

Supv O'Keefe says Div. 6 will handle

MEM 44-1987

// Request that Laboratory prior to conducting its examinations arrange for COMBS to view tape.

Q72 In addition, there is submitted herewith one ^{from} board which is part of a window sill in window of bathroom at 492 1/2 South Main, from which it appears that fatal shot was fired.

Laboratory requested to examine board to ascertain any possibility of breech powder burns or any other identifiable markings that may be made by weapon in question. Possibility that recoil marks may appear on board. Texture of board was such that no latents of significance could be developed. Suggest however that the Bureau reexamine for possibility latents might be developed by FBI.

In addition, there is submitted herewith five cards appropriately identified of various latents lifted by representatives of the Memphis PD. These latents should be examined against any latents developed in examinations conducted by FBI.

21⁵⁰ pm 4/6 *Supv. O'Keefe advised that SAC J. J. ... wanted Laundry Paper processed for latents but only after they had been examined by COMBS*

PLAINTEXT

APRIL 7, 1968

TELETYPE

URGENT

1 - Mr. Tolson
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Martindale
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Office, 7133
1 - Mr. Brazier 7133

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI

UNSUB; AKA JOHN WILLARD; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., VICTIM;

CR

REURAIRTEL APRIL SIX LAST.

UNDERSHORTS AND T SHIRT EACH BEARS LAUNDRY TAG
WITH WHAT APPEARS TO BE CHARACTERS "O 2 B - 8." ONLY POR-
TIONS OF FIRST CHARACTER PRESENT ON EACH TAG. LABORATORY
DOES NOT MAINTAIN VISIBLE LAUNDRY MARK FILE. NO INVISIBLE
LAUNDRY MARKS FOUND ON EITHER GARMENT.

UNDERSHORTS SMALL IN SIZE WHILE T SHIRT IS LARGE.
NO BRAND LABEL ON UNDERSHORTS. T SHIRT HAS "JOCKEY" BRAND
LABEL WHICH IS HELD FLAT WITH FOLDED PIECE THREE QUARTER
INCH WIDE CELLOPHANE TAPE ABOUT ONE INCH LONG HAVING ONE
CUT END AND ONE TORN END.
RAF:jls

(11)

TELETYPE SAC, MEMPHIS
RE: UNSUB; AKA JOHN WILLARD
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,

CROTCH SEAMS OF UNDERSHORTS REPAIRED IN TWO
PLACES WITH BROWN THREAD.

NO HAIRS FOUND ON EITHER GARMENT.

BOARD FROM BATHROOM WINDOW SILL FOUR TWO TWO
AND ONE HALF SOUTH MAIN BEARS RECENT DENT WHICH COULD
HAVE BEEN PRODUCED BY LIGHT BLOW FROM MUZZLE OF WEAPON
SUCH AS REMINGTON RIFLE SERIAL NUMBER FOUR SIX ONE FOUR
SEVEN SIX. DENT CONTAINS MICROSCOPIC MARKS OF TYPE WHICH
COULD BE PRODUCED BY SIDE OF BARREL AT MUZZLE BUT INSUFFI-
CIENT MARKS FOR IDENTIFICATION LEFT ON BOARD DUE TO PHYSICAL
NATURE OF WOOD. NO OTHER MARKS FOUND ON BOARD.

NO WOOD, PAINT, ALUMINUM OR SIGNIFICANT MARKS FOUND
ON RIFLE BARREL. NO GUNPOWDER OR RESIDUE FOUND ON BOARD.

LATENT RESULTS AND CONFIRMING LABORATORY REPORT
BEING FURNISHED SEPARATELY.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Birmingham

Date:

1-Mr. Rosen
(Attn: Mr. Martindale)
1-Mr. Trotter
(Attn: Mr. Bonebrake)

1-Mr. Long
1-Mr. Conrad

April 8, 1968
1-Mr. Frazier
1-Mr. Griffith
(Attn: Mr. Mortimer)
1-Lab Files
1-Office, 7133

Re: MURKIN

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. 44-38861
Lab. No. PC-A5524 LX

Examination requested by: Birmingham
Reference: Teletype 4-5-68
Examination requested: Firearms - Toolmarks - Document - Fingerprint
Remarks:

The enclosed report confirms the teletype to Birmingham and Memphis on April 9, 1968.

The results of the latent and document examinations requested are being furnished separately.

All of the evidence listed in the enclosed report is being temporarily retained in the Laboratory.

