

SAC, JACKSONVILLE (44-769)

4/23/68

ASAC JAMES J. O'CONNOR

MURKIN

AL ROSEN called at 10:14 a.m., 4/23/68, and raised an inquiry concerning the Tallahassee UPI dispatch which appeared in the "Florida Times-Union" this morning relative to the issuance of a pickup on ERIC STAAVO GALT. ROSEN stated he had talked to SAC FROMBOSE who stated he had received several calls concerning the matter.

I explained to Mr. ROSEN that we had checked with the Tallahassee RA and determined that the story is based upon an APE issued by FHP last night based upon receipt of the earlier wanted flyer which names GALT as being sought in connection with captioned case. ROSEN inquired as to whether or not we knew who the UPI representative was and when I answered affirmatively, stated we should promptly contact him to set the facts straight and to inquire why he did not use the RAY story inasmuch as all press services had been furnished information concerning the true identity of GALT as being JAMES RAY. He likewise suggested that the reporter's name be furnished the Bureau and that we consider contacting his boss to complain as this is the only instance of a news service getting the two stories out of proper perspective. He also suggested that we contact the FHP and ask why they went ahead with the old story when all the press services and newspapers had the more current one.

He desired a call back but nothing in writing concerning this matter.

JOC:ejm
(2)

Jjm

44-769-192

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APR 24 1968	
FBI — JACKSONVILLE	

[Signature]

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

State Put On Alert For Galt

TALLAHASSEE (UPI) — The FBI issued a perplexing pickup order to Florida law enforcement agencies Monday night, asking them to be on the lookout for Eric Starvo Galt, wanted for "civil rights conspiracy."

The flier said Galt had used the aliases of Harvey Lowmyer and John Willard but it did not mention the name James Earl Ray. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover has said Ray and Galt are one and the same man.

The order was sent out to all law enforcement agencies in Florida at 8:22 p.m.

On April 11 the FBI sent out a similar order in Florida, but it was cancelled within minutes and the FBI later indicated that it had been issued by mistake.

The FBI would not comment on why the order was issued in Florida, or why it failed to mention Ray.

Hoover said last week that an exhaustive check of fingerprints proved that Galt and Ray were the same man.

Martin Luther King, prominent civil rights leader, was shot to death April 4 as he stood on a hotel balcony in Memphis, where he was leading marches in a garbage collectors' strike.

Last week the FBI issued a warrant for Galt's arrest on charges of conspiring to violate King's civil rights.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

FLORIDA TIMES UNION
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Date: 4-23-68 Page A-2

Edition: Morning

Author:

Editor:

Title:

MURKIN

Character: CR

or

Classification: 44-769

Submitting Office:
Jacksonville

☐ Being Investigated

44-769-193

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSONVILLE (44-769)

DATE: 4/23/68

FROM : SA TED R. TUCKER

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

AT OCALA, FLORIDA

The following individuals advised on 4/17/68 they have no knowledge of an ERIC STARVO GALT ever being a member or customer at their respective dance studios:

Mrs. DOROTHY MALONEY
Dorothy's School of Dance
1319 NW 22nd Street,
Ocala, Florida;

Mrs. PHYLLIS RADMORE
Steppers Dance Studio
3351 E. Silver Springs Blvd.,
Ocala, Florida;

Mr. WILLARD ALDRIDGE
Orange Blossom Hills Estates
Bellevue, Florida
Former operator of Aldridge
Dance Studio, Ocala, Florida

Mr. ALDRIDGE did advise that an individual (FNU) GALT worked for him as a dance instructor for a short period of time approximately seven years ago. He advised this person was last known to be working as an instructor at the Arthur Murray Studio in Jacksonville, Florida.

ALDRIDGE described this individual as white male, 5'8", 210-215 pounds, and married. It is noted there are no other dance studios located in Marion, Lake, or Sumter County, Florida.

