

U. S. Department of Justice

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ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED
FOR HISTORICAL
DECLASSIFICATION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/21/03 BY SPICER/SDS

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number 44-38861

Sep 1A. Vol.

See also Nos.

CLASSIFICATION NO. 44

769

Volume Number

3

Serials 152-199

See Current Vol.
Wash 4-8-68

ROTOR No. 4

66-9-99
C-9-99

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI BOSTON

1027 URGENT 4-19-68 DMG
TO BUREAU 44-28861, MEMPHIS 44-1987
ALBANY AND JACKSONVILLE 44-769
FROM BOSTON 157-644

MURKIN

FOR INFO OF BUREAU AND MEMPHIS, EXETER, N.H. POLICE
DEPARTMENT ADVISED FOUR EIGHTEEN LAST, WHITE MALE,
APPROXIMATELY THIRTY-FIVE, ONE SEVEN FIVE TO TWO ONE
ZERO POUNDS, SIX FEET TALL, RESEMBLING ERIC STARVO GALT,
REGISTERED AS BRUCE COCHRANE, ROUTE TWO, GREEN COVE SPRINGS,
FLORIDA, AT EXETER INN, FOUR FIFTEEN LAST AND CHECKED OUT
FOUR EIGHTEEN. HE OPERATED A LATE MODEL, GREEN BUICK SEDAN,
FLORIDA REGISTRATION FOUR EIGHT FOUR EIGHT THREE ONE AND
ADVISED INN EMPLOYEES HE WAS VISITING SON AT HOSPITAL.
NO RECORD OF PERSON NAMED COCHRANE LOCATED AT EXETER
HOSPITAL. COCHRANE WAS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO INN PM,
FOUR EIGHTEEN BUT DID NOT APPEAR.

END PAGE ONE

44-769-157

*Green Cove
Springs, FL
Beaver
4/19*

SEARCHED <i>mg</i>	INDEXED <i>mg</i>
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TJA

PAGE TWO

INN PERSONNEL STATED COCHRANE BEARS
RESEMBLANCE TO GALT.

JACKSONVILLE ADVISES FLORIDA REGISTRATION FOUR EIGHT
FOUR EIGHT THREE ONE, ISSUED TO BRUCE E. COCHRANE, ROUTE
TWO, GENERAL DELIVERY, GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, FOR
NINETEEN SIXTY ONE BUICK, VIN ZERO H ONE FIVE ZERO THREE
FIVE TWO FIVE, REGISTERED THREE TWENTY SEVEN SIXTY EIGHT.
NO FLORIDA TITLE TRANSFERS FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE.

INQUIRIES CONDUCTED GREEN COVER SPRINGS UNABLE TO
LOCATE INDIVIDUALS KNOWING COCHRANE.

APPROPRIATE STOPS RE BUICK PLACED WITH STATE POLICE,
MASS., NEW HAMPSHIRE AND MAINE. ALBANY REQUESTED TO
ALERT STATE POLICE, VERMONT.

JACKSONVILLE CONTINUE EFFORTS TO FURTHER IDENTIFY
COCHRANE.

END

MMH

FBI JACKSVLE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-769)

FROM : SA JAMES R. MORRISON

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

DATE: 4/18/68

On 4/13/68 ~~THOMAS GALT~~, 161 Beach Ave., Atlantic Beach, Florida, advised SA JAMES R. MORRISON his family is originally from Canada and has been living in Toronto, Canada and vicinity for several generations. He said the only relative he has residing in the U.S. is a sister in Tucson, Arizona.

GALT informed he is employed as an appraiser by the FHA in the Jacksonville Beaches area and has been so employed for a number of years. He said to his knowledge he has no relative named ERIC STARVO GALT, ERIC GALT or STARVO GALT. He advised his wife is interested in genealogy and has traced his family tree back to the 1700s when his family first arrived in Canada. When the information concerning GALT first appeared in the newspapers he traced back through his family tree and there is no record of anyone in his family by the name of ERIC STARVO GALT, ERIC GALT or STARVO GALT. He was also unable to identify a photo of GALT as anyone known to him.

It is noted ~~THOMAS GALT~~ does not fit the description of ERIC STARVO GALT, being apparently in the middle 50s and having grey hair.



5010-108-01

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

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Walt

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI TAMPA

253PM URGENT 4-19-68 BLW

TO DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM, JACKSONVILLE AND MEMPHIS
FROM TAMPA (157-3231) 2P

MURKIN.

RE LOOK-ALIKE EASTERN AIRLINES FLIGHT-ONE EIGHT
ZERO Y, APRIL SIX LAST.

HOWARD NOYES, THREE ZERO SIX-NINETEENTH AVE., N.E.,
ST. PETERSBURG, FLA., AN EMPLOYEE OF ST. PETERSBURG TIMES,
A DAILY NEWSPAPER, ADVISED APRIL ONE EIGHT, LAST HE
WAS ABOARD EASTERN AIRLINES FLGT. ONE EIGHT ZERO Y
LEAVING TAMPA NINE FIFTEEN A.M. APRIL SIX LAST TO
WASHINGTON, D.C. AND HE NOTED A PARTY OF THREE MEN SAT
IN FRONT OF HIM IN REAR SECTION OF PLANE. ONE OF THE THREE
MEN LOOKED SIMILAR TO HIM TO ERIC STARVO GALT, BASED
ON INFORMATION FURNISHED THROUGH NEWS MEDIA. PHOTOS
OF GALT EXHBITED TO NOYES APRIL EIGHTEEN LAST AND HE
ADVISED THERE WERE SIMILARITIES BUT NO POSITIVE
IDENTIFICATION COULD BE MADE. THE INDIVIDUAL BELIEVED
SIMILAR POSSESSED A CASE THAT LOOKED LIKE A MUSICAL
END PAGE ONE

*Duvella
Lead
Baker
TH* *(12)*

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TP 157-3231

INSTRUMENT CASE, A FOOT WIDE, SIX INCHES HIGH, LENGTH UNKNOWN, AND GAVE APPEARANCE OF BEING NERVOUS ABOUT THE CASE. HE SAT ALONGSIDE A COMPANION AND THIRD MAN SAT IN FRONT OF THE TWO COMPANIONS ABOUT THIRD ROW REAR OF PLANE.

CON CORNETT, CHIEF SUPERVISOR, EASTERN AIRLINES TAMPA REVIEWED ALL RECORDS AVAILABLE, APRIL EIGHTEEN, LAST, ADVISING FLGT. ONE EIGHT ZERO Y ORIGINATED IN TAMPA AND SINGLE WOMEN, SINGLE MEN, AND FAMILIES WERE ABOARD. THERE WAS ONE PARTY OF THREE MEN ABOARD, MR. EARL HARTLEY, MR. W. C. HARTLEY, AND MR. I. SANDERS, THEY WERE CONTINUING ON TO BOSTON AND THEY FURNISHED EASTERN TELEPHONE NUMBERS: DUNNELLON FOUR EIGHT NINE - TWO ZERO NINE ONE, FOUR EIGHT NINE - TWO ZERO ZERO NINE, AND FOUR EIGHT NINE - FOUR TWO THREE SIX FOR THE ABOVE, RESPECTIVELY.

JACKSONVILLE AT DUNNELLON, FLA. CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION TO ESTABLISH WHETHER OR NOT ANY OF ABOVE INDIVIDUALS LOOK ALIKE TO GALT.

GALT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

CORR PAGE TWO LINE SIX OXXWORD ONE SHOLD BE DON

LINE TNE LAST WORD SHOULD BE EARL

END

MMH

FBI JACKSVLE

F B I

Date: **4/19/68**Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via **TELETYPE** **URGENT**
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR (MAIL)
MIAMI

FROM: JACKSONVILLE (44-769)

MURKIN.

RE CHARLOTTE TEL TO JACKSONVILLE, APRIL EIGHTEEN,
LAST.

