

U. S. Department of Justice

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

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

DO NOT DESTROY
HISTORICAL VALUE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

INVESTIGATION

DO NOT DESTROY-PRESERVE FOR
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Bureau File Number

DO NOT DESTROY-PENDING LITIGATION

#17

See also Nos.

C 2/1/77

~~Landrother 9/76~~

~~ROC 8/6/76~~

~~8/1/76 - Friedman~~

F B I

Date: 4/19/68

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

TO: SAC, ALBANY

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN - COST DATA

ReButel to ME 4/17/68.

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

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

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

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

157-644-288

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 23 1968	
FBI - BOSTON	

Kirby Pink

Approved: R. G. Jensen
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

ME 44-1987

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

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

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

DECODED COPY

☒ Radio

URGENT

5/14/68

☐ Teletype

TO ALL FIELD DIVISIONS
FROM WASHINGTON

MURKIN

IN VIEW OF FACT THAT SUBJECT SPENT A CONSIDERABLE SUM OF MONEY FROM 4/23/1967 TO 4/4/1968, AND THE SOURCE OF HIS MONEY HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED, HIS PHOTOGRAPH SHOULD BE DISPLAYED TO APPROPRIATE WITNESSES IN UNSOLVED BANK ROBBERIES AND BANK BURGLARIES IN THOSE INSTANCES WHERE WITNESSES ARE AVAILABLE. YOU SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER THE REQUESTING OF POLICE DEPARTMENTS TO DISPLAY PHOTOGRAPH OF RAY TO WITNESSES IN THEIR UNSOLVED ROBBERIES. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

Photo Displayed
Witnesses Cannot Identify — 91-2965
Witnesses Cannot Identify — 91-3042
Witnesses Cannot Identify — 91-3081
Amey
Wor

157-644-289

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 15 1968	
FBI - BOSTON	
MEGRATH	
Kirby	Rmk

72

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, BOSTON (157-644)

DATE: 6/7/68

FROM : SA THOMAS P. GARVEY

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 5/23/68 at 12:50 p.m., PETER MATTHEWS, student at Boston University, telephonically contacted the Boston Office and stated that a man answering the description of JAMES EARL RAY was seen going into 319 Huntington Ave., Boston. At 1:18 p.m. on the same date, an individual believed to be MATTHEWS telephonically contacted the Boston Office and stated that an individual answering RAY's description had left Guido's Pizza Parlor, Huntington Ave., and had entered 319 Huntington Ave.

The following persons were contacted on 5/23/68; and no information was developed indicating that RAY was in the Huntington Avenue, Boston, area:

ELLIOT LYMAN
307 Huntington Ave
Boston, Mass.

GUIDO SAELI
and
ANTHONY SHARRA
Guido's Pizza Parlor

ALBERT COLEMAN
Resident Manager
319 Huntington Ave.
Boston, Mass.

REBECCA REAPINSKY, Cashier
and
CARL CHRISTIANSON, Resident Manager
YMCA
316 Huntington Ave
Boston, Mass.

TPG:mej
(2)

157-644-250
[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten signature] emp

BS 157-644

On 5/28/68, Mrs. GUIDO SAELI, 99 Holmes Avenue, Dorchester, stated she was in Guido's Pizza Parlor on 5/23/68 from approximately noon to 2:30 p.m. and she has no recollection of anyone answering the description of RAY being in the parlor.

It is noted that the second call received at the Boston Office pointed out that the caller approached the individual believed to be RAY in the parlor, spoke to him, whereupon the individual immediately left the pizza parlor without waiting for his order.

Mrs. SAELI recalled an individual in the parlor who received his order, partially consumed it, and left. He was accompanied by two individuals whom she believed were students, perhaps from Northeastern.

LEO GANNON, Division 4, was contacted concerning the above and had no information concerning same.

It is noted that, immediately subsequent to the caller contacting the Boston Office, the Record American also called and the writer learned, upon making inquiry in the Huntington Avenue area, that the Record American had been there previously.

No further action is being taken in this matter at this time.

SAC, BOSTON (157-644)

6/7/68

SA THOMAS P. GARVEY

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ALBERT COLEMAN
Resident Manager
319 Huntington Ave.
Boston, Mass.

REBECCA REAPINSKY, Cashier
and
CARL CHRISTIANSON, Resident Manager
YMCA
316 Huntington Ave
Boston, Mass.

TPG:mej
(2)

mej

157-644-210
[Handwritten signatures and initials]

BS. 157-644

On 5/28/68, Mrs. GUIDO SAEI, 99 Holmes Avenue, Dorchester, stated she was in Guido's Pizza Parlor on 5/23/68 from approximately noon to 2:30 p.m. and she has no recollection of anyone answering the description of RAY being in the parlor.

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FBI WASH DC

FBI BOSTON

335PM URGENT 6/10/68 1P PJC

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861

FROM BOSTON 157-644

MURKIN

RE BUTEL TO BOSTON, JUNE NINE LAST.

SHELLEY CANDIDUS, CUSTOMER SERVICE, POLAROID CORP.,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS., ADVISED TODAY THAT REGISTRATIONS OF PURCHASERS
OF THIS TYPE CAMERA ARE NOT FILED IN ANY PARTICULAR NUMERICAL
ORDER. CANDIDUS STATED A COMPUTER IS BEING PROGRAMMED BY
POLAROID CORP. TO PROCESS APPROXIMATELY SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND
REGISTRATIONS FOR SUCH CAMERAS IN HOPE OF FINDING REGISTRANT
FOR GIVEN SERIAL NUMBER WITH PREFIX ZD WHICH IS CORRECT. ONLY
ONE OUT OF FOUR PURCHASERS USUALLY REGISTER. RESULTS OF COMPUTER
SHOULD BE OBTAINED BY JUNE ELEVEN NEXT.

AIR MAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

END

WPK

FBI WASH DC

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

157-644-291

F B I

Date: 6/10/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)
FROM: BOSTON (157-644)

MURKIN

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ONE OUT OF FOUR PURCHASERS USUALLY REGISTER. RESULTS OF COMPUTER
SHOULD BE OBTAINED BY JUNE ELEVEN NEXT.

AIR MAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

① - Boston
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)
RMK:1
(2)

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 3:35 P M

Per

157-644-291

DECODED COPY

☒ Radio☐ Teletype

TO: ALL FIELD DIVISIONS

JUNE 6, 1968

FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI

URGENT

MURKIN.

FOR INFORMATION ALL OFFICES AND NOT TO BE DISCLOSED TO ANYONE OUTSIDE OF OFFICE IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THROUGH INVESTIGATION THAT SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY RESIDED IN CANADA FROM APRIL 8, 1968 UNTIL MAY 6, 1968, UNDER NAMES PAUL BRIDGMAN AND RAMON GEORGE SNEYD. SUBJECT DEPARTED CANADA FOR LONDON, ENGLAND, ON MAY 6, LAST AS SNEYD AND IS BELIEVED USING CANADIAN PASSPORT IN THAT NAME. SUBJECT BELIEVED TO BE WEARING GLASSES.

