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Police in Canada Investigate Whether Ray Had Assistance

By JAY WALZ
Special to The New York Times

TORONTO, June 10 — Police investigators weighed today the "important possibility" that James Earl Ray, the man accused of killing the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., had important, perhaps underworld, accomplices helping him make his escape to Europe through Canada.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, whose check of passport applications provided the clue leading to Ray's identification and arrest in London last Saturday, has decided that the suspect on his own could not have worked so fast and successfully during his month in Toronto.

"He didn't come cold into the city," a police spokesman said. "There was help of some kind."

The spokesman noted that many Canadians seeking passports and related documents in the normal way often complained that it takes longer than if did Ray — about two weeks.

Police sources note that Ray used the loopholes known to espionage agents, narcotics agents and other underworld figures to enter and leave the country. They point out that Ray had money, had been in Canada a year ago and lived in Montreal for a while last July, signing an apartment lease under the alias of Eric S. Galt, a name he also used in Los Angeles.

Mystery on Names

The real Eric S. Galt is a supervisor with Union Carbide in Scarborough, a community in metropolitan Toronto.

One mystery confronting the police is how it happened that the three men whose names Ray used as aliases all live within a few blocks of each other. They are Mr. alt, Paul Bridgman, a consultant teacher with the Toronto Board of Ed-

ucation, and Ramon George Sneyd, a constable of the Toronto police force.

When Ray was arrested in London he was carrying two Canadian passports issued to Ramon George Sneyd. When he first came to Toronto on April 8, four days after the slaying of Dr. King, Ray used the name of Paul Bridgman and obtained a birth certificate in this name.

All the men have found the experience of "being an alias" embarrassing, although all have been cleared by the police. None can explain how his name came to be used. B. O. Simmonds, Toronto Deputy Police Chief, said he did not know how Ray obtained enough information about Constable Sneyd or Mr. Bridgman for passport applications.

To obtain a passport, Ray needed a birth certificate. The police say they do not know how Ray obtained vital statistics about Mr. Bridgman and later Mr. Sneyd. But this need not have been difficult. He could have obtained the data from birth announcements on file in Toronto newspapers.

Both The Toronto Star and The Toronto Telegram reprinted this evening announcements of Mr. Bridgman's birth that were published in their respective vital statistics columns on Nov. 11, 1932. They read: Bridgman: On Thursday, Nov. 10, 1932, to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bridgman (née Evelyn Godden) a son, Paul Edward.

The date, parentage, sex and name are all Ray or anyone else would need to know when going to the registrar general for a birth certificate. H. F. C. Humphries, Ontario Deputy Registrar General, said today that Ray could have obtained a birth certificate easily.

"The kids are doing this all the time," he said.



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Next Step on Ray Is Proving Identity

By SMITH HEMPSTONE

European Correspondent of The Star

LONDON—U.S. Asst. Atty. Gen. Fred M. Vinson is expected to institute extradition proceedings in Bow Street Magistrates Court Thursday against James Earl Ray, the man accused of assassinating Martin Luther King Jr.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Frank Milton granted an American request yesterday for a provisional warrant for the arrest of Ray on a charge of murder. The U.S. must now establish that the man arrested Saturday at London's Heathrow Airport, under the name of Ramon George Sneyd, is Ray. charge of jail-breaking. This means that two federal charges against him will have to be dropped, since under international law a man cannot be tried for charges not laid against him in extradition proceedings.

Neither Extradictable

Ray is charged under federal law of conspiring to deprive King of his civil rights (by murdering him) and under another section of the same law as a fugitive. Neither of these are extradictable offenses under British law.

Legal authorities here say that, depending upon what course Ray's lawyers follow in extradition proceedings, the earliest date he could be returned to the United States would be June

The U.S. will seek to extradite Ray on a Tennessee charge of murder and on a Missouri charge of kidnapping. But if he fought the proceedings all the way, he might not be returned until July or August, these authorities say.

If the Bow Street court orders Ray handed over to American

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authorities, his lawyers will have 15 days in which to apply to a divisional court for a writ of habeas corpus.

Should this appeal be denied, Ray might be able to appeal to the House of Lords, although this is not a right and such an appeal can only be made if a legal point is involved.

The only charges presently facing Sneyd (as opposed to Ray) in British courts are using a fraudulent Canadian passport and possessing an unlicensed pistol and five rounds of ammunition.

