SI 88-5361 MWO:jah

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

At Quincy, Illinois

On November 8, 1967, Detective Sergeant ROLAND HANSON, Quincy, Illinois, Police Department, advised that JAMES EARL RAY, 1439 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois, was arrested on March 24, 1955, for forgery. Sargeant 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 306-443-A and that he had Illinois State Bureau number 463857.

Sargent HANSON stated that the files of the Quincy, Illinois, Police Department were negative on JAMES EARL RAY since August 24, 1955.

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

On November 8, 1967, Miss ELIZABETH ROTH, 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, $214\frac{1}{2}$ Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that she has resided at present address for serveral years and that the names JAMES EARL RAY AND LUCILLE RYAN meant nothing to her.

On November 20, 1967, CHARLES A. HEIDVREDER, 215 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.

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. 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. ject has always been a drifter and he has no knowledge of friends or associates of subject with whom he might be in 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. 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 Shenandoah, St. Louis, Missouri, to Bellview, a suburb of St. Louis, but he does not have the

Jan Jahre

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 1

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.

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 wothers who might furnish information regarding the whereabouts of subject.

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.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandun

: DIRECTOR, FBI (88-41730)

DATE: 12/29/67

OM : SAC, KANSAS CITY (88-9449) P

BJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka - VLE FUGITIVE;

UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST

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Re FBI Handbook, Part I (39), Pages 25 and 26.

The file on the captioned individual has been reviewed and it does not appear that an Identification Order should be issued for the subject at this time.

Investigation currently is continuing for the purpose of locating and interviewing relatives and associates of the subject and it is believed that this information might well result in the location of the subject.

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVLST

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Kansas City report of SA ROWEN B. AYERS, 10/30/67. REFERENCES:

Springfield letter to Kansas City, 10/3067. Springfield letter to Kansas City, 11/24/67. (Interoffice)

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.

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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 whereabuts 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 MAHEN, 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.

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UN. ID STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTIE FRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of:

JOSEPH L. KISSIAH

Date:

12/29/67

Office: Kansas City

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.

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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 catagories.

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

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Subject listed relatives as follows: 20 in information

Father, GEORGE RAY, deceased.

Mother, Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN, 214 Spring Street, and 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.

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 72498-L, pertaining to JAMES EARL RAY is now stored at the Federal Records Center, GSA, 2306 East Bannister Road, Kansas City, Missuri, Attention - Chief, Reference Service Branch, GSA - Accession Number 65 A 10, in Boxes 85327 - 87468.

FEDERAL BEREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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LEADS:

CHICAGO DIVISION

At Wheeling, Illinois

Will attempt to locate and interview JERRY RAY, Box 22, brother of subject, regarding wheeabouts 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 whereabuts 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 MAHEN, 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.

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UNIT DISTATES DEPARTMENT OF JL TICE FEDERAL UREAU OF INVESTIGATION

: to:

∍rt of:

SA ROWEN B. AYERS

Office: KANSAS CITY

10/30/67

d Office File #:

88-9449

Bureau File #: 88-41730

JAMES EARL RAY

acter:

UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY, FIRST

psis:

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 1135 South 10th, 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:

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

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 72498-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 - 87468.

KC 88-9449 JWW:rmb

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

AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI:

On October 2, 1967, Mr. JAMES H. YATES, Archives Assistant, Federal Records Center - General Services Administration, 2306 East Bannister Road, made available U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, file number 72498-L pertaining to JAMES EARL RAY, from which the following information was obtained:

RAY was sentenced on July 1, 1955, 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, Leavenworth, Kansas, on July 7, 1955, and was given a Conditional Release from that institution on April 5, 1958, the period of supervision terminating October 2, 1958.

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

GEORGE RAY, Father, (Deceased); MARY RAY, Mother, (Deceased); LUCILLE RYAN, Aunt, 108 N. 12th St., Quincy, Illinois.