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

2 - Memphis (44-1987) Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

RAF:nlb (17)

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REPORT
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Birmingham

Date: April 10, 1968

Re: MURKIN

FBI File No. 44-38861

Lab. No. PC-A5524 BX

Specimens received 4-6-68

- Q72 .243 Winchester caliber Remington bolt-action rifle, Model 700, Serial Number 283749 from Aeromarine Supply Company
- Q73 Telescope sight mount from .243 Winchester caliber rifle
- Q74 Original invoice dated 3-29-68, Number 2251A, covering sale of rifle to Harvey Lowmeyer
- Q75 Copy of invoice, Number 2251A

ALSO SUBMITTED:

Factory box for .243 Winchester caliber rifle
Nine boxes of caliber .243 Winchester ammunition
Elimination major case prints of Donald F. Wood
and U. L. Mathew Baker

Results of examination:

Debris found on the face of the bolt of the Q72 rifle shows that this rifle has not been fired recently. The debris has been present for a considerable length of time and this weapon probably has not been fired since manufacture.

The Memphis Office submitted a .30-06 Springfield caliber Remington Model 760 rifle, Serial Number 461476, to the Laboratory in connection with this case. A Redfield telescope sight is mounted on this rifle. No marks were found on the telescope sight tube and, therefore, the telescope sight mount, Q73, cannot be associated with this sight tube on the basis of a toolmark examination. Therefore, it was not possible to determine whether or not the telescope sight was ever on the telescope mount.

*RAT: all**(13)*

1-Mr. Tolson 1-Mr. Bishop
1-Mr. Mohr 1-Mr. Martindale
1-Mr. DeLoach 1-Mr. Connelley
1-Mr. Rosen Rm. 6129, YB
1-Mr. Trotter

4-9-68

PLAINTEXT

1-Mr. Conrad 1-Mr. Griffith
1-Mr. Frazier 1-Office, 7133

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO SACS BIRMINGHAM
MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FACH DIRECTOR FBI

MURKIN. REFERENCE BIRMINGHAM TELETYPE TO BUREAU AND
MEMPHIS APRIL FIVE. ON APRIL FIVE SPECIAL AGENT NEIL P.
SHANAHAN, BIRMINGHAM, DELIVERED EVIDENCE FOR FINGERPRINT AND
LABORATORY EXAMINATION IN ACCORDANCE REFERENCED TELETYPE.

DEBRIS ON FACE OF BOLT SHOWS POINT TWO FOUR THREE
WINCHESTER CALIBER REMINGTON RIFLE, SERIAL NUMBER TWO EIGHT
THREE SEVEN FOUR NINE, FROM AEROMARINE SUPPLY COMPANY, BIRMINGHAM,
HAS NOT BEEN FIRED RECENTLY AND PROBABLY NOT FIRED SINCE
MANUFACTURE.

NO MARKS FOUND ON TELESCOPE SIGHT TUBE SUBMITTED BY
MEMPHIS ON REMINGTON RIFLE, SERIAL NUMBER FOUR SIX ONE FOUR SEVEN
SIX, AND THEREFORE TELESCOPE SIGHT MOUNT FROM AEROMARINE SUPPLY
COMPANY CANNOT BE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS SIGHT TUBE.

DOCUMENT AND LATENT EXAMINATIONS RESULTS SEPARATE REPORT
FOLLOWS.

PC-A5524 BX

RAF:MLB (14)

30CPH IMMEDIATE 4-3-68 JGA
TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS
FROM BIRMINGHAM

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., RM.

RE ALBANY TEL TO BIRMINGHAM AND BIRMINGHAM TELEPHONE CALLS
TO THE BUREAU AND MEMPHIS THIS DATE.

RECORDS OF WINTERLY THOMAS HARDWARE COMPANY INDICATE RIFLE
IN QUESTION SOLD TO AEROMARINE SUPPLY COMPANY, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA.
SALESMAN AT AEROMARINE SUPPLY COMPANY FURNISHED INVOICE THIS
DATE INDICATING RIFLE, TOGETHER WITH A REDFIELD SCOPE WITH A
WEAVER - TYPE MOUNT, SOLD TO ONE MARVEY LOWMEYER, NINETEEN
NAUGHT SEVEN SOUTH ELEVENTH STREET, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, ONE MARCH
THIRTY, SIXTYEIGHT. SALESMAN INDICATED THAT LOWMEYER ORIGINALLY
PURCHASED A REMINGTON SEVEN ZERO ZERO MODEL RIFLE ON MARCH
TWENTYNINE, SIXTYEIGHT, AND MADE ARRANGEMENTS THE FOLLOWING
MORNING TO EXCHANGE IT FOR A REMINGTON SEVEN SIXTY MODEL BEARING
SERIAL NUMBER FOUR SIX ONE FOUR SEVEN SIX, TOGETHER WITH ONE

PAGE TWO.