REFERENCED TELETYPE READS AS FOLLOWS:

TODAY, N. C. HIGHWAY PATROL TROOPER HARRY L. WILLIAMS, CATAMBA COUNTY, N. C., SEVENTEEN YEARS EXPERIENCE, ADVISED AFTER VIEWING PHOTOGRAPH OF ERIC STARVO GALT WHICH APPEARED IN TODAY'S PAPER, THAT HE RECALLED ON NIGHT OF APRIL NINE LAST, NCHP WAS CONDUCTING ROAD CHECK AT NEWTON, N. C. BETWEEN NINE AND NINE THIRTY P.M. WHILE MALE DRIVING FIFTY-FIVE OR FIFTY-SIX DODGE, FOUR DOOR, THREE TONE, WAS STOPPED AT ROAD CHECK. CAR HAD OFF WHITE TOP, DARK GREEN ON SIDES, HOOD AND TRUNK AND OFF WHITE BOTTOM. CAR HAD SIXTY-EIGHT FLORIDA LICENSE WITH PREFIX ONE ZERO W DASH, FOLLOWED BY FOUR OR FIVE

1 - Charlotte (AM)
1 - Memphis (AM)
1 - Bureau (AM)

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED _____
INDEXED _____
FILED _____

TJW:cag**(3)**

Approved: *cag*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *1123 a* MPer *m**44-769-154*

JK 44-769

PAGE TWO

DIGITS NOT RECALLED. DRIVER WAS IN CAR ALONE AND CAR WAS HEAVILY LOADED WITH LUGGAGE, POSSIBLY FIVE OR SIX SUITCASES.

DRIVER PRODUCED A VALID FLORIDA DRIVERS LICENSE. DOES NOT RECALL NAME ON LICENSE, BUT SAID IT WAS UNCOMMON NAME IN THIS AREA AND WAS A VERY SHORT NAME WITH ABOUT FOUR LETTERS. LICENSE REVEALED THE DRIVER WAS EMPLOYED AS AN AIRPLANE PILOT, AND HE ASKED DRIVER WHAT AIRLINE HE FLEW FOR AND DRIVER NAMED AN AIRLINE, NOT WELL KNOWN, WHICH WILLIAMS CANNOT RECALL. AIRLINE HAD TWO NAMES.

ON SEAT NEXT TO DRIVER WAS A FOLDED MAP OF SEVERAL SOUTHEASTERN STATES, WHICH WAS NEATLY MARKED SHOWING A ROUTE FROM SOMEWHERE IN DEEP CENTRAL GEORGIA TO WYTHEVILLE, VA., AND WILLIAMS ASKED DRIVER WHERE HE WAS GOING AND DRIVER STATED HE WAS GOING TO WYTHEVILLE TO VISIT FRIENDS AND WAS THEN GOING TO CHARLESTON OR BLUEFIELD, W. VA., TO VISIT FRIENDS AND OR RELATIVES. HE DID NOT MENTION ANYONE BY NAME. HE INSTRUCTED DRIVER AS TO HOW TO GET ON HIGHWAY SEVENTEEN, NORTH.

WILLIAMS STATED, AFTER LOOKING AT PHOTOGRAPH OF GALT,

JK 44-769
PAGE THREE

HE IS CERTAIN THAT GALT WAS THE DRIVER OF THIS CAR. HE SAID THERE IS NO DOUBT IN HIS MIND THAT THIS WAS GALT. HE STATED THE DRIVERS CHEEKS WERE NOT AS FULL AS IN THE PHOTOGRAPH. HE HAD SHARP FEATURES AND HIS FACE WAS NARROWER AND LONGER THAN IN THE PHOTOGRAPH. HE HAD A LONG, NARROW, POINTED NOSE AND LARGE EARS. FACE WAS LESS FLESHY THAN PHOTOGRAPH OF GALT. HE DESCRIBED DRIVER AS AGE ABOUT THIRTY, NOT LARGE FRAME, BROWN HAIR, NOT DARK, WHICH WAS SHORT, RECEDING AND MUCH SHORTER THAN IN PHOTOGRAPH AND BRUSHED STRAIGHT BACK. DID NOT VOLUNTEER, INFORMATION BUT ANSWERED QUESTIONS. GAVE IMPRESSION OF BEING PRECISE AND IMMACULATE. WAS WELL GROOMED AND NEAT.

TROOPER MARVIN WRIGHT, NCHP, WAS PRESENT AT THE ROAD CHECK AND DESCRIBED THE CAR AS FADED GREEN. HE DID NOT TALK WITH DRIVER, BUT RECALLED TROOPER WILLIAMS MENTIONING THE CAR HAD FLORIDA LICENSE BEGINNING WITH ONE ZERO W AND DRIVER HAD AN EXTREMELY SHORT NAME.

MIAMI REQUESTED TO CHECK REGISTRATION RECORDS FOR FIFTY FIVE OR FIFTY SIX DODGE BEARING LICENSEE WITH PREFIX TEN W DASH, AT BROWARD COUNTY RATHER THAN JACKSONVILLE AT NVB TO ELIMINATE DUPLICATION OF WORK, LENGTHY COMMUNICATIONS

JK 44-769
PAGE FOUR

**REGARDING REGISTERED OWNERS, AND MORE ACCURACY NOTING
COUNTY RECORDS ARE CURRENT WHEREAS MVB RECORDS ARE AS
FAR AS TWO MONTHS BEHIND.**

CHARLOTTE AND MEMPHIS ADVISED AM.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI WASH DC

407PM URGENT 4-19-68 SAA

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR 4P

MURKIN

THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE HAS JUST BEEN ISSUED AT WASHINGTON THIS AFTERNOON AND YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE IT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE TO THE LEADING NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO AND TV STATIONS IN YOUR DIVISION. EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO INSURE REPEATED AND WIDESPREAD DISTRIBUTION OF THIS INFORMATION. COPIES OF THE 1968 PHOTOGRAPH OF SUBJECT ALREADY IN YOUR POSSESSION AND WANTED FLYERS SHOULD ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MEDIA CONTACTS. NO ELABORATION WHATSOEVER MAY BE MADE REGARDING THIS RELEASE. ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING INVESTIGATIVE LEADS WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY.

44-769-155

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 19, 1968

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE FBI HAS IDENTIFIED JAMES EARL RAY, AN ESCAPEE FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, AS ERIC STARVO GALT, AGAINST WHOM A FEDERAL COMPLAINT WAS FILED LAST WEDNESDAY IN CONNECTION WITH THE FATAL SHOOTING OF THE REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER SAID THAT A SYSTEMATIC AND EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH OF LATENT FINGERPRINTS UNCOVERED IN THE DR. KING CASE AGAINST THE FINGERPRINTS OF THE OVER 53,000 PERSONS FROM WHOM "WANTED NOTICES" HAVE BEEN POSTED IN THE FILES OF THE FBI'S IDENTIFICATION DIVISION LED TO THE DETERMINATION THAT GALT AND RAY ARE IDENTICAL.

MR. HOOVER SAID THAT RAY, WHO IS 40 YEARS OF AGE, WAS REPORTED MISSING FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, SINCE APRIL 23, 1967. HE HAD BEEN RECEIVED AT THAT INSTITUTION ON MARCH 17, 1960, TO SERVE A 20-YEAR SENTENCE FOLLOWING CONVICTION IN ST. LOUIS FOR ARMED ROBBERY AND FOR OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE OWNER.

PAGE THREE

IN SEPTEMBER, 1966, WHILE SERVING THIS SENTENCE, HE WAS CONFINED FOR A TIME IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY WARD AT THE STATE HOSPITAL AT FULTON, MISSOURI.

ACCORDING TO MR. HOOVER, RAY HAS A KNOWN ARREST RECORD DATING BACK TO 1949. PRIOR TO THE 1960 CONVICTION FOR WHICH HE RECEIVED THE 20-YEAR TERM, RAY HAD BEEN CONVICTED OF BURGLARY IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, IN 1949; ARMED ROBBERY IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, IN 1952; AND FORGING UNITED STATES POSTAL MONEY ORDERS IN MISSOURI IN 1955.

HE HAS SERVED TERMS IN THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY JAIL IN 1949; IN STATE PRISONS AT JOLIET AND PONTIAC, ILLINOIS, IN 1952-54; AND IN THE FEDERAL PENITENTIARY AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, IN 1955-58.

RAY WAS AN ENLISTED MAN IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY FROM FEBRUARY, 1946, TO DECEMBER, 1948, AT WHICH TIME HE WAS GIVEN A GENERAL DISCHARGE DUE TO INEPTNESS AND LACK OF ADAPTABILITY FOR MILITARY SERVICE. WHILE IN THE ARMY, HE RECEIVED A THREE-MONTH SENTENCE AT HARD LABOR FOR BEING DRUNK AND BREAKING ARREST.