IN VIEW OF ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS REVIEW OF DRIVER'S LICENSE BUREAU RECORDS AS REQUESTED IN BUREAU RADIOGRAM MAY 21 LAST MAY BE DISCONTINUED.

OFFICES COVERING POINTS OF ENTRANCE INTO U.S. SHOULD PLACE APPROPRIATE STOPS WITH BORDER AND CUSTOM AUTHORITIES UNDER NAME GEORGE SNEYD. NO INDICATION WHATSOEVER SHOULD BE GIVEN THAT THERE IS ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN SNEYD AND KING ASSASSINATION.

*Ross advised
Rocchelli
Kittling
Kittling*

157-644-292

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 6 1968	
FBI - BOSTON	

KIA 69 1 PM

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

PAGE TWO

YOU MAY ADVISE AUTHORITIES THAT INDIVIDUAL USING NAME SNEYD IS BEING SOUGHT BY FBI FOR UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT FOR CHARGE OF ROBBERY.

FOR INFORMATION OF BORDER OFFICES THERE IS ACTUAL PERSON RESIDING IN TORONTO, CANADA, WHO IS EMPLOYED BY TORONTO POLICE DEPARTMENT NAMED RAMON GEORGE SNEYD. THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH USED BY SUBJECT IN OBTAINING PASSPORT. THIS IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION IN EVENT BORDER STOPS DISCLOSE THAT INDIVIDUAL NAMED SNEYD IS ENTERING YOUR TERRITORY.

COPIES MAILED WFO.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS .

(2)

TOR: 3:15 PM/JWT

FBI BOSTON

OK

12-58PM URGENT 6/8/68 GJM

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861

MURKIN

SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY APPREHENDED AT LONDON,
ENGLAND, JUNE EIGHT INSTANT. DISCONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOCATE
AND REMOVE ALL STOPS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

DMC

FBI BOSTON

⑥

SAC, Supers, Sr RAS
notified WED

Postville

157-644-293

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 8 1968	
FBI - BOSTON	

KIRBY

FBI BOSTON

OK

12-58PM URGENT 6/8/68 GJM

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861

MURKIN

SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY APPREHENDED AT LONDON,
ENGLAND, JUNE EIGHT INSTANT. DISCONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOCATE
AND REMOVE ALL STOPS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

LXC

FBI BOSTON

9

157644-293
H H
[]

FBI BOSTON

FBI WASH DC

419PM URGENT 6/9/68 ELR

TO BOSTON

FROM DIRECTOR 1P

MURKIN ✓

AT TIME OF ARREST SUBJECT HAD IN HIS POSSESSION
POLAROID TWO TWO ZERO CAMERA WHICH IS MANUFACTURED BY
POLAROID CORPORATION, CAMBRIDGE, MASS., SERIAL NUMBER
Z D OR Z O ONE TWO SEVEN ONE THREE ONE.

CHECK RECORDS OF POLAROID COMPANY IN EFFORT TO
TRACE THIS CAMERA. AIRMAIL COPY SENT TO MEMPHIS.
END

FBI BOSTON

JCC@

157-644-294

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 10 1968	
FBI - BOSTON	
AIR 31	

Handwritten notes:
+ ser. # 864-6000
* 3567
Lore J...
dept mgr.
customer service

FBI BOSTON

FBI WASH DC

419PM URGENT 6/9/68 ELR

TO BOSTON

FROM DIRECTOR 1P

MURKIN

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POLAROID TWO TWO ZERO CAMERA WHICH IS MANUFACTURED BY
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END

FBI BOSTON

JCC@

157-644-294

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 9 1968	
FBI - BOSTON	

FBI WASH DC

FBI BOSTON

345PM URGENT 6/12/68 1P PJC
TO DIRECTOR 44-38861
FROM BOSTON 157-644

MURKIN

RE BOSTON TEL TO BUREAU JUNE TEN LAST.

SHELLEY CANDIDUS, CUSTOMER RELATIONS, POLAROID CORP.,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS., ADVISED TODAY RESULTS OF COMPUTER AND MANUAL
CHECK OF PURCHASER REGISTRATIONS FROM JANUARY, SIXTYSEVEN, TO
DATE WERE NEGATIVE RE SERIAL NUMBER OF POLAROID CAMERA FOUND ON
RAY. RECORDS MAINTAINED BY CORP. FILED BY SERIAL NUMBER ONLY
AND NOT BY NAME.

CANDIDUS ADVISED SERIAL NUMBER SIGNIFIES THIS CAMERA MADE
IN MONTH OF JANUARY, SIXTYSEVEN.

AIRMAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

END

CAB

FBI WASH DC

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED _____
INDEXED _____
FILED _____

157-644-295

F B I

Date: 6/12/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)
FROM: BOSTON (157-644)

MURKIN

RE BOSTON TEL TO BUREAU JUNE TEN LAST.

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AND NOT BY NAME.

CANDIDUS ADVISED SERIAL NUMBER SIGNIFIES THIS CAMERA MADE
IN MONTH OF JANUARY, SIXTYSEVEN.

AIRMAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

1 - Memphis ~~(44-1987)~~ (AM)
① - Boston
RMK:gb
(2) *gb*

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED _____
INDEXED _____
FILED _____

157-644-295

Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 3:45 Q M Per Qc

6/13/68

AIRTEL

TO: Director, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, Boston (157-644)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

Re Springfield airtel, 5/31/68; and Bureau
airtel to Springfield, 5/29/68. ^{To Boston}

On 6/12/68, ALFRED KNEISON, Shipping Manager, Savage Arms, Inc., Westfield, Massachusetts, advised SA THOMAS F. SULLIVAN the Stevens Model 94, 12 gauge, single barrel shotgun manufactured by that firm is one produced in great volume. As indicated in referenced airtel, no serial numbers are marked on the weapon and he said there is no way in which a recovered gun can be traced.

He discussed the problem with officials and engineers at the plant and it was their conclusion a recovered shotgun might be examined by the plant and a determination made that it was in fact one of their manufacture. However, there is no recording made of the component parts or assembly markings which might appear, and he said, regardless of the importance of a given inquiry, it was not possible to say when or to whom a gun was shipped.

3 - Bureau
2 - Springfield (44-561)
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)
1 - Boston
TFB/ant
(7)

Rank
Tom
sax

157-644-296

DECODED COPY

☒ Radio

URGENT

5/14/68

☐ Teletype

TO ALL FIELD DIVISIONS
FROM WASHINGTON
MURKIN ✓

IN VIEW OF FACT THAT SUBJECT SPENT A CONSIDERABLE SUM OF MONEY FROM 4/23/1967 TO 4/4/1968, AND THE SOURCE OF HIS MONEY HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED, HIS PHOTOGRAPH SHOULD BE DISPLAYED TO APPROPRIATE WITNESSES IN UNSOLVED BANK ROBBERIES AND BANK BURGLARIES IN THOSE INSTANCES WHERE WITNESSES ARE AVAILABLE. YOU SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER THE REQUESTING OF POLICE DEPARTMENTS TO DISPLAY PHOTOGRAPH OF RAY TO WITNESSES IN THEIR UNSOLVED ROBBERIES. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

91-2836
91-2888
91-3043
91-3051

157-644-217

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - BOSTON	

LINK
Kirby
Runk

6/11/68

ROUTING SLIP TO ALL FIELD OFFICES

FROM: *RW* SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

RE: JAMES EARL RAY, aka -
FUGITIVE
CR - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY

OO: MEMPHIS

Re report of SA JOE C. HESTER 6/5/68 at Memphis.

