

U. S. Department of Justice

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ATLANTA

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number 44-38861

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED
FOR HISTORICAL
DECLASSIFICATION

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/19/03 BY SPICKIS

See also Nos.

DO NOT DESTROY
PRESERVE FOR SELECT
COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

44-2386
"MURKIN"

FOIPA REQUEST. DO NOT DESTROY PURSUANT
5 YEAR RULE. SERIAL SEE 190-4

Serial Number

801-802

Sentinel 4-8-68

#3

4-12-50
per NRR.

4/8/78
msc

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

| | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|--|
| REPORTING OFFICE BIRMINGHAM | OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS | DATE 4/17/68 | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 4/4-17/68 |
| TITLE OF CASE ERIC STARVO GALT, aka Harvey Lowmeyer, John Willard - FUGITIVE; (FNU) GALT. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM | | REPORT MADE BY SA HENRY A. SNOW | TYPED BY hss |
| | | CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY | |

REFERENCE: Memphis telephone call, 4-4-68, and other numerous communications.

- P -

| ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED | | | | | | ACQUIT-TALS | CASE HAS BEEN: |
|-------------------------|-------|------|-------|---------|------------|-------------|--|
| CONVIC. | AUTO. | FUG. | FINES | SAVINGS | RECOVERIES | | |
| | | | | | | | PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO |

| APPROVED _____ SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE COPIES MADE: 4 - Bureau (44-38861) ② - Atlanta (44-2386) 2 - Los Angeles (44-1574) 3 - Memphis (44-1987) (1 - USA, Memphis - HOLD) 1 - Mobile (157-2627) (info) 2 - New Orleans 4 - Birmingham (44-1740) (1 - USA, Birmingham - <u>HOLD</u>) Dissemination Record of Attached Report | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW <div style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">44-2386-801</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> SEARCHED.....INDEXED..... SERIALIZED.....FILED..... APR 19 1968 FBI - ATLANTA </div> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">RSP</div> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Request Recd. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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ADMINISTRATIVE:

No leads are being set forth in this report as all have been handled by telephone or teletype during progress of the investigation.

Two copies are being furnished auxiliary offices which have conducted intensive investigation in this matter for their information.

One extra copy of this report is being furnished to the Memphis Office marked "Hold for U. S. Attorney, Memphis," to be released only upon Bureau authority.

An attempt has been made to limit the volume of reporting herein and the hundreds of negative contacts, which were made during all phases of the investigation, are not being included but the names, addresses and the reason for contacting these numerous individuals have been recorded in the Birmingham file in this matter.

Beginning at the inception of this investigation on the night of 4/4/68, all logical CI's and PCI's and other confidential sources available to the Birmingham Office and throughout its territory have been contacted. No positive results resulted.

On 4/8/68, SA HENRY A. SNOW contacted BH 362-C, a reliable confidential source who is employed in the Delivery and Money Order Department of WESTERN UNION at Birmingham. CI was requested to check any available records which might reflect a Western Union money order being received during the pertinent period when GALT purchased the 1966 Mustang for \$1,995.00. CI reported that all records pertaining to money orders received by Western Union for the month of August, 1967, had been forwarded to the Main Office of Western Union at Minneapolis, Minnesota, or might possibly be in the Atlanta, Georgia, Area Office.

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Those Agents of the Birmingham Office who are familiar with matters relating to the Ku Klux Klan, hate groups, and bombing suspects, thoroughly reviewed the voluminous files relating to such matters in the Birmingham Office for any logical suspect whose identity might be reflected therein. This file review did not produce positive results, but all bombing suspects were eliminated during the period of the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

A second subject, (FNU) GALT, is being carried in the title of this report to include that individual as a subject of the Conspiracy violation of the Civil Rights Act, upon which the complaint and warrant were issued at Birmingham on 4-17-68. The identity of (FNU) GALT is unknown to the Birmingham Office but mention of him was made by subject ERIC S. GALT at the time he exchanged weapons at the AEROMARINE SUPPLY COMPANY.

An extra copy of this report is being maintained in the Birmingham Office for delivery to the USA, Birmingham, upon receipt of Bureau authority.

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NPS:jml

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AT BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

On April 10, 1968, Mr. HUGH EGERTON, Postal Inspector, Birmingham, was confidentially advised of the necessity for determining any forwarding addresses left in either the South Highlands Branch of the Post Office or the Birmingham Branch in the names ERIC S. GALT, HARVEY LOWMEYER or JOHN WILLARD. Mr. EGERTON was also requested to determine, if possible, the identity and present disposition of a package and letter shipped from some company in Chicago, Illinois, to Mr. ERIC S. GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham. He was further requested to review the subscribers of all Post Office boxes in the main Birmingham station and the South Highlands station.

On the same date, Mr. EGERTON advised that he could locate no forwarding addresses for any of the three individuals mentioned. He stated that it is impossible to determine the date or disposition of any package delivered to 2608 Highland Avenue, unless it was registered or COD, which would have required a signature. He said that any letters delivered to this address and not claimed would be returned to the sender, if one was indicated, and, if not, would be returned to the dead letter station at either Memphis, Tennessee, or the city in which postmarked.