MR. HOOVER SAID THAT DURING HIS CRIMINAL CAREER, RAY HAS ALSO USED THE NAMES OF JAMES MCBRIDE, JAMES WALTON, W. C. HERRON AND JAMES O'CONNER. HE IS A WHITE MALE; CLAIMS TO HAVE

26-5161

PAGE FOUR

BEEN BORN [REDACTED], IN ILLINOIS; IS APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET 10 INCHES TALL AND WEIGHS ABOUT 163 TO 174 POUNDS. HE HAS BLUE EYES AND BROWN HAIR. THERE IS A SMALL SCAR ON THE CENTER OF HIS FOREHEAD AND A SCAR ON THE PALM OF HIS RIGHT HAND.

RAY HAS CLAIMED THAT HE ATTENDED SCHOOL THROUGH THE 10TH GRADE IN ALTON, ILLINOIS. HE HAS HAD THE REPUTATION OF BEING A "DRIFTER" SINCE LEAVING SCHOOL. HIS VOCATIONAL EXPERIENCE INCLUDES WORKING AS A BAKER, LABORER AND COLOR MATCHER.

IN CONNECTION WITH HIS ESCAPE FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, AN FBI COMPLAINT WAS FILED IN JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, ON JULY 20, 1967, CHARGING RAY WITH UNLAWFULLY FLEEING FROM THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO AVOID CONFINEMENT. HE HAS BEEN A FEDERAL FUGITIVE SINCE THEN.

RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION CONCERNING HIM SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT FBI HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, D. C., OR THE NEAREST FBI OFFICE.

END

MM

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI MIAMI

1:25PM IMMEDIATE 4-19-68 LLD

TO ALL SACSEXCEPT KANSAS CITY, ANCHORAGE, HONOLULU AND SAN JUAN
MESSAGE RELAY PLAN
FROM DIRECTOR 5P

MURKIN. OO: MEMPHIS.

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA. EARL JAMES RAY, W. C. HERRON, EARL JAMES,
JAMES MC BRIDE, JAMES O'CONNER, JAMES WALTON, JAMES WALYON, JIM
- FUGITIVE; UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST, BUFILE 88-41730. OO: KANSAS
CITY, KC FILE 88-9449; DETERMINED TODAY BY BUREAU TO BE IDENTICAL
WITH ERIC STARVO GALT, AGAINST WHOM FEDERAL COMPLAINT FILED APRIL
SEVENTEEN LAST IN CONNECTION WITH FATAL SHOOTING OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING JR.

JAMES EARL RAY, INMATE, MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, JEFFERSON
CITY, MO., ESCAPED PEN APRIL TWO THREE, SIXTY-SEVEN. INVESTIGATION
INDICATED RAY CONCEALED HIMSELF IN A BREAD BOX AND ESCAPED FROM
TRUCK MAKING DELIVERY TO AN AUXILIARY FARM. RAY WAS SERVING TWENTY
YEARS ON CHARGE OF ARMED ROBBERY - FIRST DEGREE AND FOR OPERATING
A VEHICLE WITHOUT OWNER'S CONSENT. ON JULY TWENTY, SIXTY-SEVEN,
END PAGE ONE

*No info
same as
tel 11:23 PM*

44-769-156

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FEDERAL COMPLAINT AUTHORIZED BY AUSA WILLIAM A. KITCHEN, WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY, MO., FILED BEFORE USC, JEFFERSON CITY, MO., CHARGING RAY WITH VIOLATION TITLE EIGHTEEN, SECTION ONE ZERO SEVEN THREE, USC. WARRANT ISSUED.

INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED BY CHICAGO, SPRINGFIELD, ST. LOUIS, AND KANSAS CITY OFFICES IN UNPRODUCTIVE EFFORT TO LOCATE THIS FUGITIVE. KANSAS CITY IS INSTITUTING A FULL AND COMPLDTE REINVESTIGATION IN AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP BACKGROUND DATA, RELATIVES, AND ASSOCIATES OF SUBJECT, WHO MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO ASSIST IN HIS LOCATION.

IN THIS CONNECTION, JAMES EARL RAY AND WALTER TERRY RIFE ON MARCH SEVEN, FIFTY-FIVE, BURGLARIZED THE U. S. POST OFFICE AT KELLERVILLE, ILL., AND STOLE SIXTY-SIX BLANK U. S. POSTAL MONEY ORDERS WHICH THEY PASSED DURING MARCH, FIFTY-FIVE, IN NUMEROUS STATES, WITH THE RESULT THAT BOTH WERE SENTENCED IN U.S.D.C., KANSAS CITY, MO., ON JULY ONE, FIFTY-FIVE, TO USP, LEAVENWORTH, END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

KANSAS. SUBJECT RAY HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A LONER AND RIFE APPARENTLY IS ONE OF HIS FEW CLOSE ASSOCIATES, SUGGESTING POSSIBILITY THEY COULD HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATES IN MURDER OF DR. KING, AND INVESTIGATION ALSO INSTITUTED IN KANSAS CITY AIRTEL TO SPRINGFIELD MARCH ELEVEN LAST TO DEVELOP BACKGROUND INFO RE RIFE AND TO LOCATE HIM FOR INTERVIEW. THIS INVESTIGATION SHOULD ALSO BE RECOVERED AND EXPEDITED TODAY, IT BEING NOTED RIFE AND RAY HAVE BACKGROUND HISTORY IN THE QUINCY, ILL., AREA. PHOTOS OF JAMES EARL RAY AND WALTER TE~~LE~~ FORWARDED AMSD TO BUREAU AND ALL OFFICES.

FOLLOWING IS DESCRIPTION OF JAMES EARL RAY AS FURNISHED BY FBI IDENTIFICATION DIVISION UNDER FBI NO. THREE ZERO SIX FOUR FOUR THREE A: WHITE MALE, DOB , @T DECATUR, QUINCY OR ALTON, ILL.; APPROXIMATELY FIVE FEET TEN; ONE SEVEN FOUR LBS., IN SEPTEMBER SIXTY-SIX; RUDDY COMPLEXION; BLUE EYES; BROWN HARI; MEDIUM BUILD; OCCUPATIONS LABORER AND BAKER; SCARS AND MARKS--SMALL SCAR ON CENTER OF FOREHEAD AND SCAR IN PALM OF RIGHT HAND. ADDRESSES--ST. LOUIS, MO., MARCH SIXTY, TWO ZERO ONE FIVE PARK, ST. LOUIS, MO., OCTOBER FIFTYNINE; QUINCY, ILL., JULY FIFTY-FIVE, MARCH FIFTY-FHVE, AND APRIL FIFTY; HOTEL QUINCY, QUINCY.

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

ILL., MARCH FIFTY-FIVE; VICTOR HOTEL, QUINCY, ILL., MARCH FIFTY-FIVE;
EIGHT FIVE THREE WEST FULLERTON, CHICAGO, ILL., MAY FIFTY-TWO; EIGHT
ZERO FIVE ALBY STREET, ALTON, ILL., JULY FIFTY-ONE. FPC--SIXTEEN,
M OVER M, NINE OVER FOUR, U OVER W, OOO OVER IOI, TWELVE, REF NINE
OVER TWELVE. NCIC FPC--ONE SIX ONE THREE ONE ONE ZERO ZERO ONE TWO
ONE TWO I I ONE TWO I I ONE SEVEN. MILITARY RECORD--JAMES EARL RAY,
SN ONE SIX ONE SIX THREE ONE TWO NINE, ENLISTED U. S. ARMY FEBRUARY
FORTY-SIX, AT EAST ST. LOUIS, ILL., AND SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY UNTIL
DECEMBER TWENTY-THREE, FORTY-EIGHT, AT WHICH TIME GIVEN GENERAL
DISCHARGE AS PRIVATE FIRST CLASS AT CAMP KILMER, N. J., BY REASON
OF INEPTNESS AND LACK OF ADAPTABILITY FOR MILITARY SERVICE. RECORDS
ALSO INDICATE HE RECEIVED TREATMENT FOR GONORRHEA AND SYPHILIS WHILE
A MEMBER OF THE MILITARY.

FOLLOWING IS A DESCRIPTION OF WALTER TERRY RIFE, FBI NO.