Page 17, paragraph 4, line 6 - 12/17/67, should
be 12/7/67.

Please correct your copies.

SAC ROBERT G. JENSEN

TOR:tjm

57-644-290

SERIALIZED	<i>95</i>
JUN 13 1968	
<i>Hester</i>	

Pls handle

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Agent in charge
Federal Bureau of Investigations
Boston, Mass.

FROM : Martin G. Hewson, Immigrant Inspector
Pittsburg, New Hampshire

SUBJECT: RAY, James Earl

PNH 71/41
DATE: April 22, 1968

Request two photos of James Earl Ray wanted by your department.
One photo shall be retained at this office and the other will be
given to the opposite Canadian port of entry.

Martin G. Hewson

index

44-1-299

SEARCHED <i>4/24</i>	INDEXED <i>4/24</i>
SERIALIZED <i>4/24</i>	FILED <i>4/24</i>
APR 25 1968	
FBI - BOSTON	

Reed R.
Pls handle

F B I

Date: 6-12-68

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

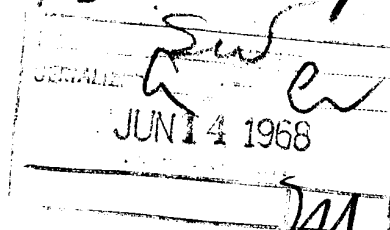
TO: SAC, ALBANY
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P
MURKIN

In view of subject's apprehension, any office having outstanding leads or requests for circularization in any publication of any kind should cancel outstanding request now.

A & D.

2 Albany
1 All Continental Offices
1 Memphis

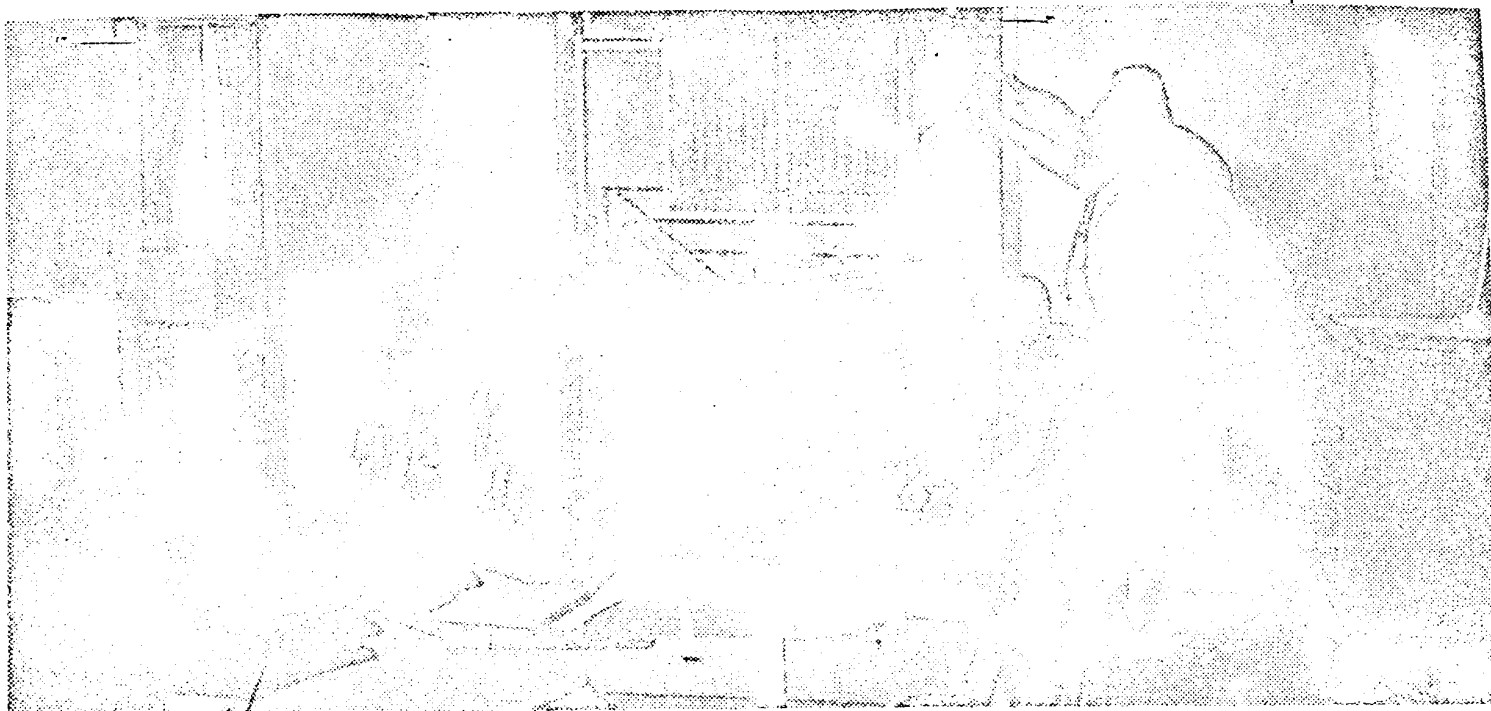
RGJ:BN
(56)



Approved: Rehman
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



DR. KING'S ASSASSINATION SCENE—Moments after the murder, Dr. King's aides rushed onto balcony porch of his motel, shouting and pointing out to police where bullet came from. Drama was caught by photographer occupying room two doors away.

AP Wirephoto

Has Full Story Been Told?

FOR most of his failure-filled life, James Earl Ray has been a bungler and chronic loser—and that may be the principal reason why his arrest in London for the assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King, jr., in Memphis on April 4 has raised more doubts than it has satisfied.

That so mediocre a man—the man with many faces—a humpty-dumpty at everything he tried, should have been the accused sole architect and engineer of one of the century's most heinous crimes was a conclusion which many found hard to accept.

That was why his capture, on the day that another assassination victim, Robert F. Kennedy, was buried, was met by a number of nagging questions—unanswered questions that suggest the possibility that the full story of Dr. King's murder may not yet have been uncovered. Among them:

- ★
- Was Ray acting entirely on his own?
- Or was he the indispensable man in a cleverly-planned plot?
- Who helped him elude the law for an incredible 65 days?
- Where did he get the money he needed to run and hide?
- And, perhaps most vital of all:
- Will he talk?
- ★

Date: 6/23/68
Edition: Sunday
Author: Bill Duncliffe
Editor: Samuel Bernstein
Title: JAMES EARL RAY

Character:

or

Classification: 157-644-301
Submitting Office: Boston

☐ Being Investigated

157-644-301

A E

m

Those who knew Ray, either during one of the five prison sentences he served or in the now-and-then years when he was free, were more than aware of his deep-seated feeling against Negroes; he never made any great effort to hide it.

