVINE TAVERN. ATU REPRESENTATIVE QUALIFIED TO FURNISH
AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT AS TO ELEMENTS AND EVIDENCE USUALLY NEEDED
FOR LIQUOR TAX STAMP VIOLATION, AND FIRST ASSISTANT USA WHOSE OPINION
DESIRED ON MATTER, NOT AVAILABLE TODAY. WILL CONTACT MONDAY.

RE: JERRY RAY. IF HE CONTACTS OFFICE AS DIRECTED, SL WILL INTER-
VIEW BEFORE HE LEAVES SL AND BEFORE HE LEAVES CENTER, MO., TO OBTAIN
RESULTS OF HIS CONTACTS WITH RELATIVES IN THIS DIVISION.

RE TELEPHONE NUMBERS.

FOR ASSISTANCE OF OFFICES COVERING RELATIVES IN IDENTIFYING TOLL
CALLS, FOLLOWING ARE PHONE NUMBER OF SL RELATIVES OR OTHER PERSONS OF
INTEREST THIS CASE:

PR SIX DASH NINE FOUR ONE SEVEN, GRAPEVINE TAVERN, JOHN LARRY RAY.
NO PHONE AS RESIDENCE.

MI FIVE DASH TWO NINE FOUR EIGHT, ALBERT AND CAROL PEPPER.

AM SEVEN DASH THREE FOUR SIX SEVEN, JERRY RAYNES, CENTER, MO.

FO ONE DASH FIVE FOUR SIX TWO, CARMEN PATTON, LANDLADY OF WALTER

NOLAN

44-775-532

F B I

Date: *5-3-68*

Transmit the following in *PLAINTEXT*
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via *Teletype* *URGENT*
(Priority)

HRD/g
Approved: _____
ECW/g
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *WA 1008*
ME 1020 *PM*
CG 1013
SE 1025

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED _____
Per _____
INDEXED _____
FILED _____

PAGE TWO

SL 44-775

TO FIVE DASH ZERO FOUR FOUR NINE, FORMER RESIDENCE OF J. D.
DAILEY

THREE SEVEN NINE DASH THREE ONE THREE SIX, PRESENT RESIDENCE
J. D. DAILEY, PARTAGEVILLE, MO.

THREE SEVEN NINE DASH NINE FIVE SEVEN SEVEN, LAFONT CAFE,
PORTAGEVILLE, BILLED TO DAILEY.

THREE SEVEN NINE DASH THREE FIVE ZERO TWO, LAFONT SERVICE
STATION, PORTAGEVILLE.

TOLL RECORDS USUALLY DESTROYED AFTER SIX MONTHS, HENCE RECORDS
BACK TO APRIL SIXTY SEVEN MAY NOT EXIST THIS AREA. PHONE CO.
SEARCH HINDERED BY STRIKE.

FELLOW PRISONER INTERVIEWS CONTINUING.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

F B I

Date:

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

Via _____
(Priority)

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

PM URGENT 5-5-68 JLS

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS AND CHICAGO

FROM ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN - SUMMARY

SOURCES AND SPOT CHECKS DISCLOSE JERRY RAY STILL WITH
BROTHER JOHN ^{Ray} AT RESIDENCE AND GRAPEVINE TAVERN. HAS NOT
CONTACTED SL OFFICE. NO ACTIVITY CAROL PEPPER RESIDENCE.

SUBJECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS

END

F B I

Date: 5-5-68

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

Via Teletype URGENT
(Priority)

HRD/g

44-775-533

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED
MAY 6 1968
FBI - NEW YORK
[Signature]

Approved: ECW/g
Special Agent in Charge

Sent WA 628
ME 629 PM Per [Signature]
CG 630

F B I

Date: 5-6-68

Transmit the following in _____

PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____

Teletype

URGENT
(Priority)

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED _____
INDEXED _____
FILED _____

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

WA 713
ME - 720
CA - 722

PM

Per _____

PM URGENT 5-6-68 JLS
TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS AND CHICAGO
FROM ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN - SUMMARY

JERRY RAY WITH BROTHER JOHN ^{Ray} IN SL AS OF FIVE TWENTY P.M.
THIS DATE. HAS NOT CONTACTED SL OFFICE.

JERRY RAYNES, FATHER, CENTER, MO., REINTERVIEWED. WAS
VISITED BY CAROL PEPPER AND CHILDREN YESTERDAY. UNABLE TO
SUGGEST WHEREABOUTS OF SUBJECT.

FELLOW PRISONER INTERVIEWS AND RESOLUTION OF LOCAL LOOK
ALIKES CONTINUING.

SUBJECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS 944-775)

DATE: 5/6/68

FROM : SAA JOHN J. BUCKLEY

SUBJECT: MIRKIN

At 3:30 P.M. this date an anonymous male with a deep, Southern voice, telephonically contacted the SL Office and inquired as to whether or not the FBI was looking for JAMES EARL RAY. He was advised in the affirmative and then stated that RAY would be located at the Chase-Park-Plaza Hotel in SLMO in the Tack-Room on 5/7/68 between 12:00 Noon and 1:00 P.M.

The caller then stated that he would furnish no further information and he terminated the call.

LEAD

The St. Louis Office
At St. Louis, Mo.

On 5/7/68 between the hours of 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. will conduct appropriate investigation at the Tack-Room, Chase-Park-Plaza Hotel, in an effort to determine if RAY appears.

JJB;jjb
(2)

44-775-535

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 6 1968	
FBI - SAINT LOUIS	

Bender *RJB*

Talko T Buckley

5/6/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
ATTENTION: MECHANICAL SECTION

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775) P

RE: MURKIN

Index Dry Cleaning Laundry Circularization

Re Butel to Atlanta, 5/2/68, and Memphis tel to Bureau, 5/3/68.

In order to comply with Bureau instructions in referenced teletypes for circularization of all dry cleaning and laundry establishments in the St. Louis area, six hundred and fifty (650) copies of Identification Order No. 4182, dated 4/20/68, re JAMES EARL RAY, are needed.

Mechanical Section is requested to provide St. Louis Division with required material.

3 - Bureau
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)
1 - St. Louis
JAF:mck
(5)

[Handwritten signature]

44-775-536

SEARCHED	_____
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[Handwritten signature]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775)

DATE: 5/6/68

FROM : SA JAMES T. DEARBORN

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS
OO: MEMPHIS

Re memo to SAC, SL, from SA JACK J. FISHER, 4/23/68.

On 4/24/68, Mrs. DELORES WALDEN, 1818 South 8th St., SLMO, was interviewed and advised that on 4/19/68, she observed a white male who resembled JAMES EARL RAY at the Petite Lounge, 39th and Blaine, SLMO, between 9:30 p.m. and midnight.

She stated the individual introduced himself as BOB, was about 37-38 years of age, average height, husky build, wearing a long sleeve plaid shirt and faded bluejeans. She said he had light brown hair cut short, combed straight back and slightly receding and had a fair complexion.

She said he stated he had just gotten back from Cheyenne, and requested hillbilly and country and western type music throughout the night. She said he spoke with a country accent and drank beer.

She says she has never seen this individual before or since. Mrs. WALDEN advised besides other patrons present were the owner, a waitress, barmaid and piano player.