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 1135 South 10th Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

On December 20, 1955, RAY requested permission to correspond with a cousin, JERRY RYAN, 339½ South 7th Street, Quincy, Illinois, however, the request was denied. He also requested permission to correspond with an uncle, WILLIAM MAHER, 1118 East 7th Street, Alton, Illinois.

Records reflect RAY served in U. S. Army, Serial No. RA from February of 1946, to December 23, 1948, at which time he was given a discharge under honorable conditions by reason of ineptness and lack of adaptability

for military duty. He was on foreign service from July 18, 1946, 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 1949.

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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 coule 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 indicated he enlisted in the United States Army on February 19, 1946, at East St. Louis, Illinois,

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.

Records also indicated he received treatment for gonorrhea and syphilis while he was a member of the military.

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

Date and place of birth	March 10, 1928, Alton, Illinois
Height	5'11"
	145 pounds
Race	White
Hair	Black
Eyes	Blue
	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,
1	Mother, LUCILLE RAY, both of
	538 East Broadway, Alton,
	Illinois, February, 1946.
Photograph	None available.
THOUGH CAN	ATVALV STEMMENTO

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD		
KANSAS CITY	KANSAS_CITY	8/29/67	6/23/67 - 8/18/67	•	
JAMES\EARL		REPORT MADE BY ROWEN	B. AYERS	TYPED BY ENV	
Earl James Ray, W. C. Herron, Earl James,		CHARACTER OF CASE			
James McBr James O'Con	ide,	UFAC - R	OBBERY FIRST	•	
James Walte		9-8-1		, **	
"Time! - FIII	CITIVE.		3	Late, 2	

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

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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 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)

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 JUS. . CE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

1 - USA, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Report of:

Field Office File #:

ROWEN B. AYERS

Office:

KANSAS CITY

Date:

8/29/67 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.

DETAILS:

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.

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 March 10, 1928, 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

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 March 10, 1928, 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,

On July 10, 1967, Mr. BERARD C. POIREY, 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 Renitentiary 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. SHELEY 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. SHELEY 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

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 Amacker 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 Male Dates of Birth March 10, 1928; March 10, 1929.

Places of Birth Decatur, Illinois; Quincy, Illinois; Alton, Illinois.

Approximately 5'10" Height Weight 174 pounds, September, 1966 Complexion Ruddy Blue Eyes 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;
2015 Park, St. Louis, Missouri,
October, 1959; Quincy, Illinois,
July, 1955, March, 1955, April, 1950;

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:

16131100121211121117

On August 3, 1967, the Identification Division of the F.B.I. furnished the following identification for subject under FBI 306 443 A:

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
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)	2 yrs Prb srv°' 1st 90 das Co
SO Cedar Rapids, Iowa	James E. Ray #5937	4/18/50	vag 	J1 146 12-30-49 Cs129438
PD Alton Ill	James Earl Ray #7514	7/23/51	no oper lic np St Lic - no City Lic	- rel to pay later
PD Chicago, Illinois	James Ray #D90696	5/6/52	Robb (Gun)	GJ \$3000
Cook Co Jl 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	

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Hannibal, Missouri	James E. Ray #40714	3/23/55	Inv B & B 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 #12018	3/28/55	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 12	2/19/46 29		
U Spen Leavenworth, Kansas	James Earl Ray #72498-L	7/7/55	PO Laws Forge Money Orders	3 yrs & 9 mos 5/20/58 CR 3/31/59 Max 4/5/58 Cond Rel on chg of PO forg POMO
PD St. Louis, Mo.	James Earl Ray #81071	10/10/59	susp Robbery	· · ·

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD St. Louis, Mo.	James Earl Ray #81071	10/16/59	Susp Rob Steal & FOA	
SPen Jefferson City, Missouri	Janes Ea T 1 Ray #00416	3/17/60	TC oper mtr veh w/o permission of owner Robb lst 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.