But not even so strong an emotion as hatred would, in the view of his brother, Jerry, have driven him to kill.

"I know," said the brother, "that he wouldn't have put himself in a spot like this unless there was something in it for him . . ."

And there was an even stronger reason, in the opinion of some police, to believe that he did not act alone. Put bluntly, it was this:

Ray was too stupid to have devised, and exe-

cuted, a murder like that of Dr. King without a great deal of help.

He was discharged from the Army for what was described as ineptness and lack of adaptability—a gentle way of saying that, as far as the military service was concerned, he was a hopeless case.

And he was just as hopeless as a small-time hood. After robbing a supermarket in St. Louis of \$199 in 1953, he literally led police to his doorstep by parking the getaway car directly outside it.

Another stickup was botched when he cracked up the car in which he was attempting to flee with \$2200 in loot.

Given that history of failure, some authorities cannot see Ray putting together, entirely on his own, a complex plot to kill and flee. But, though he may have had help either in the planning, the execution, or the escape, neither the FBI or anyone else is ready to say—officially—that there was a conspiracy and that he was the trigger man in it.

Despite their reluctance, there is persuasive, though inconclusive, evidence to suggest that this may have been so. For instance:

Although Ray was a man who made a career out of getting caught, he broke out of the Missouri State Prison on April 23, 1957—and for a full year thereafter kept clear of the law. A most remarkable reversal of fortune.

★

He used four aliases in the King murder—Eric Galt, Paul Bridgman, John Willard, and Ramon George Sneyd. All bore a general resemblance to Ray, and Galt even had scars on his forehead and right palm—as did Ray.

But what was just as remarkable was that all four lived in the same area of Toronto, Can., and neither knew each other or Ray. Yet, he knew all that was necessary for him to know about them.

He used the name of Galt when he bought a white Mustang in Birmingham, Ala., in the summer of 1957—and he used the name of Willard when he registered in the boarding house at Memphis from where Dr. King was shot.

And, while phony radio messages sent police looking in several other directions the night of the murder, Ray and the sports car went 330 untroubled miles south and east to Atlanta, Ga. Eventually, he was tracked—but by the time the FBI followed his trail to Georgia he had long since made it all the way to Canada.

Here, too, there was evidence suggesting a smarter man—or men—than Ray may have been involved. Had he followed his instincts, he probably would have tried to get out of Atlanta on the first available plane—but airlines keep records of all their clients.

On the other hand, railroads and buslines do not—and there are three buses a day which leave Atlanta for Toronto. Ray is believed to have crossed the border on April 8, four days after Dr. King was slain, and took a room in a boarding house at 102 Ossington ave. under the name of Paul Bridgman.

"He didn't come cold to this city and make all his own arrangements," said a Canadian Mountie stationed in Toronto. "There was help of some kind."

An American detective, who worked on the Canadian angle of the case, made this comment:

"A guy like Ray, a five-time loser with the law, just does not have the background for the way he behaved."

And Deputy Chief Bernard Simmonds of the Toronto Metropolitan Police said:

"I think someone else was the mastermind."

★

That comment could apply either to a plot or to a getaway . . . and in either respect it seemed almost certain that someone other than Ray had to do the kind of thinking that was well beyond him.

Truman Capote, the fancy man whose flair for writing a factual account of another crime—"In Cold Blood"—earned him a million dollars, cannot conceive of Ray being able to travel undetected for so long a time after Dr. King's murder without getting help from an unknown expert.

What made Capote's thesis seem plausible was that, in the only two instances where Ray may possibly have acted on his own, he made incredible mistakes. He left a print on the murder gun when he dropped it in the doorway of a grocery moments after the murder and, when he was traced to Atlanta April 19, FBI men went to a room where he was known to have stayed.

There they found a street map of Atlanta, with Dr. King's home and office circled with a pencil. And on the map they found a clear fingerprint which, when checked, proved to be unmistakably that of defter James Earl Ray.

By that time, Ray had been in Toronto for 11 days, and he had been busy in a way which seemed

to indicate he was acting under instructions. He needed a birth certificate in the names of both Bridgman and Ramon George Sneyd, one of which he would use when he applied for a Canadian passport.

As nearly as police can deduce, he went to the public library on College st., and went through the old newspaper files. The Toronto Star of Oct. 8, 1932, contained a notice of the birth of Sneyd, and the Toronto Telegram of Nov. 11, 1932, carried a birth announcement for Bridgman. Both had the information Ray needed, the names of the parents, including the maiden name of the mothers.

He had some passport photos taken, and on April 15, Ray—now using the name of Sneyd—showed up at the Kennedy Travel Agency, on Bloor st. and asked for a passport application. All he had to do, under the conveniently loose Canadian law, was to swear that the data on the application was true. It was forwarded to Ottawa, with a request that action on it be speeded because Sneyd—or Ray—was in a hurry to leave the country.

That same day, he also ordered a round-trip excursion ticket to London aboard a BOAC flight that was scheduled to leave Toronto May 6.

A few days later, the FBI announced that the man it had been seeking as "Eric Starvo Galt" was, in reality, James Earl Ray, a 40-year-old drifter and highly unsuccessful thief. His photograph was carried in newspapers all over the world, including those in Toronto, but by then he had moved out of the Ossington ave. address and into another rooming house a few blocks away on Dundas st., operated by one Mrs. Yee Sun Loo.

★

Back at Ossington ave. his former landlady, Mrs. Adam Szpakowski, went to clean "Mr. Bridgman's" room. A newspaper was on the bed, opened to the page that bore Ray's picture, but Mrs. Szpakowski failed to notice the resemblance between "Bridgman" and the fugitive.

A few days after Ray checked out of Mrs. Szpakowski's house, a small man in a nondescript business suit rang her bell and asked to see "Mr. Bridgman." When he was told that "Bridgman" had left he went away, without giving either his name or any hint of what his mission might have been.

For nearly two weeks, Ray lived discreetly, and did nothing to attract attention. His caution was, in a sense, a kind of insurance, because the FBI was still a long way from learning that he had crossed into Canada.

He picked up his airline ticket May 2 and paid \$345 for it—in cash. He also gave Paul Bridgman as the next-of-kin who should be notified if anything happened to him. Four days later, he left Canada and landed in London.

★

There he turned in his return ticket for one that would take him to Lisbon where, whether he knew it or not, the breakaway African state of Rhodesia, had an office. Some investigators believed that Rhodesia was where Ray was headed, since it would not have been likely to honor an extradition request from the U. S. if ever he were located there.

Ray stayed in Lisbon until May 17, and while there secured a new passport from the Canadian Embassy, since, on the original, "Sneyd" was misspelled "Sneya."