Mrs. WALDEN was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and advised his face resembled the individual she saw at the Petite Lounge, but that RAY's hair was fuller and darker.

On 4/29/68, DOROTHY BOWLIN, 2727 Armand Pl., SLMO, barmaid, Petite Lounge, 1539 South 39th St., was shown a photo of JAMES EARL RAY and stated she has never see RAY in the tavern. Miss BOWLIN stated, however, that she does not work in the evenings. She advised a barmaid on weekends

JTD/pjh
(1)

no further action

44-775-587

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 6 1968	
FBI - SAINT LOUIS	



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SL

44-775

is MARY MC GEE, 2739 Shenandoah. The owner is LORNE MARTIN, address unknown.

Mrs. MARY MC GEE, 2739 Shenandoah, was interviewed on 4/29/68. She advised she was working on the night of 4/19/68. She was shown a photo of RAY and said the photo looks familiar but she had seen this photo several times in newspapers and magazines. She advised the individual known as BOB (LNU) who was in the Petite Lounge on 4/19/68, was probably GUY (LNU), a rodeo worker who frequents the Petite Lounge. She said he usually wears plaid shirts and jeans and is described as a white male, age 35, 5'10" tall, medium build, brown hair combed straight back. She stated GUY (LNU) is separated from his wife, OPAL, and OPAL is employed as a waitress at the Black Forest Restaurant on Cherokee. Mrs. MC GEE stated the owner of the Petite Lounge is LOREN B. MARTIN. She said a waitress at the lounge is SYLVIA TEKULVE, who resides in an apartment at Morganford and Arsenal. Mrs. MC GEE stated she has never seen anyone that resembles RAY in the Petite Lounge and saw no one of that description on 4/19/68.

On 5/1/68, SYLVIA TEKULVE, 3119 Morganford, a waitress at the Petite Lounge, was interviewed. Miss TEKULVE advised she was working on the night of 4/19/68, and saw no one that resembled a photo of JAMES EARL RAY. She said she has never seen anyone at the Petite Lounge that looks like RAY. Miss TEKULVE advised the individual known as BOB is in all likelihood GUY LANCASTER, a rodeo worker, who is married and separated from his wife. She said LANCASTER is an occasional customer of the lounge but has not been seen in the last few weeks.

LOREN B. MARTIN, 4271 Shenandoah, Apartment 203, owner of the Petite Lounge, was interviewed on 5/1/68. MARTIN was shown a photo of JAMES EARL RAY and stated he had never seen anyone in the tavern that resembles RAY. MARTIN said he was working on the night of 4/19/68, but remembers no one that looks like RAY.

F B I

Date: 5/7/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)
MEMPHIS 44-1987
KANSAS CITY (44-760)

FROM: ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN. CR.

RE KANSAS CITY TEL TO BUREAU, MAY TWO, LAST.

ORVILLE ERNEST GANN, FORMER MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY (MSP)
INMATE, # SIX NINE SEVEN TWO NINE, ADVISED THAT BOBBY ASH AND
JIM BRADLEY, PRESENTLY INMATES MSP, ARE ONLY INMATES TO HIS KNOW-
LEDGE WITH "CONNECTIONS ENOUGH" TO HAVE INFORMATION CONCERNING
ANY PLOT OR CONSPIRACY AGAINST DOCTOR KING.

KANSAS CITY, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, WILL CONSIDER INTERVIEWING
ASH AND BRADLEY AT MSP.

B

1 - ST. LOUIS

WHW:mjb

(1)

44-775-538

SEARCHED	_____
SERIALIZED	_____
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Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

DR. 9 12
ME 9 24
KC 9 23

Sent _____ M

Per _____

F B I

Date: 5/7/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR AND SACS, MEMPHIS, LITTLE ROCK,
NEW ORLEANS, CHARLOTTE

FROM: ST. LOUIS (44-775) 3-P

MURKIN.

RE LITTLE ROCK TEL MAY SIX LAST AND ST. LOUIS AIRTEL TO
BUREAU, SPRINGFIELD, AND MEMPHIS, APRIL TWENTYNINE LAST.RE: RUSSELL LEE MARTIN AND CARL BENTON DRAKE.

CARL BENTON DRAKE, SELF-EMPLOYED CONTRACTOR, INTERVIEWED
BY ST. LOUIS APRIL TWENTYNINE LAST. STATED ACQUAINTED WITH RAY AS
FELLOW INMATE MSP NINETEEN SIXTY OR SIXTYONE UNTIL DRAKE
RELEASED SIXTYFIVE. MAIN ASSOCIATION WAS WALKING TOGETHER IN
PRISON YARD. DRAKE FEELS HE WAS AS CLOSE A FRIEND TO RAY AS ANY
OTHER PRISONER. RAY WAS LONER, CLOSE MOUTHED, KEPT OWN COUNCIL,
NEVER DISCUSSED PRISON ESCAPE PLANS. HAD FEW FRIENDS, BUT MIXED
WELL WITH OTHER INMATES, BOTH BLACK AND WHITE. NEVER DISPLAYED
PROPENSITY FOR VIOLENCE OR RACIST SENTIMENTS. NEVER INVOLVED
IN RACIAL DIFFICULTY AT PRISON.

HRD:paw
(1)

44-775-539
SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

B. 11-27a - GJM
ME 11:20a - MCP
LR 11:35 - PRM
CE 11:42 - BSH
NO 11:50 - MMW RM

Approved: TMS
Special Agent in Charge

Per JH

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO

SL 44-775

OFTEN MENTIONED INABILITY TO COMPLETE SENTENCE, BUT NEVER MENTIONED ESCAPE PLANS OR OUTSIDE CONTACTS. ONLY VISITOR WAS BROTHER, ~~JOHN RAY~~. MENTIONED HE HAD SERVED TIME IN MENARD PRISON, THAT ANOTHER BROTHER WAS KILLED IN CAR ACCIDENT, BUT OTHERWISE DID NOT DISCUSS BACKGROUND.

RAY NOT ADDICTED TO DRUGS, BUT NEARLY ALL INMATES USED ANY DRUGS AVAILABLE.

TWO WEEKS FOLLOWING DRAKE'S RELEASE HE VISITED JOHN RAY AT SUBJECT'S REQUEST. CONVERSATION CONCERNED SUBJECT'S WELFARE AT PRISON.

DRAKE UNAWARE OF SUBJECT'S ESCAPE UNTIL RECENT PUBLICITY. REGARDS SUBJECT AS SMALL TIME ROBBER MENTALLY INCAPABLE OF PLANNING ASSASSINATION WITHOUT INTELLIGENT OUTSIDE GUIDANCE. BELIEVES SUBJECT CAPABLE OF BEING HIRED FOR KILLING AND WOULD NOT BE ALONE IN MATTER. BELIEVES WHOEVER HIRED SUBJECT HAS DISPOSED OF HIM, AS WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO HIDE WITH HEAT ON AND REWARDS ADVERTISED.

DRAKE INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH FBI IN ANY
~~MANNER POSSIBLE SHOULD ANY INFORMATION REGARDING SUBJECT COME~~

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

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE THREE

SL 44-775

TO HIS ATTENTION.

