

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

**DO NOT DESTROY**  
**FEDERAL BUREAU**

*of*

*DO NOT STRIP*  
**INVESTIGATION**

Bureau File Number \_\_\_\_\_

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/21/02 BY SP1 CLK/BD

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED  
FOR HISTORICAL  
DECLASSIFICATION

**DO NOT DESTROY**  
**PRESERVE FOR SELECT**  
**COMMITTEE ON ASSINATION**

See also Nos. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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**DO NOT DESTROY**  
**PENDING LITIGATION**

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Serials  
Volume Number

*44-760*  
*626-5*  
*818*

SAC (88-9449) (C)  
(44-760) (P)

5/3/68

SA JACK H. PORTER

MURKIN

The Bureau has designated Memphis as 00 in this entire matter.

It is recommended that KC 88-9449 be closed. This file has been thoroughly reviewed, all data incorporated into the Murkin file (44-760), and all leads are being worked out of that case.

JHP:mfd  
(2)

1 - 88-9449  
1 - 44-760

44-760-676

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 3 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

*[Handwritten signature]* 1RBH

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (80-742)

DATE: 5/4/67

FROM : SA JACK H. PORTER

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka  
UFAP - POSSIBLE ESCAPE

MSHP Bulletin 4/28/67

ITEM #4124

WANTED FOR POSSIBLE ESCAPE:

RAY, James Earl, alias James McBride, James Walton, W. C.  
Herron, James E. Ray, James Ray,  
Jim Ray, James O'Conner, FBI-  
306443A, State Penitentiary,  
Jefferson City, Mo. #00416,  
State Highway Patrol, Macon, Mo.  
#B-3376, Department of Police,  
St. Louis, Mo. #81071, Sheriff's  
Office, Kansas City, Mo. #29637.

15 9 U OIO 13  
M 4 W IOI 15



White - male - 32(60) - 5-11 -  
163 - blue eyes - black hair.  
Home: St. Louis, Mo.



Left thumb

Ray was received at the Missouri State Penitentiary on  
March 17, 1960 to serve a 20 year sentence for robbery 1st  
& operating a motor vehicle without permission of owner.

Notify: Warden, Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri and Missouri  
State Highway Patrol, Jefferson City, Missouri.

On 5/17/67, HARRY LAUF, Records Officer, MSP, Jefferson City, Mo.,  
advised IC WILLIAM C. McDONALD that at this time there is not  
definite evidence available to establish  
that subject has actually escaped from MSP. He stated when such evidence is obtained  
he would direct a letter to the USA,  
KCMO, requesting assistance in locating  
subject.

80-742-222

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 4 1967	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

RB Ayers po  
88-7447-1



5010-108-01

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

MAY 29 1967 4 46

Director.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 306 443 A, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
SO Los Angeles Calif	James Earl Ray #B-119903	10-11-48	susp burg	
PD Los Angeles Calif	James Earl Ray #139648	10-11-48	susp 459PC (burg)	8 mos Co J1; sp; 2 yrs Prb serv 1st 90 ds Co J1 146 12-30-49 Cs129438
SO Cedar Rapids Iowa	James E. Ray #5937	4-18-50	vag	
PD Alton Ill	James Earl Ray #7514	7-23-51	no oper lic - np St Lic - no City Lic	rel to pay late
PD Chgo Ill	James Ray #D90696	5-6-52	Robb (Gun)	GJ \$3000
Cook Co J1 Chgo Ill	James Ray #131155	5-9-52	Rob	6-13-52 sent to pent'y 1-2 yrs
SP Joliet Ill	James E. Ray #32419	6-13-52	Rob	
SP Pontiac Ill	James E. Ray #19121	7-7-52 in trans from Joliet	Rob	1-2 yrs 3-12-5 disch
SO Edwardsville Ill	James Earl Ray #2640	8-30-54	B & L	
PD Hannibal Mo	James E. Ray #40714	3-23-55	Inv B & L Post Office	
St Hwy Pat Macon Mo	James Earl Ray #B-3376	3-23-55	cashing stolen postal money orders	rel to Postal inspector Kans City Mo 3-24-55
USM Kansas City Mo	James Earl Ray #12018	3-28-55	forg US Postal Money Order	sent to 15 mos custody AG
SO Kans City Mo	James Earl Ray #29637	3-28-55	Forg-Govt	7-7-55 3 yrs 9 mos

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
JUN 6 1967  
FBI - KANSAS CITY

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by \* are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1963 O-637-051

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

MAY 29 1967 4 4 (

2

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
Director.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 306 443 A

, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Army	James Earl Ray #16 163 129	2-19-46 East St Louis Ill		
US Pen Leavenworth Kans	James Earl Ray #72498-L	7-7-55	PO Laws forge money orders	3 yrs & 9 mos 5-20-58 CR 8-31-59 Max 4-5-58 cond rel on chg of PO forg POMQ 19, 10, 15
PD St Louis Mo	James Earl Ray #81071	10-16-59	susp rob steal & FOA	
SPen Jefferson City Mo	Janes Earl Ray #00416	3-17-60	TC oper mtr veh w/o permission of owner rob 1st B/M DDW ( 2 chgs)	20 yrs (20, 7 5 conc)
St Hospital No 1 Fulton Mo	James Earl Ray #37 045 C-5	9-8-66	patient	

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by \* are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1963 O-697-051

MAY 29 1967 4 4 0

J. Edgar Hoover  
Director.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	<p>WANTED: James Earl Ray for escape 4-23-67 (oper M/V w/o perm of owner; robb 1st deg. b/m of a D &amp; DW) (will extradite) Notify Warden SPen Jefferson City Mo inf rec 5-10-67 <i>V/S</i></p>			

Notations indicated by \* are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*Memorandum*

TO : SAC, Kansas City

DATE: 6-5-67

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: **JAMES EARL RAY**SUBJECT: ~~REAR~~**UFAC - UNAUTHORIZED USE OF  
AUTOMOBILE, ARMED ROBBERY**

The attached Identification Record, bearing FBI # 306 443 A, indicates that the subject is wanted for a local violation which may come within the Unlawful Flight Statute. This matter should be handled as outlined in Section 49 (AO) of the Manual of Instructions.

If prosecution under the Unlawful Flight Statute is authorized by the United States Attorney, a Fugitive Form Letter should be submitted immediately upon the issuance of arrest process.

In the event investigation is not instituted, you should note below under comments the identity of the local or state official contacted by you and the reason why investigation to locate subject is not being conducted. The original of this letter with a copy of the Identification Record should be placed in your files and the copy returned to the Bureau.

Enc. (2)

COMMENTS BY SAC:

88-9949-3

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 3 1967	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	



## Missouri State Penitentiary

HAROLD R. SWENSON, WARDEN  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101

June 8, 1967

Mr. E. Russell Millin  
United States Attorney  
Western District  
United States Court House Building  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Re: James Earl Ray  
MSP Reg. No. 00416  
F.B.I. No. 306 443 A

Dear Mr. Millin:

The indicated subject was missing, from inside the walls of the main Penitentiary on April 23, 1967 and since that date information has been discovered giving us reasons to believe that he has escaped. We also have reasons to believe Ray has fled the state, to avoid prosecution, as all efforts to locate him have failed.

This inmate is described as a white male, age 39, DOB [redacted] height 5'11", dark brown hair, blue eyes, weight 163, medium complexion and medium build. He was received here March 17, 1960, from the St. Louis City Circuit Court, to serve 20 years for Robbery First Degree by means of a Dangerous & Deadly Weapon (2 chgs.); Operating a Motor Vehicle without permission of the Owner (20,7,5 Concurrent).

We should appreciate it if your office would cause a Federal warrant to be issued against this individual. If he is apprehended, outside of the state of Missouri, the Department of Corrections will extradite him and pay the expenses thereof.

Very truly yours,

FOR THE WARDEN

*H. F. Lauf*  
H. F. Lauf  
Identification & Records

cc: Local FBI  
al

88-9449-4000

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 11 1967	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	



WARD G. KERN, ASSOCIATE WARDEN-CUSTODY

CARL WHITE, ASSOCIATE WARDEN-TREATMENT



LEO M. BAKER, D. O.  
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

## Missouri State Penitentiary

HAROLD R. SWENSON, WARDEN  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101

RECEIVED

JUN 9 9 17 AM '67

U. S. ATTORNEY  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

June 8, 1967

Mr. E. Russell Millin  
United States Attorney  
Western District  
United States Court House Building  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Re: James Earl Ray  
MSP Reg. No. 00416  
F.B.I. No. 306 443 A

Dear Mr. Millin:

The indicated subject was missing, from inside the walls of the main Penitentiary on April 23, 1967 and since that date information has been discovered giving us reasons to believe that he has escaped. We also have reasons to believe Ray has fled the state, to avoid prosecution, as all efforts to locate him have failed.

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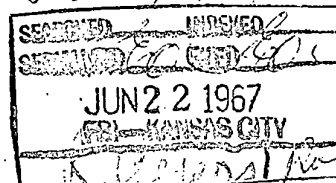
We should appreciate it if your office would cause a Federal warrant to be issued against this individual. If he is apprehended, outside of the state of Missouri, the Department of Corrections will extradite him and pay the expenses thereof.

