

F B I

Date: 5/8/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
 FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)  
 SUBJECT: MURKIN  
 CR

Re Springfield teletype dated 5/3/68.

Enclosed for the receiving offices is one copy each of investigative insert reflecting investigation of Illinois State Penitentiary, Menard Branch, records on JOHN EUGENE GAWRON.

This information will be contained in the Springfield report at a later date.

3 - Bureau (44-38861) (Enc. 1)  
 2 - Memphis (Enc. 1)  
 2 - St. Louis (Enc. 1)  
 2 - Springfield (44-561)  
 JWD:jah  
 (9)

44-775-555

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 9 1968	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

*Rushing*  
*no enclosure*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Agent in Charge

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>KANSAS CITY</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>KANSAS CITY</b>	DATE <b>8/29/67</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>6/23/67 - 8/18/67</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>"CHANGED" JAMES EARL RAY, aka Earl James Ray W. C. Herron, Earl James, 26-29505-19 James McBride, 88-4429* James O'Conner, James Walton, 88-4429* James Walyon, "Jim" - FUGITIVE;</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>ROWEN B. AYERS</b>	TYPED BY <b>ENV</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST</b>	

The title of this report is being marked changed to add aliases of **JAMES WALYON** and **EARL JAMES** as indicated on RAY's Identification Record. The title is also changed to add an alias of **EARL JAMES RAY**, an alias furnished by Mr. H. F. LAUF, Missouri State Penitentiary Identification and Records Officer.

**REFERENCES:**

Kansas City letter to Bureau, dated 7/20/67.  
Bureau letter to Kansas City, dated 8/15/67.

-p-

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT-TALS
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES	

44-775-556

Case has been: Pending over one year  Yes  No; Pending prosecution over six months  Yes  No

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

- 1 - Bureau (88-41730)
- 1 - USA, Kansas City, Mo.
- 2 - Springfield (Enc. 1)
- ② - St. Louis (Enc. 1)
- 3 - Kansas City (88-9449)

88-7447-1

SEARCHED <i>ren</i>	INDEXED <i>ren</i>
SERIALIZED <i>ren</i>	FILED <i>ren</i>
AUG 31 1967	
FBI - SAINT LOUIS	

OS Beardsall | CB

**Dissemination Record of Attached Report**

Notations

Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

with card

KC 88-9449

**ENCLOSURES:**

- To SPRINGFIELD:**  
One photograph of subject.
- To ST, LOUIS:**  
One photograph of subject.

**LEADS:**

**ST, LOUIS**

**AT ST, LOUIS, MISSOURI:**

1. At Army Record Branch (MPRC), will review file of JAMES EARL RAY, ASN 16 163 129, for complete background data concerning subject.

2. At 1913 Hickory, will contact LUCILLE RYON, mother of subject for information regarding relatives, associates, background, habits, and whereabouts, and for any other information which may aid in locating him. Similarly interview subject's brothers, JOHN and JERRY, at the same address.

3. Will contact logical neighbors to ascertain if subject has been in the area.

4. Will alert appropriate Police Officers in this area to be on the look-out for subject.

**SPRINGFIELD**

**AT PONTIAC, ILLINOIS:**

At State Penitentiary, under Number 19121, will examine records of subject in an attempt to develop contacts, background and possible addresses.

**B**  
**(COVER PAGE)**

EC 88-9449

KANSAS CITY

AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS:

Will examine records of subject under #72498-L,  
for information which may aid in locating him.

AT FULTON, MISSOURI:

Will similarly review records of State Hospital  
Number 1.

C\*  
(COVER PAGE)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: **1 - USA, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI**

Report of: **ROWEN B. AYERS**  
Date: **8/29/67**

Office: **KANSAS CITY**

Field Office File #: **88-9449**

Bureau File #: **88-41730**

Title: **JAMES EARL RAY**

Character: **UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY FIRST**

Synopsis:

**JAMES EARL RAY, Inmate, Missouri State Penitentiary, (MSP), Jefferson City, Missouri, missed at the Penitentiary on April 23, 1967. Subject known at MSP as a "hide out guy" due to his habit of concealing himself within the walls. Investigation indicated RAY concealed himself in bread box and escaped from truck making delivery to an auxiliary farm. He was dropped as an escaped prisoner on 7/10/67. RAY was serving 20 years on charges of Armed Robbery (1st) and for operating vehicle without owner's consent. Authorized complaint filed before U.S. Commissioner, Jefferson City, Missouri on 7/20/67, charging RAY with violation Title 18, Section 1073, U. S. Code. Warrant issued. Subject's criminal record dates back to 1949. He has been confined in Illinois institutions as well as serving time in Federal Penitentiary. His mother and brothers reside in St. Louis, Missouri. RAY confined at State Hospital, Fulton, Missouri in 1966. BECAUSE RAY HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF ROBBERY WITH A DEADLY WEAPON AND BECAUSE OF HIS CONFINEMENT IN A STATE HOSPITAL, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.**

-P-

**DETAILS:**

KC 88-9449

This case is predicated on a letter, dated June 19, 1967, from Assistant United States Attorney WILLIAM A. KITCHEN, Kansas City, Missouri, enclosing a letter, dated June 8, 1967 from H. F. LAUF, Identification and Records, Missouri State Penitentiary. Mr. LAUF's letter set forth the following information:

"The indicated subject was missing, from inside the walls of the main Penitentiary on April 23, 1967 and since that date information has been discovered giving us reasons to believe that he has escaped. We also have reasons to believe Ray has fled the state, to avoid prosecution, as all efforts to locate him have failed.

"This inmate is described as a white male, age 39, DOB [redacted] height 5'11", dark brown hair, blue eyes, weight 163, medium complexion and medium build. He was received here March 17, 1960, from the St. Louis City Circuit Court, to serve 20 years for Robbery First Degree by means of a Dangerous & Deadly Weapon (2 chgs.); Operating a Motor Vehicle without permission of the Owner (20, 7, 5 Concurrent).

"We should appreciate it if your office would cause a Federal warrant to be issued against this individual. If he is apprehended, outside of the state of Missouri, the Department of Corrections will extradite him and pay the expenses thereof."

On June 19, 1967, Mr. WILLIAM A. KITCHEN requested an Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement complaint be filed against JAMES EARL RAY.

On June 23, 1967, Mr. H. F. LAUF, mentioned above, advised SA THOMAS H. WEAVER that subject is known as a "hide out guy" who stays hidden within the confines of the Missouri State Penitentiary for several days and has done so in the past. He said there is considerable speculation as to whether RAY had actually been able to leave the prison. He said investigation, to date, has failed to develop any information as to RAY's whereabouts.

KC 88-9449

WCM:ENV

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The following investigation was conducted  
by IC WILLIAM C. MC DONALD:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

On July 11, 1967, Missouri State Penitentiary, MSP,  
file number 00416, was reviewed. The following information was  
obtained:

JAMES EARL RAY, MSP #W-00416, was received at the  
MSP, March 17, 1960, from St. Louis City, to serve a term  
of twenty (20) years for the crime of Robbery First, by  
means of a Dangerous and Deadly Weapon and operating a Motor  
Vehicle without permission of the owner. He was assigned  
to the Bakery Unit of the Food Service Department. RAY was  
dropped from the MSP count on July 10, 1967, "As it is  
assumed that he escaped".