Director, FBI (83-41739)

JAMES HARL RAY, alea, FUGITIVE UPAC-MODBERY FIRST

Enclosed is information extracted from subject's identification record which may be of lead value. It is essential that any discrepancies be resolved through investigation in order to set forth only the most current description in future communications.	
Enclosed is information extracted from the identification record of an individual who may or may not be identical with subject. It is desired that you conduct appropriate investigation at an early date to determine whether these individuals are identical. The results of this investigation should be promptly submitted to the Bureau by letter marked for the attention of the Special Investigative Division, and should be included in the next investigative report from your office. In the event it is determined this individual is not identical with your subject, endeavor to promptly develop additional data that will identify your subject with a fingerprint record.	
Enclosed are data supplementing that previously furnished your office.	
A search of the name files of the Identification Division did not disclose a fingerprint record for the above-named fugitive. Your office should endeavor to develop any additional data that will identify this individual with a fingerprint record. A copy of fingerprints, if available from any source, would be of material assistance. As complete a description as possible, together with any aliases that might have been used by the subject also should be obtained when interviewing relatives, acquaintances, and employers of the fugitive. Information concerning any enlistment in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard Services of the United States, should, of course, be procured concerning this individual. This matter should be pursued vigorously.	
Signature available. Signature not available.	
Photographs and negative transmitted herewith. No photograph available in identification record. Endeavor to obtain and forward same to Identification Division.	
NOT RECORDED	-
19 AUG 16 1967	,
700 20 300	
Washington Field Office Indianapolis Office San Antonio Office is requested to:	
Conduct appropriate service search(es) and advise office of origin. Obtain and forward to Identification Division copy of service prints if available. Enc. (7)	
1 - Fugitive Supervisor, Room 1521, (enclosures 2)	
1 - Uniform Crime Reporting (NCIC) Room 610 OPO (enclosure)	
1 - Uniform Crime Reporting (NCIC) Room 610 OPO (enclosure) LES 4615 (6)	

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TO : Directo	or, FBI (Att: Special Invest	igation Division)	DATE:	7/20/67	, /	5,
FROM CEAC.	Kansas City	(ORI)	PX) Initial Submi	ission	1	8
	ES EARL RAY, a			data previously fu y FD-65 dated	mished re followi	7
In order information is furn	that a fugitive index crished:	ard may be prepared a	nd information entered in	NCIC without del	ay, the following	
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	eight (WGT) Hair 163 Bi	(HAI) Eyes r Blue	FBI# 306 443 A	1		(FBI)
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MSP 00416 Social Security nu		Scars, marks and other	er identifying remarks	***************************************		(MIS)
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4/29/68

AIRTEL

ATRMATL

TO:

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM:

SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760)

-P-

MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau, Chicago, Memphis, and St. Louis is one copy each of FD-302 reflecting interview with M. J. STEWART, Treasurer, Missouri State Penitentiary, Inmates' Bank, regarding JAMES EARL RAY's financial transactions at this institution.

Copies being furnished Chicago and St. Louis because brothers of subject reside in those areas.

- 3 Bureau (Inc.1)(RM)
 - 1 Chicago (Enc.1)(RM) 1 Memphis (Enc.1)(RM)

 - 1 St. Louis (Enc.1)(RM)
 - 1 Kansas City

RBH:nks

(7)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

٠,	•	
Date	4/29/68	

M. J. STEWART, Treasurer, Missouri State
Penitentiary, Inmates' Bank, furnished the following data
from the file of former inmate JAMES EARL RAY. He said
this represented all of RAY's financial transactions, through
the penitentiary facility from March 20, 1960, to the present.
He said there were no means by which the reasons for withdrawals could be established. He said he would determine
from whom money orders were received.

On 4/23/68	Jefferson	City, Missouri File	#K(2 44-760	ì
,,	en B. Ayers	/nks'	ı	4/24/68	-
by		od	te dictated.		_

This document contains neither recommendations not 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.