The maximum penalty for these two offenses, for which he has been remanded until June 18, is three years and six months in jail plus a \$480 fine.

If extradition proceedings are successful, however, these charges would be dropped.

Ray presently is in London's Brixton Prison under the 24-hour watch of two prison officers, but he is expected to be transferred to the capital's Wandsworth Prison, which has tighter security.

Vinson denied today that he or any other American official had

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spent Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights at her Pax Hotel boarding house, 126 Warwick Way, in London's seedy Pimlico district.

Mrs. Thomas and her husband have since been interviewed by police, who apparently had difficulty in finding the unmarked boarding house, which is not listed in the telephone book.

These sources were unable to say whom, if anyone, Ray made contact with in London, an important point in establishing

Identity Next Step

whether King's murder was the act of a lone killer or the result of a conspiracy.

These same sources branded as false some reports that the United States knew of Ray's whereabouts in Portugal from which he allegedly came to Britain on May 17, but did not pick him up because of difficulties under Portugal's extradition laws.

U.S. Embassy officials here are unable to explain why the FBI stuck to its story that Ray was arrested while in transit from Lisbon to Brussels.

"Don't ask me," snapped one such official, "I don't work for the FBI."

It would appear to be true only in the broadest sense of the word that Ray was "in transit," if reports of his three-week stop-over here are correct.

In the two months American authorities searched for Ray following King's assassination April 4 in Memphis, Tenn., it now seems clear he went from the United States to Canada on April 8, to London May 6 and to Lisbon May 8. He left his Lisbon hotel on May 17 and surfaced

again in London on May 28.

U.S. officials here still are exploring the possibility of asking for Ray's deportation rather than extradition. But normally deportation, which is not easy after a person has been allowed to land, would involve turning Ray over to the carrier which brought him here, in this case, British European Airways.

Aside from the security risks involved and the question of to which country Ray should be deported (Portugal, from whence he came, Canada, whose passport he carried, or the United States, which wants him to face criminal charges), BEA flies only to European airports.

In any case, a deportation order, like extradition proceedings, can be appealed. Michael Dresden & Co. are Ray's court-appointed lawyers insofar as British charges are concerned. Other attorneys are expected to be called in to defend him in extradition proceedings. The United States also will be represented by local lawyers.

Ray will not appear in court Thursday when extradition proceedings are filed.

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RAY

Proving Identity Next Step

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interviewed Ray. He said that on Sunday he visited Cannon Row Police Station to inspect the security conditions under which Ray was held and there caught "a glimpse of him."

"It would have been improper for the prisoner to be interrogated by an American official," Vinson said.

Meanwhile, highly informed sources here insisted that, contrary to the original announcements of Ray's capture, he had been in Britain for about three weeks at the time of his arrest.

Mrs. Anna Thomas said in an interview yesterday that Sneyd spent Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights at her Pax Hotel boarding house, 126 Warwick Way, in London's seedy Pimlico district.

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Investigators Seem Convinced Ray Got Help

By MICHAEL COPE
Special to The Star

TORONTO — Canadian and American agents working together on the two-months-old Dr. Martin Luther King assassination appeared convinced today others were involved besides the man charged with the slaying, James Earl Ray, arrested Saturday in London.

Canadian Mounties, and American FBI agents who flew to Toronto where Ray hid out for a month after King's assassination in Memphis, Tenn., have determined that at least two men were seen with Ray.

They have built up a picture of a small-time hoodlum whom they doubt had the ability to plan and carry out the assassination he is charged with and then to elude the massive manhunt.

They have also determined Ray was frightened and panicked when the FBI released a picture of him that Canadian newspapers published.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Toronto said: "He didn't come cold to this city and make all his own arrangements. There was help of some kind, although we haven't got all the answers yet."

The deputy chief of the metropolitan Toronto police de-

partment Bernard Simmonds, whose criminal investigation bureau has been working on the Ray case for a week, said: "I think someone else was the mastermind."

And an unnamed American investigator up here was quoted as saying: "A guy like Ray, a five times loser with the law, just does not have the background for the way he behaved."

Last night dozens of detectives and plainclothes police combed the bars, dance halls and restaurants that Ray might have visited.