RAY was discovered absent prior to the 5:00 PM  
count on April 23, 1967, after a thorough search, at which  
time RAY could not be found.

Relatives listed in this file are:

Mother:

LUCILLE RYON,  
1913 Hickory St.,  
St. Louis, Missouri;

Brothers:

JOHN RAY, same address as mother;  
JERRY RAY, " " "

RAY is described in this file as a white male, born  
[redacted] at Alton, Illinois; height 5'11"; weight 163  
pounds; hair dark brown; eyes blue; complexion medium;  
occupation baker; previously incarcerated Leavenworth Federal  
Penitentiary; build medium; U.S. Army General Discharge,  
SN 16163129.

KC 88-9449

On July 10, 1967, Mr. BERNARD C. POIRKY, Custodial Assistant Warden, Missouri State Penitentiary, advised that he had conducted an investigation into the escape of RAY. He said he had determined that an associate of RAY's who worked with RAY in the bakery, had let RAY get into one of the large boxes consigned to the church farm, near Jefferson City, Missouri, and then had covered him up. He said one of the bread boxes had been received at the church farm in an exploded condition, and bread scattered over the truck. He said, therefore, it has been assumed by the prison officials that RAY actually escaped from the Penitentiary and is not inside the walls as previously thought possible. He said RAY was being dropped as an escaped inmate, as of July 10, 1967.

On July 19, 1967, Warden HAROLD SWENSON, Missouri State Penitentiary, said he has contacted several inmates of the Penitentiary who knew RAY, and they indicated to him that RAY had indicated he wanted to escape from the Penitentiary and leave the State of Missouri.

On July 20, 1967, a complaint, as authorized, was filed before United States Commissioner W. C. SHELLEY at Jefferson City, Missouri, charging RAY with Unlawful Flight To Avoid Confinement in connection with the commission of a crime of Robbery First, in violation of Title 18, Section 1073, United States Code. Bond returnable was set by the United States Attorney at \$5,000.00 to the United States Commissioner at Jefferson City, Missouri.

Mr. SHELLEY issued a warrant on the above complaint on July 20, 1967, which has been transmitted to the Office of the United States Marshal at Kansas City, Missouri.

On August 18, 1967, Mr. H. F. LAUF, Records Officer, Missouri State Penitentiary, advised no further information has been developed regarding the whereabouts of subject.

On July 14, 1955, Mr. WILLIAM L. RUDDELL, Post Office Inspector, Kansas City, Missouri, advised the Kansas City Division that JAMES EARL RAY and WALTER PERRY RIFE were arrested in Hannibal, Missouri, on March 22, 1955, and



KC 88-9449

were charged with forgery of U. S. Postal Money Orders. He advised that their investigation reflected that the burglary in which the money orders were stolen, was perpetrated at Kellerville, Illinois, at approximately 1:30 AM on March 7, 1955, and that sixty-six blank Post Office money orders and a validating stamp were stolen. He advised that some of these money orders were cashed at St. Louis; Miami, Florida; Tallahassee, Florida; St. Petersburg, Florida; New Orleans, Louisiana; Memphis, Tennessee; Hot Springs, Arkansas, and Kansas City, Missouri, and that thirty-four orders were recovered.

He stated that subjects had advised him that RAY owned a 1946 or 1947 Nash automobile, license number unknown; that it had been traded for a 1949 Lincoln at the Anacker Motors, 135 NE 36th Street, Miami, Florida, on May 14, 1955; and had been titled to WALTER P. BERRY, an alias of RIFE. He said that RIFE and RAY claimed to have obtained the money orders from an unknown man in Quincy, Illinois.

On August 15, 1967, the Identification Division of the F.B.I. furnished the following descriptive summary for JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Dates of Birth	
Places of Birth	Decatur, Illinois; Quincy, Illinois; Alton, Illinois.
Height	Approximately 5'10"
Weight	174 pounds, September, 1966
Complexion	Ruddy
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Brown
Build	Medium
Occupations	Laborer; baker
Scars and marks	Small scar on center of forehead; scar in palm of right hand.
Addresses	St. Louis, Missouri, March, 1960; 2915 Park, St. Louis, Missouri, October, 1959; Quincy, Illinois, July, 1955, March, 1955, April, 1950;

KC 88-9449

Hotel Quincy, Quincy, Illinois,  
March, 1955; Victor Hotel, Quincy,  
Illinois, March, 1955, August,  
1954; 1429 Chery, Hannibal,  
Missouri, March, 1955; 853 West  
Fullerton, Chicago, Illinois,  
May, 1952; 805 Alby Street,  
Alton, Illinois, July, 1951.

**Fingerprint Classification:**

16 M 9 U 000 12 Ref 9  
M 4 W 101 12

**NCIC Fingerprint Classification:**

16131106121211121117 .

On August 3, 1967, the Identification Division  
of the F.B.I. furnished the following identification for  
subject under FBI 306 448 A;

KC 88-9449

<u>CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS</u>	<u>NAME AND NUMBER</u>	<u>ARRESTED OR RECEIVED</u>	<u>CHARGE</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
SO, Los Angeles, Calif.	James Earl Ray #B-119908	10/11/49	susp burg	
PD Los Angeles, Calif.	James Earl Ray #139648	10/11/49	susp 459PC (burg)	8 mos Co J1 sp; 2 yrs Prb srv 1st 90 das Co J1 146 12-30-49 Cs129438
SO Cedar Rapids, Iowa	James E. Ray #5937	4/18/50	vag	
PD Alton Ill	James Earl Ray #7514	7/23/51	no oper lic - up St Lic - no City Lic	rel to pay later
PD Chicago, Illinois	James Ray #D90696	5/6/52	Robb(Gun)	GJ \$3000
Cook Co J1 Chicago, Illinois	James Ray #131165	5/9/52	Rob	6/13/52 sent to Pent'y 1-2 yrs.
SP Joliet, Illinois	James E. Ray #32419	6/13/52	Rob	
SP Pontiac, Illinois	James E. Ray #19121	7/7/52 in trans from Joliet	Rob	1-2 yrs 3/12/54 disch
SO Edwardsville, Illinois	James Earl Ray #2640	8/30/54	B & L	

KC 68-9400

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Hannibal, Missouri	James Earl Ray #40714	3/30/56	Inv B & F Post Office	
St Hwy Pat Macon, Mo.	James Earl Ray #B-3376	3/23/55	cashing stolen postal money orders	rel to Postal inspector Kans City, Mo. 3/24/55
USM Kansas City, Mo.	James Earl Ray #12013	5/10/55	forg US Postal Money Order	sent to 15 mos custody AG
SO Kansas City, Mo.	James Earl Ray #29637	3/28/55	Forg-Govt	7/7/55 3 yrs & 9 Mos.
Army	James Earl Ray #16 163 129	2/19/56		
U Spen Leavenworth, Kansas	James Earl Ray #72498-L	7/7/55	PD Laws Forge Money Orders	3 yrs & 9 mos 5/20/58 CR 3/31/59 Max 4/5/58 Contd Rel on chg of PD forg IOMO
PD St. Louis, Mo.	James Earl Ray #81071	10/10/59	susp Robbery	

KC 88-9449

<u>CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS</u>	<u>NAME AND NUMBER</u>	<u>ARRESTED OR RECEIVED</u>	<u>CHARGE</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
PD St. Louis, Mo.	James Earl Ray #81071	10/16/59	Susp Rob Steal & FOA	
SPen Jefferson City, Missouri	James Earl Ray #00416	3/17/60	TC oper mtr veh w/o permission of owner Robb 1st b/m DDW (2 chgs)	20 yrs (20,7,5, conc)
St Hosp No 1 Fulton, Mo.	James Earl Ray #37045 C-5	9/8/66	Patient	

This record further reveals that RAY has also used the aliases of JAMES MC BRIDE, JAMES WALYON, W.C. HERRON, JAMES O'CONNER, JAMES WALTON and JIM.