TRT/dem
(2)



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

JK 44-769

Suggested Lead:

JACKSONVILLE

AT JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Will, if not already done, contact Arthur Murray Dance Studio and ascertain full identity of (FNU) GALT who formerly was employed as a dance instructor at the Aldridge Dance Studio of Ocala, Florida, and later reported to be a dance instructor at the Arthur Murray Studio in Jacksonville.

For additional information, it is noted that the telephone directory for Leesburg reflects a St. Johns School of Ballet at 1107 Webster St., Leesburg, Florida, telephone 787-6189. This number was called on 4/16/68 and is now the number of Mr. C. W. LONG, 1107 Webster St., a private residence. Mr. LONG advised he has resided at this address approximately four months and he has received several calls at this number for the St. Johns School of Ballet.

It was ascertained through contact with the long distance operator that 787-6189 is now listed in the name of C. W. LONG and was formerly listed as the St. Johns School of Ballet which number has been discontinued.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSONVILLE (44-739)

FROM : ASAC JAMES J. O'CONNOR

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/23/68

At 1:10 p.m., Mr. BILL GIBSON, Associated Press representative at Tallahassee, called and in your absence I spoke with him. He raised the question of the UPI story with a Tallahassee dateline which appeared in this morning's Times-Union and which purports discrepancies between the FBI's looking for GALT and JAMES EARL RAY. He asked for official clarification.

Under your name I indicated to him that in checking, the FBI had determined the story originated with UPI in Miami and that insofar as this office was concerned that news service had made no effort to clarify the alleged discrepancy. It was pointed out to Mr. GIBSON that the alert on ERIC STAAVO GALT was determined by us to be based upon receipt of the wanted flyer concerning this individual which as a matter of policy is mailed from Jacksonville to all law enforcement agencies and others in this territory. This flyer was mailed over the weekend and apparently received by FHP, Tallahassee, who routed it to a dispatcher who subsequently made a pickup broadcast on GALT Monday night.

I told Mr. GIBSON the UPI had chosen to disregard the nationwide release made Friday, April 19, 1968, identifying JAMES EARL RAY as being identical with a man known as GALT. I further told him that if UPI had checked the release facts or with the FBI that the linking of GALT with RAY would have been again repeated.

Mr. GIBSON expressed appreciation for this clarifying information and stated he would TWX the information to his headquarters in Miami.

JOC:sjm
(2) *jsm*



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WJ

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

F B I

Date: 4/19/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AM _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: SAC, ALBANY

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN

At about 6 p.m. on 4/4/68, while standing on the second floor balcony outside Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry Street, Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was struck in the right side of the face by a single bullet fired from a 30-06 rifle. The bullet severed KING's spinal cord and death was almost instantaneous.

This investigation, predicated upon a specific request from the Attorney General of the United States, disclosed that the fatal shot had been fired from the bathroom of a cheap rooming house located at 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, which bathroom was located at the rear of the rooming house, and had a window overlooking the Lorraine Motel.

At about 3 p.m. on 4/4/68, an individual using the name JOHN WILLARD had rented Room 5-B in the rooming house at 422½ South Main Street and had paid one week's rent. After hearing the rifle shot at about 6 p.m. on that same day, other tenants in the rooming house observed a man presumably identical with WILLARD, fleeing from the rooming house carrying a large package which was subsequently abandoned by him on the sidewalk in front of the Canipe Amusement Co., 424 South Main Street, Memphis. A neighborhood investigation in the vicinity of 424 South Main Street disclosed that the subject had fled from the scene in a white Mustang.

Found abandoned in front of 424 South Main Street was a 30-06 Remington model 760 rifle which was determined to have been

2 ALBANY

2 ALL CONTINENTAL OFFICES

1 MEMPHIS

RGJ:BN
(111)Approved: RG Jensen
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

44-949

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ME 44-1987

sold to one HARVEY LOWMEYER on 3/30/68 by Aeromarine Supply Co., Birmingham, Alabama.