Very truly yours,

FOR THE WARDEN

*H. F. Lauf*  
H. F. Lauf  
Identification & Records

cc: Local FBI  
al



June 19, 1967

Honorable Karl W. Dissly  
Special Agent in Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
707 U. S. Court House  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Re: JAMES EARL RAY  
Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement

Dear Mr. Dissly:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. H. F. Lauf, Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, requesting Federal assistance in locating the above-named subject. It would be appreciated if you would cause an appropriate complaint to be filed charging Mr. Ray with unlawful flight to avoid confinement.

Sincerely yours,

F. RUSSELL MILLIN  
United States Attorney

By

WILLIAM A. KITCHEN  
Assistant U. S. Attorney

WAK:ls  
Enc.

cc: Mr. H. F. Lauf  
Identification & Records  
Missouri State Penitentiary  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

88-9449-6

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 20 1967	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

*[Handwritten signature]*

SAC (88-9449)

6/23/67

SA THOMAS H. WEAVER

JAMES EARL RAY  
UFAC - ROBBERY

00: KC

ReUSAlet to KC, 6/19/67.

On 6/23/67, Mr. H. F. LAUF, Records Office, MSP, advised SA THOMAS H. WEAVER subject is identical with "Hide-out Guy", inmate who stayed hidden within confines of MSP matter of a few days in the past and about whom considerable speculation as to whether or not he had actually been able to leave the prison on his latest escape existed.

Mr. LAUF advised that to date the prison has received no confirmation that the subject left the MSP. He said one theory was that he had been tunneling and was trapped in a cave-in; however, no tunnel has been located. He advised another theory is that he left the confines of the MSP in a box car, and the only evidence of a possible escape which could have involved the subject was a "torn-up bread box" found in one truck delivering bread from the main prison to the MSP Church Farm. Mr. LAUF stated he has received no information that anyone has seen the subject outside the MSP.

In view of the above information, Supervisor #3 is requested to advise whether or not complaint should be filed in this case.

2 - KC  
TIW/thw

88-9449-7

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 23 1967	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No. 88-9449

## FBI CASE STATUS FORM

Date: 7/20/67To : F. RUSSELL MILLIN, Kansas City, Missouri  
Name and location of USAFrom: KARY W. DYSSIV, Kansas City  
Name of Special Agent in Charge and Field Division

Signature of Special Agent in Charge

You are hereby advised of action indicated below:

Re : JAMES EARL RAY Name Male Sex 39 AgeUnlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement-Robbery First, Section 1073,  
Violation Title 18Complaint authorized on 6/19/67 by AUSA WILLIAM A. KITCHEN  
Date USA or AUSABond recommended \$5,000.00Complaint filed by SA ROWEN B. AYERS on 7/20/67  
Agent's Name Datewith W. C. SHELEY  
U. S. Commissioner

and warrant issued.

Facts on which complaint authorized and other pertinent information about case:

Warden HAROLD SWENSON, Missouri State Penitentiary, directed letter to your office dated 6/8/67 requesting Federal cooperation in locating RAY, who had "disappeared" from inside walls of Jefferson City, Missouri. On 6/19/67 letter was directed to this office by Mr. KITCHEN authorizing complaint. However, investigation at the Missouri State Penitentiary indicated there was some question whether subject had actually left the Penitentiary. He was not listed as an escapee by the Penitentiary until 7/10/67. Investigation reflects he was hidden in a breadbox by a fellow inmate and placed in a truck, which truck was routed to one of the farms of the Penitentiary. It is apparent that RAY escaped between Jefferson City and the farms. Warden SWENSON, subsequent to 7/10/67, contacted various associates of RAY and obtained information from them that he intended to escape and leave Missouri. In view of this information, the above complaint was filed.