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SL 88-7447  
CBB/leh

The following investigation was conducted by SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL at St. Louis, Missouri:

A check of the records of the St. Louis Police Department on September 5, 1967, reflected the details surrounding the arrest of subject, RAY, in connection with the armed robbery of the Kroger Store, 3417 Ohio Street in St. Louis, on October 10, 1959, and also reflected that on April 23, 1967, a teletype was received from the warden at Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, in connection with the recent escape of subject, RAY, from that institution. Detectives FRANCIS AUER and CHARLES BILLINGS, assigned to the 3rd District, St. Louis Police Department, conducted investigation on the same date, in an effort to locate subject. A check by these officers at 1918 Park Avenue, 2015 Park Avenue, and 1913 Hickory Street, previous addresses listed for subject, his mother and other relatives developed no information whatever of subject or other members of his family.

On October 3, 1967, HELEN CREAMER, residing at 1915 Hickory Street, advised she had resided at that address for the last couple of years and had never seen subject or any of his relatives. Investigation in the neighborhood of 1913 Hickory Street, revealed this to be a blighted area and the majority of the residences have been evacuated preparatory to being demolished. Members of families still residing in the area were interviewed and all denied ever having known a RAY family residing in the area since they have resided there.

At the time of the contact with officers AUER and BILLINGS at the 3rd District, Detective ROBERT FREIHAUT and several other members of the 3rd District Detective Bureau, who are personally acquainted with subject, RAY, were advised of his fugitive status and all promised to be alert for any available information concerning the whereabouts of subject or members of his family.

A review on September 13, 1967, by IC EARL M. RANEY of the military service records on file at the Military Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri, for JAMES EARL RAY, Serial Number 16 163 129, indicated he enlisted in the United States Army on February 19, 1946, at East St. Louis, Illinois,

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88-7447-2

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SL 88-7447

and served on active duty until December 23, 1948, at which time he was given a General Discharge as a Private First Class at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, by reason of inaptness and lack of adaptability for military service.

Records indicated he was tried and convicted by a Special Court-Martial for being drunk in quarters and breaking arrest. He was sentenced to be confined at hard labor for three months and forfeit \$45.00 per month for four months.



The following background and descriptive information is contained in the United States Army records for RAY:

Date and place of birth	[Redacted] Alton,
	Illinois
Height	5'11"
Weight	145 pounds
Race	White
Hair	Black
Eyes	Blue
Military Occupation	Military Policeman
Civilian Occupation	Color Matcher;
Addresses	538 Broadway, Alton, Illinois, February, 1946; 215 Oak Street, Quincy, Illinois, December, 1948; In care of Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN, 214 Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois, July, 1952.
Relatives	Father, GEORGE RAY, Mother, LUCILLE RAY, both of 538 East Broadway, Alton, Illinois, February, 1946.
Photograph	None available.

SAC, KANSAS CITY (88-9449)

10/19/67

SAC, ST. LOUIS (88-7447) RUC

JAMES EARL RAY, aka  
FUGITIVE  
UFAC-ARMED ROBBERY  
OO:KC

Rerep of SA ROWEN B. AYERS dated 8/29/67 at KC.

Enclosed for the KC Division are nine copies of an  
investigative insert reflecting investigation conducted at  
St. Louis.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

2 - Kansas City (enc. 9)  
1 - St. Louis  
CBB/leh  
(3)

*2373*  
*CBB*

*3*

*44-775-558*

*88-7447-3*

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>KANSAS CITY</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>KANSAS CITY</b>	DATE <b>10/26/67</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>8/21/67 - 10/3/67</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA ROWEN B. AYERS</b>	TYPED BY <b>nks</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>UTAC - ROBBERY FIRST</b>	

**REFERENCES:**

Kansas City report of SA ROWEN B. AYERS, dated 8/29/67.  
 St. Louis letter to Kansas City, dated 10/19/67, (Interoffice).

-P-

**ENCLOSURES:**

**TO CHICAGO:**

One copy of referenced report of SA ROWEN B. AYERS,  
 at Kansas City, dated 8/29/67.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS: NONE**

Case has been: Pending over one year  Yes  No; Pending prosecution over six months  Yes  No

<p>APPROVED _____ SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</p> <p>COPIES MADE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 - Bureau (88-41730)</li> <li>2 - Chicago (Encs. 2)</li> <li>2 - Springfield</li> <li>② - St. Louis (88-7447)</li> <li>2 - Kansas City (88-9449)</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0;">44-775-559</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0;"><del>88-7447-4</del></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">SERIALIZED.....FILED.....</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0; text-align: center;">OCT 31 1967</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0; text-align: center;">FBI - SAINT LOUIS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">By <i>[Signature]</i></p> </div>																									
<p style="text-align: center;">Dissemination Record of Attached Report</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">Agency</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Request Recd.</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Date Fwd.</th> <th style="width: 15%;">How Fwd.</th> <th style="width: 15%;">By</th> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table>	Agency	Request Recd.	Date Fwd.	How Fwd.	By																					<p>Notations</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0;"><i>[Handwritten mark]</i></p>
Agency	Request Recd.	Date Fwd.	How Fwd.	By																						

KC 88-9449

LEADS:

CHICAGO DIVISION

At Wheeling, Illinois

Will attempt to locate and interview JERRY RAY, Box 22, brother of subject, regarding whereabouts of subject, associates, relatives, and for any other information which might aid in locating subject.

SPRINGFIELD DIVISION

In addition to investigation already requested of the Springfield Division, the following should be conducted:

At Alton, Illinois

1. Will attempt to establish the whereabouts of GEORGE RAY, father of subject, formerly of 538 East Broadway and mother, LUCILLE of the same address. However, it is noted that LUCILLE RAY may be an aunt, who was last known to reside in St. Louis, Missouri.

2. Will contact WILLIAM MAHEW, 1118 East 7th Street, a former address of subject, as listed in military records as 538 Broadway, Alton, Illinois (1945).

At Quincy, Illinois

Will conduct logical investigation to locate subject, it being noted he resided at 215 Oak Street in 1948; in care of LUCILLE RYAN, and 214 Spring Street in 1952.

ST. LOUIS DIVISION

At St. Louis, Missouri

At 1135 South 10th Street, will attempt to locate LUCILLE RYAN, probably an aunt, rather than mother of subject, and ascertain from her the location of subject and the names of all of his relatives with their addresses. Set out appropriate leads.