Name . Ray, James Barl

Sheet No. 1

Number 00416-J

Date of Reference	Earnings Dr. or Cr.	Earnings . Balance	Cash Credit	Withdrawal	Cash Balance	Total Balance
MAR 22'60			3.06+	1	*	3.06
MAR 22'60		,	Ì	3.00-	.,	.06
MAY 19'60	3.00+		İ	1		3.06
JUN 7CP				3.00 -		.06
JUN 20'60	3.00+			3.00	[,, · ` ;	3.06
JUL 5 CP	, , ,	, ,	. '	3.00 -		.06
. Jul 21'60	4.00+	, ,		,		4.06
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AUG 19'60	4.00+					5.06
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SEP 22 MO		4 4	10.00+	, ,		12.81
SEP 23'60	4.00+					16.81
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OCT 17CP		•	,	20.00-		6.81
OCT 21'60	5.00+	•	[• •	11.81
OCT 27CM	, 5.00			.50 -	, '	11.31
NOV 16CP	•,	•		6.00-		5.31
NOV 18'60	5.00+	_	•		, , ,	10.31
· .	3.55		*	.50 -		9.81
NOV 18'60				1.00 -		8.81
NOV 23 CM		. * "		1.50-	·	7.31
3782 AON	,	,		3.00 -	, ,	4.31
DEC 16CP		•		3.00		9.31
DEC 19'60	5.00+		5.00+	• •	20 300	14.31
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JAN 20 '61	6.00+	•	, ,	•	'	19.31
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APR 28'61	8.00+	. [,		/ '	10.81 •
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Sheet No. 2

Number

00416-J

KC 44-760			,	,	•	
Date of Reference	Earnings . Dr. or Cr.	Earnings Balance	Credit Cash *	Withdrawal	Cash Balance	Total Balance
		*	,			3.81
JUN 22'61	10.00+			'	,	13.81
JUL 17CP		· .		10.00-	,	3.81
JUL 21'61	11.00+					14.81
JUL 25 MO		•	5.00+			19.81
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AUG 21'61	4000		, ,	10.00-		6.05
. SEP 15 CP	12.00+	•		4 7 00		18.06 •
. 365 2365	' '	•		15.00-	,	3.06 •
SEP 20'61	12.00+	1				15.06 •
OCT 4'61'.	, ,		•	.50 -	1	14.56 •
OCT 16 CM				1.00-	:	.13.56 •
OCT 18CP		•		10.00-	,	3.56 •
007 20'61	12.00+					'· 15.56 °
NOV 6MO			1.00+		' ب	. 16.56 •
ROY 13 CM		**		1.00-		15.550
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	12.00+	*		.50 -		17.06 •
NOV 30'61 DEC 1CP	1.	•		3.00-		. 14.06 0
DEC 4'61		, ,	,	.88-		13.18 •
DEC 7'61	1.	•	10.00+		**	2318 •
DEC 18'61	1.63+		10.00	,	•	24.81 •
20 20 01	1.05		_	, .		
DEC 19M0		•	10.00+			34.81 •
DEC 19'61		, ,		2.40 -		32.41 •
MAR 1 CP .		•		1.∞-		31.41 0
MAR 29'62.			, , ,	2.40 -		29.01
APR 2 CP				3.00 -	,	26.01 •
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Name

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James Ea

Sheet No. 3

Number

cer 00416-J KC 44-760

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00416-J KC 44-760

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DEC 22'66			10.00+	,	•	22.15
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4/29/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO:

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM:

SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) P

RE:

MURKIN

OO ME

Enclosed for Bureau and Memphis is one copy of a report by a psychiatric consultant to the Board of Probation and Parole, State of Missouri, dated December 20, 1966, regarding JAMES EARL RAY,

This information is being furnished because of the psychiatrist's comments regarding RAY's increasingly severe, obsessive, compulsive trend which may aid in evaluating RAY's activities.