DRAKE APPEARED FRANK, STRAIGHT FORWARD AND SINCERELY
WILLING TO FULLY COOPERATE.

UACB REQUEST WILL BE MADE FOR DRAKE'S TOLL CALLS FROM
APRIL FOURTH, AND FOLLOW UP INTERVIEW WILL BE CONDUCTED TODAY
TO LEARN IF ANY NEW INFORMATION CONCERNING SUBJECT'S WHEREABOUTS
HAVE COME TO HIS ATTENTION. *MARTIN WILL NOT BE MENTIONED.*

LITTLE ROCK IS REQUESTED TO ATTEMPT RESOLUTION OF RELIABILITY,
MENTAL CAPACITY, AND REPUTATION FOR VERACITY OF PCI RUSSELL
LEE MARTIN.

SUBJECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P.

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

FBI CHICAGO

630PM

FBI ST LOUIS

FBI CHICAGO

FBI WASH DC

717PM URGENT 5/7/68 LCC

TO ALL SACS RELAY MESSAGE PLAN
FROM DIRECTOR 1P

MURKIN

TWO ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY WERE RELEASED TODAY TO NEWS MEDIA IN WASHINGTON. PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER ONE SHOULD BEAR CAPTION "JAMES EARL RAY (PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN NINETEEN SIXTY-SEVEN IN MEXICO)." THIS IS THE PHOTOGRAPH OF RAY IN DARK GLASSES AND SPORT SHIRT. PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER TWO SHOULD BEAR CAPTION "JAMES EARL RAY (PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN LATE JANUARY OR EARLY FEBRUARY NINETEEN SIXTY-EIGHT IN CALIFORNIA)." THIS IS HEAD SHOT OF RAY IN BUSINESS SUIT WHICH SHOWS MARKED CLEFT IN CHIN. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO REPRODUCE COPIES OF THESE TWO PHOTOGRAPHS LOCALLY AND YOU SHOULD INSURE THEY RECEIVE WIDE-SPREAD DISTRIBUTION THROUGH ALL MEDIA CONTACTS. FIVE COPIES OF EACH OF THESE PHOTOGRAPHS PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED ALL OFFICES. LEGATS OTTAWA AND MEXICO ADVISED.

END

JLS

FBI ST LOUIS

44-975-540

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MAY 7 - 1968	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775)

DATE: 5-7-68

FROM : SA JACK A. FRENCH

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On instant date, RON BOCKENKAMP, SLPD Intelligence Unit, confidentially advised that RICHARD RENO, a local ex-con has been bragging around the South St. Louis taverns that he drove the truck out of the Missouri Prison in which JAMES EARL RAY made his escape.

BOCKENKAMP further advised that RENO is now working at Shenandoah Bakeries, 3135 Park Avenue, SLMO, and until the bakery unions went on strike, he was reporting to work at 5 A.M. RENO may be working under an alias inasmuch as he seldom uses his real name when seeking employment.

RENO claims to be living somewhere in Webster Groves, Missouri although he hangs around taverns in the the vicinity of Grand and Wyoming. He is currently driving a 1961 brown Chrystler which has a broken windshield and bears Missouri License SL 1-101. This license is issued to ETTA RENO, 3888 Wyoming, SLMO, a relative of RENO's with whom he may be staying.

203

(1)

44-775-546

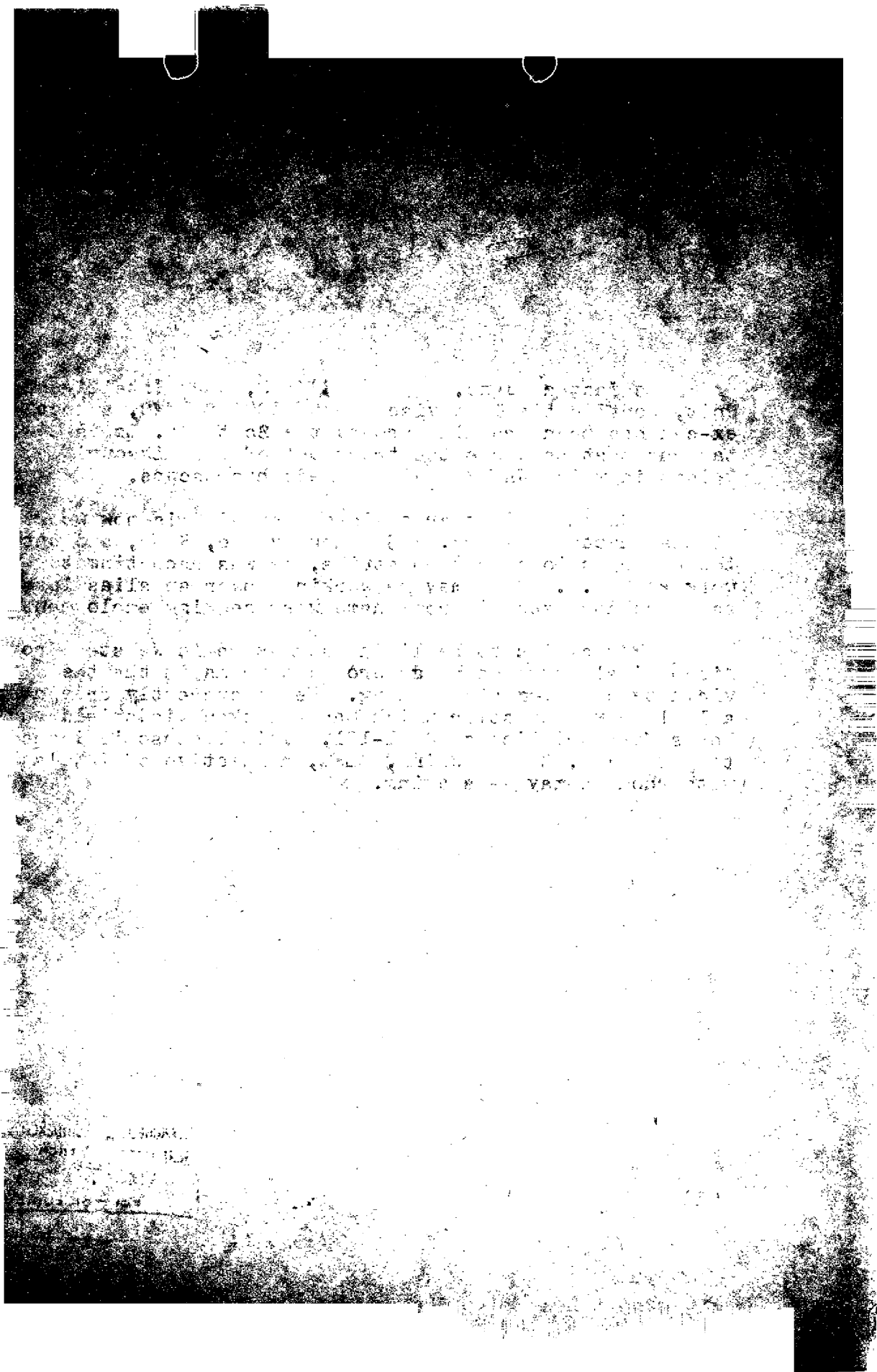
SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAY 7 1968	
FBI—ST. LOUIS	

Assign lead
De France IDB



5010-108

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



FBI ST LOUIS

FBI LOUISVLE

11:06 AM URGENT 5:8:68 DS

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861), MEMPHIS (44-1987), LOS ANGELES (44-1574)
AND ST. LOUIS (44-775)
FROM LOUISVILLE (44-947)

MURKIN, CR, OO: MEMPHIS.