On the same date, Mr. EGERTON advised that he checked the carrier for this particular address to determine the identity of people moving away from this address during the pertinent period. He determined that on October 4, 1967, Mr. SAM J. SCRIVER moved from 2608 Highland Avenue to 1805 Pinson Street, Tarrant, Alabama. On October 18, 1967, Mr. WILLIAM E. WILKINSON moved from 2608 Highland Avenue to 1805 Pinson Street, Tarrant. On December 26, 1967, Mr. GEORGE DWIGHT PARK moved from 2608 Highland Avenue to the YMCA, Birmingham.

On April 11, 1968, Mr. EGERTON advised that he again checked with two carriers, Mr. R. H. WYNNE and Mr. W. M. VEST, and learned that his carriers' book shows that ERIC S. GALT was noted as no longer living at 2608 Highland Avenue as of October 28, 1967. Mr. EGERTON said

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NPS:jml

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that this indicated that GALT had received mail on October 28, 1967, or shortly before, and it was returned to the carrier on October 28, causing him to make this notation in his book.

On the same date, Mr. EGERTON advised that he had checked all box holders, present and for the past two years, in the South Highlands Branch and had not found one in the name of GALT, LOWMEYER or WILLARD. He stated that he would personally check all the box holders in the downtown branch, but that this would take more time.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 12, 1968

On April 12, 1968, Postal Inspector Hugh Egerton, U. S. Post Office Building, Birmingham, Alabama, furnished to Special Agent Lawrence G. Gettings two copies of a Mail Arrival Notice. The Article Number, as it appeared on the Mail Arrival Notice, was partially obliterated; however, it appeared to be 6762366. The name and address which appeared on the notice was Eric Galt, 2608 Hi. Ave. The Mail Arrival Notice reflected that the article was mailed and insured at Chicago, Illinois. The notice was signed by R. Cherpes on 10-4-67. The name of the postman who delivered the package, as it appeared on the Mail Arrival Notice, was not legible to the naked eye.

On 4-12-68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # 44-1740
by SA Lawrence G. Gettings:rlg ~~-F-~~ Date dictated 4-12-68

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.

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MAIL ARRIVAL NOTICE

ARTICLE NO. 67234

| | | |
|---------|--|------------|
| YOU MAY | CALL FOR MAIL AFTER _____ M. | Mail is at |
| | Bring this notice—Identification required. OR REQUEST DELIVERY—Notify your carrier or post office. | |

NAME AND ADDRESS (Include ZIP Code) 712 1st St
Wichita, KS 67201

| | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHECK INDICATES DELIVERY TO ADDRESSEE ONLY. | ARTICLE MAILED AS <u>Ch. Ill</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTERED |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFIED |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INSURED |

RECEIVED 4/20/68
BY [Signature]

PS Form 3849 Nov. 1965 DATE DELIVERED 10/16/81

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA HENRY A. SNOW
Date: April 17, 1968

Office: BIRMINGHAM

Field Office File #: BH 44-1740

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: ERIC STARVO GALT;
(FNU) GALT.
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Synopsis: Murder weapon, a Remington 30.06, Model 760, Serial No. 461476, was one of a shipment from Remington-Arms Company, Bridgeport, Connecticut, to Wimberly-Thomas Hardware Company, Birmingham, and sold on 8/31/66 to AEROMARINE SUPPLY COMPANY, Birmingham. Employees that concern recall an individual, who was later identified from photograph as ERIC S. GALT, had first visited Aeromarine Supply Company on two occasions Friday, 3/29/68, when he purchased a .243 caliber Remington rifle, Model 700, which was equipped on that date with Redfield scope 2x-7x; paid cash and gave name HARVEY LOWMEYER, 1907 South 11th Street, Birmingham. On following day, Saturday, 3/30/68, same individual returned after telephonic contact and exchanged this rifle for the murder weapon, a Remington Model 760, 30.06 caliber, to which scope was attached. Investigation at address given, 1907 - 11th Street South, and all surrounding neighborhood revealed that LOWMEYER, or any individual possibly identical, was unknown as residence occupied over thirty years by elderly mother of local attorney, W. A. JENKINS. Records Jefferson County Department of Revenue, Birmingham, revealed 1968 Alabama license 1-38993 issued to ERIC S. GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, for 1966 Mustang two-door, VIN 6T07C190647. Previous registration for this car was to WILLIAM D. PAISLEY, residence - 701 South 48th Street, Birmingham. PAISLEY advised he purchased car from local Birmingham dealer on 12/15/66 and sold same to GALT on 8/30/67 for \$1,995.00 cash, paid in front of local downtown bank after GALT had visited his residence and inspected car on 8/29/67 in response to newspaper ad.