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

FOUR FIVE FIVE EIGHT SEVEN SIX SIX, AS OBTAINED FROM FILES OF USP,
LEAVENWORTH: WHITE MALE, AGE FORTY-FOUR, DOB [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FIVE FEET NINE AND ONE HALF, ONE SIX ONE LBS., BROWN
HAIR, EYES BLUE GRAY.

KANSAS CITY IS SETTING OUT ALL PERTINENT LEADS TODAY BY
TELETYPE AND TELEPHONE FOLLOWED UP BY TELETYPE CONFIRMATION.
ALL LEADS MUST BE COVERED WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS WITH BUREAU,
KANSAS CITY, AND MEMPHIS BEING KEPT ADVISED BY APPROPRIATE
COMMUNICATION OF PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS.

SUGGEST BUREAU MAKE IMMEDIATE COMPARISON OF ANY LATENT
FINGERPRINTS DEVELOPED DURING KING INVESTIGATION WITH THOSE
OF WALTER TERRY RIFE TO DETERMINE IF IDENTICAL.

AIR MAIL COPIES SENT ANCHORAGE, HONOLULU AND SAN JUAN.

LEGAT MEXICO CITY AND OTTAWA ADVISED.

SUBJECT RAY HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF ROBBERY WITH DEADLY
WEAPON, HAS BEEN CONFINED IN STATE HOSPITAL, FULTON, MO., IN
SIXTY-SIX, AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

-P-

CORR: PAGE THREE FIRST PARA 2ND TO LAST LINE SHD READ PHOTOS OF
JAMES EARL RAY AND WALTER RXXXXXX TERRY RIFE ARE BEING

JNKCH

FBI JKSN MISS

JA RCM

FBI JACKSVLE

TP DGP

FBI TAMPA

MO LPB

FBI MOBILE

NO WHD

FBI NEW ORLS

TU CLRWX

F B I

Date: 4-19-68

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

TO: COLUMBIA(44-299)
FROM: JACKSONVILLE (44-769) (P)
MURKIN

RE COLUMBIA TELETYPE APRIL EIGHTEEN, LAST, RE SUSPECT
DRIVING AUTO CONTAINING TAG NUMBER FOUR FIVE W - ONE FIVE
SEVEN THREE, STATE UNKNOWN.

MVB, FLORIDA, REFLECTS ABOVE TAG REGISTERED TO ~~X~~.M. SMITH,
STARKE, FLORIDA, FOR NINETEEN FIFTYNINE CHEVROLET, FOUR DOOR.
SMITH RESPECTED CITIZEN IN COMMUNITY ACCORDING TO SHERIFF AND
STATES HIS AUTO HAS NOT BEEN OUT OF THE STATE FOR SEVERAL
MONTHS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

TJW:blm
(1) *blm*

44-769-157

Searched _____
Serialized ing
Indexed _____
Filed ing

Approved: *RCG*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 3 38 PM Per *JB*

F B I

Date: 4/19/68

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

TO: NEWARK
FROM: JACKSONVILLE (44-769)

MURKIN, OO MEMPHIS.

RE SUSPECT EDWARD C. TREICH.

PCI ARTHUR M. CORBITT (PROTECT IDENTITY), MANAGER, CUT-RATE CAB CO., MAYPORT, FLA., ADVISED TODAY THAT AT FIVE TEN P.M. APRIL FOURTEEN LAST, HE RENTED A NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT DODGE TO INDIVIDUAL WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF WITH A NEW JERSEY DRIVERS LICENSE T SEVEN THREE TWO THREE ONE NINE TWO SIX THREE ZERO EIGHT THREE ONE TWO, AND SHELL CREDIT CARD NUMBER EIGHT SEVEN TWO FOUR FOUR THREE TWO ZERO FIVE, AS EDWARD C. TREICH, ONE ELEVEN CHERRY LA., BASKING RIDGE, N. J., HOME PHONE SEVEN SIX SIX - THREE NINE SIX EIGHT, BUSINESS PHONE SIX FOUR TWO - TWO ZERO EIGHT TWO. CAR RETURNED FIVE FIFTY P.M. APRIL SIXTEEN LAST, AFTER BEING DRIVEN THIRTYTHREE MILES. PCI STATES TREICH HAD LARGE ROLL OF ONE HUNDRED DOLLAR BILLS IN HIS SOCK, REMOVED ONE FROM THE ROLL AND PAID RENTAL COST OF THIRTYTWO DOLLARS, TEN CENTS IN CASH.

44-769-158

1 - Memphis (AM)

MPC:jeb

Approved: *[Signature]*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

Searched *[Signature]*Serialized *[Signature]*Indexed *[Signature]*Filed *[Signature]*Per *[Signature]*

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____
(Priority)

JK 44-769

PAGE TWO

TREICH STATED HIS PERSONAL CAR HAD BROKEN DOWN WHILE HE WAS TRAVELING NORTH ON IR NINETYFIVE NEAR JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLA. CORBITT STATES TREICH CLOSELY RESEMBLES PHOTO OF ERIC STARVO GALT WHICH APPEARED IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS APRIL EIGHTEEN LAST.

NEWARK AT BASKING RIDGE, N. J., ATTEMPT TO LOCATE EDWARD C. TREICH AND DETERMINE IF IDENTICAL WITH GALT.

P

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

F B I

Date: 4/19/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

TELETYPE

URGENT

Via _____
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR, (MAIL) (44-28861)
BOSTON (157-644)

FROM: JACKSONVILLE (44-769)

MURKIN.

RE BOSTON TEL, APRIL NINETEEN, LAST.

RE SUSPECT BRUCE COCHRAN.

FURTHER INVESTIGATION, GREEN COVES SPRINGS, FLORIDA,
INCLUDING PUBLIC SOURCES, INDIVIDUALS FAMILIAR WITH MOST
RESIDENTS IN COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD, ROUTE TWO, GREEN
COVE SPRINGS, FAILED TO LOCATE ANYONE KNOWING SUSPECT.

POSTMASTER (PROTECT IDENTITY), LOCATED CHANGE OF
ADDRESS FOR COCHRAN DATED APRIL THIRTEEN, LAST, TO GENERAL
DELIVERY, RAYMOND, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

BOSTON ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY COCHRAN. MEMPHIS ADVISED AM.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

1 - Bureau (AM)
1 - Memphis (AM)
TJW:cag
(3)

44-769-159

SEARCHED	_____
SERIALIZED	_____ <i>me</i>
INDEXED	_____
FILED	_____ <i>me</i>

Approved: *RE*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *455* M Per *m*

F B I

Date: 4-19-68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR (MAIL)
MEMPHIS

FROM: JACKSONVILLE (44-769)

MURKIN

RE SUSPECTS: EARL HARTLEY, W.C. HARTLEY, AND I. SANDERS;
RE TAMPA TEL TO DIRECTOR TODAY.

TODAY REVIEW OF DUNNELLON, FLORIDA, TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES
REFLECT TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOUR EIGHT NINE - TWO ZERO NINE ONE,
TWO ZERO ZERO NINE, FOUR TWO THREE SIX, PROPERLY REGISTERED TO
INDIVIDUALS IN ORDER CAPTIONED. TODAY BETTY LEONHARDT, CITY
CLERK, DUNNELLON, FLORIDA, ADVISED THREE CAPTIONED INDIVIDUALS
WELL KNOWN BY HER AND EACH IS EMPLOYED BY OCALA PERCISION
INSTRUMENTS, AND THEY TRAVEL FREQUENTLY BY COMMERCIAL AIR.
LEONHARDT OBSERVED PHOTOGRAPH OF ERIC STARVO GALT AND ADVISED
IT DOES NOT RESEMBLE ANY OF THE CAPTIONED INDIVIDUALS.

BIRMINGHAM AND TAMPA ADVISED AIRMAIL.
D Jacksonville

1 - Birmingham (AM)
1 - Tampa (AM)

WMB:blm

(3) *blm*

44-769-160

SEARCHED	_____
SERIALIZED	_____ <i>me</i>
INDEXED	_____ <i>me</i>
FILED	_____ <i>me</i>

Approved: *RCV*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *6:50 PM* Per *★*

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI TAMPA

1010

PM URGENT 4/19/68 ALS

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), MEMPHIS (44-1987) AND JACKSONVILLE (44-769)
FROM TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN; CR. OO: ME.

