

HO 44-1509

Dallas	59
San Antonio	46
Phoenix	1
Houston	391
Total	<u>969</u>

All of the above field divisions were furnished the telephone number called in their division, date called and number and place from which call emanated.

The following investigation was conducted by SAs WILLIAM J. FLANAGAN and KENNETH B. JACKSON on April 25, 1968 at Houston, Texas.

JERRY F. MC PHERSON, Manager, Holiday Inn, 9799 Katy, reviewed records for the period December 14-20, 1967; D.J. GRAVINK, Manager, Howard Johnson Motor Lodge, 7953 Katy, reviewed records for the entire year 1967; LOWELL MASON, Assistant Manager, Cactus Court, 7631 Katy, records for December, 1967. Each advised no record of CHARLES STEIN or of JAMES EARL RAY by name or aliases as occupants of motel unit during respective periods indicated.

The following investigation was conducted by SAs FRANK M. IVEY and WILLIAM G. MORRISSEY on April 25, 1968 at Houston, Texas.

Registration records of the following motels along Katy Freeway west (I.S. 10) were reviewed through the following persons for the period December 16-18, 1967 for CHARLES STEIN and/or JAMES EARL RAY by name or aliases. No record was located:

Field Inn
TED DEMETRE, Manager
9821 Katy Freeway

Yupon Motel
Mrs. NORA WILSTE, Manager
8615 Katy Freeway

Western Skies Motel
DAVID PEERY, Manager
7809 Katy Freeway

Robinhood Motor Lodge
ROSE PATTON, Assistant Manager
7611 Katy Freeway

9. Associates of JAMES EARL RAY

Information developed by the Kansas City Office, FBI determined that NEAL EDGAR AEBY had been closely associated in Missouri State Penitentiary with JAMES EARL RAY while RAY was incarcerated at that institution until his escape April 23, 1967.

On April 25, 1967 NEAL EDGAR AEBY also interviewed at Ramsey Unit, Texas State Department of Corrections, Houston, Texas. AEBY advised as follows:

He and JAMES EARL RAY had been inmates at Missouri State Penitentiary for about five years. He and RAY had handled minor narcotics while in prison in order to get money for commissary items. AEBY stated that he had never known RAY to be a user of hard narcotics. AEBY has three brothers, BILL AEBY, Box 64, Segoville, Texas who also was a friend of RAY and who had served time with RAY at Missouri State Penitentiary; AUBREY AEBY, address unknown, Dallas, Texas; and JAMES AEBY who owns and operates a filling station, Dallas, Texas and who has never been arrested.

AEBY advised that he arrived at Ramsey No. 1 on April 24, 1968 after having been transferred from Missouri State Penitentiary to the TDC, Huntsville, Texas. AEBY stated that while enroute to Huntsville he was lodged in a jail in Oklahoma City for one night where he mailed a postcard to FRANK GUINAN, an inmate, Missouri State Penitentiary.

AEBY advised that his ex-wife JUDY possibly resides in the Houston area but he has not seen her for several years and does not know where she could be located.

AEBY stated that JAMES EARL RAY had very few friends while in the Missouri State Penitentiary. He described RAY as being "very deadly". He stated that RAY was not a loud rabble rousing type individual and that RAY never expressed any hatred for the Negro race but if anyone wronged him in any way RAY would immediately contrive means to get even. AEBY stated that he was a chief cook while at Missouri State Penitentiary and that RAY worked under him

as a slicer in the bread room. AEBY advised that RAY on two occasions, once in 1962 and again in 1966 attempted to escape from Missouri State Penitentiary but in each case he was unsuccessful. In one instance the ladder broke and in the other instance the rope which he was using failed to support him and he fell and fractured his arm. After serving time in solitary RAY was again returned to the bread room.

AEBY stated that RAY had mentioned to him that he, RAY, had a brother in St. Louis and that he, RAY, was from St. Louis. AEBY advised that he did not know the names of RAY's brother or where he could be located. When questioned about the escape route utilized by RAY in 1967 AEBY advised he would not divulge this escape route as the route is still good and could be used by other prisoners. AEBY advised that he hated the warden at Missouri State Penitentiary and hoped that he was receiving considerable "heat" as a result of RAY's escape. Regarding the escape of RAY, AEBY stated that it would have been the "smart thing to do" to have an outside man waiting to assist RAY in leaving the territory. AEBY would not admit that he knew of any outside man so assisting RAY in his escape. AEBY did not state whether or not RAY had had any inside help in his escape.

AEBY advised that in 1963 or 1964 RAY had a nervous breakdown while at Missouri State Penitentiary and RAY developed a bad stomach which necessitated RAY eating special foods. AEBY on numerous occasions would cook eggs for RAY because of RAY's stomach. He stated RAY was partial to eggs. He recalled that while at Missouri State Penitentiary RAY quit smoking probably because of his stomach ailment. He recalled too that RAY enjoyed tinkering with mechanical things and that RAY had built an air conditioner out of spare parts for RAY's jail cell. RAY was also handy in the repair of radios, parts for which he would obtain from the penitentiary machine shop. AEBY stated that he did not believe that RAY would go to Mexico or leave the country and he stated that he hoped that RAY would never be caught. AEBY stated he would in no way render assistance that would aid in the capture of RAY and he would furnish no further information regarding RAY.

JUDY CAROL PETERS, nee Thomas, also known as Judy Carol Aeby, 10205 W. Hardy, Houston, no telephone, interviewed on April 26, 1968 and furnished the following information:

She was married to NEAL EDGAR AEBY for approximately two years in 1960 and 1961. When he was arrested and returned to Missouri in 1961, she came to Houston and has not seen AEBY since that time. She last contacted him on April 19, 1962 advising him of the birth of their daughter. She has divorced AEBY and has not corresponded with him since that date. Subject RAY is unknown to her and she has not been contacted by any of AEBY's associates during the past six years. She stated AEBY does not know her exact address and could not locate her himself.