Synopsis: (continued)

Investigation determined GALT rented room at rooming house operated by PETER CHERPES, 2608 Highland Avenue, on the southside of Birmingham, on 8/26/67. Maintained room until approximately 10/7/67 when departed for unknown destination; had in possession the 1966 Mustang, which he kept parked in center median of the avenue and apparently used same very little. While there, GALT was unemployed, claiming he was on vacation and did not associate with other roomers, all of whom are being contacted. Shortly prior to departure from rooming house, received package later determined to have been shipped from a photographic company in Chicago, which contained a camera and other equipment. A Standard Oil Service Station on Highland Avenue determined to have been source of S & H Green Stamps distributed during period 9/8-22/67, which were recovered from GALT's effects in abandoned Mustang at Atlanta, Georgia. Also, a dry-cleaning ticket recovered at Atlanta determined issued by neighboring cleaning establishment on Highland Avenue, Birmingham, under name GAULT. On 8/28/67, ERIC S. GALT rented safe deposit box [REDACTED] at Main Office, Birmingham Trust National Bank, and record reveals entries to box after that date on September 5, 21 and 28, 1967. Box surrendered to bank 12/13/67 after receipt of letter from GALT enclosing both keys, stating he no longer needed as had moved. Letter believed postmarked Baton Rouge, Louisiana. GALT determined to have enrolled for five weekly classes in dance instruction at the Continental Dance Club Studios, Graymont Ave., Birmingham, on 9/12/67. Gave same rooming house address on registration card. Operators of that establishment and persons who attended classes with GALT unable to furnish pertinent background information regarding him. Extensive investigation conducted in effort to secure further information regarding GALT during his period of residence at rooming house and also on the days he apparently returned to Birmingham to purchase rifle. This encompassed numerous neighborhood investigations, contacts with boarding houses, hotels and motels, financial institutions, airlines, taxicabs, bus stations, automobile insurance agencies, libraries, laundry and dry-cleaning establishments, divorce records, barge line operators, and all other similar investigative phases, which did not produce

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Synopsis: (continued)

additional evidence. On 4/16/68, a photograph forwarded to the Birmingham Office by the Los Angeles Office of ERIC S. GALT was exhibited to three witnesses at AEROMARINE Supply Company, two of them stating in their opinion same was identical to the HARVEY LOWMEYER, purchaser of the murder weapon. On 4/17/68, AUSA R. MACEY TAYLOR, Birmingham, authorized the filing of a complaint charging ERIC STARVO GALT with Conspiracy to violate Section 241, Title 18, USC, and recommended bond in amount of \$50,000. On same date, SAC JOSEPH H. GAMBLE filed the complaint before USC MILDRED F. SPRAGUE, Birmingham, and warrant issued, which is being maintained in Birmingham Office. SINCE SUBJECT IS CHARGED WITH MURDER BY USE OF A HIGH-POWERED RIFLE, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

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DETAILS: AT BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

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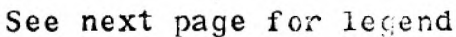
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CITY MAP OF BIRMINGHAM, REFLECTING
POINTS OF CONTACT BY ERIC S. GALT.

44-1740

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BH 44-1740
ME 44-1987
HAS:mas

LEGEND OF LOCATIONS VISITED BY ERIC S. GALT
DEPICTED ON CITY MAP OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

1. Fictitious address 1907 11th Street South given by GALT at time of purchase of rifle.
2. Location of Aeromarine Supply Company, 5701 Airport Highway, where rifle purchased.
3. Rooming house operated by Mr. PETER CHERPES, 2608 Highland Avenue, where GALT resided from August 26, 1967, to about October 7, 1967.
4. Main Office of Birmingham Trust National Bank, 112 North 20th Street, where GALT maintained safety deposit box from August 28, 1967, until cancelled by bank on December 13, 1967.
5. Location of Continental Dance Club Studios, 731½ Graymont Avenue, where GALT enrolled on September 12, 1967.
6. Residence address of WILLIAM D. PAISLEY, 701 South 48th Street, where GALT answered newspaper ad to purchase 1966 white Mustang on August 29, 1967, and sale consummated following day.

NOTE: The address of The Gun Rack, 1507 31st Street, SW, and Long-Lewis Hardware Company, 2014 2nd Avenue North, Bessemer, Alabama, are located several miles southwest of the area depicted on the map and not readily shown. These stores of interest due to description of individual, possibly identical with GALT, furnished by salesman as exhibiting unusual interest in guns and their ballistics.

BH 44-1740
HAS:hss

COMPOSITE DESCRIPTION GIVEN BY WITNESSES;
ARTIST'S SKETCH; AND DATES ERIC S. GALT
KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN IN BIRMINGHAM:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Race: | White |
| Sex: | Male |
| Age: | 32 - 36 |
| Height: | 5'8" - 5'10" |
| Weight: | 165 - 175 |
| Eyes: | Blue; large pupils; habit of staring intently while conversing; others say looked down. |
| Hair: | Medium brown, not parted, combed back, rather short with some "ripple wave" as appeared to have formerly been short crew-cut. |
| Complexion: | Medium to pale |
| Characteristics: | Meek; mild-mannered; quiet; non-smoker but occasionally user of alcohol, possibly beer and/or Vodka. |
| Clothing: | Neatly dressed on occasions in business suit, white shirt and tie; other occasions, sport clothes. |
| Residence: | Rooming house - 2608 Highland Avenue, on south side of Birmingham, Alabama. |
| Occupation: | Unemployed while in Birmingham; read newspapers and "relaxed." |
| Knowledge of Gun: | Witnesses at AEROMARINE SUPPLY COMPANY stated subject did not appear to have any knowledge of high-powered rifles. |



ARTIST'S SKETCH OF UNSUB.