B\*  
( COVER PAGE)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

Report of: **SA ROWEN S. AYERS**  
Date: **10/28/67**

Office: **KANSAS CITY**Field Office File #: **88-2449**Bureau File #: **88-41780**Title: **JAMES EARL RAY**Character: **UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY, FIRST**

Synopsis: Efforts to locate relatives of subject at St. Louis, Missouri negative. LUCILLE RAY variously listed in institutional records as mother and aunt, and appears to be relative with whom he was most in contact. She was last known to reside at 1188 South 18th, St. Louis, Missouri. Parents may be deceased. BECAUSE RAY HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF ROBBERY WITH DEADLY WEAPON AND BECAUSE OF HIS CONFINEMENT IN A STATE HOSPITAL, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

-P-

**DETAILS:**

KC 88-9449

WCH:jab

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The following investigation was conducted by  
IC WILLIAM C. MC DONALD:

At Fulton, Missouri:

On August 31, 1967, ROBERT ROSSON, Registrar, State Hospital No. 1, advised that JAMES EARL RAY was received on September 8, 1966, and discharged on October 21, 1966. Mr. ROSSON stated that RAY had been sent for examination due to his attempted escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary; however, it was determined that RAY was actually hiding out inside the walls and no escape charge was filed.

Mr. ROSSON stated that after examining RAY it was determined that he had no mental disease or defect and recommended his return to the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri.

Mr. ROSSON advised that according to his records there is no information to reflect that RAY is dangerous.

Mr. ROSSON stated that the only relative listed in this file is JERRY RAY, Brother, Box 27, Wheeling, Illinois.

KC 88-9449

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
ROWEN B. AYERS:

At Leavenworth, Kansas:

CARL F. ZARTER, Administrative Assistant, U. S.  
Penitentiary (USP), Leavenworth, Kansas, on September 12, 1967,  
advised that USP file number 72488-L, pertaining to JAMES  
EARL RAY is now stored at the Federal Records Center, GSA,  
2306 East Bannister Road, Kansas City, Missouri, Attention -  
Chief, Reference Service Branch, GSA - Accession Number 65 A 10,  
in Boxes 85327 - 87488.

KC 88-9408

JW:msb

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The following investigation was conducted by  
Investigative Clerk JAMES W. WRIGHT:

**AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI:**

On October 2, 1967, Mr. JAMES E. VATES, Archives  
Assistant, Federal Records Center - General Services Administration,  
2306 East Summister Road, made available U. S. Penitentiary,  
Lawrence, Kansas, file number 73428-1, pertaining to JAMES  
EARL RAY, from which the following information was obtained:

RAY was sentenced on July 1, 1960, in U. S. District  
Court, Kansas City, Missouri, to a term of three years and nine  
months on a charge of Forgery of U. S. Post Office Money Orders.  
He was committed to U. S. Penitentiary, Lawrence, Kansas, on  
July 7, 1960, and was given a Conditional Release from that  
institution on April 4, 1963, the period of supervision  
terminating October 2, 1963.

At time of admission to U. S. Penitentiary, Lawren-  
ce, RAY listed the following relatives:

GEORGE RAY, Father, (Deceased);  
MARY RAY, Mother, (Deceased);  
LUCILLE RYAN, Aunt, 208 N. 10th St., Quincy, Illinois. / 1955

RAY requested numerous changes of address for his  
aunt, Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN, while she resided in Quincy, Illinois.  
She resided at Lancaster, Missouri, for a brief period, and the  
last known address for Mrs. RYAN was 1136 South 10th Street,  
St. Louis, Missouri.

On November 20, 1955, RAY requested permission to  
correspond with a cousin, JIMMY RYAN, 2009 South 7th Street,  
Quincy, Illinois, however, the request was denied. He also  
requested permission to correspond with an uncle, WILLIAM  
HARRIS, 1113 East 7th Street, Alton, Illinois.

Records reflect RAY served in U. S. Army, Serial  
No. RA 16163129, from February of 1945, to December 23, 1948,  
at which time he was given a discharge under honorable  
conditions by reason of inaptness and lack of adaptability

EC 88-9449

3

for military duty. He was on foreign service from July 18, 1948, to December 21, 1948.

Records further reflect that RAY has no trades or skill and during his period of confinement at U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, he was not interested in vocational training or self-improvement programs. He claims to have completed ten grades of public school at the age of 16 in Alton, Illinois. RAY claims he is an only child and that his father died in 1947 and his mother died in 1948.

1

SL 88-7447  
CBB/leh

The following investigation was conducted by SA CLYDE S. BISHOP at St. Louis, Missouri:

A check of the records of the St. Louis Police Department on September 5, 1967, reflected the details surrounding the arrest of subject, RAY, in connection with the armed robbery of the Kroger Store, 3417 Ohio Street in St. Louis, on October 19, 1958, and also reflected that on April 23, 1967, a teletype was received from the warden at Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, in connection with the recent escape of subject, RAY, from that institution. Detectives FRANCIS AHER and CHARLES BILLENZ, assigned to the 3rd District, St. Louis Police Department, conducted investigation on the same date, in an effort to locate subject. A check by these officers at 1915 Park Avenue, 3015 Park Avenue, and 1913 Hickory Street, previous addresses listed for subject, his mother and other relatives developed no information whatever of subject or other members of his family.

On October 2, 1967, HELEN CREANER, residing at 1915 Hickory Street, advised she had resided at that address for the last couple of years and had never seen subject or any of his relatives. Investigation in the neighborhood of 1915 Hickory Street, revealed this to be a blighted area and the majority of the residences have been evacuated preparatory to being demolished. Members of families still residing in the area were interviewed and all denied ever having known a RAY family residing in the area since they have resided there.

At the time of the contact with officers AHER and BILLENZ at the 3rd District, Detective ROBERT WENIGER and several other members of the 3rd District Detective Bureau, who are personally acquainted with subject, RAY, were advised of his fugitive status and all promised to be alert for any available information concerning the whereabouts of subject or members of his family.

A review on September 13, 1967, by IC EARL M. BANEY of the military service records on file at the Military Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri, for JAMES EARL RAY, Serial Number 16 163 123, indicated he enlisted in the United States Army on February 19, 1946, at East St. Louis, Illinois,



2  
SI 58-7487

and served on active duty until December 23, 1948, at which time he was given a General Discharge as a Private First Class at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, by reason of ineptness and lack of adaptability for military service.

Records indicated he was tried and convicted by a Special Court-Martial for being drunk in quarters and breaking arrest. He was sentenced to be confined at hard labor for three months and forfeit \$45.00 per month for four months.

The following background and descriptive information is contained in the United States Army records for RAY:

Date and place of birth	[REDACTED] Alton, Illinois
Height	5'11"
Weight	145 pounds
Race	White
Hair	Black
Eyes	Blue
Military Occupation	Military Policeman
Civilian Occupation	Color Watchdog
Addresses	236 Broadway, Alton, Illinois, February, 1940; 215 Oak Street, Quincy, Illinois, December, 1948; In care of Mrs. MCELLEN RAY, 224 Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois, July, 1952.
Relatives	Father, GUNNAR RAY, Mother, MCELLEN RAY, both of 236 East Broadway, Alton, Illinois, February, 1940.
Photograph	None available.