1 Addressee  
① Kansas CityRBA:tlw  
(2) tlw

## INSTRUCTIONS - reverse side.

Director, FBI (Att: Special Investigation Division)

7/20/67

SAC, Kansas City (ORI)

☒ Initial Submission☐ Supplements data previously furnished re following individual by FD-65 dated \_\_\_\_\_**JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE  
UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST**

In order that a fugitive index card may be prepared and information entered in NCIC without delay, the following information is furnished:

Name and aliases (NAM) <b>JAMES EARL RAY, aka James McBride, James Walton, W. C. Herron, James O'Conner, "Jim"</b>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Armed and dangerous (MKE) <input type="checkbox"/> Suicidal tendencies	
Sex (SEX) <b>M</b>	Race (RAC) <b>W</b>	Birthplace (NAT) <b>Quincy or Alton, Illinois</b>		Birthdate (DOB)	
Height (HGT) <b>5'11"</b>	Weight (WGT) <b>163</b>	Hair (HAI) <b>Br</b>	Eyes <b>Blue</b>	FBI# (FBI) <b>306 443 A</b>	
Fingerprint classification <b>15 9 U OIO 13 M 4 W IOI 13</b>				NCIC Fingerprint classification (FPC)	
Other identifying number (MNU) <b>MSP 00416</b>		Scars, marks and other identifying remarks (MIS)			
Social Security number (SOC)					
Operator's license number (OLN)		State (OLS)		Year expires (OLY)	
Offense charged: (OFF) <b>Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement-Robbery First</b>					
U. S. Code, Title and Section <b>Title 18, Section 1073</b>					
Warrant issued by <b>U.S. Commissioner W. C. SHELLEY</b> on <b>7/20/67</b> (DOW)					
Date PBV or bond default case referred to office _____					
Field office file # (OCA) <b>88-9449</b>		OO: (MIS) <b>Kansas City</b>		Bufile# (MIS)	
<b>LICENSE PLATE AND VEHICLE INFORMATION</b>					
License plate.# (LIC)		State (LIS)		Years expires (LIY)	License plate type (LIT)
Vehicle identification # (VIN)		Year (VYR)	Make (VMA)	Model (VMO)	Style (VST) Color (VCO)
NCIC # (NIC)					

National Crime Information Center) (NCIC)

① Kansas City

RBA:tlw

(3) tlw

Searched  
Serialized  
Indexed  
Filed88-9449-9  
[Handwritten signatures and initials]

Re: JAMES EARL RAY, aka, FUGITIVE  
UFAC-ROBBERY FIRST

The following is a summary prepared by FBI Identification  
Division of descriptive data appearing in FBI #306 443 A:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Dates of Birth	
Places of Birth	Decatur, Illinois; Quincy, Illinois; Alton, Illinois
Height	Approximately 5' 10"
Weight	174 pounds, September, 1966
Complexion	Ruddy
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Brown
Build	Medium
Occupations	Laborer; baker
Scars and Marks	Small scar on center of forehead; scar in palm of right hand
Addresses	Saint Louis, Missouri, March, 1960; 2015 Park, Saint Louis, Missouri, October, 1959; Quincy, Illinois, July, 1955, March, 1955, April, 1950; Hotel Quincy, Quincy, Illinois, March, 1955; Victor Hotel, Quincy, Illinois, March, 1955, August, 1954; 1429 Chery, Hannibal, Missouri, March, 1955; 853 West Fullerton, Chicago, Illinois, May, 1952; 805 Alby Street, Alton, Illinois, July, 1951

Fingerprint Classification

16 M 9 U 000 12 Ref 9  
M 4 W IOI 12

NCIC Fingerprint Classification

16131100121211121117

88-9449-11

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 10 1967	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

3-3-67 (443 FD)C  
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
 Director.

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PD Los Angeles Calif	James Earl Ray #139648	10-11-4	susp 459PC (burg)	8 mos Co J1 sp 2 yrs Prb srv 1st 90 ds Co J1 146 12-30-49 Csl29438
SO Cedar Rapids Iowa	James E. Ray #5937	4-18-50	vag	Csl29438
PD Alton Ill	James Earl Ray #7514	7-23-51	no oper lic - rp St Lic - no Cit; Lic	rel to pay late
PD Chgo Ill	James Ray #000696	5-6-52	Robb (Gun)	GJ \$3000
Cook Co J1 Chgo Ill	James Ray #131105	5-9-52	Rob	6-13-52 sent to pent'y 1-2 yrs
SP Joliet Ill	James F. Ray #32419	6-13-52	Rob	
SP Pontiac Ill	James E. Ray #19121	7-7-52 in trans from Joliet	Rob	1-2 yrs 3-12-54 disch
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SO Kans City Mo	James Earl Ray #29637	3-28-55	worg-Govt	7-7-55 3 yrs & 9 mos

88-944-10  
 INDEXED  
 AUG 1 1967

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by \* are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
Director.