Then, inexplicably, he doubled back to London, and for two weeks stayed at a small hotel in a section of the capital known as "Kangaroo Valley." He kept out of sight, except for those times it was necessary for him to surface. It was as if he sensed, like a fox, that the hunters were closing in even before he heard the sounds of their pursuit.

And, if that was so it was one of the few times that Ray turned out to have guessed right, for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police had come up with

the clue that was needed to bring a worldwide search to a successful climax. At the request of the FBI, which was aware of the many loopholes in Canadian travel regulations, the Mounties began checking passport applications and the photos that accompanied them.

★

They went through no less than 250,000 and then, on June 1, a Mountie looked at the picture of "Ramon George Sneyd" and realized that it was, in reality, a snapshot of the elusive fugitive with the deadly aim.

From that starting point, it was a routine operation to trace Ray's travels to London, Lisbon, and back to London again, and to cover all the places where he might be likely to show himself. One of those places was Heathrow Airport.

While the trap was closing, Ray was moving. He shifted from the New Earl's Court Hotel to a cheaper one, the Pax, and quibbled about the \$3.60 a day he had to pay in rent. He never left his room for more than 20 minutes at a time, refusing even to come out to answer four phone calls—two from an airline.

But he did some calling of his own, to Ian Colvin, a writer for the London Daily Telegraph who was considered an expert on Africa. In the first call, on June 5, Ray asked how he might get to Angola, a Portuguese territory in Africa, on the pretext that he wanted to locate his brother there. The second call, on the following day, was more direct. How, he wanted to know, could he join up with white mercenaries who hire themselves out to fight in Africa. Colvin mentioned a man in Brussels, Belgium, who might be able to help—but he did not, as he promised, mail the man's address to Ray.

Two days later, Ray broke cover. He booked passage on a flight to Belgium, and when he showed up at the airport an immigration officer stopped him, smiled, and asked:

"Would you please step into our office, Mr. Sneyd?"

The long chase was over—but the questions were not, and one of the ones which have not yet been answered was:

Where did Ray get the money to pay for his flight from justice?

It was a fact that, on July 13, 1937, not quite two months after he escaped from prison in Missouri, a bank in Ray's home town of Alton, Ill., was robbed of \$37,000. Some authorities hazarded to guess—it was nothing more than that—that Ray might have been one of the lucky bandits.

Possibly; but if that was so, then there, too, the fact that the robbery was successful was a marked departure from Ray's record of past failures.

Against that theory were several seeming contradictions. Whatever his split from the stickup was, it had to be in bills of mixed denominations—but when Ray paid \$1995 for the Mustang in Alabama, when he bought a .30-06 rifle, when he bought the airline ticket at Toronto, he paid in \$20 bills only.

And, even if it could be proven that he had taken part in the Alton robbery and had taken his cut exclusively in \$20s, it was a fact that, in the year before Memphis, Ray was a man on the lam, moving from Missouri to Canada (in the summer of '67), to Birmingham, to New Orleans, to Los Angeles, Atlanta and, ultimately, Memphis. That took money and, since he was a fugitive, it probably took more than what he was able to pick up when—and if—he robbed the bank in Alton.

Despite all that, Ray, only a few days ago, asked Arthur S. Hanes, a Birmingham lawyer, to defend him.

Hanes is a former Mayor of Birmingham, and was a member of the defense battery for three Ku Klux Klansmen who, the FBI said, murdered civil rights worker Mrs. Viola Liuzzo on an Alabama roadside a few years back.

He agreed to represent Ray, and, when he was asked how Ray would be able to pay his fee, was said to have replied that he understood his client "had funds."

Which again raised the question: If he had money, where did he get it? And from whom?

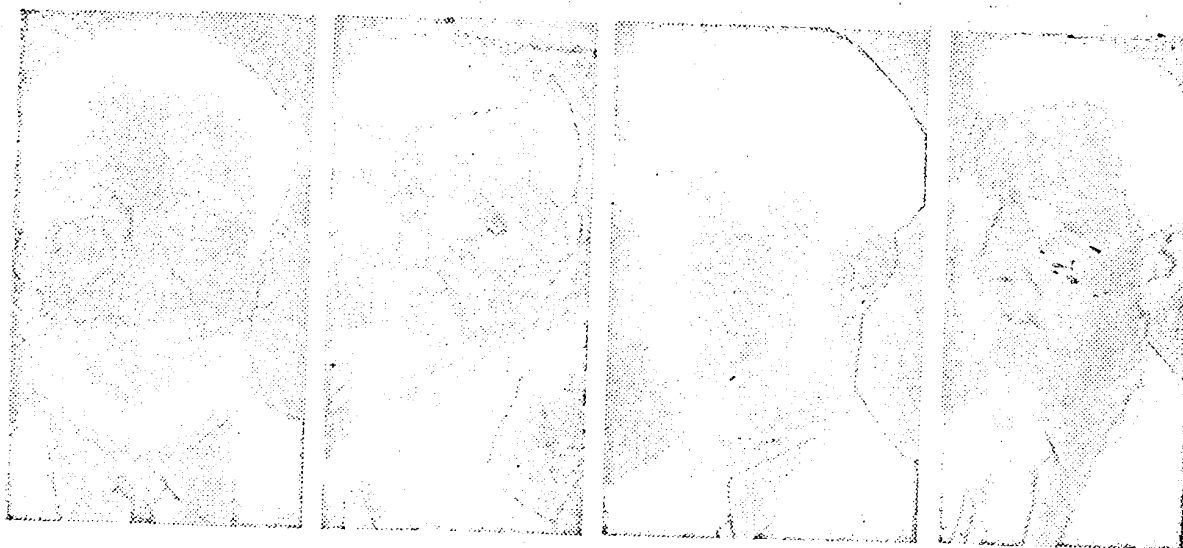
The question, like all the others, has not yet been answered—and maybe it never will be. Up to now, James Earl Ray has been as silent as a clam.

But, one day, when the tortuous process of extradition has been completed and he goes on trial in Tennessee, all that may change.

For hanging over Ray's head, on conviction, will be the death penalty, and he may decide he does not want to pay that grim price alone. In that event, the last and potentially most important question will arise:

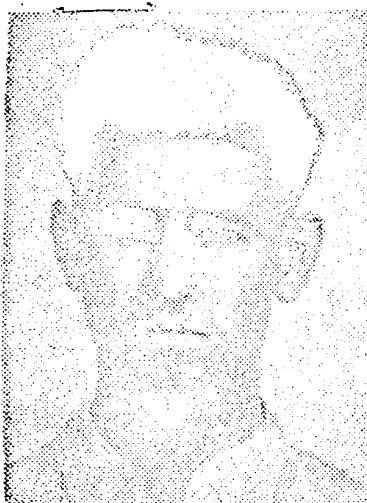
Will he talk?

If he does, the many odd pieces of a tough, tough puzzle will fall into place, and all the questions which have sprung from the murder of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be answered.