BH 44-1740

DATES AND LOCATIONS GALT KNOWN WHILE AT BIRMINGHAM

August 26, 1967: Rented room at 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, in boarding house operated by PETER CHERPES.

August 28, 1967: Rented safe deposit box [REDACTED] at Main Office of Birmingham Trust National Bank in downtown Birmingham.

August 29, 1967: Replied to newspaper classified ad for purchase of 1966 white Mustang from local resident, WILLIAM D. PAISLEY, at his residence and sale consummated in downtown Birmingham the following day, 8/30/67.

September 8-22, 1967: Period during which S & H Green Stamps, which were found in GALT's abandoned Mustang in Atlanta, were distributed to customers at Standard Oil Service Station, 2188 Highland Avenue, Birmingham.

September 12, 1967: GALT enrolled for 5 weekly classes in dance instruction at Continental Dance Club Studios, aka Friendship Club, Birmingham, giving residence address as 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham.

October 3, 1967: Dry-cleaning ticket, which had been recovered from GALT's effects at Atlanta, identified as having been issued on this date for the pressing of a coat at Mayfield Cleaners, 2222 Highland Avenue, under name GAULT.

October 3, 1967: Records of Superior Bulk Film Company, Chicago, reflected shipment of photographic equipment and camera to GALT at the Highland Avenue rooming house address.

BH 44-1740

October 4, 1967: PETER CHERPES, operator of rooming house, 2608 Highland Avenue, signed for package addressed to GALT.

October 5, 1967: GALT wrote typewritten letter from his rooming house at Birmingham to the Superior Bulk Film Company, Chicago, returning one camera which had been delivered along with other photographic equipment.

October 7, 1967: Approximate date of GALT's departure from his Birmingham rooming house, and no further correspondence received from him by PETER CHERPES.

October 18, 1967: Letter from Superior Bulk Film Company, Chicago, returned from the rooming house address at Birmingham.

October 22, 1967: Records of Superior Bulk Film Company, Chicago, reflect typewritten letter from GALT requesting a refund on the returned camera be sent to him at Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico, Hotel Rio.

November 20, 1967: Records of the film company at Chicago reflect letter from GALT advising he had not received his refund and requesting same be sent then to 1535 North Serrano, Los Angeles, California.

December 13, 1967: GALT's safe deposit box, Birmingham Trust National Bank, Birmingham, cancelled and found empty upon receipt of letter enclosing keys, believed mailed in Louisiana.

March 29, 1968: GALT purchased one rifle from AEROMARINE Supply Company, Birmingham, and had scope mounted.

March 30, 1968: GALT returned above gun to AEROMARINE and traded same for the murder weapon.

BH 44-1740

PURCHASE OF MURDER WEAPON FROM
AEROMARINE SUPPLY COMPANY,
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



VIEW OF AEROMARINE SUPPLY COMPANY

7 12



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

VIEW OF AEROMARINE SUPPLY COMPANY

7 13

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/11/68

JOE F. BIDDLE, Manager, Sporting Goods Department, Wimberley-Thomas Hardware Company, 1809 First Avenue, South, Birmingham, was contacted at approximately 8:30 a.m. and advised that he had already been contacted by the man from Remington-Arms Company in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and had been advised by him that Remington 30.06 rifle, serial number 461476, had been shipped to Wimberley on March 30, 1966, under Remington invoice number 55868.

Mr. BIDDLE stated that this order was received and was, in fact, a shipment of 418 guns of various types.

He consulted his record book, captioned Daily Report of Sale of Guns and Pistols, and determined that Remington rifle, caliber 30.06, marketed under Remington symbol number 9684, serial number 461476, had been sold on August 31, 1966, to Aeromarine Supply Company, 5701 Airport Highway, Birmingham.

On 4/5/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
by SA NEIL P. SHANAHAN:jml Date dictated 4/11/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/11/68

At approximately 10:30 a.m. DONALD F. WOOD was contacted at Aeromarine Supply Company, 5701 Airport Highway, Birmingham, and advised that he is the son of ROBERT E. WOOD, SR., who is the owner of the Aeromarine Supply Company. WOOD was discreetly questioned concerning the sale of a Remington caliber 30.06 rifle, serial number 461476, which Aeromarine had purchased from Wimberley-Thomas in August, 1966. DONALD F. WOOD immediately stated that he had heard the accounts of the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING the previous day on the radio and had immediately recalled selling a rifle, as was described in the newspaper as the murder weapon, to an individual about a week before the murder. WOOD immediately searched for and found a sales invoice in his records and indicated that on Saturday, March 30, 1968, he had sold this gun to an individual using the name HARVEY LOWMEYER.