BOX OF THREE ZERO DECIMAL ZERO SIX AMMUNITION. PURCHASE PRICE WAS TWO FOUR EIGHT DOLLARS AND FIVE NINE CENTS, WHICH WAS PAID IN BILLS OF TWENTY DOLLAR DENOMINATIONS. TELEPHONE DIRECTORY AND CROSS INDEX INDICATE FICTITIOUS NAME AND ADDRESS USED. NO CRIMINAL OR CREDIT RECORD FOR LOWMEYER LOCATED BIRMINGHAM. DISCREET INQUIRY AT ADDRESS GIVEN INDICATES LOWMEYER UNKNOWN.

ORIGINAL INVOICE BEING HAND CARRIED TO BUREAU THIS DATE, TOGETHER WITH THE RIFLE WHICH WAS RETURNED BY THE UNKNOWN SUBJECT, AS WELL AS THE CARTON IN WHICH IT WAS CONTAINED, FOR EXAMINATION PURPOSES.

ALL HOTELS, MOTELS, AIRLINES, AND RENTAL CAR AGENCIES IN THE AREA ARE BEING CHECKED FOR PERTINENT PERIOD. ALL LEADS RECEIVING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED.

RECEIVED: 5:58PM MSE

ATTN: MR. SUTHERN

6/14/68
6/14/68
6/14/68

SOVE
1-Mr. Conrad
1-Mr. Frazier
1-Office, 7123
4-8-68

TT AMLS

Mr. Conrad

1-Mr. Bonebrake, 6129, IB
1-Mr. Griffith

R. H. Jevons

UNKNOWN SUBJECT, also
known as John Willard;
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS

See TJ 4/5/68 to
Dir + Memphis from BH

FC-A 5524

5a 7 BX BX
Doc
JFP (Bonebrake)

As a result of investigation, the Birmingham Office advised that the .30-06 Remington rifle involved in this case was sold to a person giving the name Harvey Lowmeyer on 3-30-68 by the Aeromarine Supply Company, 5701 Airport Highway, Birmingham, Alabama. The purchaser originally bought a caliber .243 Winchester rifle on 3-29-68 upon which he had mounted a Redfield telescope sight. The purchaser returned this rifle the following day and exchanged it for the .30-06 caliber Remington rifle, Serial Number 461476, which was recovered in Memphis immediately following the shooting of Martin Luther King, Jr. Aeromarine Supply Company transferred the telescope sight to this rifle, using a new mount.

The Birmingham Office submitted the following material for Laboratory and latent examination:

- Q72 .243 Winchester caliber Remington bolt-action rifle, Model 700, Serial Number 283749 from Aeromarine Supply Company
- Q73 Telescope sight mount from .243 Winchester caliber rifle
- Q74 Original invoice dated 3-29-68, Number 2251A, covering sale of rifle to Harvey Lowmeyer
- Q75 Copy of invoice, Number 2251A
- A/s Factory box for .243 Winchester caliber rifle

1-Mr. Tolson
1-Mr. Mohr
1-Mr. DeLoach
1-Mr. Rosen
1-Mr. Trotter
1-Mr. Bishop
1-Mr. Martindale

RAF:nib (13)

(CONTINUED - OVER)

Memorandum to Mr. Conrad
Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT, also
known as John Willard;
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS

A/S Nine boxes of caliber .243 Winchester
ammunition

A/S Elimination major case prints of Donald F. Wood
and U. L. Mathew Baker

Birmingham requested the Laboratory determine whether
this .243 Winchester rifle had been fired. The Laboratory
determined it had not been fired.

Birmingham requested we determine whether we could
associate the telescope sight on the rifle recovered in
Memphis with the sight mount originally used with this sight
on the .243 Winchester rifle. The Laboratory determined there
were no marks left on the telescope sight by this mount and
therefore no association was possible.

A document examination is being made of the signature
appearing on the gun sale invoice and fingerprint examinations
are being made on all of the items listed above.

In this connection, the nine boxes of ammunition were
submitted since the Aeromarine Supply Company clerks stated
the purchaser of the rifle may have handled one or more of
these boxes.

Birmingham and Memphis will be advised of the results
of all examinations by teletype.

ACTION: For information.