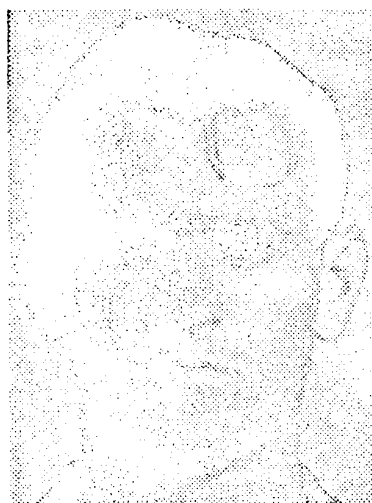


NAME'S THE SAME—Three men whose names were used by James Earl Ray, accused killer of Dr. Martin Luther King, are shown with Ray at far right. They are (l. to r.): Paul Bridgman, Eric St. Vincent Galt and Raymond Sneyd, all of Toronto Canada. Sneyd is a policeman.

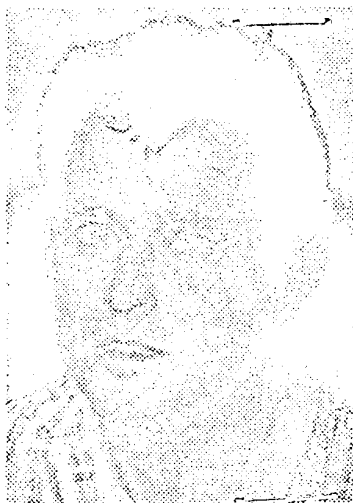
UPI Telephotos



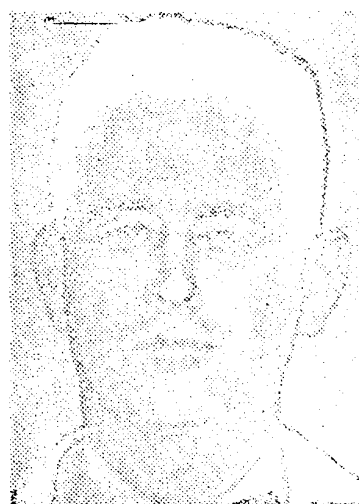
JOLIET, ILL., PRISON, 1952



AT CHICAGO ARREST, 1954



MISSOURI PRISON, 1959



FBI PHOTO, APRIL, 1963



CANADIAN PASSPORT, 1963

7/8/68

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, BOSTON (157-644)
SUBJECT: MURKIN - COST DATA ✓

Re Memphis airtel to Albany dated 4/19/68.

The following is the estimated MURKIN cost data for the Boston Division for the period 6/1-30/68:

1. Number of Man Hours:

	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Overtime</u>	<u>Total</u>
Special Agents	160	0	160
Clerical	8	0	8

2. Mileage: 300

3. Unusual or out of ordinary costs: None

4. Peak Number of Agents: Five

2-Memphis (44-1987)
1-Boston (157-644)

Rmk:mac
(3)
mac

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

157-644-302

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Bares 'Names,' **Leads' to Lawyer**



ATTY. ARTHUR HANES
Confers With His Client

LONDON (AP) — James Earl Ray's American lawyer talked with him in prison Saturday and said he got "names and other leads" to build a case for the defense of the accused assassin of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., met with Ray for an hour in an interview room at Wandsworth Prison. Hanes said afterward he found the conditions somewhat restrictive.

British prison officials did not permit him an interview in confidence such as usually accorded a British lawyer, he said.

Hanes and Ray were separated by a glass screen. Hanes said that when he wanted to exchange something confidential with Ray he would either whisper or write or pass notes to him via a prison guard.



JAMES EARL RAY
In London Prison

The Alabama lawyer said he was beginning to build his case and organize a defense for the day that Ray might be extradited by the British to stand trial for the murder of the American civil rights leader.

"Our meeting was most fruitful and beneficial," Hanes said. "We got to know each other better. He is relaxed and feels good. He is perfectly rational, sane and lucid."

Hanes declined to give any details about the names or other information Ray had given him. He also refused to answer a question about Ray's political orientation.

He said Ray had been receiving "many messages of support from the United States and he is grateful for it. He also has received many offers of help for his defense."

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

BOSTON GLOBE
Boston, Mass.

BOSTON HERALD
TRAVELER
Boston, Mass.
RECORD AMERICAN
Boston, Mass.

3 BOSTON ADVERTISER
Boston, Mass.

Date: 7/7/68

Edition: Sunday

Author:

Editor: Samuel Bernstein

Title: JAMES EARL RAY

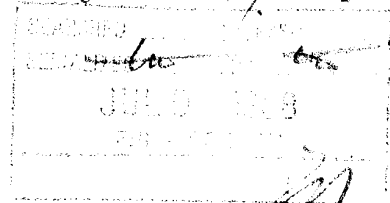
Character:

or

Classification: 62-

Submitting Office: Boston

☐ Being Investigated



(BSON/4)

F B I

Date: 7/16/68

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

TO: ALL SACs

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Memphis, 7/9/68.

The Bureau has requested that all divisions continue to submit monthly cost data until further notice.

In view of the above, all divisions are requested to comply with the Bureau's instructions, including offices who have negative cost data to report.

2 - ALL OFFICES

2 - Memphis

RFB:jap

(4)

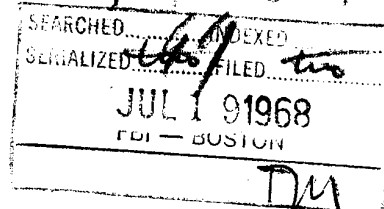
Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____



F B I

Date: 7/16/68

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

TO: ALL SACs

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

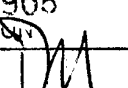
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Memphis, 7/9/68.

The Bureau has requested that all divisions continue to submit monthly cost data until further notice.

In view of the above, all divisions are requested to comply with the Bureau's instructions, including offices who have negative cost data to report.

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 19 1968	
FBI - BOSTON	



2 - ALL OFFICES

2 - Memphis

REB:jap

(4)

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

8/1/68

AIRTEL

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, BOSTON (157-644)

MURKIN

Re Memphis airtel dated 7/16/68.

The Boston Office has no cost data to report for the month of July, 1968.

2 - Memphis (RM)
① - Boston
BTM:maj
(3) *mj*

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED *two*

INDEXED

FILED *ten*

157-644-305

SM

8/30/68

AIRTEL

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, BOSTON (157-644)

MURKIN ✓

Re Memphis airtel 7/16/68 and Boston airtel 8/1/68.

The Boston Office has no cost data to report for the month of August, 1968.

2 - Memphis (RM)
① - Boston
BTM:maj
(3) *mj*

157-644-306

~~44-644-306~~ M

9/30/68

AIRTEL

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, BOSTON (157-644)

MURKIN ✓

Re Memphis airtel 7/16/68 and Boston airtel 8/30/68.

The Boston Office has no cost data to report for the month of September, 1968.

2 - Memphis (RM)

1 - Boston

TDM:maj

(3)

SEARCHED _____

SERIALIZED tin

INDEXED _____

FILED tin

157-644-307

10/31/68

AIRTEL

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC, BOSTON (157-644)

MURKIN ✓

Re Memphis airtel 7/16/68 and Boston airtel 9/30/68.