After obtaining both copies of this sales invoice, Mr. WOOD was requested to accompany the interviewing Agent to the Birmingham Office of the FBI, which he agreed to do. Mr. WOOD was transported to the Birmingham Office of the FBI, where he furnished the following signed statement:

"Birmingham, Alabama
April 5, 1968

"I, DONALD F. WOOD, hereby make this statement to Special Agent NEIL P. SHANAHAN who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I reside at 405 Lance Lane, Birmingham, Alabama and subscribe to telephone number 836-4918. I am employed by my father, ROBERT E. WOOD, SR. at the Aeromarine Supply Company, 5701 Airport Highway, Birmingham, Ala., as a salesman.

On 4/5/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
by SA NEIL P. SHANAHAN:jml Date dictated 4/11/68

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"On Friday, March 29, 1968, sometime in the early afternoon I had just returned from lunch when I observed Mr. U. L. BAKER, also a salesman, completing the sale of a rifle to an individual unknown to me. Mr. BAKER had just sold this man a Remington, Model 700, Caliber .243 Winchester with a 2x-7x Redfield Scope mounted thereon. Mr. BAKER had made this sale and had also mounted and bore sighted the scope on our machine. This individual also bought one box of 20 rounds of .243 Norma ammunition. He payed cash for this sale. When I first observed this man he was dressed in a dark business suit with a white shirt and tie, as well as I remember. He was approximately 5'8" tall, 150 to 160 pounds and had dark hair. He had a medium complexion and appeared to be a meek individual. This individual had given his name as HARVEY LOWMEYER and stated that he resided at 1907 South 11th Street, Birmingham, Alabama. He also advised that he was 36 years of age.

"This information was not given to me personally by this individual, but I determined it from the bill of sale that was prepared by Mr. BAKER.

"Following the sale this individual left the store carrying the gun in a cardboard box utilized by the Browning Manufacturing Company. This box was used because with the scope mounted the rifle would not fit in the normal Remington box. He also took the empty Remington manufacturer's carton with him when he left.

"It was, as best I recall, either later that afternoon or early the following Saturday morning when this individual called on the telephone and stated that he had had a conversation with his brother and decided that the gun he had purchased was not the gun he wanted and he requested whether he could exchange it for a Remington, Model 760, 30.06 caliber. I advised him that we could make this exchange but that it would cost him an additional \$5.00.

"At approximately 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 30, this same individual returned to the store with the gun he had previously purchased. When he returned the gun he had the gun still in the Browning box. I told him that I would change the scope from the caliber .243 rifle to the Model 760, but that it would take me until approximately 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon and I instructed him to return at 3:00 o'clock and to bring the original Remington box for the caliber .243 weapon with him when he came as I would need a box to store the gun in. I gave him the Model 760 gun and I believe that I left it in the Browning carton. I did not receive the \$5.00 because in exchanging the scope I had to use a Weaver base and rings instead of the Redfield base and rings and this made up the cost difference. I also exchanged the box of .243 caliber ammunition for a box of 30.06 ammunition which I believe was Peters Core Lokt, 150 grain, 20 rounds per box. He left the store carrying the gun in the cardboard box.

"During the course of our dealings on Saturday I asked this individual why he didn't want the caliber .243 gun and I told him that it was a big enough gun to bring down any deer in Alabama. He stated in an offhand manner that he wanted the 30.06 caliber gun because he was going to use it to hunt in Wisconsin.

"At the present time this is all that I can remember concerning the transaction with this individual.

"4/5/68

"I have read this signed statement and accept where I have initiated one correction. I find it to consist of this and two other pages and it is true and correct.

"/s/ DONALD F. WOOD

"/s/ NEIL P. SHANAHAN, Special Agent,
FBI, 4/5/68.

"/s/ MARVIN M. EUBANKS, Special Agent,
FBI, Birmingham, 4/5/68."

Phone 595-2142
AIRCRAFT-AUTOMOTIVE
MARINE-SPORTING GOODS
PARTS & SUPPLIES

AEROMARINE SUPPLY CO.

5701 BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT HIGHWAY
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35212

INVOICE
NUMBER

BUN
2251A

TO

HARVEY LOWMEYER,

DATE

3/29

196*8*

ADDRESS

1907 - S. 11TH ST., BIRMINGHAM ALA

ORDER NUMBER

PHONE ☐

WIRE ☐

LETTER ☐

PICK UP ☒

NAME:

SALESMAN

Acc 31 SHIP VIA:

TERMS: ☐ CASH ☐ CHECK

BS

| QUANTITY | PART NUMBER | DESCRIPTION | LIST | NET | TOTAL |
|----------|-------------|--|--------|--------|-------|
| 1 | ITEM# 757A | REM MOD. 700 | 760 | | |
| | | PUMP ACTION 243 RIFLE, CAL. | | | |
| | | 243 WIN. S.N. 283749 | 461476 | 134.95 | |
| 1 | 2X-7X | REDFIELD SCOPE. | 94.50 | 74.60 | |
| 1 | JR 700 | BASE + D.L. RINGS. | 23.90 | 20.32 | |
| 1 | Box | 243 CTG. | | 4.65 | |
| | | <i>Harvey Lowmeyer</i> | | 234.52 | |

IF CHECK IS GIVEN IN FULL OR PART PAYMENT FOR THIS INVOICE, TITLE SHALL REMAIN WITH SELLER UNTIL CHECK HAS
CLEARED BANK IN WHICH DRAWN, AT THE OPTION OF THE SELLER.