In one of them, the Silver Dollar saloon on Spadina Avenue in Toronto's West End, they found customers, waiters and a go-go dancer who remembered Ray.

For at least three evenings he reportedly sat in a front-row seat with a husky, fair-haired companion wearing a yellow tee-shirt. The two of them drank beer.

One of the go-go dancers, an expatriate American Negro girl (who refused to let her name be used) told police:

"He (Ray) just sat staring at me. It wasn't the way a man usually looks at a girl, but it was the way a white man looks at a colored girl dancing. Sort of like he didn't approve the first night I smiled at him. But he looked

kind of disgusted and turned away."

Police here also are looking for a stout, partly bald man who was seen handing Ray a bulky envelope on the front steps of one of the two lodging houses he stayed at during his month in Toronto. Police suspect the envelope contained money.

Just after he received it he went to a local travel agent and paid cash for a round trip air ticket to London.

On April 20 when the first FBI picture appeared in Canadian newspapers of him as wanted in connection with the Memphis slaying, Ray apparently panicked and fled his rooming house hideout on Ossington Street in Toronto, and took another room under another alias a few blocks away on Dundas Street West.

He gave himself away by leaving a copy of a newspaper open at the page with his picture on it.

But many questions remain unanswered about James Earl Ray's stay in Toronto.

In July last year he went to Montreal and stayed two months in a rooming house there posing as an American tourist to the Expo '67.

It was possible that Ray drove the 400 miles to Toronto and selected his hideout lodging houses, although police

here have emphasized they have no confirmation he did in fact come to Toronto then.

Police said a man resembling Ray and using the name of Eric Starvo Galt, one of Ray's aliases, checked into a Montreal rooming house early in July and stayed until early September.

How did Ray know the backgrounds of the two Toronto citizens — one of them a police officer — whose names he used to get birth certificates, the only document necessary for a Canadian passport?

Where did he get the \$10,000 police estimate he has spent since Martin Luther King was shot down in Memphis on April 4?

These questions are readily answered if Ray were part of a conspiracy. They might also be answered, however, by speculation that Ray was one of two still-unidentified men who robbed a bank in Alton, Ill. — Roy's home town — of \$37,000 shortly after he escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary April 23, 1967, and that he got information for his various identities in Canada by checking through old newspaper birth notices.

But some of North America's top investigators working on the case here find it hard to believe that Ray, a

criminal who bungled virtually every illegal enterprise he tackled, could have slipped through the net to Europe so skillfully without help.

All three Toronto men whose names Ray used as aliases have dark hair and are about the same height and weight as Ray.

Ramon George Sneyd, whose name Ray used on his passport, is a Toronto constable. Paul Bridgman, whose name Ray used at one Toronto rooming house, is a consultant teacher with the Toronto board of education.

Ray first was sought under the name Eric Starvo Galt, the name he used for months before King was killed April 4. Eric St. Vincent Galt, a Toronto warehouse foreman, has a signature that looks like Eric Starvo Galt. He uses the middle initials St. V., but with small zeros instead of periods. Galt and Ray have similar scars, in the middle of the forehead and on the palm of the right hand.

"I don't know what to think," Galt said. "It's a bit more than coincidence. The weight is right, the height range is right and the identification marks are there."

"I've wondered where our paths might have crossed, but I just don't know."

Police have put together this

chronology of Ray's stay in Toronto following King's slaying on April 4 in Memphis:

April 8—Arrived in Toronto taking room at 102 Ossington Ave. on the fringe of central Toronto in the name of Paul Bridgman.

April 11—Had passport photos taken at a downtown studio, using name Bridgman. Letter purporting to be from Bridgman was received by provincial secretary's office and a birth certificate was mailed to 102 Ossington Ave. Toronto. It was returned later marked "person unknown."

April 16—Using the name Ramon George Sneyd, asked Kennedy Travel Bureau to get him passport and round-trip ticket to London.

April 17—Passport application was sent to Ottawa.

April 18—An application for a birth certificate to the provincial secretary in the name Sneyd was received and a certificate was mailed to 962 Dundas St. W.

April 19—Moved into Dundas Street rooming house, also on fringe of central Toronto.

April 25—Passport was approved in Ottawa and returned to Kennedy Travel Bureau.

May 2—Dundas Street boarding house landlady saw a fat man called on Ray and gave him envelope.

May 6—Flew to London.