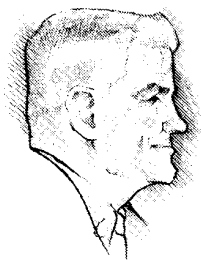
The Boston Office has no cost data to report for the month of October, 1968.

2 - Memphis (RM)
1 - Boston
BTM:maj
(3)

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED ab
INDEXED
FILED ab

157-644-308

M



William Dearborn Hersey
INFORMATION RETENTION SPECIALIST

One Fairlee Lane
Norton, Mass.
November 17, 1968

Memo for F.B.I.

According to a story on James Earl Ray appearing in Look for November 26 Ray had in his possession when captured a copy of a book written by me called "How To Cash In On Your Hidden Memory Power". It was described as a well worn copy.

This book describes a code system for remembering numbers by converting them into words. It is a universal mnemonic code. It is not original with me. However the thought crossed my mind that if Ray had learned this code he might well have made notes in words of numbers such as telephone numbers or addresses of friends or associates and might have had in his possession some writing that might have no apparent significance but which might conceal and contain important numeric information.

The code is very simple and anyone trained in it could quickly translate word into numerical combinations which could then be examined for any possible significance.

William D. Hersey
Phone 617-843-3890

*2 Xerox copies each
sent to Bureau &
memo dated 11-25-68*

157-644-309

SEARCHED	INDEXED <i>BN</i>
SERIALIZED <i>GA</i>	FILED <i>BN</i>
NOV 18 1968	
FBI - BOSTON	

201

John F. Kennedy Federal Building
Government Center
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

November 21, 1968

Mr. William D. Hersey
One Fairlee Lane
Norton, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of November 17,
1968.

Your interest in furnishing this information to
the Federal Bureau of Investigation is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

JAMES L. HANDLEY
Special Agent in Charge

✓
157-644
/maj
(2)

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED BN _____
INDEXED BN _____
FILED BN _____

157-644-310 m

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

11/25/68

SAC, BOSTON (157-644)

MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau and Memphis are two copies each of a letter received at the Boston Office from WILLIAM DEARBORN HERSEY, "Information Retention Specialist," of One Fairlee Lane, Norton, Mass., dated 11/17/68.

HERSEY sets out information in his letter concerning a memory code which may have been utilized by subject JAMES EARL RAY since RAY had a copy of a book written by HERSEY in his possession when captured.

Bureau and Memphis may desire to refer HERSEY's letter to the prosecutor at Memphis, Tennessee.

2 - Bureau (Encs. 2)
2 - Memphis (Encs. 2) (44-1987)
① - Boston
BTM:maj
(5) *mj*

SEARCHED _____

SERIALIZED *BN* _____

BN _____

BN _____

157-644-311

m

11/29/68

AIRTEL

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC, BOSTON (157-644)

MURKIN

Re Memphis airtel 7/16/68 and Boston airtel
10/31/68.

The Boston Office has no cost data to report
for the month of November, 1968.

2 - Memphis (RM)

1 - Boston

BTM:maj

(3) *my*

157-644-312
SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED at
INDEXED _____
FILED at

M

DECODED COPY

☒ Radio

URGENT

5/14/68

☐ Teletype

TO ALL FIELD DIVISIONS
FROM WASHINGTON

MURKIN

IN VIEW OF FACT THAT SUBJECT SPENT A CONSIDERABLE SUM OF MONEY
FROM 4/23/1967 TO 4/4/1968, AND THE SOURCE OF HIS MONEY HAS NOT
BEEN DETERMINED, HIS PHOTOGRAPH SHOULD BE DISPLAYED TO APPROPRIATE
WITNESSES IN UNSOLVED BANK ROBBERIES AND BANK BURGLARIES IN THOSE
INSTANCES WHERE WITNESSES ARE AVAILABLE. YOU SHOULD ALSO
CONSIDER THE REQUESTING OF POLICE DEPARTMENTS TO DISPLAY
PHOTOGRAPH OF RAY TO WITNESSES IN THEIR UNSOLVED ROBBERIES.
ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

91-2809
91-2863
91-2932
91-2991
91-3004

157-644-313

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 15 1968	
FBI - BOSTON	
Lucksted	

Kirby Rmt

F B I

Date: 12/24/68

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

TO: ALL SAC's

FROM: SAC, Memphis (44-1987) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN - COST DATA
(OO: MEMPHIS)
BUFILE 44-38861

Re Memphis airtel to Albany dated 4/19/68, and
Memphis airtel to All SAC's, dated 7/16/68.

Discontinue the monthly submission to the Memphis
Division of the cost data requested in referenced airtels,
since the Bureau has agreed this submission can be discon-
tinued.

*admit
destroyed
12-31-69
ml*

2-All SAC's
2-Memphis
HEG:mas
(116)

157-644-314

SEARCHED <u>JAC</u>	INDEXED <u>JAC</u>
SERIALIZED <u>gg</u>	FILED <u>gg</u>
DEC 31 1968	
FBI - BOSTON	

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

F B I

Date: 12/24/68

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

TO: ALL SAC's
FROM: SAC, Memphis (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN - COST DATA
(OO: MEMPHIS)
BUFILE 44-38861

Re Memphis airtel to Albany dated 4/19/68, and
Memphis airtel to All SAC's, dated 7/16/68.

Discontinue the monthly submission to the Memphis
Division of the cost data requested in referenced airtels,
since the Bureau has agreed this submission can be discon-
tinued.

2-All SAC's
2-Memphis
HEG:mas
(116)

157-644-314

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 30 1968	
FBI - BOSTON	

Approved: R. Jensen Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE BOSTON	OFFICE OF ORIGIN PITTSBURGH	DATE 2/7/69	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 1/31/69 - 2/4/69
TITLE OF CASE WILLIAM LOWELL SAMPLES, aka FUGITIVE		REPORT MADE BY EDMUND FLANAGAN	TYPED BY kab
		CHARACTER OF CASE UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION BREAKING & ENTERING	

-P-

LEADSPITTSBURGHAT CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

Will follow and report dismissal of Federal process outstanding against subject.

BOSTONAT BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Will follow and report subject's removal.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN: 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
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
		1					

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE: 1 Bureau (88-44876) 1 USA, Boston 3 Pittsburgh (88-6191) (1 - USA, Charleston, W. Va.) 3 Boston (88-4851) (1 - 157-644)		SEARCHED _____ SERIALIZED <u>29</u> INDEXED _____ FILED <u>20</u>	
Dissemination Record of Approved Report		Notations 157-644-315	
Agency			
Request Recd.			
Date Fwd.			
How Fwd.			
By			

BS 88-4851

ADMINISTRATIVE

On January 31, 1969, Officer STEINBERG of the Canadian Immigration Service, Halifax, Canada, telephone 423-9394, Extension 31, called and advised that WILLIAM LOWELL SAMPLES, born [redacted] West Virginia, FBI No. 522-182A, was being escorted out of Canada on Tuesday, 2/4/69. Officer STEINBERG advised that the Escort Officer coming with SAMPLES would be Escort Officer CHARLES O'NEIL, and they will be coming to Boston from Halifax on Air Canada Flight 333 which leaves Halifax at 9:15 a.m. and he believed arrived in Boston about 10:15 a.m., same date. He advised that there was an hour's difference in time between Canada and Boston, and we should check the arrival time of this flight at Logan Airport.