The information contained in this letter is confidential and cannot be released without a court order.

3 Bureau (Enc. 1)
2 Memphis (Enc. 1)(44-1987)
2 Kansas City
RBH:ksw
(7)

WARREN E. HEARNES GOVERNOR



J. RAYMOND BILLS, SECRETARY



CIRCUIT AND CRIMINAL COURTS
MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY
INTERMEDIATE REFORMATORY
, MEDIUM SECURITY PRISON
WOMEN'S PENITENTIARY

STATE C' KISSOURI

BOARD OF PROBATION AND PAROLE

December 20, 1966

Rinfil

Board of Probation and Parole Box 267 Jefferson City, Missouri

> Re: RAY, James Earl #00416-J

Gentlemen:

This 38 year old white male was seen for psychiatric evaluation on December/13, 1966. He was admitted here in March of 1960, to serve a twenty year sentence for armed robbery. This is his first admission to this institution. In 1952, he served a year and one half in an Illinois Penal Institution for robbery and in 1955, he served two and one half years in Leavenworth for transporting stolen goods across the state line.

He is presently charged with an escape attempt in March of 1966 and has recently been returned after an evaluation at the Fulton State Hospital. He has requested an independent psychiatric evaluation following their evaluation. This examiner only recently received this request from the Cole County Circuit Court signed by Judge Riley requesting such an evaluation. However, the inmate expressed his desire to have someone conduct an independent "psychiatric evaluation who was not connected with the administration." We informed him that we would communicate his wishes to the court and possibly someone else might be found.

Ray is an interesting and rather complicated individual. He reports that within the last year, he has had considerable difficulties from a physical point of view, involving a number of somatic complaints such as pain in the "solar plexes," tachycardia and "intracranial tension." When we commented that these were rather large words, he reported that he had been reading up in the medical literature. He then stated that he thought at times that he had cancer or heart trouble but that he not longer feels this way. On certain days, he has rather severe head pains but this is only intermittent. He is now on librium and works intermittently on a construction job.

Ray was born in Alton, Illinois, where his father worked for the railroad. Buth parents are now deceased. He has two younger sisters. He reached

ENCLOSURE

the second year in high school, worked eighteen months at the International Since Company, entered the service in 1945 and remained there for three years. His highest rank was that of PFC. He has never been married although he has lived for brief periods of time with women. Lanis man's pasic problem revolves around what appears to be an increasingly severe obsessive compulsive trend. He states that at the age of ten, he awoke one night and thought he had lost his eye sight. He became quite fearful. These various fears confront him from time to time and in a typical obsessive compulsive way, he feels that he must do certain things in order to undo what he feels is going to occur and might result in harm to him. For instance, he describes a feeling of fear which can be alleviated if he takes his glass of water which he is drinking and sets it on the table and moving it back and forth several times. He also describes at length some rather marked obsessive compulsive features but is reluctant to go into them in detail. Indeed, he just started to discuss this with the people at Fulton prior to his being sent here. He appears worried and his brow is creased. It is evident that this man does have an underlying obsessive compulsive personality. He is of the opinion that his escape attempt was the result of undue anxiety and tension with the need to actually do something. He is fearful that this might lead into more serious difficulties.

At the present time, there is no evidence of delusions, hallucinations or paranoid ideas. There is evidence of a rather deep underlying obsessive compulsive personality trend which he has really never discussed at any length with anyone. This is not psychotic in nature but severely neurotic. Within the last year or so, there is evidence that he has become overly concerned about his physical health and some of his obsessive compulsive concerns have moved in this direction. We would not deny the fact that there may be some physical difficulties although he reports that this was the primary focus of his work-up at the state hospital as well as here and that very little has been found.