SAC, KANSAS CITY (88-9449)

12/21/67

SAC, ST. LOUIS (88-7447) (RUC)

JAMES EARL RAY, aka -  
FUGITIVE  
UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST  
OO: Kansas City

Re report of SA ROWEN B. AYERS dated 10/30/67  
at Kansas City.

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL at St. Louis, Missouri.

A check of the St. Louis City Directory reflected  
no address listed for 1135 South Tenth Street. A visual  
inspection of the area revealed no residence addresses on  
the west or odd-numbered side of the 1000 block of South  
Tenth Street. The highest odd-numbered address in this  
block was 1133, which is a business establishment which  
was built a few years ago.

An inspection of the St. Louis City Directories  
and St. Louis Telephone Directory listed a LUCILLE RYAN,  
4992 Lansdowne, an employee of the Land Clearance and  
Housing Authority, who was determined not to be identical  
with any relative of subject RAY.

Also listed was a Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN, 8747 New  
Hampshire, who also advised upon interview she was not  
a relative of subject JAMES EARL RAY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

2 - Kansas City  
1 - St. Louis  
CBB:jc  
(3)

96  
CBB

*[Handwritten signature]*

44-775-560

88-7447-5

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>KANSAS CITY</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>KANSAS CITY</b>	DATE <b>12/29/67</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>10/23/67 - 12/21/67</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE</b>		REPORT MADE BY  <b>JOSEPH L. KISSIAH</b>	TYPED BY  <b>KSW</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST</b>	

**REFERENCES:** Kansas City report of SA ROWEN B. AYERS, 10/30/67.  
 Springfield letter to Kansas City, 10/3/67. (Interoffice)  
 Springfield letter to Kansas City, 11/24/67. "

P

**LEADS**

**CHICAGO, SPRINGFIELD AND ST. LOUIS (INFORMATION)**  
 One copy of this report is submitted for the information of Chicago, Springfield and St. Louis, all whom have current investigation outstanding to locate the subject.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT-TALS
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES	

Case has been: Pending over one year  Yes  No; Pending prosecution over six months  Yes  No

APPROVED _____ SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE  COPIES MADE:  1 Bureau (88-41730) 1 Chicago (Info) 1 Springfield (88-5361)(Info) ① St. Louis (Info) 2 Kansas City (88-9449)	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW  <div style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">44 775-561</div>  <div style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;"><del>88-7447-6</del></div>  SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____ SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____ <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">                     DEC 30 1967                      FBI - ST. LOUIS                      BIDWELL   C                 </div>																									
Dissemination Record of Attached Report																										
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KC 88-9449

**KANSAS CITY**

**AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI**

Will continue to contact logical informants for any information which might lead to the location of the subject.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

On November 16, 1967, DOROTHY WALKER, Clerk, U. S. Post Office, Alton, Illinois, advised SA ROBERT C. HAINES that records of that office contain no removal notice on file for WILLIAM MAHER.

**INFORMANTS:**

The following were contacted on the dates indicated by SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH in a negative effort to develop information regarding the subject:

PCI JAMES C. BOYD, on 10/24 and 11/21/67.

KC 473-C, on 11/17, 12/4 and 12/21/67.

PCI J. W. JONES, 11/17 and 12/1/67.

PCI HENRY C. MC FAD, 11/17 and 12/11/67.

PCI HELEN GRAYSON, 11/21/67.

PCI JOE F. ROSS, 11/21 and 12/5/67.

KC 601-C, 11/24 and 12/18/67.

**B\***  
**(COVER PAGE)**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

## Report of:

JOSEPH L. KISSIAH

Office: Kansas City

## Date:

12/29/67

## Field Office File #:

KC 88-9449

Bureau File #: 88-41730

## Title:

JAMES EARL RAY

## Character:

UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT -  
ROBBERY FIRST

## Synopsis:

Files of Illinois State Penitentiary, Pontiac, Illinois, reviewed pertaining to subject whose only correspondent was reportedly his mother, Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN. Subject had no visitors at that location. Efforts to locate WILLIAM MAHER, reportedly an uncle of the subject, Alton, Illinois, unproductive. BECAUSE RAY HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF ROBBERY WITH DEADLY WEAPON AND BECAUSE OF HIS CONFINEMENT IN A STATE HOSPITAL, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P

## DETAILS:

By communication dated October 30, 1967, the Springfield Office advised as follows:

TOM DUFFY, Records Office, Illinois State Penitentiary, Pontiac Branch, Pontiac, Illinois, was contacted October 23, 1967. He advised that records pertaining to JAMES EARL RAY, Pontiac #19121, FBI #306-443A, have been reduced to micro film. He advised that all that is kept on micro film is certain categories.

The micro film records pertaining to subject were reviewed by SA ARTHUR LEE WOODS, on October 23, 1967. Records reveal that RAY was received at the Illinois State

KC 88-9449

Penitentiary, Joliet, Illinois, on June 13, 1952, on the charge of robbery to serve a one to two year sentence on a plea of guilty from Cook County, Illinois. RAY was released upon expiration of a short term sentence on March 12, 1954.

Subject listed relatives as follows:

Father, GEORGE RAY, deceased.

Mother, Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN, 214 Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois.

Brothers, JOHN and JERRY, both at home with mother.

Correspondence file was checked and determined the only person who corresponded with subject while he was incarcerated at the Pontiac Prison was his mother, Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN.

Subject, while incarcerated, had no visitors. Records fail to reveal any associates or former addresses for subject.

By communication dated November 24, 1967, the Springfield Office advised as follows:

The following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT C. HAINES:

AT ALTON, ILLINOIS:

Records of the Alton Police Department and the Credit Bureau of Alton were reviewed on November 15, 1967, and found to contain no reference for the subject or his father, GEORGE RAY.

It is noted that at the time of his admission to the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, RAY indicated his father and mother were both deceased.

KC 88-9449

Investigation at 1118 East 7th Street to locate and interview WILLIAM MAHER disclosed that the house is now vacant.

A review of the records of the Alton Police Department and the Credit Bureau of Alton in connection with WILLIAM MAHER was unproductive in developing information concerning his current whereabouts.

Records of the Illinois Bell Telephone Company and a review of the City Directory of Alton, Illinois, and of Wood River - East Alton were unproductive with regard to MAHER.

F B I

Date: 2/8/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: SAC, ST. LOUIS (88-7447)

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (88-11505) (RUC)

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka -  
FUGITIVE  
UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST  
(OO: KANSAS CITY)

*7/2-2501*

Re Chicago letter to Springfield dated 12/29/67, and report of SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH dated 12/29/67, at Kansas City.

The following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT F. PEVAHOUSE:

On 1/23/68, Chief MARVIN HORCHER, Wheeling, Illinois, Police Department, advised he had determined a JERRY RAY had resided at 2897 Techny Road, Northbrook, Illinois, but he does not know if JERRY RAY still resides at that address or if he is the brother of the subject.