Investigation at Memphis disclosed that an individual had purchased a set of binoculars at the York Arms Company in Memphis on 4/4/68. These binoculars were among the material abandoned with the rifle and recovered in Memphis. Also recovered was a brown and green herringbone bedspread. The items abandoned in Memphis were all wrapped in this bedspread. The blue bag which was inside the bedspread contained numerous items, among which were the binoculars and a set of underwear consisting of a T-shirt and shorts. The T-shirt and shorts are those on which appears the laundry mark which has been a matter of interest in this case.

A search of motel records in the Memphis area disclosed that an individual using the name ERIC S. GALT had spent the night of 4/3/68 at the Rebel Motel, Memphis, Tennessee, and was driving a 1966 white Mustang bearing Alabama License 1-38993. Investigation at Birmingham disclosed that this automobile had been purchased by ERIC S. GALT on August 30, 1968 from a private person in response to a newspaper ad. He paid a total of \$1995 cash. While in Birmingham he furnished the address of 2608 South Highland Avenue, Birmingham. This is also the address which appeared on a driver's license issued to him by the State of Alabama. The driver's license identifying data listed his birth date as [redacted], his height as 5'11", his weight as 170 and his eyes blue and hair brown.

The automobile in question, the white Mustang bearing the Alabama tags mentioned above, was recovered in Atlanta on 4/11/68 and determined to have been abandoned there prior to 9 a.m. on 4/5/68. *Laundry check*

In connection with the evidence submitted by Atlanta, Birmingham, and Memphis, identifiable latent prints were recovered. It was on the basis of these latents that identification was made of JAMES EARL RAY. In handling future leads, all offices should be particularly interested in securing an identifying number, military, police, or FBI, in connection with suspects so that the necessary check can be made through the Identification Division.

On 4/17/68, AUSA R. MACEY TAYLOR, Birmingham, authorized the filing of a complaint charging ERIC STARVO GALT with a conspiracy to violate Section 241, Title 18, U. S. Code, and

ME 44-1987

recommended bond in the amount \$50,000. On that same date, SAC JOSEPH H. GAMBLE filed a complaint before USC MILDRED F. SPRAGUE, Birmingham, and warrant was issued that same date.

For further information re JAMES EARL RAY, all offices are directed to press release furnished them by the Bureau on 4/19/68.

ARMED & DANGEROUS.

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI LOUISVLE

949AM UREENT 4-23-68 DS
TO JACKSONVILLE (44-769), KANSAS CITY (88-9449), MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM LOUISVILLE (44-947)

MURKIN, CR, OO MEMPHIS.

AT EIGHT THIRTY AM TODAY ANONYMOUS CALLER TELEPHONICALLY
CONTACTED LEXINGTON, KY. RA. VOICE OF CALLER SOUNDED LIKE
REASONABLY YOUNG WHITE WOMAN. SHE ADVISED AS FOLLOWS.
SHE JUST RETURNED TO "TOWN" (LEXINGTON, KY.) AND NOTICED
PUBLICITY IN PAPERS RE MAN WANTED FOR MURDER OF KING. ON WEEK
FOLLOWING MURDER SHE WAS IN PANAMA CITY (FLA.) AND THERE SAW
INDIVIDUAL WHO CLOSELY RESEMBLED PHOTOGRAPHS OF SUBJECT APPEARING
IN PRESS. THIS INDIVIDUAL HAD BLACK HAIR BUT HAIR APPEARED TO
BE DYED INASMUCH AS IT WAS BLACK ONTOP AND BROWN AROUND TEMPLES.
THIS INDIVIDUAL WAS GOING UNDER NAME OF DON AND/OR GEORGE
MC BRIDE AND WAS WORKING FOR MRS. BILL MORRIS OF EDGEWATER, FLA.
IN A TELEPHONE PROMOTION OF PROJECT KNOWN AS THE OAKLAND TERRACE
MEN'S CLUB INPANAMA CITY. CALLER SAID ALSO THAT THIS MAN HAD
WITH HIM A SIXTY - SEVENTY YEAR OLD WOMAN WHO SAID SHE WAS FROM
ALTON, ILL. MC BRIDE SAID HE HAD BEEN IN PENSACOLA THE PREVIOUS
WEEK.