EDWARD A JOYNER, FOUR ZERO ONE SEVEN VASCONIA, TAMPA, FLORIDA, ADVISED TODAY THAT ON FOUR FIVE SIXTYEIGHT PICKED UP HITCHHIKER, SOUTH OF UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, GAINESVILLE, FLA. ON ROUTE FOUR FOUR ONE AND DROPPED HIM OFF AT CORNER OF BROADWAY AND PINE STREETS, Ocala, FLA. JOYNER STATED HITCHHIKER, NAME UNKNOWN, FACIALLY RESEMBLES ERIC GALT AND CLOSELY RESEMBLES PHOTO OF JAMES RAY SEEN ON TV THIS DATE. JOYNER STATED FURNISHED NAME OF JOHNNY GORE, ONE THREE EIGHT FIVE NORTHLAND, MT. DORA, FLA., TO HITCHHIKER AS HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN JOINING COUNTRY BAND.

JACKSONVILLE CONTACT JOHNNY GORE, ONE THREE EIGHT FIVE NORTHLAND, MT. DORA, FLA. FOR INFORMATION RE HITCHHIKER WHO RESEMBLES SUBJECT.

JAMES EARL RAY AKA, SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

TN

FBI JACKSVLE

*Walsh
advised
4/19*

*Tucker advised
am*

*Conrad
4/19/68
6:11
4/130*

288

44-769-161

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APR 19 1968	
FBI - JACKSONVILLE	

Walsh

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI MIAMI

1123PM IMMEDIATE 4-19-68 LLD

TO ALL SACSEXCEPT KANSAS CITY, ANCHORAGE, HONOLULU AND SAN JUAN

MESSAGE RELAY PLAN

FROM DIRECTOR 5P

MURKIN. OO> MEMPHIS.

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA. EARL JAMES RAY, W. C. HERRON, EARL JAMES,
JAMES MC BRIDE, JAMES O'CONNER, JAMES WALTON, JAMES WALYON, JIM
- FUGITIVE; UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST, BUFILE 88-41730. OO: KANSAS
CITY, KC FILE 88-9449; DETERMINED TODAY BY BUREAU TO BE IDENTICAL
WITH ERIC STARVO GALT, AGAINST WHOM FEDERAL COMPLAINT FILED APRIL
SEVENTEEN LAST IN CONNECTION WITH FATAL SHOOTING OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.

JAMES EARL RAY, INMATE, MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, JEFFERSON
CITY, MO., ESCAPED PEN APRIL TWO THREE, SIXTY-SEVEN. INVESTIGATION
INDICATED RAY CONCEALED HIMSELF IN A BREAD BOX AND ESCAPED FROM
TRUCK MAKING DELIVERY TO AN AUXILIARY FARM. RAY WAS SERVING TWENTY
YEARS ON CHARGE OF ARMED ROBBERY - FIRST DEGREE AND FOR OPERATING A
VEHICLE WITHOUT OWNER'S CONSENT. ON JULY TWENTY, SIXTY-SEVEN,
END PAGE ONE

*Waltch
advised*

ss

192

44-769-162

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Waltch

PAGE TWO

FEDERAL COMPLAINT AUTHORIZED BY AUSA WILLIAM A. KITCHEN, WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY, MO., FILED BEFORE USC, JEFFERSON CITY, MO., CHARGING RAY WITH VIOLATION TITLE EIGHTEEN, SECTION ONE ZERO SEVEN THREE, USC. WARRANT ISSUED.

INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED BY CHICAGO, SPRINGFIELD, ST. LOUIS, AND KANSAS CITY OFFICES IN UNPRODUCTIVE EFFORT TO LOCATE THIS FUGITIVE. KANSAS CITY IS INSTITUTING A FULL AND COMPLETE REINVESTIGATION IN AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP BACKGROUND DATA, RELATIVES, AND ASSOCIATES OF SUBJECT, WHO MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO ASSIST IN HIS LOCATION.

IN THIS CONNECTION, JAMES EARL RAY AND WALTER TERRY RIFE ON MARCH SEVEN, FIFTY-FIVE, BURGLARIZED THE U. S. POST OFFICE AT KELLERVILLE, ILL., AND STOLE SIXTY-SIX BLANK U. S. POSTAL MONEY ORDERS WHICH THEY PASSED DURING MARCH, FIFTY-FIVE, IN NUMEROUS STATES, WITH THE RESULT THAT BOTH WERE SENTENCED IN U.S.D.C., KANSAS CITY, MO., ON JULY ONE, FIFTY-FIVE, TO USP, LEAVENWORTH,
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

KANSAS. SUBJECT RAY HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A LONER AND RIFE APPARENTLY IS ONE OF HIS FEW CLOSE ASSOCIATES, SUGGESTING POSSIBILITY THEY COULD HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATES IN MURDER OF DR. KING, AND INVESTIGATION ALSO INSTITUTED IN KANSAS CITY AIRTEL TO SPRINGFIELD MARCH ELEVEN LAST TO DEVELOP BACKGROUND INFO RE RIFE AND TO LOCATE HIM FOR IINTERVIEW. THIS INVESTIGATION SHOULD ALSO BE RECOVERED AND EXPEDITED TODAY, IT BEING NOTED RIFE AND RAY HAVE BACKGROUND HISTORY IN THE QUINCY, ILL., AREA.

PHOTOS OF JAMES EARL RAY AND WALTER TERRY RIFE ARE BEING FORWARDED AMSD TO BUREAU AND ALL OFFICES.

FOLLOWING IS DESCRIPTION OF JAMES EARL RAY AS FURNISHED BY FBI IDENTIFICATION DIVISION UNDER FBI NO. THREE ZERO SIX FOUR FOUR THREE A: WHITE MALG, DOB [REDACTED], AT DECATUR, QUINCY OR ALTON, ILL.; APPROXIMATELY FIVE FEET TEN; ONE SEVEN FOUR LBS., IN SEPTEMBER SIXTY-SIX; RUDDY COMPLEXION; BLUE EYES; BROWN HARI; MEDIUM BUILD; OCCUPATIONS LABORER AND BAKER; SCARS AND MARKS--SMALL SCAR ON CENTER OF FOREHEAD AND SCAR IN PALM OF RIGHT HAND. ADDRESSES--ST. LOUIS, MO., MARCH SIXTY, TWO ZERO ONE FIVE PARK, ST. LOUIS, MO., OCTOBER FIFTYNINE; QUINCY, ILL., JULY FIFTY-FIVE, MARCH FIFTY-FIVE, AND APRIL FIFTY; HOTEL QUINCY, QUINCY.

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

ILL., MARCH FIFTY-FIVE; VICTOR HOTEL, QUINCY, ILL., MARCH FIFTY-FIVE;
EIGHT FIVE THREE WEST FULLERTON, CHICAGO, ILL., MAY FIFTY-TWO; EIGHT
ZERO FIVE ALBY STREET, ALTON, ILL., JULY FIFTY-ONE. FPC--SIXTEEN,
M OVER M, NINE OVER FOUR, U OVER W, OOO OVER IOI, TWELVE, REF NINE
OVER TWELVE. NCIC FPC--ONE SIX ONE THREE ONE ONE ZERO ZERO ONE TWO
ONE TWO I I ONE TWO I I ONE SEVEN. MILITARY RECORD--JAMES EARL RAY,
SN ONE SIX ONE SIX THREE ONE TWO NINE, ENLISTED U. S. ARMY FEBRUARY
FORTY-SIX, AT EAST ST. LOUIS, ILL., AND SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY UNTIL
DECEMBER TWENTY-THREE, FORTY-EIGHT, AT WHICH TIME GIVEN GENERAL
DISCHARGE AS PRIVATE FIRST CLASS AT CAMP KILMER, N. J., BY REASON
OF INEPTNESS AND LACK OF ADAPTABILITY FOR MILITARY SERVICE. RECORDS
ALSO INDICATE HE RECEIVED TREATMENT FOR GONORRHEA AND SYPHILIS WHILE
A MEMBER OF THE MILITARY.

FOLLOWING IS A DESCRIPTION OF WALTER TERRY RIFE, FBI NO.