At the present time, it is doubtful that he is in a position to be considered for parole. His psychiatric condition must be evaluated by an independent psychiatrist and according to the court, he has the right to have this done. Where they will find this independent psychiatrist is somewhat difficult to determine in this area although they might order him to the University and have it done there. It is felt that he is in need of psychiatric help and that should any serious parole consideration be given, some type of psychiatric help should be considered, that is help, which he can receive on the outside during his parole period. He is becoming increasingly concerned about himself: We question whether or not he is beginning to be a bit depressed although he denies this. We hesitate to go into this to any greater degree at the present time until the court decides what action it will take in regards to assigning an independent psychiatrist for evaluation.

Sincerely yours,

Henry V. Guhleman, Jr., M. D. Psychiatric Consultant

if wint

4/29/68

RWS

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO:

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM:

SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) P

RE:

MURKIN

OO ME

Enclosed herewith are three Interoffice Communications, Department of Corrections, State of Missouri, regarding investigation of the escape of JAMES EARL RAY.

This information is being furnished to Bureau and office of origin for whatever value it might be in assisting in the investigation of this matter.

³ Bureau (Enc. 3) 2 Memphis (44-1987)(Enc. 3) 2 Kansas City RBH:ksw (7)

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To: M. J. ELLIOTT, ASSOCIATE WARDEN-CUSTODY

Date: MAY 3, 1967

From: CAPTIAN DANTON STEELE

Subject: INVESTIGATION ESCAPE OF JAMES EARL RAY \$00416

Working upon the premise that Innate James Earl Ray \$00416 made good his escape from the institution, *Sunday, April 23, 1267, by concealing himself in the Renz Farm bread box and riding out the Sally Port on the Renz Farm truck, I have interviewed all concerned with the Renz Farm bread run and have formed the opinion that Innate Ray did effect his escape via the Renz Farm bread run and the means of his escape has remained a mystery for ten days because of gross dereliction of duty involving three and possible five prison personnel.

The Renz Farm truck, driven by Guard Officer Alfred Burkhardt came through the Sally Port at approximately 8:00 A.M. to pick up the Renz Farm bread, made the pick up and came back through the Sally Port at approximately 8:16 A.M. When the truck arrived at Renz Farm and was unloaded it was discovered by Mr. Bernard Peschang, civilian cook, that the bread was term and crushed to the extent that only a few loaves were usable and the rest had to be fed to the chickens. To my knowledge, up until the time of this report, there has been no notification from any Renz Farm source of the condition of the bread delivery of that date to any officer or official of the penitentiary. Mr. Peschang did state to me that after he heard of Immate Ray's disappearance he did make the remark that "Rey probably came out in the bread box". When asked why he did not report this to someone, Mr. Peschang said he did report it to Officer Burkhardt and to someone in the office. (He could not remember who.) He also said he told Mr. Jim Stone, Civilian Cook, when he came to work the next day.

Mr. Jin Stone, civilian cook at Renz Farm, said he saw the bread the next day and it looked like it "had been shoveled into the box". He said it was not fit for use and was fed to the chickens.

Sergeant John Setser was the officer in charge of Renz Farm, Sunday, April 23, 1967, and he stated that he could not recall Mr. Pescheng notifing him of the condition of the bread upon arrival at Renz Farm. (This seems a rather weak statement.)

Guard Officer Ezra Shelden states that he definitely remember checking the Renz Farm bread box and although he did not handle the bread it was neatly stacked almost to the top of the box. (The box holds 50 loaves, Renz Farm ordered 40 loaves, the box should have been two-third full.)

CONCLUSIONS:

Innate Ray evidently made good his escape via the Rena Farm bread truck. He must have used a false bottom for the bread to be stacked as neatly as Officer Shelden said it was. No one at Rena Farm comits seeing the false bottom. Why should the innate dispose of the false bottom when the bread was rangled beyond use?