2

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Army	James Earl Ray #16 163 129	2-19-46		
USPen Leavenworth Kans	James Earl Ray #72498-L	7-7-55	PO Laws Forge Money Orders	3 yrs & 9 mos 5-20-58 CR 3-31-59 Max 4-5-58 Cond Re. on chg of PO forg POMO
PD St Louis Mo	James Earl Ray #81071	10-10-59	Susp Robbery	
PD St Louis Mo	James Earl Ray #81071	10-16-59	Susp Rob Steal & FGA	
SPen Jefferson City Mo	James Earl Ray #00416	3-17-60	TC oper mtr veh w/o permission of owner Robb 1st b/m DDW (2 chgs)	20 yrs (20,7,5 conc)
St Hosp No 1 Fulton Mo	James Earl Ray #37045 C-5	9-8-66	Patient	

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by \* are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1963 O-637-051



J. Edgar Hoover  
Director.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
				<p>WANTED: James Earl Ray for escape 4-23-67 (oper M/V w/o perm of owner; robb 1st deg. b/m of a D &amp; DW) (will extradite) Notify Warden SPen Jefferson City Mo inf rec 5-10-67</p>

Notations indicated by \* are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1943 O-897-051

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

1-Bu

J. Edgar Hoover  
Director.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 306 443 A, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	WANTED BY BUREAU: James Earl Ray, aka, James McBride, James Walyon, W.C. Herron, James O'Conner, Jim, for UFAC-Robbery First Fug Index #121426 Bu file #88-41730 O.O. Kansas City inf rec 7-27-67 CAUTION: ARMED & DANGEROUS			
	Alias: James Walton			
THIS PAGE SHOULD NOT BE DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE FBI				

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1963 O-397-051

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, Kansas City (88-9449)

DATE: August 15, 1967

✓ FROM : Director, FBI (88-41730)

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka, FUGITIVE  
UFAC-ROBBERY FIRST

☒ Enclosed is information extracted from subject's identification record which may be of lead value. It is essential that any discrepancies be resolved through investigation in order to set forth only the most current description in future communications.

☐ Enclosed is information extracted from the identification record of an individual who may or may not be identical with subject. It is desired that you conduct appropriate investigation at an early date to determine whether these individuals are identical. The results of this investigation should be promptly submitted to the Bureau by letter marked for the attention of the Special Investigative Division, and should be included in the next investigative report from your office. In the event it is determined this individual is not identical with your subject, endeavor to promptly develop additional data that will identify your subject with a fingerprint record.

☐ Enclosed are data supplementing that previously furnished your office.

☐ A search of the name files of the Identification Division did not disclose a fingerprint record for the above-named fugitive. Your office should endeavor to develop any additional data that will identify this individual with a fingerprint record. A copy of fingerprints, if available from any source, would be of material assistance. As complete a description as possible, together with any aliases that might have been used by the subject also should be obtained when interviewing relatives, acquaintances, and employers of the fugitive. Information concerning any enlistment in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard Services of the United States, should, of course, be procured concerning this individual. This matter should be pursued vigorously.

☒ Signature available. ☐ Signature not available.

☒ Photographs and negative transmitted herewith. ☐ No photograph available in identification record. Endeavor to obtain and forward same to Identification Division.

☐

☐ Washington Field Office ☐ Indianapolis Office ☐ San Antonio Office is requested to:

☐ Conduct appropriate service search(es) and advise office of origin.  
☐ Obtain and forward to Identification Division copy of service prints if available.

Enc.

(76)

88-9449-12

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 15 1967	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>KANSAS CITY</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>KANSAS CITY</b>	DATE <b>8/20/67</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>6/23/67 - 8/18/67</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>"CHANGED"</b> <b>JAMES EARL RAY, aka</b> <b>Earl James Ray,</b> <b>W. C. Herron,</b> <b>Earl James,</b> <b>James McBride,</b> <b>James O'Conner,</b> <b>James Walton,</b> <b>James Walvon,</b> <b>"Jim" - FUGITIVE;</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>HOWEN B. AYERS</b>	TYPED BY <b>ENV</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>UPAC - ROBBERY FIRST</b>	

The title of this report is being marked changed to add aliases of JAMES WALYON and EARL JAMES as indicated on RAY's Identification Record. The title is also changed to add an alias of EARL JAMES RAY, an alias furnished by Mr. H. F. LAUF, Missouri State Penitentiary Identification and Records Officer.

## REFERENCES:

Kansas City letter to Bureau, dated 7/20/67.  
Bureau letter to Kansas City, dated 8/15/67.

-P-

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						NONE	ACQUIT- TALS
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		

Case has been: Pending over one year ☐ Yes ☒ No; Pending prosecution over six months ☐ Yes ☒ No

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

- 1 - Bureau (88-41730)
- 1 - USA, Kansas City, Mo.
- 2 - Springfield (Enc.1)
- 2 - St. Louis (Enc.1)
- ③ - Kansas City (88-9449)

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

## Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

Notations

KC 88-9449

ENCLOSURES:

To SPRINGFIELD:  
One photograph of subject.