The only relative of AEBY who subject RAY might contact would be brother AUBREY AEBY, Dallas, Texas. She does not know the whereabouts of AEBY's relatives and never was closely associated with them.

PETERS promised complete cooperation and will immediately advise the FBI of any information received regarding RAY.

10. GEORGE WILLIAM RUSSELL

GEORGE WILLIAM RUSSELL, a salesman for Pat Lape Mobile Homes, 3712 Telephone Road, Houston, Texas when interviewed on April 26, 1968 advised that JAMES EARL RAY was unknown to him by name or photograph. RUSSELL had been incarcerated at Missouri State Penitentiary from May, 1958 to December, 1966. He was released in 1966 and had come to Houston from St. Louis, Missouri in approximately November, 1967. RUSSELL also stated that the name NEAL EDGAR AEBY was also unknown to him.

Information was received by the FBI, Birmingham, that ERIC STARVO GALT had once indicated that he had been employed as a barge working out of St. Louis, Missouri between that city and New Orleans, Louisiana.

On April 11, 1968 COURTNEY ALLEN, Vice President, Sioux City and New Orleans Barge Lines, Houston, Texas advised records of that company, 1953 to date, contained no employment record for an ERIC STARVO GALT.

11. Check of Ship Departures, Houston Division

The following investigation was conducted by SA PENROD W. HARRIS:

AT CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

On April 11, 1968 REUBEN TRAYNHAM, Inspector in Charge, U.S. Customs, Oil Industries Building, advised as follows: His agency receives a list of crew members and passengers of all U.S. vessels departing from Corpus Christi and vicinity direct for foreign ports. Since April 3, 1968 there has been only one such departure, a Marine Sea Transport Service vessel. TRAYNHAM checked the list of crew members and passengers and advised it did not contain the name ERIC STARVO GALT, HARVEY LOWMEYER, HARVEY LOWMYER or JOHN WILLARD or any logical variations of these names.

On April 11, 1968 MARGIE LE BARRON, U.S. Customs, advised her files reflected no American vessels have sailed from Galveston since April 4, 1968. She stated several foreign vessels have sailed from Galveston since April 4, 1968 but her files would not contain the crew and passenger lists as these are maintained by the agency that handles these vessels. She furnished the following list of foreign vessels that have sailed since April 4, 1968 together with the agencies that handled these vessels:

"TRADE CARRIER"
Gulf Motorship, Inc.
Texas Building
Galveston, Texas

"MANBALDO"
Texas Transport & Terminal
U.S. National Bank Building
Galveston, Texas

"MANILA MARU"
Dalton Steamship Corporation
U.S. National Bank Building
Galveston, Texas

"ILICE"
Strachen Shipping Co.
U.S. National Bank Building
Galveston, Texas

"NEW YORK MARU"
Dalton Steamship Corporation
U.S. National Bank Building
Galveston, Texas

"HONNOR"

Texas Transport and Terminal
U.S. National Bank Building
Galveston, Texas

"BOLIVA MARU"

Kerr Steamship Company
Cotton Exchange Building
Galveston, Texas

"NORSLAND"

Hansen and Tideman
Cotton Exchange Building
Galveston, Texas

The above listed agencies were contacted on April 11, 1968 and their crew and passenger lists were reviewed with negative results as to anyone by the names of ERIC STARVO GALT, HARVEY LOWMYER, HARVEY LOWMEYER or JOHN WILLARD.

RUSSELL ZOET, Supervisory Customs Maritime Officer, Houston, Texas advised on April 11, 1968 that five ships of American registry sailed from the Port of Houston during the period April 4-11, 1968, all going foreign direct. Crew and passenger lists contained no name identifiable with GALT, LOWMEYER or WILLARD. By law there is no coast-wise passenger service from Houston or any other Texas port.

Inspector L.D. TURNER, JR., U.S. Customs, Beaumont, Texas and PERCY E. WALLACE, JR., Inspector, U.S. Customs, Port Arthur, Texas, April 11, 1968, were contacted and advised as follows:

A check of all departing ships, U.S. registry, April 4-10, 1968 failed to reflect the names of GALT, LOWMEYER or WILLARD as either crewmen or passengers.

12. Airline Checks

On April 5, 1968, DAVID MAC DONALD, Ticket Supervisor, National Airlines, Houston, advised that National Airlines and American Airlines were the only carriers flying a direct route from Houston to San Francisco. Mr. MAC DONALD was furnished the names of the possible suspects and advised that none of these names appeared on the National Airlines, Houston to San Francisco passenger manifesto for April 5, 1968.

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On April 5, 1968 JOSEPH CUTLIP, Reservations Salesman, American Airlines, Houston, was furnished the names of the possible suspects and advised that none of these names appeared on the American Airlines, Houston to San Francisco or Dallas to San Francisco passenger manifest for April 5, 1968.

On April 23, 1968 the following stops were reset and the most current Wanted Flyer No. 405 942 G regarding JAMES EARL RAY, also known as, along with his IO, were furnished to the following:

Braniff Airlines
JOHN HARE, Agent in Charge

KLM
Ursula Plumbee, Station Agent

Pan Am
LEE ROJAS, Airport Customer Service Manager

Aeronaves de Mexico
ALBERTO ROJAS, Manager

The above comprise those airlines that furnish international transportation from Houston International Airport.