RECEIVED BY

MERCHANDISE CANNOT BE RETURNED FOR CREDIT, REFUND OR EXCHANGE AFTER 10 DAYS FROM SALE DATE
PURCHASE INVOICE MUST ACCOMPANY ALL RETURNS.

TAX

14.07

TOTAL

245.59

RECORD INVOICE

0-227348-7
BONAR PRINTING COMPANY - BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 8, 1968

DONALD F. WOOD, residence 405 Lance Lane, Birmingham, the son of the owner of Aeromarine Supply Company, Airport Highway, was asked if he could identify a customer who purchased a gun case for a Varmint model rifle on March 29, 1968. WOOD, after checking his invoices, noted that there was such a sale made on March 29, 1968, but the invoice was made out to "Cash." WOOD recalled, however, that this customer is a regular customer who is a white male, about 25 years old, five feet, ten inches, 170 pounds, long, black hair, whose first name is JOHN. WOOD further recalled that he had sold a Browning pistol to this man about two and one-half years ago. WOOD then checked his records and identified this man as JOHN WEBSTER DeSHAZO, 17 Montevallo Lane, Mountain Brook, Alabama, who purchased a Browning Standard Weight Pistol on December 11, 1965.

Later on April 7, 1968, DON WOOD made available the following weapons which had been identified by JOHN WEBSTER DeSHAZO as having been handled by the person who purchased a rifle and scope sight at the Aeromarine Supply Company on March 29, 1968:

One Browning Safari grade, caliber .243, bolt-action rifle, Serial No. 3700Z5, Stock No. 946A.

One Remington Model 700, heavy barrel, Varmint .243 Winchester, Serial No. 266009, Stock No. 753A.

One Remington Model 788, caliber .30-30, bolt-action rifle, Serial No. 020726, Stock No. 756A.

Mr. WOOD was furnished a receipt for the above weapons.

On 4/7/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-174C
SAs ROBERT M. BARRETT ME 44-1987
by and WILLIAM A. SAUCIER RMB:mas Date dictated 4/8/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 14, 1968

Immediately following the receipt of a package at approximately 12:30 a.m., April 8, 1968, containing three weapons from Special Agent ROBERT M. BARRETT, Special Agent RALPH N. BUTLER hand-carried them aboard a Delta Airlines flight, changing to an Eastern Airlines flight in Atlanta, Georgia, and ultimately accompanied them to Mr. GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the FBI Identification Division at approximately 8:00 a.m. on April 8, 1968.

These items, from the time they were delivered to SA BUTLER, did not leave his possession until delivered to Mr. BONEBRAKE.

On 4/8/68 at Birmingham, Alabama -
Washington, D. C. File # BH 44-1740
by SA RALPH N. BUTLER:mas **20** Date dictated 4/11/68

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1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/11/68

At approximately 1:00 p.m. on April 5, 1968, Mr. ROBERT E. WOOD, SR., and DONALD F. WOOD accompanied the interviewing Agents to the Aeromarine Supply Company, 5701 Airport Highway, Birmingham, where DONALD F. WOOD made available a Remington Model 700, caliber .243, rifle, which was believed by them to have been handled by the unknown individual who had purchased the Remington Model 760 rifle on March 30, 1968. DONALD F. WOOD also furnished nine boxes of caliber .243 ammunition from their inventory stating that one box of this ammunition was believed to have been handled by the individual who purchased the gun. DONALD F. WOOD also furnished a set of Redfield bases and rings which had been the original bases and rings furnished by the manufacturer of the Redfield scope.

Mr. WOOD was furnished a signed receipt for the above items.

Immediately following the receipt of these items, SA NEIL P. SHANAHAN hand carried them aboard a United Airlines flight, changing to a Delta flight in Atlanta, Georgia, and ultimately accompanied them to Mr. GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the FBI Identification Division at approximately 8:00 p.m. same date. These items, from the time they were delivered to SA SHANAHAN, did not leave his possession until delivered to Mr. BONEBRAKE.

On 4/5/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
by SAs NEIL P. SHANAHAN and
NEIL G. MARTIN: NPS/jml Date dictated 4/11/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/8/68

JOHN WEBSTER DE SHAZO, 17 Montevallo Lane, Mountain Brook, furnished the following:

DE SHAZO is a regular and frequent customer at Aero-marine Supply Company, Airport Highway, Birmingham. DE SHAZO is also a member of the National Rifle Association (NRA) and therefore has an extensive and avid interest in weapons.