RE MEMPHIS TEL MAY SIX LAST AND LOUISVILLE TEL MAY SIX LAST RE
TELEPHONE BOOTH ST. FRANCIS HOTEL, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

FOR INFORMATION ST. LOUIS, TELEPHONE CALL MADE FROM PHONE
BOOTH ST. FRANCIS HOTEL JAN. TWELVE LAST TO TELEPHONE NUMBER OF
MRS. VERA COOK, STURGIS, KY. MRS. COOK ADVISED SHE HAS SON, A. F.
COOK, JR., RESIDING UNKNOWN ADDRESS LOS ANGELES AREA. ADVISED LAST
TALKED TO SON BY TELEPHONE THANKSGIVING LAST. ALSO ADVISED SHE RE-
FUSED COLLECT LONG-DISTANCE CALL FROM SOMEWHERE IN CALIFORNIA, DATE
UNKNOWN. MRS. COOK APPROXIMATELY EIGHTYYEARS OLD.

MEMPHIS REQUESTED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO LOCATE A.F. COOK,
JR. BY LOS ANGELES FOR INTERVIEW TO DETERMINE IF HE KNOWS JAMES EARL
RAY. MRS. COOK AND SON, JAMES P. COOK, RECONTACTED MAY SEVEN LAST
AND ADVISED NO INFORMATION THEIR POSSESSION RE COOK'S ADDRESS, EM-
PLOYMENT OR ANY OTHER THAT WOULD ASSIST IN LOCATING HIM. ADVISED
IN NINETEEN FIFTYFIVE COOK RESIDED ONE SEVEN ONE SEVEN TWO KALISHER,
END PAGE ONE

44-775-512
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
MAY 8 1968
FBI - ST. LOUIS
assign lead
Long

PAGE TWO

GRANADA HILLS, CALIFORNIA AND COOK WAS SALES MGR. FOR A CHEVROLET DEALER, LOCATION UNKNOWN, BUT NOW ALLEGEDLY OWNED BY BEN ALEXANDER, FORMERLY OF DRAGNET TV SHOW. COOK WAS IN USAF, SERIAL NUMBER UNKNOWN, NOT DRAWING DISABILITY OR PENSION TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE. COOK, W/M, BORN [REDACTED] AT STURGIS, KY. COOK USES NAME A.F. COOK, JR. ALTHOUGH FATHER'S NAME WAS ALONZO FRANKLIN COOK, AND HAS NICKNAME BUDDY. COOK'S EX-WIFE BETTY, MAIDEN NAME UNKNOWN, NOW MARRIED TO QUENTIN SNYDER, ADDRESS UNKNOWN, BUT POSSIBLY RESIDING GRANADA HILLS, CALIFORNIA. COOK MARRIED TO CATHY LOMBARDO, SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA, NINETEEN SIXTYONE BUT NOW DIVORCED. COOK'S BROTHER ADVISED THAT LAST HE KNEW COOK WORKED FOR UNKNOWN PLATING CO. IN LOS ANGELES AREA. BROTHER ADVISED COOK DRINKS HEAVILY AND ALSO THAT MOTHER'S MEMORY VERY BAD AND SHE COULD HAVE RECEIVED OTHER TELEPHONE CALLS FROM COOK WHICH SHE DOES NOT RECALL. COOK HAS SISTER HE SOMETIMES CONTACTS, MRS. LONELLE HENAGER, EIGHT SIX SIX EIGHT MORAN, ST. LOUIS, MO.

CORR LINE THREE, WORD TEN SHD BE SERIAL

END PAGE TWO

L

PAGE THREE

LOS ANGELES AT LOS ANGELES, CONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW COOK THROUGH CREDIT AND CRIMINAL RECORDS AND DRIVERS LICENSE RECORDS.

ST. LOUIS, INTERVIEW COOK'S SISTER TO DETERMINE IF SHE HAS INFORMATION THAT WOULD ASSIST IN LOCATING COOK FOR INTERVIEW. P.

END

OTHER OFFICES ADVISED

END

MEL

FBI ST LOUIS

X

5-6-68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231) (P)

MURKIN
(OO:ME)

Mrs. BETTY JEAN SANDERS, 1541 Bay Point Road, Sarasota, Fla. on 5-3-68 advised while reviewing the 5-3-68 issue of Life magazine concerning the article on subject RAY she noticed her photograph in the group picture on page 20.

She is in the fourth row, first on the left. She remembers this being taken during her first teaching assignment at Ewing, Mo. when she was 19 years of age. She only taught at Ewing from September, 1937 to May, 1938 and only taught part of the third grade, and did not remember the subject or anything about him, and could not remember anyone else in the photograph that might be connected with him.

She stated her maiden name which was the name she used in 1937, was BETTY JEAN RHEA. She was furnishing this information in the event she was being sought for interview in this case.

2 - Bureau
2 - Memphis
2 - St. Louis
2 - Tampa
DGM:ms
(8)

44-775-543

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 3 1968	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775)

FROM : SA HAROLD R. DOBSON

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5/8/68

On 5/8/68 AUSA STEPHEN H. GILMORE advised TOM BROOKMAN, Brookman Cleaners, 1500 block of Lafayette, SLMO, advised him a man came to his establishment in January of 1968 and wanted to leave a wristwatch as security for picking up a coat. This individual's name was RAY and he gave the address of 1808 Lafayette.

Telephone directory lists BROOKMAN Cleaners at 1552 Lafayette. It is suggested that a photograph of subject be exhibited to Mr. BROOKMAN to determine if the individual was subject. In all probability, the customer was subject's brother, JOHN RAY.

*On 5/9/68
Mr. Brookman advised
glenn photo Ray not
ident. Inquiring at 1808
Lafayette 7/9.*

HRD/leh
(1) *L*

44-775-544

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 8 1968	
FBI - SAINT LOUIS	

W Johnson

assign lead



5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC ST. LOUIS (44-775)

DATE: 5-7-68

FROM : SA THOMAS L. BUCKLEY

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

OO: ME

At 5:30 PM instant date Officer MICHAEL BENSON, DSN 5758, Mobile Reserve, SLPD advised as follows:

On PM of 5-6-68 he stopped two white males on Jefferson driving a 1958 Studebaker, two-door for a car check. They identified themselves as JAMES WARREN RAY and DAVID EARL RAY, both residing 3820a Kossuth, SLMO. They presented Selective Service Cards, one union card and one Mo. drivers license for identification. They were not arrested and proceeded on their way after a brief delay.

BENSON saw a new picture of JAMES EARL RAY released on TV tonight and now thinks one of the above persons resembles subject RAY.

2 - (44-775)

TLB/TLB

44-775-545

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FBI - SAINT LOUIS	

assign lead
DubyaK *Jad*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775)

FROM : SA WILLIAM R. BURTON

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5/8/68

Re memo to all agents, 4/24/68.