13. Criminal, Credit, Street and Telephone
Directory Checks on All Known Names
for James Earl Ray

On April 11, 1968 the following individuals advised their files contained no record concerning HARVEY LOWMEYER or HARVEY LOWMYER:

Mrs. DORA KUHN
Credit Bureau of Greater Houston

Mrs. LOIS MOERBY
Records Division
Houston Police Department

Mrs. POLLY KIRKBRIDE
Identification Division
Houston Police Department

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Lieutenant REX FULLERTON
Identification Division
Harris County Sheriff's Office

Mrs. MARY C. SMITH
Voter Registration Section
Harris County Tax Office
Houston, Texas

A review of the Houston telephone and city directories reflects no listing of an individual by the name of HARVEY LOWMEYER or HARVEY LOWMYER.

Houston indices negative concerning HARVEY LOWMEYER or HARVEY LOWMYER.

AT CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

The following investigation was conducted by SA PENROD W. HARRIS:

On April 10, 1968 the following persons checked their respective records under the names ERIC STARVO GALT and LOWMEYER and LOWMYER and advised they were unable to locate any record under any of these names:

GORDON LEWIS, Retail Merchants Association

W.L. BURCH, Identification Officer,
Nueces County Sheriff's Office

JEFF BAGWELL, Identification Officer,
Corpus Christi Police Department

EVELYN MILLER, Clerk,
Local Draft Board 97

In addition, the current Southwestern Bell Telephone Company directory for Corpus Christi and the Corpus Christi City Directories for the years 1960 through 1967 were checked under these names, but no listing was located.

On April 10, 1968, Mrs. ROMA FERGUSON, Auto License Department, office of Assessor and Collector of Taxes, advised that auto licenses in Nueces County are listed by license number only and not by name of the person to whom issued. Accordingly, there is no manner in which it can be ascertained if a particular person has an automobile license issued in this county.

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On April 10, 1968, D.L. ASKEY, Voter Registration, Tax Collector's Office, advised as follows: Voter registration lists for Nueces County are maintained by alphabetical lists for each of the 106 precincts. Without knowing the address of a particular person, it would be necessary to check each precinct list to ascertain if the person has registered to vote. The voter registration lists are not presently available for examination in view of the fact they are being cross-checked and verified in connection with the approaching primary election.

On April 10, 1968, BEATRICE GARZA, Clerk, Driver's License Division, Texas Department of Public Safety, 1402 S. Port, informed that no alphabetical list is maintained at this office regarding persons who have sought or to whom have been issued, Texas Driver's Licenses. She did not know whether or not alphabetical listings are maintained at the Driver's License Division of the Department of Public Safety at Austin, Texas but was of the opinion they are.

On April 10, 1968 pertinent telephone and city directories within the College Station Resident Agency were checked regarding the names of HARVEY LOWMEYER or LOWMYER and ERIC S. GALT with negative results.

On April 10, 1968 RAYMOND BUCHANAN and on April 12, 1968 MARY ARNOLD, Tax Assessor-Collector for Brazos and Walker Counties, respectively, advised no voters registration appear concerning the above names.

On April 11, 1968 BENNIE WILLIAMS, Chief Communications Officer, Department of Public Safety, Bryan, advised he caused checks to be made at Tax Assessor-Collectors Offices in Madison, Grimes, Montgomery, Polk, Trinity and San Jacinto Counties on the above names, with negative results. Similar checks were made through each respective law enforcement agency in the above counties, all negative.

The following sources of information were contacted on the dates indicated for any record of the names HARVEY LOWMEYER, HARVEY LOWMYER, ERIC GALT, ERIC GAULT and JOHN WILLARD:

AT ANAHUAC, TEXAS

On April 11, 1968

HAZEL MOOR
Chambers County Sheriff's Office
Current telephone directory

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JACQUELINE MC DANIEL
Voter registration records

AT LIBERTY, TEXAS

On April 11, 1968

Deputy Sheriff M. TIPPITT
Liberty County Sheriff's Office

Chief of Police A.L. REGISTER
Police Department

On April 12, 1968

STEVE DAVIS
Retail Merchants Credit Bureau

LOLA GRILLIETTE
Selective Service System

On April 11, 1968

MAY CLAYTON
Voter registration records

On April 11, 1968

Current telephone and city directory

AT DAYTON, TEXAS

On April 12, 1968

Chief of Police HD. LOVINGS
Police Department

On April 10, 1968

Current telephone directory

AT CLEVELAND, TEXAS

On April 12, 1968

Chief of Police W.W. MOORE
Police Department

ERNESTINE CAIN
Retail Merchants Credit Bureau

Current telephone and city (1965) directory

AT NEDERLAND, TEXAS

On April 10, 1968

WALTER DE CUIR
Police Department

ANN GOSS
Retail Merchants Credit Bureau

Current telephone directory

AT PORT NECHES, TEXAS

On April 10, 1968

Chief CHARLES R. BENEFIELD
Police Department

Current telephone directory

On April 16, 1968 JOYCE NIELSEN, Clerk, Voters Registration Records, Galveston County, Galveston, Texas, advised her files made no reference to ERIC STARVO GALT, HARVEY LOWMEYER, HARVEY LOWMEYER or JOHN WILLARD.

On April 12, 1968 ELSIE THRASH, Clerk, Local Board 49, Galveston, Texas, advised her files made no reference to GALT, LOWMYER, LOWMEYER or WILLARD.

On April 15, 1968 GERRY BARBER, Credit Bureau of Texas City and the Mainland, Texas City, Texas and LILLIAN VAUGHAN, Credit Bureau of Greater Galveston, Galveston, Texas advised their files made no reference to GALT, LOWMYER, LOWMEYER or WILLARD.