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

FOUR FIVE FIVE EIGHT SEVEN SIX SIX, AS OBTAINED FROM FILES OF USP,
LEAVENWORTH: WHITE MALE, AGE FORTY-FOUR, DOB [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FIVE FEET NINE AND ONE HALF, ONE SIX ONE LBS., BROWN
HAIR, EYES BLUE GRAY.

KANSAS CITY IS SETTING OUT ALL PERTINENT LEADS TODAY BY
TELETYPE AND TELEPHONE FOLLOWED UP BY TELETYPE CONFIRMATION.
ALL LEADS MUST BE COVERED WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS WITH BUREAU,
KANSAS CITY, AND MEMPHIS BEING KGPT ADVISED BY APPROPRIATE
COMMUNICATION OF PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS.

SUGGEST BUREAU MAKE IMMEDIATE COMPARISON OF ANY LATENT
FINGERPRINTS DEVELOPED DURING KING INVESTIGATION WITH THOSE
OF WALTER TERRY RIFE TO DETERMINE IF IDENTICAL.

AIR MAIL COPIES SENT ANCHORAGE, HONOLULU AND SAN JUAN.

LEGAT MEXICO CITY AND OTTAWA ADVISED.

SUBJECT RAY HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF ROBBERY WITH DEADLY
WEAPON, HAS BEEN CONFINED IN STATE HOSPITAL, FULTON, MO., IN
SIXTY-SIX, AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

-P-

END

TXN

FBI JACKSVLE

②

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSONVILLE (44-769)

DATE: 4/18/68

FROM : SA DONALD C. RILEY

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
(OO:ME)

The following sources and individuals were contacted on the dates set forth for any information identifiable with ERIC STARVO GALT, aka John Willard, with negative results:

Daytona Beach PD
MAY BENNER
4/11/68

Volusia County SO
Deputy Sheriff ROBERT MUNSON
4/11/68

Credit Bureau of Daytona Beach
PAULINE SHEPPARD
4/11/68

Credit Bureau of New Smyrna Beach
PAULINE SHEPPARD
4/11/68

New Smyrna Beach PD
Sgt. GEORGE MONTGOMERY

Florida Power and Light
BILL KING
4/11/68

O. E. MERCER
DeLand PD
4/11/68

Credit Bureau of DeLand
MABEL CLIFTON
4/11/68

44-769-163

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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DCR;cag
(2)

cag



5010-108-01

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

JK 44-769

The following Directories were checked with negative results on 4/11/68:

Current Greater Daytona Beach City Directory
Greater Daytona Beach Telephone Directory
Greater New Smyrna Beach City Directory
Greater New Smyrna Beach Telephone Directory
Greater DeLand, Florida, Area City Directory
Greater DeLand, Florida, Telephone Directory

On 4/15/68, the following individuals were contacted at their respective agencies concerning ERIC STARVO GALT with negative results:

Arthur Murray Dance Studios
408 Seabreeze
J. PARNELL

Grady & Louise
545 Mason
GRADY WILLIAMSON, JR.

Helyn's Villa
1216 Ridgewood Avenue
Holly Hill, Florida
HELEN ALTA VILLA

F B I

Date: **4-18-68**

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via **airtel** **air mail** _____
(Priority)

To: SAC, Jacksonville (44-769)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Reurairtel 4-16-68.

Submitted major case prints of suspect CLYDE COURTNEY are not identical with latent impressions previously reported remaining unidentified in this case.

Submitted prints and photograph retained Identification Division.

2 - Memphis (44-1987)

44-769-164

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 19 1968	
FBI - JACKSONVILLE	

[Signature]

Sent Via _____ M Per _____

4-18-68

airtel

air mail

To: SAC, St. Louis (44-775)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Reurtels 4-18-68.

Unidentified latent fingerprints and latent impressions this case are not identical with fingerprints of DAVID ERNEST HAWKINS, Army service #US53004203, born [redacted], Wellborn, Florida. No palm prints here for Hawkins.

This confirms and supplements telephone call of 4-18-68, to El Paso Division.

- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
- ✓ 1 - Jacksonville (44-769)
- 1 - El Paso
- 1 - Miami

44-769-165
mej
[initials]

4-17-68

airtel

air mail

To: SAC, Jacksonville

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Re undated communication from Chief of Police, Jacksonville, Florida, enclosing fingerprints of CLYDE COURTNEY, born [redacted], Louisville, Kentucky.

Unidentified latent fingerprints and latent impressions in this case are not identical with the fingerprints of Courtney.

Fingerprints of Courtney being searched through our main fingerprint file; results will be furnished separately.

2 - Memphis (44-1987)

✓

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APR 18 1968	
FBI — JACKSONVILLE	

[Signature]

F B I

Date: **4-17-68**Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via **airtel** **air mail** _____
(Priority)**To: SAC, Jacksonville****From: Director, FBI (44-38861)****MURKIN**

Re undated communication from Chief of Police, Jacksonville, Florida, enclosing fingerprints of CLYDE COURTNEY, born [REDACTED], Louisville, Kentucky.

Unidentified latent fingerprints and latent impressions in this case are not identical with the fingerprints of Courtney.

Fingerprints of Courtney being searched through our main fingerprint file; results will be furnished separately.

2 - Memphis (44-1987)

44-769-166

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
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APR 20 1968	
FBI — JACKSONVILLE	

Sent Via _____ M Per _____

FBI JACKSVLE

P

FBI PHOENIX

926PM 4/21/68 IMMEDIATE JDD

TO DIRECTOR(44-38861), MEMPHIS(44-1987), DALLAS, JACKSONVILLE,
KANSAS CITY, LITTLE ROCK.

FROM PHOENIX (44-371) (9 PAGES)

MURKIN, CIVIL RIGHTS, OO MEMPHIS
DEPUTY SHERIFF RAY STOCK, COCONINO COUNTY SHERIFF'S

OFFICE, FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA, ADVISED THAT AT TWO TWENTY A.M.
APRIL TWENTY LAST HE RECEIVED PHONE CALL FROM ANONYMOUS MALE

WHO STATED HE HAD DONE STATE TIME WITH RAY AKA GAULT. CALLER

ALSO SAID HE HAD DONE FEDERAL TIME AT TEXARKANA, TEXAS WITH
ONE DAVID WILSON WHO LATER MARRIED FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA GIRL

BY NAME OF HERNANDEZ. CALLER STATED RAY AND WILSON HAD DONE

TIME TOGETHER AND THAT DAY OR TWO PRIOR TO ASSASSINATION OF

KING HE, CALLER, MET WILSON ABOARD PLANE FROM PHOENIX TO
DETROIT, MICHIGAN AT WHICH TIME WILSON HAD TICKET TO NASHVILLE,

TENNESSEE EN ROUTE MEMPHIS. CALLER STATED HE HEARD LATER
THAT RAY WAS IN MEMPHIS THAT TIME BUT CALLER DID NOT KNOW
FOR SURE. CALLER INDICATED DURING CONVERSATION THAT WILSON

WANTED TO GET EVEN WITH RAY FOR SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED IN
PENITENTIARY. CALLER INDICATED THAT WILSON HATES "NIGGERS".

END PAGE ONE

*But
advised*

*Could
Reported
4/22/68*

Lead

44-769-167

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 24 1968	
FBI - JACKSONVILLE	

Cooley

*Walt
has come*

A

GE TWO

CALLER INDICATED WILSON WAS IN FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA AT TIME OF HIS CALL. CALLER AGREED TO PHONE BACK IN THIRTY MINUTES AND TALKED TO FBI AGENT BUT NO CALL RECEIVED.

INVESTIGATION AT FLAGSTAFF DETERMINED DAVID L. WILSON, *David L. Wilson, 87-9261**
IS WHITE MALE AMERICAN, BORN WESTBURN, TENNESSEE,

, SIX FEET THREE, ONE NINETY POUNDS, BLUE EYES, BROWN HAIR, FBI SEVEN TWO NINE TWO FOUR TWO C.