In normal contact with law enforcement agencies, both city, county and state in Pemiscot, Dunklin, Stoddard, Butler, Wayne, Ripley, and Carter Counties, covered from the Poplar Bluff RA, it has been determined that there are no unsolved robberies or burglaries where the UNSUB is of a similar description as JAMES EARL RAY. It was likewise determined that there are no agencies which maintain a file of latent fingerprints as these investigations are usually conducted by the MSHP.

② - 44-775

WRB: pdp

(2) *pdp*

44-775-546

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FBI - SAINT LOUIS	

J



5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775)

FROM : SA WILLIAM R. BURTON

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5/8/68

Re memo to all Resident Agents, 4/29/68.

On 5/3/68, Sgt. KENNETH M. LINK, Evidence Technician, Troop E, MSHP, Poplar Bluff, Mo., advised that his office does not maintain any unidentified latent fingerprints at Troop E Headquarters in unsolved cases but will normally forward these to General Headquarters of the Highway Patrol at Jefferson City, Mo., so that should it be necessary to compare these with the fingerprints of any known individuals the experts at General Headquarters can conduct this examination. LINK further advised that he does not know of any local law enforcement agencies on the city or county level in Pemiscot, Dunklin, Stoddard, Butler, Wayne, Ripley, or Carter Counties which maintains a file of unidentified latent fingerprints.

On that same date TOMMY CATES, Poplar Bluff PD, advised that his department does not maintain a file of unidentified latent fingerprints. CLYDE HENDRIX, Butler County Sheriff, Poplar Bluff, Mo., likewise advised that his office does not maintain a file of unidentified latent fingerprints.

2 - 44-775

WRB: pdp

(2) pdp

44-775-547

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5010-108

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

FBI ST LOUIS

FBI SPRNGFLD

1107AM URGENT 5/9/68 MAL

TO CHICAGO, INDIANAPOLIS, AND ST. LOUIS
FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561) (THREE PAGES)

MURKIN; CR

RE MYTEL MAY FOUR LAST.

RE: JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN, AKA; FORMER ASSOCIATE OF SUBJECT.

SPRINGFIELD DIVISION UNABLE TO VERIFY AUSTIN'S DEATH.

REVIEW OF MENARD STATE PENITENTIARY, ILLINOIS REVEALED AUSTIN,

Joseph Elmer Austin
AKA JAMES FREELEY, "SHARKEY" < "BLACKY", FBI NUMBER EIGHT TWO

ONE SEVEN THREE THREE, DISCHARGED FEBRUARY TWENTY THREE NINETEEN

SIXTY FIVE TO ST. LEONARD'S HOUSE, TWO ONE ZERO ZERO WEST

WARREN AVENUE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS AND RECEIVED FINAL PAROLE

DISCHARGED ON JULY ELEVEN NINETEEN SIXTY SEVEN THROUGH PAROLE

OFFICE ONE SIX ZERO NORTH LA SALLE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. AUSTIN

FURTHER DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE, DATE OF BIRTH

FIVE FEET TEN AND ONE HALF INCHES TALL,

ONE HUNDRED TWENTY NINE POUNDS, BLUE EYES, GREY HAIR, DARK

END PAGE ONE

44-775-548

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FBI - SAINT LOUIS	

Look
Dubynah

COMPLEXION, OCCUPATION FARMER, SCAR ON CENTER OF FOREHEAD.
FAMILY INCLUDES BROTHER CHARLES, WAVERLY, ILLINOIS, BORTHER,
BERT, SPRINGFIELD, NIECE, MRS. JOE REESE, THREE ONE SIX NORTH
HOOSIER, BRAZIL, INDIANA, NEPHEW RALPH TANNEHILL, ONE FOUR THREE
TWO FOURTH STREET, MADISON, ILLINOIS, SISTER MRS. DOROTHY
SEYMOUR, FRANKLIN, ILLINOIS, COUSIN GERTRUDE WALLING, NINE ZERO
FOUR LIND STREET, QUINCY, ILLINOIS. AUSTIN'S CORRESPONDENCE
FILE ALSO REFLECTS THE FOLLOWING: ROBERT REED, CASE WORKER,
AND FATHER DOUGLAS WOLFE, BOTH FROM ST. LEONARD'S HOUSE,
TWO ONE ZERO ZERO WARREN AVENUE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ATTORNEY
J. EDWARD JONES, ONE FOUR THREE TWO WEST HARRISON STREET, CHICAGO,
A. A. FERRIS COMPANY, INC., ONE TWO TWO WEST LINCOLN, GOSHEN,
INDIANA, ST. ANTHONY'S INN, INC., TWENTY NINE SOUTH LA SALLE
STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, GIRARD LETTMAN, WARREN CLINIC, TWO
FOUR FOUR NINE WEST WASHINGTON BOULEVARD, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS,
MR. AND MRS. (FNU) MYRICK, CASEYVILLE NURSING HOME, CASEYVILLE,
ILLINOIS, A. B. ROBERTSON, TWO ZERO ONE ONE ROAD STREET, MADISON,
ILLINOIS, WAUKEGAN RESCUE MISSION, WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS, WILLIE
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

MAE MORGAN, WAVERLY, ILLINOIS, MYRTLE COOK, ACME HOTEL, ST.
LOUIS, MISSOURI.

CHICAGO DIVISION AT CHICAGO AND WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS,
INDIANAPOLIS DIVISION AT BRAZIL AND GOSHEN, INDIANA, AND
ST. LOUIS DIVISION AT ST. LOUIS, INVESTIGATE IN AN EFFORT TO
LOCATE AND INTERVIEW AUSTIN. SPRINGFIELD CONDUCTING INVESTI-
GATION AT MADISON, WAVERLY, CASEYVILLE, FRANKLIN, QUINCY, AND
SPRINGFIELD. P. ARMED AND DANGEROUS

END

DCJ

FBI ST LOUIS

X

FBI ST LOUIS

FBI CHICAGO

208PM URGENT 5/9/68 EOM

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ST. LOUIS (44-775) MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM CHICAGO (44-1114) 2P

MURKIN.

RE MILFORD ROHER.

PCI, CHICAGO, ADVISED THAT WILLIAM NETHINGTON AND HIS WIFE NORA, SULLIVAN, MISSOURI, ADVISED HIM ON MAY FIVE LAST THAT MILFORD ROHER, CITY POLICEMAN, SULLIVAN, MISSOURI, HAD TOLD THEM THAT THE ESCAPE OF JAMES RAY HAD BEEN PLANNED BY THE KU KLUX KLAN (KKK) SO THAT RAY COULD KILL KING. THEY ALSO TOLD INFORMANT THAT ROHER WAS A MEMBER OF THE KKK.

INFORMANT ALSO HAD CONVERSATION WITH ROHER BUT NOTHING OF VALUE OBTAINED. INFORMANT BELIEVES NETHINGTONS' ACCURATELY QUOTING ROHER TO HIM BUT IS OF OPINION ROHER IS A PREVARICATOR.