ENCLOSURE

Department of Corrections

INTER-CHEICE COMMUNICATION

To: M. J. ELLIOTT, ASSOCIATE MARBEM-CUSTORY

Date:

MAY 3, 1967

1950

CAPTAIN DANTON STEELE

Subject:

From:

PAGE -2-

Civilian cook Bernard Pescheng and whoever else in an official capacity that was aware of the bread delivery are guilty of gross negligence and dereliction of duty and should be appropriately disciplined.

Refer to my report of April 24, 1967, subject immate James Earl Ray. If immate Ray did ascape via the Renz Farm breed run, then there is a descrepancy in Guard Officer Johnnie Petree's statement that he let him out of the kitchen when the mainline turned out for recreation yard and never saw him again. Guard Officer Petree was on duty at the Mitchen Cate all this time.

SUCCESTION

Officer Alfred Burkhardt is on his regular day off this date and I was unable to contact him. I suggest that he be interviewed in the atmosphere of the Warden's office and acquainted with what we already know. Haybe he can clear this thing up. Someone seems to have been doing some covering up.

co: Warden .

Mr. Kern
Copt. Steele
File

From the desk of: Wishin Maple of Stappeld R. Swenson-Warden Maple of Stable
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To: M. J. ELLIOTY, ASSOCIATE WARDEN-CUSTODY

Date: MAY 4, 1967

From:

Captain Danton Steele

Subject: SUPPLEMENT TO ESCAPE INVESTIGATION REPORT OF MAY 3, 1967

Captain Leroy Casey and myself interviewed Guard Officer Alfred Burkhardt this date and obtained his account of the Renz Farm bread run on Sunday, April 23, 1967.

Officer Burkhardt stated that when he reached the Kitchen dock that morning he unloaded his empty bread box and went to the bread room in the main kitchen via the elevator. He checked the Renz Farm box and noted that his bread was loaded, accompanied the inmate who wheeled the box to the loading dock, and watched the box removed from the cart and loaded on the tweek by the kitchen inmate and the inside truck driver inmate. Officer Burkhardt stated that he did not observe the inmates straining under any extra load. He then proceeded to the Sally Port and was present when Guard Officer Ezra Shelden examined the bread box. Officer Burkhardt noted at this time that the bread was still neatly stacked near the top of the box as it was when he left the bread room.

He then proceeded to the Renz Farm, stopping on the way at Mr. Carl Mill's residence to deliver Mr. Mill's bread which was in a seperate box. Officer Burkhardt stated that he went to the rear of the truck and immate Lloyd R. Reno #10970, who rode the cab of the truck with him, got in the back of the truck and handed him Mr. Mill's bread, which he delivered. He did not at this time notice anything amiss in the truck.

When he reached the Administration building he backed up to the Front Door, went to the rear of the truck and watched the Renz Farm kitchen immates unload the bread. He stated that at this time one of the immates commented that the bread was sure in a mass. He said that he never looked at the bread or gave it a thought as to why the bread would be messed up but that he did ask the immate if he thought they would have to go after another load. The immate assured him that they could use the bread and he dropped the matter.

Officer Burkhardt emphatically states that he never saw the bread after it reached the Renz Farm. Mr. Bernard Pescheng never reported the condition of the bread to him, and that he had never heard of the condition of the bread from anyone else. He was asked why it didn't seem strange to him that, after seeing the bread neatly stacked in the Sally Port, it should be in a cass upon arriving at his destination. He said he just never thought anything about it any further than checking as to whether or not he would have to return for core bread.

Captuin Leroy Casey, in the course of his investigation of Innate James Earl Ray's escape, talked to Officer Burkhardt on the talephone Monday, April 24, 1967. Officer Burkhardt, at that time, told Captain Casey that he, arrived at the Renz Farm with all the bread he had left the walls with. Later Captain Casey talked with Officer Burkhardt in person and was told by the officer that he actually had not seen the bread after it reached the form but assumed it was all there because they didn't run out of bread and there were no complaints.

ENCLOSURE