WILSON EVADED ATTEMPTS TO BE CONTACTED BY FBI BUT MADE HIMSELF AVAILABLE THROUGH LIEUT. ROBERT JACKSON, FLAGSTAFF POLICE DEPARTMENT, A FRIEND. WILSON INTERVIEWED IN PRESENCE OF LIEUT. JACKSON BY BUAGENT AND EMPHATICALLY DENIED ANY

RECENT TRIP TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. HE CLAIMED EMPLOYMENT AT CONTINENTAL BODY SHOP, PHOENIX FOR APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS AND CHECK OF EMPLOYMENT RECORDS VERIFY HIS PRESENCE DURING PERIOD PRIOR TO AND FOLLOWING ASSASSINATION. WILSON STATED HIS WIFE HAS BEEN LIVING WITH HER SISTER AT FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA FOR PAST WEEK OR SO AND ON FRIDAY APRIL NINETEEN LAST HE RENTED CAR AT PHOENIX TO VISIT WIFE AT FLAGSTAFF.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

Clarice Benson
D.

116-389*
87-7372*

Ray
Alpha
Walter

88-5468*
87-4907-8

PRIOR TO LEAVING PHOENIX HE MET ANOTHER FORMER PRISON MATE, CLARENCE CLARK (PHONETIC) AT MAGOO'S NIGHT CLUB, PHOENIX, AND CLARK ACCOMPANIED WILSON TO FLAGSTAFF. WILSON SAID HE DROPPED CLARK ON CITY STREET IN FLAGSTAFF AND CLARK WAS BOUND FOR DENVER, COLORADO.

WILSON AGREED TO LISTEN TO TAPED PHONE CALL IN EFFORT TO IDENTIFY CALLER AND HALF WAY THROUGH CALL WILSON PANICKED AND LEFT THE ROOM REFUSING TO TALK FURTHER. LIEUT. JACKSON DROVE WILSON HOME AND ON RETURN STATED WILSON IN GREAT FEAR BLURTED THAT HE WAS FULLY INFORMED OF ASSASSINATION PLOT WHICH INVOLVED GROUP OF EXCONS ALL KNOWN TO HIM. WILSON STATED THAT VOICE ON TAPE NOT CLARK, BUT THAT OF AN EXCON FROM KANSAS CITY WHOM HE REFUSED TO IDENTIFY. WILSON SAID JACKSON WOULD KNOW CALLER'S IDENTITY BY TOMORROW, AS ONE PHONE CALL BY WILSON WOULD RESULT IN DEATH OF SQUEALER TOMORROW. WILSON ALSO TOLD JACKSON THAT RAY NOT ACTUAL KILLER. SAID RAY WAS ORIGINAL TRIGGER MAN BUT BACKED OUT DAY BEFORE AND OTHERS PINNED IT ON HIM IN VIEW OF HIS WANTED STATUS. SAID REAL KILLER STILL IN ATLANTA AND RAY PRESENTLY

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

HIDING IN FAJORA (PHONETIC), MEXICO. WILSON LEFT JACKSON'S CAR IN PANIC AND STATED HEADING BACK TO PHOENIX TO MAKE PHONE CALL. WILSON DRIVING SIXTYFOUR YELLOW MERCURY COMET, ARIZONA LICENSE JXE THREE FOUR ZERO.

WILSON INTERVIEWED AT PHOENIX ON APRIL TWENTYONE INSTANT. WILSON STATED HE LAST SAW RAY LAST SUMMER AT LUPTON OR LUFTON, MISSOURI WHERE WILSON WAS ARRESTED FOR DWI AND WAS IN COUNTY JAIL FOR THREE OR FOUR WEEKS UNTIL HE COULD PAY FINE. AT TIME OF ARREST WILSON STATED HE WAS WITH GENE BRISINDINE (PHONETIC) TRUCK DRIVER FOR WILLIS SHAW, ELM SPRINGS, ARKANSAS. ON RELEASE HE WENT TO BAR ABOUT FOUR BLOCKS FROM COUNTY JAIL TO USE PHONE AND RAN INTO RAY WHO RECOGNIZED WILSON AND WHOM WILSON SAID HE HAD SEEN BEFORE ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT REMEMBER WHERE. RAY ASKED HIM IF HE WEREN'T WILSON AND HE SAID HE WAS AND RAY INDICATED THAT THEY HAD DONE TIME TOGETHER. RAY LOANED HIM FIFTY DOLLARS WHICH HE USED THE FOLLOWING DAY AFTER SPENDING THAT NIGHT IN LOCAL MOTEL FOR BUS TICKET TO FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA. WILSON QUESTIONED WHERE HE HAD SERVED TIME WITH RAY AND HE COULD

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

NOT DESIGNATE THE SPECIFIC PLACE ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE KNEW HIM IN A PRISON SOMEPLACE. WILSON WAS SHOWN PHOTO OF JAMES EARL RAY, MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, NUMBER ZERO ZERO FOUR ONE SIX, AND RAY'S CLOSE ASSOCIATE, WALTER T. RIFE, KANSAS CITY SHERIFF'S OFFICE NUMBER TWO NINE SIX THREE SIX, TOGETHER WITH SIX OTHER PHOTOGRAPHS.

WILSON INITIALLY PICKED BOTH PHOTOGRAPHS OF RIFE AND RAY AS BEING RAY AND THEN SETTLED ON PHOTO OF RIFE AS THAT OF RAY.

HE WAS ALSO SHOWN COMBINATION PHOTO OF RIFE AND RAY TOGETHER AND HE CONTINUED TO IDENTIFY RIFE AS RAY. WILSON

DESCRIBED RAY AS BEING FIVE FOOT SIX OR SEVEN AND HE ALSO SAID RAY WAS PROBABLY YOUNGER THAN HIS OWN THIRTYSIX YEARS, ONE SIXTY POUNDS, WITH SCAR SOMEPLACE IN THE FOREHEAD AREA WHICH HE COULD NOT SEE IN PHOTOGRAPH OF RIFE. HE STATED RAY CONTINUALLY CHANGED HIS HAIR STYLE.

AVAILABLE INFO REFLECTS WILSON WAS RECEIVED NOVEMBER TWENTYONE NINETEEN FIFTY ONE AT STATE PENITENTIARY, RAIFORD, FLORIDA FOR ESCAPE FROM COUNTY JAIL AND WAS LATER RECEIVED NOVEMBER SEVEN NINETEEN SIXTY ONE FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL

END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX

INSTITUTE, TEXARKANA, TEXAS FOR MAIL THEFT AND FEDERAL P.V.
AND WAS TRANSFERRED FROM THERE TO FCI, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
ON NOVEMBER TWENTYTWO NINETEEN SIXTY TWO. HIS LAST
ARREST WAS AT SPRINGFIELD COLORADO BY THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ON MAY TWO NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN FOR TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS.
ABOVE INFORMATION IS NOT COMPLETE RECORD OF WILSON BUT
RECORD DOES NOT CORRESPOND AT ANY POINT TO RECORD OF
JAMES EARL RAY SO FAR AS KNOWN TO PHOENIX. WILSON DENIES
ANY KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING KINGS ASSASSINATION OR ANY PLOT
BY EXCONVICTS TO ASSASSINATE KING. WILSON ALSO DENIED
STATING RAY ORIGINAL TRIGGER MAN AND DENIED STATING THAT THE
REAL KILLER WAS STILL IN ATLANTA. WILSON CLAIMS HE DID
NOT STATE RAY WAS IN ANY SPECIFIC PLACE IN MEXICO BUT HAD
MERELY COMMENTED THAT IF HE WERE RAY HE WOULD BE IN MEXICO.

WILSON QUESTIONED ABOUT IDENTITY OF ANONYMOUS CALLER.
HE INDICATED BY ATTITUDE HE HAD IDEA OF CALLER'S IDENTITY BUT
STEADFASTLY REFUSED TO REVEAL SAME TO INTERVIEWING AGENTS.
INTERROGATION INDICATED CALLER POSSIBLY IDENTICAL TO

END PAGE SIX

PAGE SEVEN

CLARENCE CLARK WHO WILSON STATED HE SERVED TIME WITH AT RAIFORD, FLORIDA. WILSON DESCRIBED CLARK AS WMA, IN HIS FORTIES, SMALL THIN BUILD, FIVE FEET ONE OR TWO INCHES, ONE THIRTY FIVE TO ONE FORTY POUNDS, GRAY HAIR.

PHOENIX CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE IF THERE IS ANY SUBSTANCE TO INFORMATION FURNISHED BY CALLER AND STATEMENTS MADE BY WILSON TO LIEUT. JACKSON.