NETHINGTONS' RESIDENCE CAN BE REACHED BY LEAVING SULLIVAN, MISSOURI, WEST ON ROUTE SIXTY-SIX TURNING LEFT AT THE HIGH LOW MOTEL AND TRAVELING SIX MILES, PHONE NUMBER SEVEN THREE TWO-FIVE FOUR SIX EIGHT.

END PAGE ONE

44-775-549
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FBI-ST. LOUIS
PARK

✓
Parradvised Sam 5-9-68

action
lead

PAGE TWO CG 44-1114

ST. LOUIS LOCATE AND INTERVIEW WILLIAM NETHINGTON.

INFORMANT NOT CONCERNED ABOUT BEING COMPROMISED. THEN INTERVIEW
ROHER.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

MEL

FBI ST LOUIS

X

F B I

Date: May 7, 1968

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

To: All SACs and LEGATs
 From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN
 OO: MEMPHIS (44-1987)

The Bureau has designated Memphis as office of origin in this case.

You were previously advised that leads in this Top Ten Fugitive case must be handled within 24 hours. The Atlanta, Birmingham, Chicago, Houston, Jackson, Kansas City, Los Angeles, New Orleans, St. Louis, and Springfield Offices are to prepare the results of their investigation to date in report form, not as an insert. At such time as the amount of investigation in these field offices does not appear to warrant individual reports, advise the Bureau and office of origin that inserts being prepared in future in lieu of reports, UACB.

All other offices will record the results in appropriate form and transmit 15 copies of each to the office of origin for inclusion in reports submitted by the Memphis Office. Should investigation increase in any such area warranting submission of individual report, do so and advise the Bureau and Memphis.

LEGATs are to submit results of investigation which can be disseminated in letterhead memorandum form suitable for dissemination. Any administrative data which cannot be disseminated is to be set forth in the administrative section of your transmittal communication. Look-alikes and other leads resolved and reported by cablegram or other communication need not be rereported as copies of these communications are being forwarded office of origin by the Bureau for administrative handling of the case.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

See - 3
44-775-550

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Watson
Pitman

Sent Via _____ M Per _____



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY, also known as
Eric Starvo Galt, Harvey Lowmyer,
John Willard, James McBride, James
Walton, W. C. Herron and James
O'Conner

FUGITIVE

CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
INTERSTATE FLIGHT - ARMED ROBBERY

"TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES" PROGRAM

James Earl Ray, a Missouri prison escapee who has been sought under the alias Eric Starvo Galt in connection with the gunshot slaying of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has been added to the FBI's list of "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives."

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover ordered the special addition of Ray to the "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" list, which already contains ten fugitives, to insure the widest possible dissemination of Ray's photograph and description to help effect his earliest possible location.

Ray has been the subject of a massive and intensive search since the brutal gunshot slaying of Dr. King on April 4, 1968, as he stood on the balcony of a Memphis, Tennessee, motel. One rifle bullet, believed fired from the window of a nearby rooming house, felled the victim.

44-775-551

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15

An exhaustive FBI fingerprint search, comparing latent fingerprints uncovered in the Dr. King case against fingerprints of over 53,000 persons on whom wanted notices have been posted in the FBI's Identification Division, succeeded in determining that Galt and Ray are identical.

A Federal warrant, issued at Birmingham, Alabama, on April 17, 1968, charges Ray, under the alias Eric Starvo Galt, with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional Right of a United States citizen. Ray is also sought for unlawful interstate flight to avoid confinement after conviction for armed robbery, based on a Federal warrant issued on July 20, 1967, at Jefferson City, Missouri. He had been confined at the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, in March, 1960, with a 20-year sentence following conviction for armed robbery and operating a motor vehicle without permission of the owner. In September, 1966, while serving the sentence, he was confined for a time in the maximum security ward at the State Hospital, Fulton, Missouri. He was reported missing from the Missouri State Penitentiary since April 23, 1967.

Ray, who has an arrest record dating back to 1949 and has been convicted of burglary, armed robbery and forging United States Postal Money Orders, has also been confined in the Los Angeles County Jail, the Joliet and Pontiac, Illinois, State Prisons and the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas.

He served in the Army between February, 1946, and December, 1948, received a three-month sentence at hard labor for being drunk and breaking arrest and was given a General Discharge due to ineptness and lack of adaptability for military service.

Ray is a 40-year-old white male, reportedly born in Illinois on [REDACTED] He is approximately 5'10" inches tall, weighs from 163 to 174 pounds, has blue eyes and brown hair which he has worn cut short. He has a small scar on the center of his forehead and a scar on the palm of his right hand. He has been described as having a straight, narrow nose and straight and even teeth and to have a nervous habit of occasionally tugging at an ear lobe. His left ear protrudes noticeably.

Acquaintances describe him as a "loner" and "drifter" whose language and diction reflect a "rural" quality and indicate he has had limited education.

He is reportedly a fan of western and country music, drinks vodka and beer, dresses neatly and claims past employment as a merchant seaman and cook on Mississippi River vessels. He is known to have worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher.

He is known as an avid dancer who has taken dancing lessons. He also completed a course at a school of bartending in the Los Angeles area early in 1968.

Ray should be considered armed and extremely dangerous. Anyone with information concerning this fugitive is requested to immediately contact the nearest office of the FBI, the telephone number of which may be found on the first page of local telephone directories.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

April 20, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY

James Earl Ray, a Missouri prison escapee who has been sought under the alias Eric Starvo Galt in connection with the gunshot slaying of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is one of the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives."

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover ordered the special addition of Ray to the "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" list, which already contains ten fugitives, to insure the widest possible dissemination of Ray's photograph and description to help effect his prompt location. Ray has been the subject of a massive search since the gunshot slaying of Dr. King on April 4, 1968, as he stood on the balcony of a Memphis, Tennessee, motel.

An exhaustive FBI fingerprint search, comparing latent fingerprints uncovered in the Dr. King case against fingerprints of over 53,000 persons on whom FBI wanted notices have been posted determined that Galt and Ray are identical.

A Federal warrant, issued at Birmingham, Alabama, on April 17, 1968, charges Ray, under the alias Eric Starvo Galt, with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional Right of a United States citizen. Ray, who escaped on April 23, 1967, from the Missouri State Penitentiary, is also sought for unlawful interstate flight to avoid confinement after conviction for armed robbery.

Possessing an arrest record dating back to 1949, Ray has been convicted of burglary, armed robbery and forging United States Postal Money Orders.

A 40-year-old white male, reportedly born in Illinois on [redacted] Ray is approximately 5'10" tall, weighs from 163 to 174 pounds, has blue eyes and short brown hair. He has a nervous habit of tugging at an ear lobe and his left ear protrudes noticeably.

Described as a "loner and "drifter," with a "rural" quality in his speech, Ray has worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher. He has taken dancing lessons and completed a course at a school of bartending.

Consider Ray armed and extremely dangerous. Report any information concerning him to the nearest FBI office.

44-775-552

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D

5/8/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO: MEMPHIS

Re Bureau airtel to SF and SL dated 4/26/68 and
LSairtel to ME 5/3/68.

Enclosed for the Bureau is one copy of reLSairtel
which includes results of investigation conducted re complainant
ANNA DAWSON.