On 1/23/68, inquiry at 2897 Techny Road, Northbrook, Illinois, revealed the present residents have lived there since October, 1967, although there was a JERRY RAY residing there prior to that time. They had no information as to the present location of JERRY RAY.

- ② - St. Louis
- 1 - Springfield (88-5361) (Info)
- 1 - Kansas City (88-9449) (Info)
- 1 - Chicago

RFP/tfk  
(5)

*Re-0*

*George*

*44-775-562*

*88-7447-7*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 10 1968	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

*337*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge



CG 88-11505

On 2/7/68, JERRY RAY was located and interviewed at the Sportman's Country Club, 3535 Dundee Road, Northbrook, Illinois, where he is employed and resides. He advised he is the brother of subject but has seen subject only three times in the last 15 years, that being the three times he visited subject at the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri. He advised subject left home about the time he was 14 or 15 years of age and has not maintained regular contact with any of the family since that time. Subject has always been a drifter and he has no knowledge of friends or associates of subject with whom he might be in contact. Their father, GEORGE RAY, and their mother, LUCILLE RAY, separated, and LUCILLE was subsequently known as LUCILLE RYAN. Both GEORGE RAY and LUCILLE RYAN are now deceased. He has no aunt by the name of LUCILLE RYAN and anyone by that name would have had to been their mother. He has another brother, JOHN RAY, who is single and a drifter, travelling and changing jobs frequently. He has no regular address but as of three days ago, was staying at the Mc Arthur Hotel on Broadway Street, St. Louis, Missouri. He had a younger brother, FRANK, who was killed in an automobile accident four year ago. He also has a sister, Mrs. ALBERT (CAROL) PEPPER, who just moved from 712 Shenandoah, St. Louis, Missouri, to Bellview, a suburb of St. Louis, but he does not have the address or phone number for CAROL. He is sure the phone company will have a new number for CAROL as that would be the way he would try to contact her. These are the only relatives subject has.

JERRY RAY advised he has been in contact with CAROL and JOHN as of three days ago, and both stated they have had no contact with subject or any knowledge where subject can be located. He does not believe subject will contact any of the relatives as long as he is in a fugitive status; however, should he receive any information concerning subject, he will immediately advise the FBI.

LEADS

ST. LOUIS

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI. 1. Will interview JOHN RAY if still located at Mc Arthur Hotel.

On 2/7/68, JERRY RAY was located and interviewed at the Spordman's Country Club, 3835 Dunbar Road, Northbrook, Illinois, where he is employed and resides. He advised he is the brother of subject and has seen subject only three times in the last 15 years, that being the three times he visited subject at the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri. He advised subject left home about the time he was 14 or 15 years of age and has not maintained regular contact with any of the family since that time. Subject has always been a drifter and he has no knowledge of friends or associates of subject with whom he might be in contact. Their father, GEORGE RAY, and their mother, LUCILLE RAY, separated, and LUCILLE was subsequently known as LUCILLE RYAN. Both GEORGE RAY and LUCILLE RYAN are now deceased. He has no idea by the name of LUCILLE RYAN and anyone by that name would have had to been their mother. He has another brother, JOHN RAY, who is single and a drifter, travelling and changing jobs frequently. He has no regular address but as of three days ago, was staying at the McArthur Hotel on Broadway Street, St. Louis, Missouri. He has a younger brother, TRANK, who was killed in an automobile accident four years ago. He also has a sister, Mrs. ALBERT (CAROL) FEPPER, who just moved from 113 Shennandoah, St. Louis, Missouri, to Bellevue, a suburb of St. Louis, but he does not have the address or phone number for CAROL. He is sure the phone company will have a new number for CAROL as that would be the way he would try to contact her. These are the only relatives subject has.

JERRY RAY advised he has been in contact with CAROL and JOHN as of three days ago, and both stated they have had no contact with subject or any knowledge where subject can be located. He does not believe subject will contact any of the relatives as long as he is in a fugitive status; however, should he receive any information concerning subject, he will immediately advise the FBI.

LEADS

ST. LOUIS

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI. I will interview JOHN RAY if still located at McArthur Hotel.

CG 88-11505

2. Will obtain current address of CAROL PEPPER and thereafter interview her for any knowledge concerning subject.

BECAUSE RAY HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF ROBBERY WITH DEADLY WEAPON, AND BECAUSE OF HIS CONFINEMENT IN A STATE HOSPITAL, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>KANSAS CITY</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>KANSAS CITY</b>	DATE <b>2/23/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>11/8/67 - 2/19/68</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE</b>		REPORT MADE BY  <b>SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH</b>	TYPED BY  <b>gah</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST</b>	

**REFERENCE: Kansas City report of SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH, 12/29/67.**

P

**LEADS:**

**CHICAGO, SPRINGFIELD AND ST. LOUIS (INFO)**

One copy of this report is submitted for the information of Chicago, Springfield and St. Louis, all of whom have current investigation outstanding to locate the subject or are expected to be requested to conduct additional investigation in the future.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:										
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES												
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO										
APPROVED						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW											
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE						44-775-563 7447-2											
COPIES MADE:						<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td>SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">FEB 24 1968</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">FBI - SAINT LOUIS</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"><i>Bidwell</i></td> </tr> </table>		SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		FEB 24 1968		FBI - SAINT LOUIS		<i>Bidwell</i>	
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1 - Bureau (88-41730) (RM) 1 - Chicago (INFO) (RM) 1 - Springfield (88-5361) (INFORM) 1 - St. Louis (INFO) (RM) 2 - Kansas City (88-9449)																	
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By																	

KC 88-9449

**KANSAS CITY DIVISION**

**AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:**

Reinterview supervisory employees of the subject and fellow inmates of the subject at the Missouri State Prison for any possible additional information they may be able to furnish regarding the subject's escape and his possible destination, associates and friends.

**AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI:**

1. At the Federal Records Center, review the U. S. Penitentiary file of WALTER TERRY RIFE, USP #72497-L, an associate of the subject, for any background or other information which might assist in the location of the subject.

2. Continue contact of informants, employment agencies and other logical sources of information in an effort to locate the subject.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

On 11/29/67, SA ROBERT F. PEVAHOUSE, of the Chicago Office, made inquiry at the U. S. Post Office, Wheeling, Illinois, with negative results in an effort to develop information regarding the subject.

On 2/7/68, Mr. A. E. FIFEHOUSE, Manager, Missouri State Employment Service, 1411 Walnut Street, Kansas City, Missouri, whose files are confidential, checked for the name of the subject with negative results.

**INFORMANTS:**

The following were contacted on the dates indicated by Special Agent JOSEPH L. KISSIAN with negative results to develop information regarding the subject:

██████████ on 12/23, 12/26/67; 1/19/68 and 2/7/68.

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KC 88-9449

[REDACTED] on 12/26/67; 1/19/68 and 2/3/68.

[REDACTED] on 12/26/67; 1/19/68 and 2/3/68.

[REDACTED] on 12/29/67; 1/19 and 30/68, and 2/19/68.

[REDACTED] on 1/3, 18 and 29/68.

[REDACTED] on 1/8/68.

[REDACTED] on 1/8 and 1/31/68.