To ST. LOUIS:  
One photograph of subject.

LEADS:

ST. LOUIS

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

1. At Army Record Branch (MPRC), will review file of JAMES EARL RAY, ASN 16 163 129, for complete background data concerning subject.

2. At 1913 Hickory, will contact LUCILLE RYON, mother of subject for information regarding relatives, associates, background, habits, and whereabouts, and for any other information which may aid in locating him. Similarly interview subject's brothers, JOHN and JERRY, at the same address.

3. Will contact logical neighbors to ascertain if subject has been in the area.

4. Will alert appropriate Police Officers in this area to be on the look-out for subject.

SPRINGFIELD

AT PONTIAC, ILLINOIS:

At State Penitentiary, under Number 19121, will examine records of subject in an attempt to develop contacts, background and possible addresses.

B  
(COVER PAGE)

KC 88-9449

KANSAS CITY

AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS: *L. Dyer*

Will examine records of subject under #72498-L,  
for information which may aid in locating him.

AT FULTON, MISSOURI:

Will similarly review records of State Hospital  
Number 1. *any in his  
- hospital?*

C\*  
(COVER PAGE)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Report of: ROWEN B. AYERS  
Date: 8/29/67

Office: KANSAS CITY

Field Office File #: 88-9449

Bureau File #: 88-41730

Title: JAMES EARL RAY

Character: UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY FIRST

Synopsis:

JAMES EARL RAY, Inmate, Missouri State Penitentiary, (MSP), Jefferson City, Missouri, missed at the Penitentiary on April 23, 1967. Subject known at MSP as a "hide out guy" due to his habit of concealing himself within the walls. Investigation indicated RAY concealed himself in bread box and escaped from truck making delivery to an auxiliary farm. He was dropped as an escaped prisoner on 7/10/67. RAY was serving 20 years on charges of Armed Robbery (1st) and for operating vehicle without owner's consent. Authorized complaint filed before U.S. Commissioner, Jefferson City, Missouri on 7/20/67, charging RAY with violation Title 18, Section 1073, U. S. Code. Warrant issued. Subject's criminal record dates back to 1949. He has been confined in Illinois institutions as well as serving time in Federal Penitentiary. His mother and brothers reside in St. Louis, Missouri. RAY confined at State Hospital, Fulton, Missouri in 1966. BECAUSE RAY HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF ROBBERY WITH A DEADLY WEAPON AND BECAUSE OF HIS CONFINEMENT IN A STATE HOSPITAL, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

-P-

DETAILS:

This case is predicated on a letter, dated June 19, 1967, from Assistant United States Attorney WILLIAM A. KITCHEN, Kansas City, Missouri, enclosing a letter, dated June 3, 1967 from H. F. LAUF, Identification and Records, Missouri State Penitentiary. Mr. LAUF's letter set forth the following information:

"The indicated subject was missing, from inside the walls of the main Penitentiary on April 23, 1967 and since that date information has been discovered giving us reasons to believe that he has escaped. We also have reasons to believe Ray has fled the state, to avoid prosecution, as all efforts to locate him have failed.

"This inmate is described as a white male, age 39, DOB [redacted] height 5'11", dark brown hair, blue eyes, weight 163, medium complexion and medium build. He was received here March 17, 1960, from the St. Louis City Circuit Court, to serve 20 years for Robbery First Degree by means of a Dangerous & Deadly Weapon (2 chgs.); Operating a Motor Vehicle without permission of the Owner (20, 7, 5 Concurrent).

"We should appreciate it if your office would cause a Federal warrant to be issued against this individual. If he is apprehended, outside of the state of Missouri, the Department of Corrections will extradite him and pay the expenses thereof."

On June 19, 1967, Mr. WILLIAM A. KITCHEN requested an Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement complaint be filed against JAMES EARL RAY.

On June 23, 1967, Mr. H. F. LAUF, mentioned above, advised SA THOMAS H. WEAVER that subject is known as a "hide out guy" who stays hidden within the confines of the Missouri State Penitentiary for several days and has done so in the past. He said there is considerable speculation as to whether RAY had actually been able to leave the prison. He said investigation, to date, has failed to develop any information as to RAY's whereabouts.