On March 29, 1968, DE SHAZO went to the Aeronarine Supply Company, arriving sometime around 3:00 P.M. He was there for about one to one and one-half hours. At the time he arrived, the son of the owner, DON WOODS, was out to lunch, and DE SHAZO wanted to conduct his business with WOODS. About twenty minutes after DE SHAZO arrived, a man in a dark shade of brown business suit which was wrinkled as if he had been working or traveling, came into the store. DE SHAZO said his first impression of this man was that he did not look like a hunter or an outdoorsman, and that he appeared to be out of place in the store. It was apparent to DE SHAZO in watching this man that he did not know anything about rifles. He looked at and handled several different weapons and finally decided to buy a Remington Model 700 .243 Winchester. He also ordered a Redfield Variable scope. The total cost of this purchase would have been about \$270. DE SHAZO recalled saying to this man, "You've really got quite a gun there - you'll have to learn how to use it." The man replied that he was going deer hunting with his brother, or brother-in-law, in Wisconsin, who had invited him to hunt. This man also said that he was now able to buy a rifle so he was going to get a good one. Sometime while DE SHAZO was observing this man, he noticed that he could detect the odor of alcohol on his breath. He said the man was not drunk, bleary-eyed, nor was his speech slurred, but he had definitely been drinking. DE SHAZO said when he left the store this purchaser was still in the store waiting for a salesman named BAKER to get the scope sight mounted on the rifle that this man had purchased.

On 4/7/68 at Mountain Brook, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SAs ROBERT M. BARRETT and
WILLIAM A. SAUCIER:RMB:jbt Date dictated 4/8/68

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DE SHAZO said he could recall only two laborers coming into the store while this man was there and that there were two persons behind the counter, BAKER and a man named STEPHENS.

DE SHAZO said the man gave DE SHAZO the impression that he was not from Alabama. This man was quiet, soft-spoken, and was not observed smoking at any time. DE SHAZO said several times that his attention was drawn to this man because of his lack of knowledge of weapons and, in DE SHAZO's opinion, this man had no business getting a rifle. He said he had thought at the time that this is the type of person who buys a rifle to kill his wife, and who gives the use of weapons a bad name.

DE SHAZO said he could positively identify the man who purchased the rifle and scope sight should he ever observe him again.

DE SHAZO furnished the following description of the man who purchased the Remington rifle and scope sight:

| | |
|----------|---|
| Race | White |
| Sex | Male |
| Age | 30 - 32 years |
| Height | 5'10" |
| Weight | 170 - 175 lbs. |
| Hair | Brown, combed straight back, wavy |
| Manner | Quiet, soft-spoken, non-smoker |
| Clothing | Wearing wingtip shoes, a medium-priced, wrinkled, dark brown business suit, white shirt, and tie. |

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/8/68

On April 6, 1968, JOHN DENNIS HANNERS, 809 Meg Drive, furnished the following:

HANNERS went to the Aeromarine Supply Company on Airport Highway twice on March 29, 1968. The first time was about 10:00 A.M., and he was there for about an hour, during which time he made a purchase. He returned sometime between 2:00 and 2:30 P.M., and stayed until sometime after 4:00 P.M. About fifteen minutes after he arrived, a man wearing a business suit, dark brown in color, came in and looked at some rifles. From this man's actions it was obvious to HANNERS that this man knew little or nothing about rifles. He was waited on by an employee named BAKER. He finally purchased a Remington, model unknown, rifle and ordered a scope sight to be installed at that time. HANNERS left sometime after 4:00 P.M. and at that time this purchaser was still in the store. At the time HANNERS left, the purchaser was watching BAKER equip the rifle with the scope sight. HANNERS said he is quite positive he could identify this purchaser if he ever saw him again.

HANNERS recalled that this purchaser talked to a customer who was in the store at the same time on March 29, 1968, which customer was buying a gun case for a Varmint model rifle. This customer apparently was well known to BAKER and HANNERS recalls seeing this customer have some conversation with the purchaser of the rifle.

HANNERS advised he had no conversation with this purchaser nor did he hear him mention any name, locality, occupation, residence, and/or automobile. When HANNERS left the store he noticed there were several cars parked in the store parking lot, but could not recall any one specific car, except a small red midget-type compact. HANNERS further said he had never seen the purchaser of the rifle before nor has he seen him since this occasion.

On 4/6,7/68 at Center Point, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SAs ROBERT M. BARRETT and
WILLIAM A. SAUCIER;RMB:jbt **24** Date dictated 4/8/68

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BH 44-1740

HANNERS furnished the following description of the purchaser of the rifle:

| | |
|----------|---|
| Race | White |
| Sex | Male |
| Age | About 38 years |
| Height | 5'10" |
| Weight | 180 lbs., with slight "pot" |
| Hair | Dark brown and wavy on top, thick on the sides |
| Eyes | Open as if looking intently at something |
| Clothing | Dark brown business suit, white shirt and tie |
| Speech | Possibly Southern |
| Manner | Acted shy, quiet spoken, not forward in manner or speech, not observed smoking. |

On April 7, 1968, JOHN DENNIS HANNERS said he did not recall hearing the purchaser of the rifle speak enough to definitely identify his voice or his accent, if any. He only recalls the purchaser specifically saying to BAKER, in connection with the purchase of the rifle, "I'll take this one."