On April 12, 1968 all city and telephone directories covering the towns in Galveston County, Texas were reviewed with negative results as to ERIC STARVO GALT, HARVEY LOWMYER, HARVEY LOWMEYER or JOHN WILLARD.

On April 12, 1968 all banking institutions, Galveston County, Texas, all police departments, Galveston County, Texas as well as Galveston County Sheriff's Office, Galveston, Texas were contacted with negative results as to ERIC STARVO GALT, HARVEY LOWMYER, HARVEY LOWMEYER and JOHN WILLARD.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA JOHN G. HOUSTON at Port Arthur, Texas:

On April 16, 1968 Mrs. ELIZABETH BUCKINGHAM, Identification Division, Port Arthur Police Department, advised she was unable to locate any arrest record identifiable with a RICHARD GALT.

On April 16, 1968, FLOYD MARCEAUX, Credit Bureau of Port Arthur, stated he was unable to locate a credit record for a RICHARD GALT.

On April 16, 1968 BEN JOHNSON, Secretary, National Maritime Union (NMU), 333 7th Street, advised he was unable to locate any record for a RICHARD GALT.

On April 16, 1968 TOMMY GLADWELL, Business Agent, Seafarers International Union, 1348 7th Street, stated he did not have any record for a RICHARD GALT; Mr. GLADWELL advised all records are destroyed after a five year period.

A review of the 1967 City Directory for Beaumont, Port Arthur, Orange and Vidor, Texas, failed to reflect a listing for ERIC STARVO GALT, HARVEY LOWMEYER or JOHN WILLARD.

A review of the current telephone directories for the following cities also failed to reflect a listing for the above mentioned individuals:

Jasper, Texas
Beaumont, Texas
Orange, Texas
Bridge City, Texas
Port Arthur, Texas
San Augustine, Texas
Woodville, Texas
Spurger, Texas
Hemphill, Texas
Bronson, Texas
Pineland, Texas
Cleveland, Texas
Kirbyville, Texas
Liberty, Texas
Dayton, Texas

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Credit and criminal checks, Port Arthur and Beaumont, Texas negative concerning GALT, LOWMEYER or WILLARD.

On April 11, 1968 Inspector L.G. TURNER, JR., Beaumont, Texas advised a review of all ships departing the Beaumont-Port Arthur, Texas area for foreign ports since April 4, 1968 failed to reflect a passenger or crew member under the name of JOHN WILLARD, HARVEY LOWMEYER or ERIC STARVO GALT.

The following investigation was conducted by SA GEORGE P.D. HUDNOR on April 10, 11, and 12, 1968 and listed below are the names of those individuals with their titles, agencies and locales, who were contacted in order to have their records reviewed for the names of ERIC STARVO GALT, HARVEY LOWMEYER or LOWMYER or any similar name. All record checks were negative.

April 10, 1968 At Orange, Texas

DAN GRAY
Officer, Identification Division
Orange Police Department

GLENDA ROBINSON, Clerk
Identification Division
Orange County Sheriff's Office

ROSEMARY AARON, Clerk
Tax Assessor and Collector's Office

JUDY SMITH, Clerk
Retail Merchants Association

April 11, 1968 At Jasper, Texas

BUTCH NIGER
Dispatcher
Jasper County Sheriff's Office

ALTON WRIGHT
COP, Jasper Police Department

ESTELLE HINSON
Clerk, Jasper Credit Bureau
(Credit bureau covers Jasper and Newton Counties)

MARTIN LINSEY
Tax Assessor and Collector
Jasper County, Texas

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At San Augustine

N.L. TINDALL
Sheriff, San Augustine County
Sheriff's Office

BILL MC CALLUM
Chief of Police, San Augustine Police Dept.

DOYLINE BENNEFIELD, Clerk
Retail Merchants Association

Mrs. JIMMIE ALFORD
Tax Assessor and Collector
San Augustine County, Texas

At Hemphill, Texas

MUTT BARLOW
Deputy, Sabine County Sheriff's Office

VIRGIE SPEIGHTS
Retail Merchants Association
Sabine County, Texas

PAUL SMITH
Tax Assessor and Collector
Sabine County, Texas

At Newton, Texas

CURTIS HUMPHREYS
Sheriff, Newton County Sheriff's Office

BILL DAVIS
Chief of Police, Newton Police Department

ELIZABETH SMITH
Chief Deputy
Tax Assessor and Collector's Office
Newton County, Texas

April 12, 1968 At Woodville, Texas

JOHN GRAMMER
Chief of Police, Woodville Police Department

RICHARD COLE
Deputy, Tyler County Sheriff's Office

PETE THORNTON
Tax Assessor and Collector, Tyler County, Texas

HO 44-1509

At Kountze, Texas

CURTIS DAVIS
Dispatcher, Hardin County Sheriff's Office

WILLIE BEAN
Tax Assessor and Collector's Office
Hardin County, Texas

The following investigation was conducted by SA
G.R. SCHWEICKHARDT and SA JOHN H. SCHULTE:

On April 19, 1968, Sergeant JERRY FOWLER and
Court Dispatcher JINNY GILLASPIE of the Webster Police
Department, advised that they checked their records under
the names GALT, WILLARD and LOWMYER and could find no
one having been arrested by the Webster Police Department.
FOWLER advised there are no restaurants or bars off the
main highway passing through Webster.