In view of contents of re SLairtel, no further
investigation is being conducted by receiving offices
regarding this aspect of the investigation.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 1)
1 - San Francisco
① - St. Louis (44-775)
2 - Memphis
RFB:LF
(7)

44-775-553

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SI 44-561

JWD:jah

1

The following investigation was conducted at Menard, Illinois, on May 1, 1968, by SA JEROLD W. DONALDSON:

Warden MAX FRYE, Illinois State Penitentiary, Menard Branch, made available the prison records of JOHN EUGENE GAWRON, Illinois State Police #25261 (Joliet Penitentiary #489F). The file reflected the following background data:

NAME	JOHN EUGENE GAWRON
ALIASES	JOHN GAWRON JACK DAWSON JOHN GAWBOS JACK MORLEY
RACE	White
SEX	Male
DATE OF BIRTH	
PLACE OF BIRTH	Chicago, Illinois
HEIGHT	5'8"
WEIGHT	170 pounds
HAIR	Gray
EYES	Hazel
RELIGION	Catholic
EDUCATION	8th Grade, Chicago
NATIONALITY	Polish
MILITARY SERVICE	U. S. Marine Corps from May 6, 1916, to May 24, 1917. Marine Corps Serial No. 73896
PARENTS	Deceased, father died 1931, mother died 1961.
FBI NUMBER	134334
OCCUPATION	Cook and baker
CHARACTERISTICS	Smokes, chews tobacco, and drinks heavily

44-775-554

The file revealed that GAWRON was originally received at Joliet, Illinois, Penitentiary on November 2, 1934, under sentence of one to life for burglary. GAWRON received Menard Branch, Illinois State Penitentiary on July 25, 1956, from Adams County, Illinois, as a parole violator. GAWRON paroled from Menard on March 21, 1959, to Veterans Administration Hospital,

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Rushing

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2

Wood, Wisconsin. He remained there three days and left without permission. GAWRON carried at that time in an absconder status until November 16, 1961, when he was returned to Menard Penitentiary. He was paroled on April 11, 1963, to the Soldiers and Sailors Home, Quincy, Illinois, but was never received at this home. GAWRON's address as of April, 1968, was shown as 1807 South 11th, St. Louis, Missouri.

The following individuals were listed as correspondents in GAWRON's file:

Miss MARY MCNICHOLS, cousin, 1010 Park Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri

Miss CAROL MAHER, later shown as Mrs. CAROL PEPPER, a friend, 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri, and ALBERT PEPPER, 1713 Lafayette Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri.

Questionnaires were filled out by the following individuals:

Date of questionnaire not shown on file. LUCILLE MARY RYAN (friend), who lists an address of 7014 Washington (date not shown) and 527 York, Quincy, Illinois, in July, 1967.

CAROL ANN MAHER (Second cousin), later shown as CAROL ANN PEPPER, 1913 Henry, St. Louis, Missouri

ALBERT BENNY PEPPER (friend), 1015 Allen, St. Louis, Missouri

JOHN LARRY RAY (friend), 1915 Hickory, St. Louis, Missouri.

Also included in the file were 3 re-classification reports dated June 10, 1940; December 2, 1961; and September 2, 1956, which would be of pertinent background value.

DIAGNOSTIC DEPOT
ILLINOIS STATE PENITENTIARY
JOLIET

June 10, 1940

F 489

CLASSIFICATION REPORT

JDD No.:

Name:

GAWRON, John

Age: 40

Admitted: 11/2/34

Crime:

Burglary

Sentence: 1-Life

RECLASSIFICATION

Transfer.
Classification.
Recommendations

1. Stateville Division.
2. Group III: Without psychosis or mental defect. Doubtfully improvable. Inadequate personality. High average intelligence (C plus 104, Army Alpha score - 1934). Alcoholic tendency. Partial deafness.

This inmate was classified as a doubtfully improvable offender with delinquent attitudes and lack of initiative and ambition. His criminality appeared to be related to his alcoholic tendency. He was recently examined when he wrote a request for transfer to Stateville because of problems of ill health. He claimed that he was disabled in the World War and that his ear drums were ruptured. He now complains of head pains and discharging ears. He feels, rather vaguely, that larger, dryer cells at Stateville would be more conducive to good health. His conduct within the Old Prison has been satisfactory. He has been punished on only two or three occasions. He has a fairly good attitude toward his employment. He shows no evidence of mental disease. Under the new policy he should be classified for Stateville since it is likely he will have to serve a number of years within the institution. In the interests of his general health and to further the present classification policy, resegregation is recommended.

3. Continued medical treatment for the ear condition and work in a dry, inside place is suggested.


R. G. Barrick, M.D.
Chairman
Classification Board.

KEH*HB

Joliet #489-F

PAROLE VIOLATOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF THE CRIMINOLOGIST
MENARD DIAGNOSTIC DEPOT UNIT

CLASSIFICATION REPORT

Menard #25261

December 2, 1961

Admitted: 11-2-34 (Jol.)

Name: GAWRON, John

Age: 62

Re Admitted: 11-16-61

Crime: Burglary

Sentence: 1-Life

RECLASSIFICATION REPORT

BEHAVIOR ON PAROLE

This 62 year old white man was paroled from Menard on 3-21-59 to a Veteran's Administration Hospital at Wood, Wisconsin, but remained there only three days and then left without permission. He now says, "I got loaded up on liquor and goof balls, and when I came to I was in the Union Station at Chicago and found I had a ticket to St. Louis so I just went on to St. Louis and stayed there." He says he lived in St. Louis during the entire time he was at large as an absconder, and lived with a cousin at a rooming house at 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis. He says he obtained employment, usually casual and part-time in nature, through an employment agency, and also received a V.A. compensation check amounting to \$61.00 monthly. During his last few months of liberty he also received public aid assistance. He states that on two occasions, from July to September, 1959 and again from October, 1960 to January, 1961, he was a patient at the Cochran V.A. Hospital in St. Louis because of a heart condition. Inmate says he was not arrested at any time while in St. Louis, but about 11-9-61 he and an acquaintance were picked up at Louisiana, Missouri, his identity as an Illinois violator was then discovered, and he waived extradition for return. He says this acquaintance left St. Louis to drive to Quincy, Illinois, asked inmate to go along, and he accepted. He says they stopped at Louisiana, Missouri and were questioned by police about the burglary of a supermarket in that area, but he knew nothing about that offense. Enclosed with reports from the Division of Supervision concerning this inmate is a detailed report of investigation by the Missouri Highway Patrol of the burglary, but we find nothing in this which would suggest that inmate and his companion were suspected of having any connection with the crime, and it seems evident that no charge was filed in Missouri. However, it will be noted that this episode seems to have at least some points of resemblance to the behavior which led to his return as a parole violator in July, 1956.

REVIEW OF SOCIAL FACTORS:

The Reclassification Report of 9-2-56 offers a summary of inmate's background and we would refer to that report. As indicated above, he assertedly lived with a cousin who operates a rooming house in St. Louis after he absconded from his most recent parole. Although he says he was under the influence of liquor and "goof balls" at the time he absconded from parole, he claims that thereafter he indulged only in moderate drinking. He says he worked at various part-time jobs as a janitor, etc., while in St. Louis until he was placed on public relief following his release from the Cochran V.A. Hospital in January, 1961 following a heart attack. He now corresponds with his cousin in St. Louis.