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION WILL FURNISH ALL RECEIVING OFFICES COMPLETE IDENTIFICATION RECORDS OF JAMES EARL RAY FBI THREE ZERO SIX FOUR FOUR THREE A, AND DAVID L. WILSON, FBI NUMBER SEVEN NINE TWO TWO FOUR TWO C. IDENT DIVISION ALSO REQUESTED TO SEARCH RECORDS ON BASIS OF NAME AND DESCRIPTION HEREIN FOR IDENTIFICATION RECORD ON ONE CLARENCE CLARK WHO WOULD HAVE SERVED PRISON TERM AT RAIFORD, FLORIDA DURING PERIOD OF WILSON'S INCARCERATION THERE AND IF SUCH RECORD FOUND FURNISH SAME TO RECEIVING OFFICES.

JACKSONVILLE DIVISION CONTACT STATE PENITENTIARY, RAIFORD, FLORIDA AND ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY CLARENCE CLARK DESCRIBED ABOVE AND DETERMINE IF HE SERVED TIME WITH WILSON. IF IDENTIFIED, FURNISH IDENT DIVISION WITH

END PAGE SEVEN

PAGE EIGHT

APPROPRIATE NUMBERS WITH REQUEST THAT ALL RECEIVING OFFICES BE FURNISHED IDENT RECORD. ALSO FURNISH DETAILS OF WILSON'S INCARCERATION AT RAIFORD.

DALLAS DIVISION AT TEXARKANA WILL ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY CLARENCE CLARK (PHONETIC) DESCRIBED ABOVE AS INMATE OF THAT INSTITUTION APPARENTLY DURING NINETEEN SIXTYONE AND SIXTYTWO AND IF IDENTIFIED WILL REQUEST IDENTIFICATION DIVISION FURNISH COMPLETE ARREST RECORD TO RECEIVING OFFICES. DALLAS WILL ALSO SET OUT ANY NECESSARY LEADS TO LOCATE CLARK FOR INTERVIEW.

MEMPHIS ADVISE IF THERE IS ANY INDICATION OF CONSPIRACY OF EXCONS AS MENTIONED BY WILSON TO LIEUT. JACKSON.

KANSAS CITY WILL CONDUCT INVESTIGATION THROUGH GENERAL AVAILABLE SOURCES IN EFFORT TO IDENTIFY CLARENCE CLARK, PHONETIC, WHO IS BELIEVED TO POSSIBLY BE THE ANONYMOUS CALLER SINCE WILSON ALLEGEDLY TOLD LIEUT. JACKSON THE CALLER WAS FROM KANSAS CITY. NO LEAD BEING SET FOR KANSAS CITY RE LUFTON SINCE NOT LISTED IN POSTAL GUIDE. KANSAS CITY SHOULD UPON RECEIPT OF IDENTI RECORD OF WILSON ATTEMPT TO

END PAGE EIGHT

PAGE NINE

VERIFY PLACE WHERE HE STATES HE WAS INCARCERATED DURING SUMMER
OF SIXTY SEVEN FOR DWI AND WHERE HE MET RAY UPON HIS RELEASE.

LITTLE ROCK AT ELM SPRINGS, ARKANSAS WILL THROUGH
WILLIS SHAW LOCATE GENE BRISINDINE AND INTERVIEW BRISINDINE
CONCERNING ALLEGED ARREST AND INCARCERATION OF WILSON DURING
SUMMER OF SIXTY SEVEN WITH PARTICULAR PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING
LOCATION OF THE OCCURRENCE SINCE THERE IS NO LUFTON, MISSOURI
IN POSTAL GUIDE.

AIRMAIL COPIES SENT TO SALT LAKE CITY AND DENVER IN
VIEW OF PROSPECTIVE LEADS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

TXN

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI ST LOUIS

1046PM URGENT 4-20-68 JLS
TO DIRECTOR, CHICAGO, JACKSONVILLE AND MEMPHIS
FROM ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN - CR OO*ME

RE CG TELCALL THIS DATE RE QUESTING JERRY RAYNES, CENTER, MO.,
STEP-FATHER OF JAMES EARL RAY BE REINTERVIEWED TO DETERMINE MARRIAGE
DATA. JERRY RAYNES UPON INTERVIEW APRIL TWENTY INSTANT ADVISED THAT
HE MARRIED LUCILLE MAHER AT JACKSONVILLE, FLA., IN SPRING OF NINETEEN
TWENTY NINE, NINETEEN THIRTY OR THIRTY-ONE. HE WAS ABOUT THIRTY
YEARS OLD AND SHE TWENTY THREE YEARS OLD.

RAYNES STATES THAT HE WAS THE FATHER OF ALL OTHER CHILDREN AND
THAT JERRY RAY WAS BORN IN QUINCY, ILL., AS JERRY RAYNES.

JACKSONVILLE ENDEAVOR TO VERIFY MARRIAGE OF RAYNES AND MAHER.
ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

TXN

FBI JACKSVLE

*Walsh advised.
on*

*Referred to
4/22/68
JH*

*4/22
Check -
1927-37 NR / Rainer or Raynes
1929-1933 - Ray*

*for
has*

44-769-168

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 20 1968	
FBI - JACKSONVILLE	

Powell



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY, also known as
Eric Starvo Galt, Harvey Lowmyer,
John Willard, James McBride, James
Walton, W. C. Herron and James
O'Conner

FUGITIVE

CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
INTERSTATE FLIGHT - ARMED ROBBERY

"TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES" PROGRAM

James Earl Ray, a Missouri prison escapee who has been sought under the alias Eric Starvo Galt in connection with the gunshot slaying of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has been added to the FBI's list of "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives."

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover ordered the special addition of Ray to the "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" list, which already contains ten fugitives, to insure the widest possible dissemination of Ray's photograph and description to help effect his earliest possible location.

Ray has been the subject of a massive and intensive search since the brutal gunshot slaying of Dr. King on April 4, 1968, as he stood on the balcony of a Memphis, Tennessee, motel. One rifle bullet, believed fired from the window of a nearby rooming house, felled the victim.

80-9

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An exhaustive FBI fingerprint search, comparing latent fingerprints uncovered in the Dr. King case against fingerprints of over 53,000 persons on whom wanted notices have been posted in the FBI's Identification Division, succeeded in determining that Galt and Ray are identical.

A Federal warrant, issued at Birmingham, Alabama, on April 17, 1968, charges Ray, under the alias Eric Starvo Galt, with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional Right of a United States citizen. Ray is also sought for unlawful interstate flight to avoid confinement after conviction for armed robbery, based on a Federal warrant issued on July 20, 1967, at Jefferson City, Missouri. He had been confined at the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, in March, 1960, with a 20-year sentence following conviction for armed robbery and operating a motor vehicle without permission of the owner. In September, 1966, while serving the sentence, he was confined for a time in the maximum security ward at the State Hospital, Fulton, Missouri. He was reported missing from the Missouri State Penitentiary since April 23, 1967.

Ray, who has an arrest record dating back to 1949 and has been convicted of burglary, armed robbery and forging United States Postal Money Orders, has also been confined in the Los Angeles County Jail, the Joliet and Pontiac, Illinois, State Prisons and the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas.

He served in the Army between February, 1946, and December, 1948, received a three-month sentence at hard labor for being drunk and breaking arrest and was given a General Discharge due to ineptness and lack of adaptability for military service.

Ray is a 40-year-old white male, reportedly born in Illinois on [REDACTED]. He is approximately 5'10" inches tall, weighs from 163 to 174 pounds, has blue eyes and brown hair which he has worn cut short. He has a small scar on the center of his forehead and a scar on the palm of his right hand. He has been described as having a straight, narrow nose and straight and even teeth and to have a nervous habit of occasionally tugging at an ear lobe. His left ear protrudes noticeably.

Acquaintances describe him as a "loner" and "drifter" whose language and diction reflect a "rural" quality and indicate he has had limited education.

He is reportedly a fan of western and country music, drinks vodka and beer, dresses neatly and claims past employment as a merchant seaman and cook on Mississippi River vessels. He is known to have worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher.

He is known as an avid dancer who has taken dancing lessons. He also completed a course at a school of bartending in the Los Angeles area early in 1968.

Ray should be considered armed and extremely dangerous. Anyone with information concerning this fugitive is requested to immediately contact the nearest office of the FBI, the telephone number of which may be found on the first page of local telephone directories.