The following investigation was conducted by SA
CARLOS L. KIRBY, JR.:

On the dates indicated the following advised they
have recovered no vehicles which were stolen in the State
of Georgia subsequent to March 23, 1968:

MAURICE HARR
Captain, Galveston Police Department
Galveston, Texas on May 2, 1968

LEO ADAMS
Identification Officer, Galveston County
Sheriff's Office, Galveston, Texas
May 2, 1968

RANKIN DE WALT
Chief of Police
Texas City, Texas Police Department
May 2, 1968

RICHARD DUROUX
Acting Chief of Police
LaMarque, Texas Police Department
May 2, 1968

They further advised they maintain no latent finger-
print file.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE MIAMI	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 5/23/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 4/9 - 5/22/68
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. (Deceased) - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY DAVID N. JELLISON	TYPED BY jth
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS	

REFERENCES: Bureau airtel to all SACs and Legats, dated 5/7/68.
Miami airtel to Memphis, 5/16/68.
Memphis airtel to Miami, 5/20/68.

- P -

- ADMINISTRATIVE -

In accordance with Bureau instructions, all leads in this case are being handled within 24 hours and all leads are being set forth by telephone, teletype and airtel.

An information copy of this report is being furnished the Birmingham Office in view of the fact that the Bureau advised all offices by teletype dated April 7, 1968, to furnish results of investigation to the Bureau, Memphis and Birmingham.

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

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
COPIES MADE:		44-1740-1862 SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED MAY 27 1968 FBI - BIRMINGHAM
2 - Bureau (44-38861) (RM) 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (RM) 2 - Kansas City (RM) ① - Birmingham (44-1740) (Info) (RM) 2 - Miami (44-1854)		

Dissemination Record of Attached Report					Notations
Agency					
Request Recd.					
Date Fwd.					
How Fwd.					
By					

MM 44-1854

All potential bombing suspects in the Miami Division were eliminated as being identical with subject, through physical observation and the fact their whereabouts were known at the time of the commission of the crime.

- INFORMANTS -

In accordance with the instructions set out in Bureau teletype to all SACs, dated April 22, 1968, and Memphis airtel to Knoxville, dated April 7, 1968, all criminal informants and appropriate racial and security informants were contacted relative to any information concerning this matter.

By teletype dated April 26, 1968, the Bureau advised that on February 26, 1965, the Los Angeles "Herald Examiner" stated in effect that KEITH D. GILBERT, a Minuteman, had dynamite, was a racist, and was a threat to the life of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

The same communication stated that on March 5, 1965, MM 607-R advised that EARL LINDER, 2521 N. W. 23rd Street, Miami, told him that they would not make the same mistake again and next time a high powered rifle would be used on KING.

By teletype dated April 29, 1968, the Miami Office advised the Bureau and Memphis as follows:

IRA DAVID HAWTHORNE, JR. (former MM 1081-R), who resides directly behind EARL LINDER in Miami, was contacted April 26, 1968, and April 29, 1968. He advised he has almost daily contact with LINDER, who has not expressed any unusual interest in or knowledge of KING's death. He said LINDER has not taken any recent extended trips from the Miami area and there has been no unusual activity around LINDER's home. He said LINDER's main interest presently seems to center around a "conservative church group" from South Carolina. He said LINDER is getting old, not in good health, and appears to have some financial problems and therefore his activities have been limited.

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MM 44-1854

WILLIAM SOMERSETT (former MM 607-R) advised on April 29, 1968, he has not been in contact with LINDER for several months. He said he has had contact with some mutual acquaintances. He said he has heard of nothing to show LINDER has any particular interest in or knowledge of KING's death. He knew nothing of LINDER's present interests or activities.

SOMERSETT could not recall details of information previously furnished concerning one GILBERT. He said he was sure he previously furnished all information available to him concerning this individual and he was unable to furnish further information at this time.

Both individuals mentioned above advised they would remain alert for possible information indicating LINDER's connection with this matter.

C*

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: DAVID N. JELLISON Office: Miami, Florida
Date: May 23, 1968
Field Office File #: 44-1854 Bureau File #: 44-38861
Title: JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. (Deceased) - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis:

PAUL ALVIN LAIL located Palm Springs, Fla. Advised he served time in Missouri State Penitentiary with RAY, however, has had no contact with him since release and can offer no significant background information or information regarding whereabouts. Records destroyed Amacker Motors, Miami, Fla., where RAY allegedly purchased vehicle in 1954. Investigation dance studios, laundries using thermo-seal laundry marking machines, hippie hang-outs and other logical locations, Miami Division, developed no information regarding RAY. All records, Eastern Air Lines, reflecting passengers departing Atlanta via Eastern Air Lines between 4/4/68 and 4/12/68 reviewed. Leads set forth to eliminate all passengers having similar names to subject and/or aliases. All persons located Miami Division having similar names to subject and/or aliases used, located and eliminated as being identical. Appropriate stops placed with all logical agencies, including airlines, car rental agencies, Immigration and Naturalization Service, public health service, local authorities, and various other federal, state and local agencies. All look alikes located and eliminated. SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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DETAILS:

8.

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I. INVESTIGATION AT PALM SPRINGS, FLORIDA,
REGARDING PAUL ALVIN LAIL, WHO SERVED
TIME IN THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY
WITH JAMES EARL RAY

9.

MM 44-1854

DNJ:vc

1.

Information was developed through interview of LOUIS RAYMOND DOUDA at Marietta, Georgia, who was acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY in the Missouri State Prison, which indicated that another former inmate of the Missouri State Prison, PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR., was currently residing at 34 Barbados Drive, Palm Springs, West Palm Beach, Florida.

The following investigation was conducted at West Palm Beach on April 26, 1968, by Special Agents ROBERT W. WISEMAN and PATRICK A. PHILBIN:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/27/68

PAUL ALVIN LAIL was informed of the identities of the interviewing agents and the nature of this interview.