KC 89-9449

WCM:ENV

1

The following investigation was conducted  
by IC WILLIAM C. MC DONALD:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

On July 11, 1967, Missouri State Penitentiary, MSP,  
file number 00416, was reviewed. The following information was  
obtained:

JAMES EARL RAY, MSP #W-00416, was received at the  
MSP, March 17, 1960, from St. Louis City, to serve a term  
of twenty (20) years for the crime of Robbery First, by  
means of a Dangerous and Deadly Weapon and operating a Motor  
Vehicle without permission of the owner. He was assigned  
to the Bakery Unit of the Food Service Department. RAY was  
dropped from the MSP count on July 10, 1967, "As it is  
assumed that he escaped".

RAY was discovered absent prior to the 5:00 PM  
count on April 23, 1967, after a thorough search, at which  
time RAY could not be found.

Relatives listed in this file are:

Mother: LUCILLE RYON,  
1913 Hickory St.,  
St. Louis, Missouri;

Brothers: JOHN RAY, same address as mother;  
JERRY RAY, " " "

RAY is described in this file as a white male, born  
[redacted] at Alton, Illinois; height 5'11"; weight 163  
pounds; hair dark brown; eyes blue; complexion medium;  
occupation baker; previously incarcerated Leavenworth Federal  
Penitentiary; build medium; U.S. Army General Discharge,  
SN 16163129.

KC 88-9449

On July 10, 1967, Mr. BERARD C. POIREY, Custodial Assistant Warden, Missouri State Penitentiary, advised that he had conducted an investigation into the escape of RAY. He said he had determined that an associate of RAY's who worked with RAY in the bakery, had let RAY get into one of the large boxes consigned to the church farm, near Jefferson City, Missouri, and then had covered him up. He said one of the bread boxes had been received at the church farm in an exploded condition, and bread scattered over the truck. He said, therefore, it has been assumed by the prison officials that RAY actually escaped from the Penitentiary and is not inside the walls as previously thought possible. He said RAY was being dropped as an escaped inmate, as of July 10, 1967.

On July 19, 1967, Warden HAROLD SWENSON, Missouri State Penitentiary, said he has contacted several inmates of the Penitentiary who knew RAY, and they indicated to him that RAY had indicated he wanted to escape from the Penitentiary and leave the State of Missouri.

On July 20, 1967, a complaint, as authorized, was filed before United States Commissioner W. C. SHELEY at Jefferson City, Missouri, charging RAY with Unlawful Flight To Avoid Confinement in connection with the commission of a crime of Robbery First, in violation of Title 18, Section 1073, United States Code. Bond returnable was set by the United States Attorney at \$5,000.00 to the United States Commissioner at Jefferson City, Missouri.

Mr. SHELEY issued a warrant on the above complaint on July 20, 1967, which has been transmitted to the Office of the United States Marshal at Kansas City, Missouri.

On August 18, 1967, Mr. H. F. LAUF, Records Officer, Missouri State Penitentiary, advised no further information has been developed regarding the whereabouts of subject.

On July 14, 1955, Mr. WILLIAM L. RUDDALL, Post Office Inspector, Kansas City, Missouri, advised the Kansas City Division that JAMES EARL RAY and WALTER PERRY RIFE were arrested in Hannibal, Missouri, on March 22, 1955, and

were charged with forgery of U. S. Postal Money Orders. He advised that their investigation reflected that the burglary in which the money orders were stolen, was perpetrated at Kellerville, Illinois, at approximately 1:30 AM on March 7, 1955, and that sixty-six blank Post Office money orders and a validating stamp were stolen. He advised that some of these money orders were cashed at St. Louis; Miami, Florida; Tallahassee, Florida; St. Petersburg, Florida; New Orleans, Louisiana; Memphis, Tennessee; Hot Springs, Arkansas, and Kansas City, Missouri, and that thirty-four orders were recovered.

He stated that subjects had advised him that RAY owned a 1946 or 1947 Nash automobile, license number unknown; that it had been traded for a 1949 Lincoln at the Amacker Motors, 135 NE 36th Street, Miami, Florida, on May 14, 1955; and had been titled to WALTER P. BERRY, an alias of RIFE. He said that RIFE and RAY claimed to have obtained the money orders from an unknown man in Quincy, Illinois.

On August 15, 1967, the Identification Division of the F.B.I. furnished the following descriptive summary for JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Dates of Birth	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 25px;"></div>
Places of Birth	Decatur, Illinois; Quincy, Illinois; Alton, Illinois.
Height	Approximately 5'10"
Weight	174 pounds, September, 1966
Complexion	Ruddy
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Brown
Build	Medium
Occupations	Laborer; baker
Scars and marks	Small scar on center of forehead; scar in palm of right hand.
Addresses	St. Louis, Missouri, March, 1960; 2015 Park, St. Louis, Missouri, October, 1959; Quincy, Illinois, July, 1955, March, 1955, April, 1950;

KC 88-9449

Hotel Quincy, Quincy, Illinois,  
March, 1955; Victor Hotel, Quincy,  
Illinois, March, 1955, August,  
1954; 1429 Chery, Hannibal,  
Missouri, March, 1955; 853 West  
Fullerton, Chicago, Illinois,  
May, 1952; 805 Alby Street,  
Alton, Illinois, July, 1951.