CP

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

Report of: SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH Office: KANSAS CITY  
Date: February 23, 1968  
Field Office File #: KC 88-9449 Bureau File #: 88-41730  
Title: JAMES EARL RAY

Character: UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY FIRST

Synopsis: Investigation by Springfield and St. Louis Offices in effort to locate relatives and associates of subject unproductive. Chicago Office has located JERRY RAY, Northbrook, Ill., subject's brother, who described subject as drifter and has no knowledge of present whereabouts. Other relatives identified. Additional investigation Missouri State Penitentiary, and Kansas City, Mo., set out. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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## DETAILS:

By communication dated December 21, 1967, the St. Louis Office advised as follows:

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent CLETIS B. BIDEWELL at St. Louis, Missouri:

A check of the St. Louis City Directory reflected no address listed for 1135 South Tenth Street. A visual inspection of the area revealed no residence addresses on the west or odd-numbered side of the 1000 block of South Tenth Street. The highest odd-numbered address in this block was 1133, which is a business establishment which was built a few years ago.

010101



KC 88-9449

An inspection of the St. Louis City Directories and St. Louis Telephone Directory listed a LUCILLE RYAN, 4992 Lansdowne, an employee of the Land Clearance and Housing Authority, who was determined not to be identical with any relative of subject RAY.

Also listed was a Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN, 8747 New Hampshire, who also advised upon interview she was not a relative of subject JAMES EARL RAY.

By communication dated December 29, 1967, the Chicago Office advised as follows:

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent ROBERT F. PEVAHOUSE:

On November 29, 1967, Chief MARVIN HORCHER, Wheeling, Illinois, Police Department, advised a check of his records failed to reveal any record for subject or JERRY RAY.

On December 12, 1967, Mrs. RUTH MEYER, Palatine, Illinois, Credit Bureau, which maintains listings in Wheeling, Illinois, advised a check of their records failed to reveal any information concerning subject or JERRY RAY.

On December 18, 1967, Chief HORCHER, Wheeling, Illinois, Police Department, advised he had been unable to locate any additional information concerning a JERRY RAY, however, he will continue to make inquiries to determine if he can locate JERRY RAY.

By communication dated January 4, 1968, the Springfield Office advised as follows:

SI 88-5361

HWG:jah

1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA RACK W. OLIVER, Jr.:

At Quincy, Illinois

On November 8, 1967, Detective Sergeant ROLAND HANSON, Quincy, Illinois, Police Department, advised that JAMES EARL RAY, 1438 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois, was arrested on March 24, 1958, for forgery. Sergeant HANSON said that this was the only time RAY had been arrested in Quincy but that the files of the Quincy, Illinois, Police Department, indicated RAY had been arrested on other occasions and his FBI number was 300-443-A and that he had Illinois State Bureau number 463257.

Sergeant HANSON stated that the files of the Quincy, Illinois, Police Department were negative on JAMES EARL RAY since August 24, 1958.

Sergeant HANSON said that the files of the Quincy, Illinois, Police Department indicated a LUCILLE RYAN, no address, was arrested on August 23, 1957, for larceny. Sergeant HANSON said that the files indicated LUCILLE RYAN was born on April 27, 1909, at Alton, Illinois, and that this was the only time she had been arrested at Quincy, Illinois.

On November 8, 1967, Deputy CECIL FURBERHILL, Adams County Sheriff's Office, advised that the files of the Adams County Sheriff's Office were negative concerning JAMES EARL RAY and LUCILLE RYAN.

On November 8, 1967, Miss ELIZABETH BORN, Manager, Quincy Credit Bureau, advised that the files of the Quincy Credit Bureau indicated that LUCILLE RYAN had resided at Quincy, Illinois, prior to 1957. Miss BORN said that her files contain very little information concerning LUCILLE RYAN, and the last information she had on LUCILLE RYAN was in 1957.

2

On November 8, 1967, Miss ELIZABETH BETH, Quincy Credit Bureau, advised that the files of the Quincy Credit Bureau indicated JAMES EARL RAY resided at 1403 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois, in 1948 and that her files contained nothing on JAMES EARL RAY since 1948.

On November 20, 1967, Mrs. MARION A. REED, 314 1/2 Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that she has resided at present address for several years and that the names JAMES EARL RAY AND LUCILLE RYAN meant nothing to her.

On November 20, 1967, CHARLES E. REIDVREDER, 213 Oak Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that he has been at present address for several years and the names of JAMES EARL RAY and LUCILLE RYAN meant nothing to him.

KC 88-9449

By communication dated February 8, 1968, the Chicago Office advised as follows:

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent ROBERT F. PEVAHOUSE:

On January 23, 1968, Chief MARVIN HORCHER, Wheeling, Illinois, Police Department, advised he had determined a JERRY RAY had resided at 2897 Techny Road, Northbrook, Illinois, but he does not know if JERRY RAY still resides at that address or if he is the brother of the subject.

On January 23, 1968, inquiry at 2897 Techny Road, Northbrook, Illinois, revealed the present residents have lived there since October, 1967, although there was a JERRY RAY residing there prior to that time. They had no information as to the present location of JERRY RAY.

On February 7, 1968, JERRY RAY was located and interviewed at the Sportman's Country Club, 3535 Dundee Road, Northbrook, Illinois, where he is employed and resides. He advised he is the brother of subject but has seen subject only three times in the last 15 years, that being the three times he visited subject at the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri. He advised subject left home about the time he was 14 or 15 years of age and has not maintained regular contact with any of the family since that time. Subject has always been a drifter and he has no knowledge of friends or associates of subject with whom he might be in contact. Their father, GEORGE RAY, and their mother, LUCILLE RAY, separated and LUCILLE was subsequently known as LUCILLE RYAN. Both GEORGE RAY and LUCILLE RYAN are now deceased. He has no aunt by the name of LUCILLE RYAN and anyone by that name would have had to been their mother. He has another brother, JOHN RAY, who is single and a drifter, travelling and changing jobs frequently. He has no regular address but as of three days ago, was staying at the Mc Arthur Hotel on Broadway Street, St. Louis, Missouri. He had a younger brother, FRANK, who was killed in an automobile accident four years ago. He also has a sister, Mrs. ALBERT (CAROL) PEPPER, who just moved from 712 Shanandoah, St. Louis, Missouri, to Bellview, a suburb of St. Louis, but he does not have the

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address or phone number for CAROL. He is sure the phone company will have a new number for CAROL as that would be the way he would try to contact her. These are the only relatives subject has.

JERRY RAY advised he has been in contact with CAROL and JOHN as of three days ago, and both stated they have had no contact with subject or any knowledge where subject can be located. He does not believe subject will contact any of the relatives as long as he is in a fugitive status; however, should he receive any information concerning subject, he will immediately advise the FBI.

KC 88-9449

RBA:nks

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
ROWEN B. AYERS:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

On February 1, 1968, Warden HAROLD SWENSON, Missouri State Penitentiary, advised he has received no further information which might aid in locating JAMES EARL RAY. He said he had disposed of all of his notes regarding the original investigation of this escape. He said, for this reason, he could not furnish the names of any person or persons, who had furnished him with details regarding either the escape of RAY, or his possible whereabouts. He said the investigation had been handled by Captain DENTON STEELE and Major BERNARD POIRY.