LAIL advised he is presently living at 34 Barbados Drive, Palm Springs, with his wife BETTY and five month old baby.

LAIL stated he had been an inmate in the Missouri State Penitentiary for three years and while confined there he had met and known JAMES EARL RAY. He stated he was not very close or friendly with RAY but he did eat with him a number of times when he was in the kitchen visiting with his friend, LEWIE "WHITEY" DOWDA. He said he also watched a number of ball games and television programs with RAY.

LAIL described RAY as being a guy who knew his way around but was not one of the wheels or leaders in prison; that RAY was a sharp intelligent guy who hung around with the boys who were always up to something and were in on all of the deals. LAIL advised RAY never seemed to have a lot of money but always seemed to have enough to get whatever he wanted.

LAIL said most of the guys (he cannot recall their names) that he, RAY, was with most of the time were on dope and were peddling it.

LAIL continued by saying that RAY's big buddy was NEAL ABBEY who was a "big wheel" and the guy who ran the prison kitchen with "an iron hand." LAIL stated ABBEY was the guy who got RAY into the kitchen which was a good deal (job).

LAIL advised that LEO BARNETT handled dope and peddled it in the Missouri State Penitentiary and he believes he is now in prison somewhere in Florida. He said that BARNETT would know for certain if RAY had been on dope and where and who he got the dope from.

On 4/26/68 at Palm Springs, Florida File # Miami 44-1854

by SAs ROBERT W. WISEMAN and
PATRICK A. PHILBIN PAP/kmm Date dictated 4/26/68

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.

MM 44-1854

LAIL further advised that FRED MILLER, "a cut and dried con," who worked in the tag plant of the prison, was one of the leaders and knew RAY well and he might be able to furnish information about him if he would talk to the FBI.

LAIL related that WHITEY DOWDA also knew RAY pretty well and would know more about him than he did since they both worked in the kitchen together for quite a while. He said WHITEY had been living in Marietta, Georgia, and he recently heard that WHITEY is now in jail in Marietta on a robbery charge.

LAIL stated there had been trouble with some of the Negro prisoners in the Missouri State Penitentiary who were Black Muslims so some of the prisoners decided to teach them a lesson and three or four of the Negro leaders were killed. LAIL stated he did not know if RAY was in on the actual killing, but he was close with the ones that did it and therefore could have been in on the killing or at least he knew who did kill the Negroes.

LAIL would not make any further statements about the killing of the Negroes in the Missouri State Penitentiary and he stated he could not furnish any names or identities but he did say there were ten inmates who were in on the killing of the Negroes.

LAIL said he could not recall RAY saying too much about Negroes and he does not believe from his conversations with RAY that he, RAY, was a racist, however, all of the inmates in the Missouri State Penitentiary did not like the Negroes because of their belligerent attitude and animosity toward the white inmates.

LAIL stated RAY liked to wear his hair short in the summer months and long in the winter. He said RAY used to have a "butch" cut in the summer months.

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LAIL stated from his association with RAY that he felt RAY would have a .45 automatic "stashed" on his person somewhere and he would not give up or be taken without a fight. LAIL said RAY is a "killer" in his opinion and that RAY would not be easy to catch or find. LAIL said RAY is "a city boy" and he does not figure him to be hiding out in the country. However, LAIL stated he would not figure RAY would hide out in a really big city like New York, but would pick one about the size of Houston, Texas.

LAIL said he could not recall RAY telling him or mentioning any place in particular he, RAY, always wanted to go to or visit, but he felt RAY would be in a warm climate rather than a cold one.

LAIL stated he had not been contacted or heard from RAY since he got out of the Missouri State Penitentiary over two years ago and to the best of his knowledge RAY would not know where or how to contact him.

LAIL advised he had visited WHITEY DOWDA in March, 1968, in WHITEY's home in Marietta, Georgia, for a few days. He said that WHITEY is his best friend.

LAIL continued by saying he recognized the name of SCHAFFER and he thinks SCHAFFER was a captain in the prison guard force, but he did not know him and/or if SCHAFFER peddled dope in the pen.

LAIL stated he felt that there was a possibility RAY's escape was engineered by and assisted by outside help but he did not have any knowledge about it. Also he stated just about anything is possible with outside help and money, however, escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary is something else and is just about impossible in his opinion.

MM 44-1854

LAIL stated he did not feel badly about MARTIN LUTHER KING getting killed, but he was sorry it happened in Memphis, Tennessee, and he would have rather seen KING killed in some Northern city. LAIL said he is a Southerner and his feelings are Southern.

LAIL stated that he is of course interested in the reward money and he could certainly use it. However, he said he really does not know if he would turn RAY in or not for the reward money if he had the opportunity. LAIL stated he was certain RAY did the killing of KING himself and not involved with anyone else. LAIL stated that he wanted to be honest with the FBI and he would have to think about this a couple of days as to whether or not he would or would not turn RAY in if he knew his possible or current whereabouts.

LAIL stated he really does not know where RAY is and he said that RAY had not contacted him and he had not seen RAY for over two years.

LAIL continued by saying he was a little surprised when he learned from the newspaper and television that RAY had been identified as KING's killer because he always figured RAY as being a guy that would be too smart to leave any clues or evidence around so that the police or the FBI would be able to trace and/or identify him.

LAIL examined the photographs of RAY and said he would never recognize him with the tuxedo and bow tie outfit on and further he said he never saw RAY with his hair long as it is either. However, he said the guy with the bow tie and tuxedo on is RAY.

MM 44-1854

LAIL said after thinking it over that he is very interested in the money and if he thinks of anything or comes up with anything concerning RAY, he will contact either Special Agent PATRICK A. PHILBIN or ROBERT W. WISEMAN.