END PAGE ONE

B. Gordon
PC Lead

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Walt

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WHEN ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO DETERMINE THE IDENTITY OF CALLER SHE STATED SHE DID NOT WANT HER NAME USED OR BECOME INVOLVED IN THE MATTER AND DID NOT GIVE HER NAME. WHEN EFFORTS MADE TO QUESTION

HER FURTHER, SHE HUNG UP. LOUISVILLE HAS NO WAY OF DETERMINING IDENTITY OF CALLER OR SECURING FURTHER INFORMATION.

JACKSONVILLE AT PANAMA CITY AND EDGEWATER, FLA., DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE GEORGE AND/OR DON MC BRIDE WORKING FOR MRS. BILL MORRIS IS IDENT WITH SUBJECT. A & D KC AND ME TO BE ADVISED.

END

MMH
FBI JACKSVLE

©

F B I

Date: 4/23/68

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

TO: BUREAU (44-38861)
 MEMPHIS (44-1987)
 BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)
 MIAMI (44-1854)

FROM: JACKSONVILLE (44-769)

MURKIN.

RE CHARLOTTE TEL TO JACKSONVILLE, APRIL EIGHTEEN,
 LAST; MIAMI TEL TO BUREAU, ET AL, APRIL TWENTY SECOND,
 LAST.

RE NINETEEN FIFTY FIVE OR FIFTY SIX DODGE BEARING
 FLORIDA LICENSE WITH PREFIX NUMBER TEN W OBSERVED BY
 HIGHWAY PATROL, NEWTON, N. C.

MOTOR VEHICLE BUREAU, TALLAHASSEE, ADVISED THEY ARE
 NOT COMPUTERIZED AND IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO PHYSICALLY
 PULL AND REVIEW SOME ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND REGISTRATION
 CARDS TO SEGREGATE FIFTY FIVE AND FIFTY SIX AUTOS REGISTERED
 IN BROWARD COUNTY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

TJW:cag

Searched _____
 Serialized mlg
 Indexed _____
 Filed mlg

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Approved: _____
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent Div. 1226 (FMB)
BH 1228 P M
MM 1230 (SR)
ME 1231 (MCP)
 Per W

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI PITTSBGH

1253PM URGENT 4/23/68 RLC

TO DIRECTOR (MAIL) AND ATLANTA AND JACKSONVILLE
FROM PITTSBURGH (44-578)

MURKIN

RE JACKSONVILLE TEL PITTSBURGH FOUR TWENTYTWO LAST.
ON FOUR TWENTYTWO LAST, CONRAD WITALIS, VICE PRESIDENT
IN CHARGE OF ELECTRO AIR CORP., MC KEES ROCKS, PA., ADVISED
THAT JOE S. RAGAN, JR., HIRED BY THAT COMPANY THREE TWENTY
SIXTYSEVEN. RAGAN IS EMPLOYED AS SALES REPRESENTATIVE FOR
STATES OF FLORIDA, ALABAMA, AND GEORGIA. RESIDES AT SIX ZERO
FOUR EIGHT DRIFTWOOD TRAIL, MAPLETON, GA.

RAGAN DESCRIBED AS WM, FIVE FEET SEVEN INCHES, ONE HUNDRED
FIFTY LBS., BROWN HAIR.

PHOTOS VIEWED BY WITALIS WHO STATED NOT SIMILAR TO RAGAN.

NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED AT PITTSBURGH
RE RAGAN.

AIR MAIL COPIES BUREAU, MEMPHIS, AND BIRMINGHAM.
PENDING.

END

MHM

FBI JACKSVLE

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~~44-907~~

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for

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for

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