On February 1, 1968, Captain STEELE said the only information he could recall about the escape of RAY was that his clerk, WILLIAM SOCKLE, told him it was a waste of time to look for RAY in the walls because he had escaped. He said he heard this same thing "on the prison grapevine" from others, but he did not know the source of this information and believed SOCKLE might know. He said SOCKLE is working at the University of Missouri Medical Center.

On February 1, 1968, Major BERNARD POIRY stated that a GEORGE OWENS covered RAY up in a box in a bread truck so RAY could get out of the walls. He said there was another inmate involved, but he could not recall his name.

On February 14, 1968, Major POIRY further advised he could not recall the name of the other inmate referred to by him. He said the investigation, as far as he was concerned, left no doubt that RAY got into a bread box for Church Farm and was covered by another inmate and gained access to an "out truck". After he cleared Jefferson City, RAY apparently got out of the truck and departed. Major POIRY said he has not developed any information as to the whereabouts of RAY.

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AT COLUMBIA, MISSOURI:

On February 15, 1968, WILLIAM SOCKLE, Sunset Trailer Court, formerly an inmate of the Missouri State Penitentiary, said he worked with RAY in the kitchen for a time. He said he also knew him well later because he took his meals in the kitchen, as a clerk, and RAY was there most of the time at meals. He said RAY talked all the time about escaping and "getting out of the area". He did not have any associates and did not divulge his plans to others. SOCKLE could not recall that RAY ever said where he would go if he escaped. SOCKLE said all he knew about the background of RAY was that he "fell" from St. Louis. He said RAY is quite intellectual and would be hard to find. He said he tried to escape on previous occasions, but was not deterred. He did not recall telling Captain STEELE that RAY had left the walls, but said this was possible as all the inmates who knew RAY, knew that he had left, in spite of the fact that he had previously "hidden out" within the walls.

SOCKLE said he could not suggest the name of any inmate or workers who might furnish information regarding the whereabouts of subject.

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**AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI:**

On January 18, 1968, Miss FRANCES M. ZIMMERMAN, U. S. Parole and Probation Office, 419 U. S. Post Office and Court House, made available a presentence report regarding subject JAMES EARL RAY, which had been prepared by that office on April 26, 1955. This report reveals that the subject on April 1, 1955, had entered a plea of guilty to an Information charging him with forging United States Post Office Money Orders. His companion in forging a large number of these money orders in numerous states was WALTER TERRY RIFE, who also entered a plea of guilty to a similar charge after which both he and the subject were sentenced on July 1, 1955, in Kansas City, Missouri, to the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas. Both were apparently released from that institution on April 5, 1958.

A further review of the files of the U. S. Parole Office indicates that after the subject's release from the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, he reportedly returned to the Kansas City, Missouri, area briefly to reside at the Blackstone Hotel and to contact the Missouri State Employment Service regarding employment possibilities. Accordingly, the following individuals were contacted on the indicated dates in a negative effort to develop information regarding the current location of the subject:

February 7, 1968  
Mrs. GLADYS HANSEN  
Blackstone Hotel, 817 Cherry Street

February 8, 1968  
Mrs. MARGARET HAYS  
Blackstone Hotel, 817 Cherry Street

February 8, 1968  
Mr. SID CROWE  
Casual Labor Office, 307 East Admiral Boulevard

February 8, 1968  
Mr. CALVIN PROCTOR  
Palmer Hotel, 408 East Ninth Street

February 13, 1968  
Mr. FRED LAWRENCE  
Identification Division, Kansas City, Missouri,  
Police Department.



SAC, KANSAS CITY (88-9449)

3/25/68

SAC, ST. LOUIS (88-7447) P

JAMES EARL RAY, aka -  
FUGITIVE  
UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST

OO: KC

Re Chicago airtel to St. Louis, 2/8/68, and report  
of SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH, 2/23/68, at Kansas City.

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL, at St. Louis, Mo.:

On 2/22/68, H. A. HARORE, Desk Clerk, McArthur  
Hotel, Chestnut and Broadway, advised after checking his  
records they contained no information indicating a JOHN  
RAY had been a resident of that hotel. He viewed subject's  
photographs and stated he did not recall seeing an individual  
resembling subject in the hotel. He spoke with other desk  
and service personnel at the hotel and they advised they  
recalled no JOHN RAY having resided at or frequented the  
hotel.

On 3/5/68, Mrs. ERNEST N. COOK, 712 Shenandoah,  
advised that she recalled the ALBERT S. PEPPER family as having  
resided upstairs at that address. She stated, however, they  
had recently moved to a new address, 2025 Bellview, Maplewood,  
Mo.

On 3/19/68, Mrs. CAROL RYAN PEPPER, 2025 Bellview  
(telephone 645-2948) was interviewed. She was most uncooperative  
and denied that her maiden name had been RAY, stating, however,  
that it had been ~~ERNEST~~ RYAN. She advised that her father  
and mother, GEORGE and LUCILLE RAY, were deceased and that  
she had a brother, JERRY RAY residing somewhere in Illinois.  
She also advised that she had another brother, JOHN RAY,  
whereabouts unknown, whom she had not seen in several years.

2 - Kansas City  
2 - Chicago  
2 - St. Louis  
CBB:mjb  
(6)

44-775-564  
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MAR 27 1968  
FBI - ST. LOUIS

88-7447-9

SL: 88-7447

Upon viewing a photograph of subject, she denied being related to this individual and stated she had never seen him. When questioned concerning her husband's employment, she advised he worked for some hardware store and stated she was unable to furnish the name or address of this business place.

In view of Mrs. PEPPER's uncooperative attitude the interview was terminated.

On 3/20/68, Mr. and Mrs. ERNEST M. COOK, 712 Shenandoah, were interviewed. They advised after viewing subject's photograph they had never observed an individual resembling him visiting the PEPPERS who had resided upstairs over their apartment for a period of several months up until two or three months ago. They advised that an individual reportedly a brother of Mrs. PEPPER had visited the PEPPERS on various occasions and that he and his family supposedly resided in the St. Louis area. They stated this individual did not resemble subject in their estimation.

They further advised that an individual referred to as "DADDY" by Mrs. PEPPER visited the PEPPERS on numerous occasions and this person reportedly recently bought a home and moved to Poplar Bluff, Mo., or somewhere in the Poplar Bluff area.

When questioned concerning other relatives or close associates of the PEPPER family, they advised that JAY and ROSEMARY SHIRLEY and their three children, SHERILL, JAY and ANNETTE, had been frequent visitors at the PEPPER home. They were of the opinion that Mrs. SHIRLEY was the sister of ALBERT PEPPER. This family had resided at the 712 A Shenandoah address prior to the time the PEPPER family moved in. The COOKS were of the opinion that the SHIRLEY family had recently bought a home somewhere in the St. Louis area. They can furnish no other information concerning the identity or the location of the SHIRLEY family.

- LEADS -

CHICAGO DIVISION:

AT NORTH BROOK, ILL.:

In view of the uncooperative attitude of subject's sister, Mrs. ALBERT S. (CAROL) PEPPER, will reinterview