LAIL is a white male, born [REDACTED], Marion, North Carolina, 175 pounds, blue eyes, red hair, medium slender build, 6' 3", wife BETTY, and resides 34 Barbados Drive, Palm Springs, Florida.

MM 44-1854

DNJ:vc

2.

LAIL was recontacted on April 27, 1968,
by SA PATRICK A. PHILBIN and advised that the only
reason he previously said RAY would be apt to be hiding
in a city the size of Houston, Texas, was because of the
size of Houston and for no other reason.

MM 44-1854

II. INVESTIGATION LOCATING FORMER
OWNER, AMACKER MOTORS, MIAMI,
FLORIDA, WHERE JAMES EARL RAY
PURCHASED A VEHICLE IN 1954

MM 44-1854

DNJ/dmc

1

On April 25, 1968, the Kansas City Office of the FBI advised that a pre-sentence report for JAMES EARL RAY, dated April 26, 1955, contained information which indicated that when RAY was arrested on March 22, 1955, in Hannibal, Missouri, he was driving a 1949 Lincoln which had been purchased at Amacker Motors, 135 NE 36th Street, Miami, Florida on May 14, 1954.

The following investigation was conducted by SA DAVID N. JELLISON at Miami, Florida on April 25, 1968:

LUKE SELLARS, Proprietor, Luke Sellars Motors, 5500 NW 27th Avenue, Miami, advised he was the proprietor of Amacker Motors, 135 NE 36th Street, Miami in 1954. He dissolved this business in 1961 and has since destroyed all records for this business.

SELLARS further advised that the whereabouts of all former employees of Amacker Motors are unknown to him. SELLARS stated that he does not recall the sale of this vehicle to JAMES EARL RAY, however, if there was something unusual about the sale, he would have recalled the circumstances.

SELLARS was unable to identify photographs of JAMES EARL RAY or WALTER RIFE.

18

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III. DANCING STUDIOS

19

MM 44-1854

THS:vc

1.

The following investigation was conducted with reference to locating subject through dancing schools:

On April 15, 1968, all dancing schools within the Miami Division which encompasses cities and counties as far north as Vero Beach in Indian River County, to Key West in Monroe County, to the south, and Naples, Florida, in Collier County, to the west coast of Florida, were contacted without effecting any information relative to ERIC STARVO GALT, HARVEY LOWMYER and JOHN WILLARD.

On April 18, 1968, the Los Angeles Office furnished the names of the following dance instructors who worked at the Continental Studios, New Orleans, during 1964 who reportedly were presently residing in the Miami area:

WILLIAM LAMPHERE

JACQUELINE COURVILLE CUTOLO
610 S. W. 14th Avenue

HARVEY A. DUNN

On April 18, 1968, no record could be located for WILLIAM LAMPHERE at the following agencies:

Miami Beach Police Department
Miami Police Department
Dade County Department of Public Safety
Miami Municipal Court
Credit Bureau of Greater Miami

On April 18, 1968, no record could be located regarding WILLIAM LAMPHERE through the voters' registration records, tax records, motor vehicle bureau records and the Polk directories and telephone directories for the greater Miami area from 1958-1968.

On April 18, 1968, all major dancing schools in the Miami, Florida area were contacted with negative results with regard to WILLIAM LAMPHERE.

20

MM 44-1854

THS:vc

2.

On April 18, 1968, no record could be located for HARRY A. DUNN at the Miami Beach Police Department, Dade County Department of Public Safety, Miami Police Department and Miami Municipal Court records.

The records of the Credit Bureau of Greater Miami reflected that HARRY A. DUNN resided at 2030 N. E. 185th Terrace, Miami, Florida.

The following investigation was conducted by SA DAVID N. JELLISON:

On April 18, 1968, HARRY A. DUNN was located and interviewed at his residence, 2030 N. E. 185th Terrace, Miami, Florida. He stated he was employed as a dance instructor at Continental Dance Studios, New Orleans, Louisiana, for four months in the latter part of 1964. Photographs and composites of suspect ERIC STARVO GALT were exhibited to DUNN with negative results.

DUNN advised he is not acquainted with WILLIAM LAMPHERE and believes that CHARLES HARTZELL left the Chicago area for St. Louis approximately one year ago to work at an independent dance studio.

DUNN further advised that LOUISE ANGLIN taught dancing during the afternoon hours at Continental Dance Studios, New Orleans, in late 1964 and might remember GALT if he took afternoon instruction at that time. ANGLIN's address is unknown to DUNN, but he did recall that her mother resides at 127 Hickory, New Orleans, Louisiana.

DUNN does not know the current whereabouts of the following individuals:

MARCUS FELOS
ARTHUR D. WOLFSON
BERNICE "BUDDY" CONSTONTINE
YVONNE BENOIT
JOAN MOORE
CORBETT DUHON
RAY E. FARRIS

21

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THS:vc

3.

SAMUEL CALON
EVA BOROS
CHARLES MILLER
ROBERT STRICKLAND
JOANNE NICHOLS
JACQUELINE BOND
ANITA BOUCHARD
ROSE KATHLEEN CAVANAUGH
or HOWARD OWENS

DUNN believes that SANDRA LOVIN is currently a hippy in a New Orleans hippy community.

On April 18, 1968, BERNARD REIN, Imperial Imports, Miami, advised VINCENT CUTOLO and his wife, JACQUELINE CUTOLO, were currently staying at 200 Crutchfield Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee, telephone number 256-2348.