PERSONALITY:

Physically, inmate's appearance suggests his advancing age, and he gives a history of two fairly severe heart attacks in recent years. He has also been hard of hearing for a number of years, and receives V.A. disability compensation. We would refer to the current medical report for further information as to his condition. Recent psychometric test indicates superior intelligence, with a score approximating that previously obtained. Temperamentally, he is a rather beaten, prisonized individual who has in the past had a history of heavy drinking during the occasional interludes when he is not incarcerated, but who claims only moderate indulgence following the binge which led to his prompt absconding from his V.A. Hospital placement. We regard him as a rather dependent institutionalized

- 2 -

person who has long been an outcast from conventional society and who tends to submerge himself into anonymity whenever he is confronted with the demands of a free community adjustment.

CLASSIFICATION:

Group III: Without evident mental disorder or mental defect. Adult unimprovable offender.

Superior intelligence (AGCT 115). Inadequate personality makeup. High guarded prognosis.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Menard general division. Medium or maximum security. Light routine work assignment.

RHG:drc

R. H. Groff
R. H. Groff (Member)
Classification Board

STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF THE CRIMINOLOGIST
MENARD D. D. UNIT

CLASSIFICATION REPORT

#25261-Menard

September 2, 1956

Name: GAWRON, John

Age: 57

Admitted: 11-19-34-J

Crime: Burglary

Sentence: 1-Life

Sentence: 6-7-46-J(PV)
7-25-56-M(JPV)

RECLASSIFICATION

1. Transfer.
2. Classification
3. Recommendations

BEHAVIOR ON PAROLE:

This 57 year old white man was paroled from Joliet for the second time on 9-21-54 to placement at the Soldier's and Sailor's Home in Quincy. He remained there until March 1956, then left because he learned the police were looking for him in connection with investigation of an Armed Robbery at LaGrange, Missouri. Reports indicate that inmate had been drinking considerably while at the Soldier's and Sailor's Home, and had also been keeping company with a Mrs. Lucille Ryan, the mother of a Menard parolee, #23737 Ryan. This parolee was also arrested in connection with the armed robbery at LaGrange, Missouri, and is apparently now incarcerated in that state. Records indicate that another parolee, Menard #23686 Cain, was also arrested for questioning in connection with that investigation, but was released. Inmate says he left the home when he learned that police were looking for him, moved to a room in Quincy, and he evidently eluded investigation at that time. Although he refused to reveal where he was living, other information indicates that he was later living with Mrs. Ryan. According to his own story, he obtained employment with a road construction company after he left the home, and it would appear that his whereabouts might have been traced in this manner, had there been sufficient interest. Records indicate that a violation warrant was issued late in March 1956, and that he was then arrested by Quincy police on 6-28-56 as a burglary suspect. Cain, Menard #23686, had been arrested a few days earlier in connection with two burglaries in which inmate does not appear to have been directly implicated, although the loot was apparently taken to Mrs. Ryan's home, where inmate was staying. Cain then admitted some earlier burglaries, and implicated inmate as an associate in at least one of them. Inmate now professes rather naive innocence of any knowledge of these offenses, professes that he did not understand much of the questioning to which he was subjected following his arrest, and is evidently decided on a policy of admitting as little as possible. He does admit considerable drinking while on parole, and his technical violation in failure to send in a few reports. From present information, it would appear that there was a concerted and calculated series of criminal episodes in which two Menard parolees, Cain and Ryan, as well as at least one other associate were involved, and in which inmate was also implicated on the basis of Cain's statements.

REVIEW OF SOCIAL FACTORS:

Subject was born in Chicago on [] as the sixth of seven children of a native-born mother of Polish descent and a German immigrant father. During inmate's youth the family lived in a disorderly and delinquent area on the near northwest side in Chicago. He says his father "had a political job" with the Chicago street department, and the family was evidently of limited socio-economic status. He now says his father died in 1930 and his mother

STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF THE CRIMINOLOGIST

MENARD D. D. UNIT

CLASSIFICATION REPORT

Menard #25261

Name: GAWRON, John

Age:

Admitted:

Crime:

Sentence:

RECLASSIFICATION

→ 2 ←

1. Transfer.
2. Classification
3. Recommendations

Also died in 1951. Inmate says he now has two living brothers, but has had no contact with either of them for a considerable time. He claims to have completed eighth grade in public school. In February 1915 he was committed to St. Charles for stealing auto tires, apparently escaped twice, and it seems to have been during an escape from that institution that he enlisted in the Marines in May 1916. He was medically discharged from the Marines in May 1917. In April 1918 he was committed to Pontiac under one year sentence for larceny. In June 1921 he was committed to Leavenworth under 1 year sentence for altering and passing government obligations. In September 1927 he was sentenced to a six month term in the Chicago House of Correction for burglary. In June 1929 he was sentenced to a 1-15 year term at Folsom for burglary, and was paroled in December 1931. As records indicate, it was in November 1934 that he was originally committed to Joliet under his present 1-Life sentence, and his only period in the free community since have been his recent parole period and one earlier parole from December 1944 until June 1946, during which he worked at the Hines VA Hospital part of the time and was eventually involved in another burglary. His civilian work history has thus been extremely irregular and casual. In previous interviews inmate has stated that he was married in 1932 and was later divorced, but he now denies that he was ever married and says this was a common-law attachment. Leisure activities have centered primarily around drinking. Inmate now has no effective community attachments.

PERSONALITY:

Physically inmate is an aging individual who is apparently somewhat hard of hearing, and he gives a history of chronic ear trouble dating from his Marine service in 1916-17. He has received partial disability compensation for a considerable number of years, and apparently is fearful of giving a history of too satisfactory health because he feels that this might possible be reduced or cut off. Previous psychometric tests have indicated superior intelligence, but his present reactions suggest that he is functioning on a considerably lower level. Temperamentally he is a rather beaten, prisonized individual who has been incarcerated much of his life and who has no goals or constructive motivations. He has been inclined toward heavy drinking when not incarcerated, and apparently this was a problem during his recent parole period even before he became involved in more serious violations. In present interview he attempts to create as much sympathy for himself as possible, professes innocence of any serious wrong-doing, and claims to know nothing of the various new criminal charges for which he was under investigation. He now impresses as an essentially dependent, institutionalized person who is unable to avoid involvement in criminal activity in the free community, and for whom any hope of satisfactory adjustment now seems remote.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF THE CRIMINOLOGIST
MENARD D. D. UNIT

CLASSIFICATION REPORT

Menard #25261

Name: GAWRON, John

Age:

Admitted:

Crime:

Sentence:

RECLASSIFICATION

1. Transfer.
2. Classification
3. Recommendations

→ 3 ←

CLASSIFICATION: Group III. Without psychosis or mental defect. Adult unimprovable offender. Superior intelligence. Inadequate personality with alcoholic tendencies. Highly guarded prognosis.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Menard general division. Maximum security seems advisable for the present. Light routine unskilled work assignment.

R. H. Groff
R. H. Groff (Member)
Classification Board

RHG/bh