P11

Officer STEINBERG advised that SAMPLES has an extensive criminal record and he is on \$10,000 bail for B & E in West Virginia and had been arrested at Halifax and placed in the County Jail. He said that SAMPLES broke out of jail but was re-arrested four days later. He stated SAMPLES has been involved in two other burglaries but they were unable to prove them.

Officer STEINBERG said when he escaped from jail with three men, he told these three men that he had been involved in the MARTIN LUTHER KING murder. Officer STEINBERG stated that he desired to pass this information on.

-B*-
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Boston, Massachusetts
1 - USA, Charleston, West Virginia

Report of: EDMUND FLANAGAN
Date: 2/7/69

Office: Boston, Massachusetts

Field Office File #: 88-4851

Bureau File #: 88-44876

Title: WILLIAM LOWELL SAMPLES

Character: UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION,
BREAKING & ENTERING

Synopsis: Authorized complaint filed 6/18/68 before USC, Hinton, West Virginia, charges subject with violation of T-18, Sec. 1073, in that he fled the State of West Virginia to avoid prosecution for the crime of breaking and entering. Warrant issued same date. Subject taken into custody, Boston, Mass., 2/4/69. Arraigned before USC, Boston, Mass., and in lieu of \$25,000 bond with surety was remanded to custody of USM, Boston, Mass. During interview, subject denied any involvement in MARTIN LUTHER KING murder. Description set out.

-P-

DETAILS:

Complaint filed June 18, 1968, by SA GEORGE A. PATTERSON before United States Commissioner W. A. BROWN, Hinton, West Virginia, charging WILLIAM LOWELL SAMPLES with violation of Title 18, Section 1073, in that he fled the State of West Virginia to avoid prosecution for the crime of Breaking and Entering. A warrant was issued the same date and placed in possession of the United States Marshal in Charleston, West Virginia.

United States Immigration Attache, Ottawa, Canada, advised on January 31, 1969, that subject was ordered deported from Canada and was scheduled to depart Halifax, Nova Scotia, under escort on February 4, 1969, via Air Canada Flight 333. Subject was being escorted by Canadian Immigration Officer CHARLES O'NEIL.

Air Canada Flight 333 was met by SA's RICHARD M. KIRBY and EDMUND FLANAGAN, and subject was taken into custody.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 2/7/69

WILLIAM LOWELL SAMPLES, date of birth [redacted] place of birth Prociuous, West Virginia, was arrested by Special Agents RICHARD M. KIRBY and EDMUND FLANAGAN at Logan International Airport, Boston, Massachusetts. SAMPLES was immediately advised of the charges outstanding and was advised of his rights by SA FLANAGAN. SAMPLES read a form reflecting his rights and a waiver of these rights which he refused to sign without consulting an attorney.

SAMPLES stated that he would be willing to furnish background information and information concerning his travel and whereabouts for the past several months.

He stated that he assumed that the FBI was looking for him because he knew he was wanted in the State of West Virginia for the crime of Breaking and Entering. Because of this, he stated he traveled extensively and went to Canada in about October, 1968, where he was employed doing farm work throughout several of the Canadian Provinces. He stated that about two weeks ago he was arrested by the Canadian Immigration Authorities for being illegally in Canada and that he was confined to the Halifax County Jail waiting deportation.

He stated he was in the jail about one week when he had an opportunity to escape, which he did, with three unknown individuals, all of whom were Canadian citizens. He stated he merely walked out the back door and was free for approximately three days when he again was taken into custody. He stated he arrived back in the United States on February 4, 1969, under Canadian Immigration Escort.

SAMPLES denied any involvement in the MARTIN LUTHER KING murder and stated that the rumor was "absolutely unfounded." He did not know the names of the three men with whom he escaped and that he first heard the rumor that he was involved in the MARTIN LUTHER KING murder just after he escaped from the Halifax County Jail.

On 2/4/69 at Boston, Massachusetts File # Boston 88-4851

by SA RICHARD M. KIRBY
SA EDMUND FLANAGAN /rab Date dictated 2/7/69

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It was his belief that this rumor was started as some sort of joke because he came from the southern part of the United States and spoke with a Southern accent as did JAMES EARL RAY. The fact that he was one of the few Americans at the jail lent credence to the rumor.

He gave the following account of his whereabouts during the period of the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING to the best of his recollection:

He got out of jail in December, 1967, and resided in Lexington, Kentucky, from March, 1968, until Easter Sunday, April 14, 1968, with his wife and another individual by the name of LARRY STARCHER, age 20, who is a friend of the family. He was incarcerated in the Summersville, West Virginia, jail on Easter Sunday where he stayed approximately one week. He stated that while in Lexington, Kentucky, he resided in a trailer at a mobile homes trailer park with his wife and STARCHER.

In May, 1968, he left West Virginia for Los Angeles, California, where he stayed for approximately three weeks. He then went to Portland, Oregon, where he stayed for about one month and worked as a dishwasher at a country club, the name of which he could not recall. Then he traveled to Evans, Colorado, where he worked on a farm for about one month. Then he went to Omaha, Nebraska, where he stayed for three weeks and was unemployed while his wife worked as a waitress.

In October, 1968, he went to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he resided in a permanent apartment on Hollis Street, which residence he recalled was controlled or operated by the Harbor Lodge. While in Halifax, he worked at several odd jobs including being a laborer for the Maritime Construction Company and also on a chicken farm in Windsor, Nova Scotia.

The following description was obtained from observation and interview:

Name:	WILLIAM LOWELL SAMPLES
Alias:	BILL

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Date of Birth:

Place of Birth: Procious, West Virginia

Race: White

Sex: Male

Height: 5 feet 11 inches

Weight: 165 pounds

Hair: Dark brown

Eyes: Hazel

Scars and Marks: Cut scar inside right elbow;
scar on left forearm near elbow;
scar upper left lip; scar on
back of left middle finger

Occupation: Laborer, farmer

Marital Status: Married

Wife: BARBARA ELIZABETH GOINS, nee
HEATH

Stepdaughter: MARY GOINS, age 2½

Father: BURBIN SAMPLES, Procious, West
Virginia

Sister: PATRICIA ANBOGGS (Mrs. JAMES
BOGGS), Elyria, Ohio

Brother: HOWARD RAY SAMPLES

SAMPLES declined to furnish the exact whereabouts of his wife. He indicated that he has served time at the following institutions:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INSTITUTION</u>	<u>CRIME FOR WHICH CONFINED</u>
1952 - 1955	West Virginia State Prison, Moundsville, West Virginia	Auto Theft