On April 18, 1968, Mrs. VINCENT CUTOLO, 610 S. W. 14th Avenue, Miami, the mother-in-law of JACQUELINE CUTOLO, furnished a blue zipper suitcase containing photographs and miscellaneous items to SA DAVID N. JELLISON. This suitcase and its entire contents were mailed to the Nashville FBI Resident Agency Office for review by JACQUELINE CUTOLO at that location.

On April 29, 1968, Mrs. VINCENT CUTOLO was contacted and the blue zipper suitcase belonging to her daughter-in-law, JACQUELINE CUTOLO, was returned to her. She had previously furnished this suitcase to SA JELLISON.

Mrs. CUTOLO examined the suitcase and advised that it and its contents were all in order.

On April 18, 1968, the Knoxville Office advised that JUANITA WELCH, former dance instructor for Continental Studios, New Orleans, was last known to be working in a dance studio at the Congress Inn, Miami, in 1967 according to Mrs. JACQUELINE COURVILLE CUTOLO.

The following investigation was conducted by SA DAVID N. JELLISON:

MM 44-1854

THS:vc

4.

On April 19, 1968, all Congress Inns, Hotels and Motels in the Miami area were contacted regarding JUANITA WELCH. Officials at the Congress Voyager Motel, 12350 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, advised that WELCH was employed there as a dance instructor until approximately December, 1967, at which time she left to go North. Associates of JUANITA WELCH and officials at Congress Voyager Motel have no idea where she went or of her current whereabouts.

Employment records at Congress Voyager Motel contain no information regarding a Miami address or a forwarding address for WELCH.

On April 19, 1968, Credit records and arrest records in the greater Miami area were reviewed with reference to JUANITA WELCH and were found to contain no positive information. Polk's city directories and telephone directories contain no positive information regarding JUANITA WELCH.

MM 44-1854

IV. THERMO-SEAL LAUNDRY MACHINE MARKS

24

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

MM 44-1854
HAN:jth

Re: Thermo-Sealed Marking Machine
Manufactured by the Textile Marking
Machine Company, Syracuse, New York

The following investigation was conducted in the area covered by the Miami Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

All laundries and dry cleaning establishments located in the Southern District of Florida covered by the Miami Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation were contacted relative to their use of a thermo-sealed marking machine manufactured by the Textile Marking Machine Company, Syracuse, New York.

In a small number of instances wherein this type of machine was used, it was determined that the laundries and/or dry cleaning establishments did not use any code similar to the questioned laundry marks reported.

In the one or two instances developed wherein a similar code was used, specimens were obtained and forwarded to the FBI Laboratory for comparison.

The FBI Laboratory subsequently reported that these specimens submitted by the Miami Division were not identical with the questioned laundry markings involved in this investigation.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

MM 44-1854

V. REVIEW OF ARRIVING AND DEPARTING
PASSENGERS FROM AND TO FOREIGN
PORTS, MIAMI DIVISION

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

MM 44-1854

SG:plm

1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA STUART GODWIN, JR., April 11, 1968, at Miami, Florida:

C. A. RIGGS, Marine Officer, Marine Division, Bureau of Customs, advised Customs maintains crew and passenger lists for all arriving commercial vessels at ports of entry in South Florida; lists of passengers only for departing foreign flag vessels; crew lists only for departing American flag vessels, and for pleasure vessels only lists of all persons on board for arrivals only. He stated no clearance was necessary on the departure of a pleasure vessel.

He furnished copies of form entitled "Record of Vessels Engaged in Foreign Trade - Cleared or Granted Permit to Proceed." This list covered all departures from the Port of Miami from April 4, 1968 through April 10, 1968. He also made available the appropriate lists concerning each vessel.

He also furnished copies of form entitled, "Record of Vessels Engaged in Foreign Trade - Entered or Arrived Under Permit to Proceed." This list covered all such vessels that entered or arrived during the period April 4, 1968 through April 10, 1968. He made available the appropriate lists concerning each vessel.

In addition, he made available a list of all pleasure craft which arrived and was cleared by Customs during the period April 4, 1968 through April 9, 1968. He also made available for examination the appropriate lists concerning each vessel.

The foregoing lists made available by Mr. RIGGS were examined in detail, and it was found none of them listed anyone with the following lastnames:

GALT

LOWMEYER

LOWMYER

WILLARD

A. E. VOLENSKY, Assistant Chief Inspector, Outside Division of Inspection and Control, U. S. Bureau of Customs,

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

MM 44-1854

2

Dodge Island, made available the alphabetical listing of passenger baggage declarations for all persons departing the Port of Miami via Chalk Airlines during the period April 1, 1968 through April 10, 1968. These declarations failed to list anyone with any of the last names previously mentioned.

MARIANO FAGET, Marine Clerk, Marine Desk, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), advised his records would contain only the names of aliens departing on foreign flag clearances and the notification of any change in the crew of a foreign flag vessel. His records were reviewed and were found to duplicate those maintained by the Bureau of Customs and the shipping lines, which are set out below, but which were checked prior to the interview of FAGET.

It was determined further from FAGET that the following are the cruise ships operating on regular schedules out of the Port of Miami:

"SS Ariadne"
(Eastern Steamship Company)

"Bahama Star"
(Eastern Steamship Company)

"Jamaica Queen"
(Canadian Gulf Line)

"Sunward"
(Shaw Brothers Shipping Company)

"Cabo Izarra"
(Eller and Company)

The "Cabo Izarra" neither arrived nor departed during the pertinent period. The "SS Ariadne", "Bahama Star" and "Sunward" all departed on both April 5, 1968 and April 8, 1968, and the "Jamaica Queen" departed on April 8, 1968. The passenger manifests for all of the above trips had been previously made available by Mr. RIGGS, who also had records of all crew changes.

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