In going over his actions in the store on a minute-to-minute basis, HANNERS said he believes he arrived between 2:00 and 2:30 P.M., that the purchaser of the rifle arrived fifteen minutes later, that the son of the owner of the store, DON WOODS, came into the store about thirty minutes after the purchaser of the rifle had arrived, and that HANNERS left the store about one and one-half hours after he had first arrived, which would have been sometime between 3:30 and 4:00 P.M., at which time the purchaser of the rifle was still in the store.

HANNERS recalled that the young man who was buying the gun case for the Varmint model rifle was a white male, about 25 years, 5'10", 170 lbs., black, thick, long hair combed straight back. This individual was still in the store with the purchaser when HANNERS left.

HANNERS said that the purchaser drew HANNERS' attention because of his obvious lack of knowledge concerning rifles.

3
BH 44-1740

HANNERS also recalled that there was another salesman behind the counter other than BAKER who was gray-haired. HANNERS further recalled seeing that there was more than one rifle on the counter during the time the purchaser of the rifle was discussing the purchase with BAKER.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/8/68

U. L. BAKER, 1408 Clermont Drive, advised he is an employee of the Aeromarine Supply Company, Airport Highway, Birmingham. In connection with the sale of a gun case for a Varmint model rifle, BAKER said he recalled making such a sale, but could not recall the date nor the name of the customer. He said he could not state that this gun case was sold on the same date that he had sold a rifle and scope sight, which was March 29, 1968. He said the man who bought the gun case was a frequent customer, and described him as a white male, 27 - 28 years old, 5'9", 180 lbs., heavysset, with blond, thinning hair. BAKER identified the other salesman, who would have been behind the counter on March 29, 1968, as the manager of the store, J. HOYT STEPHENS.

In connection with the accent or speech of the person who purchased the rifle and scope sight, BAKER said he believed it was from "this" (Alabama) general area. BAKER said that the man who purchased the rifle had left the store on March 29, 1968, and came back later in the afternoon and picked up the rifle. He was asked if it was possible that the man stayed in the store during this time, and BAKER said he was not sure.

On 4/7/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SAs ROBERT M. BARRETT and
WILLIAM A. SAUCIER:RMB:jbt ²⁷ Date dictated 4/8/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/8/68

J. HOYT STEPHENS, residence 1108 South 55th Street, Birmingham, said he is the manager of the Aeromarine Supply Company, Airport Highway, Birmingham. STEPHENS said he occasionally works behind the counter and would be the person identified by a customer as a gray-haired salesman other than Mr. U. L. BAKER.

STEPHENS said he could not recall anything concerning the sale of a gun case for a Varmint-type rifle nor the sale of a Remington rifle and scope sight on March 29, 1968.

On 4/7/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SAs ROBERT M. BARRETT and
WILLIAM A. SAUCIER:RMB:ibt Date dictated 4/8/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/8/68

A. L. IRWIN, 7822 Sixth Avenue South, a patrolman employed by the Birmingham Police Department, advised he is presently attending the police department academy for rookie policemen.

IRWIN recalled being at the Aero Marine Supply Company, near the airport, Birmingham, on March 29, 1968, for about an hour between 4:30 and 5:30 P.M. IRWIN recalled seeing a customer in the store wearing a dark business suit. He could only recall that this man was a white male, age about 36, about 5'8" tall, about 160 pounds, with dark hair. IRWIN said he could recall nothing else about this man or if he was still in the store when IRWIN left. He did recall there were several cars parked outside the Aero Marine Supply when he left, but could recall none specifically.

On 4/6/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SAs ROBERT M. BARRETT and
WILLIAM A. SAUCIER:RMB:jbt **29** Date dictated 4/8/68

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BH 44-1740
JTA:cap

On April 6, 1968, CHARLES F. CAUDLE, employed at Aeromarine Supply Company, 5701 Airport Highway, Birmingham, Alabama, advised that he did not recall observing the individual at Aeromarine Supply Company on March 29, 1968, and March 30, 1968, who purchased a rifle and a scope.

On April 6, 1968, J. HOYT STEPHENS, employee of Aeromarine Supply Company, 5701 Airport Highway, Birmingham, advised he did not recall observing the individual at Aeromarine Supply Company on March 29 and 30, 1968, who purchased a rifle and scope.

1

BH 44-1740
ME 44-1987
HAS:mas

The following classified advertisement appeared in the morning newspaper, The Birmingham Post-Herald, under the "Articles for Sale" column in its issue of March 30, 1968, and had appeared in the evening Birmingham News during the pertinent period:

"GUNS--GUNS--GUNS

Rifles--Shotguns--Pistols

BROWNING--REMINGTON--COLT

--Hi-standard--Ruger--Winchester--
Weatherby--Savage--Smith & Wesson.
Over 1,000 arms in stock for your
selection. Surplus Rifles, Pistols
and Shotguns at bargain prices.
Leather Bolts and Holsters. Gun
Scopes, Polychokes & Recall pads
installed. Shotgun Shells, Reloading
Supplies & Equipment at discount
prices. Colt Anniversary Presentation
Revolvers.

REMINGTON PRIMERS:

RIFLE AND PISTOL

\$6 per M. Shotgun, \$10 per M.

BUY---SELL---TRADE

AEROMARINE SUPPLY CO.

5701 Airport Hiway

595-2142"