Fingerprint Classification:

16	M	9	U	000	12	Ref	9
	M	4	W	IOI			12

NCIC Fingerprint Classification:

16131100121211121117 .

On August 3, 1967, the Identification Division  
of the F.B.I. furnished the following identification for  
subject under FBI 306 443 A:

KC 88-9449

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
SO, Los Angeles, Calif.	James Earl Ray #B-119908	10/11/49	susp burg	
PD Los Angeles, Calif.	James Earl Ray #139548	10/11/49	susp 459PC (burg)	8 mos Co J1 sp; 2 yrs Prb srv 1st 90 das Co J1 146 12-30-49 Csl29438
SO Cedar Rapids, Iowa	James E. Ray #5937	4/18/50	vag	
PD Alton Ill	James Earl Ray #7514	7/23/51	no oper lic - np St Lic - no City Lic	rel to pay later
PD Chicago, Illinois	James Ray #D90096	5/6/52	Robb(Gun)	GJ \$3000
Cook Co J1 Chicago, Illinois	James Ray #131165	5/9/52	Rob	6/13/52 sent to Pent'y 1-2 yrs.
SP Joliet, Illinois	James E. Ray #32419	6/13/52	Rob	
SP Pontiac, Illinois	James E. Ray #19121	7/7/52 in trans from Joliet	Rob	1-2 yrs 3/12/54 disch
SO Edwardsville, Illinois	James Earl Ray #2640	8/30/54	B & L	

KC 88-9449

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Hannibal, Missouri	James E. Ray #40714	3/23/55	Inv B & E Post Office	
St Hwy Pat Macon, Mo.	James Earl Ray #B-3376	3/23/55	cashing stolen postal money orders	rel to Postal inspector Kans City, Mo. 3/24/55
USM Kansas City, Mo.	James Earl Ray #12018	3/28/55	forg US Postal Money Order	sent to 15 mos custody AG
SO Kansas City, Mo.	James Earl Ray #29637	3/28/55	Forg- Govt	7/7/55 3 yrs & 9 Mos.
Army	James Earl Ray #16 163 129	2/19/46		
U Spen Leavenworth, Kansas	James Earl Ray #72498-L	7/7/55	PO Laws Forge Money Orders	3 yrs & 9 mos 5/20/58 CR 3/31/59 Max 4/5/58 Cond Rel on chg of PO forg POMO
PD St. Louis, Mo.	James Earl Ray #81071	10/10/59	susp Robbery	

KC 88-9449

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD St. Louis, Mo.	James Earl Ray #81071	10/16/59	Susp Rob Steal & FOA	
SPen Jefferson City, Missouri	Janes Earl Ray #00416	3/17/60	TC oper ntr veh w/o permission of owner Robb 1st b/m DDW (2 chgs)	20 yrs (20,7,5, conc)
St Hosp No 1 Fulton, Mo.	James Earl Ray #37045 C-5	9/8/66	Patient	

This record further reveals that RAY has also used the aliases of JAMES MC BRIDE, JAMES WALYON, W.C. HERRON, JAMES O'CONNER, JAMES WALTON and JIM.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v

JAMES EARL RAY

Commissioner's Docket No. 1

Case No. 316

COMPLAINT for VIOLATION of

U.S.C. Title 18

Section 1073

BEFORE W.C. Sheley  
Name of Commissioner

Jefferson City, Mo.  
Address of Commissioner

The undersigned complainant being duly sworn states:

That on or about April 23, 1967, at Jefferson City, Missouri

in the

Western District of Missouri

(1) JAMES EARL RAY

did<sup>(2)</sup> unlawfully flee from the State of Missouri to avoid confinement in the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri where he was confined and serving a sentence of 20 years for robbery.

And the complainant states that this complaint is based on

1. RAY disappeared from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri on April 23, 1967.

2. He has not been located in the Penitentiary and bulletins to all law enforcement agencies in Missouri has not disclosed his whereabouts.

3. Warden HAROLD SWENSON, Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri investigated the escape of RAY and has determined, that prior to the escape, RAY confided in other inmates that he intended to escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary and thereafter go to some other state.

Attest: A true copy  
W.C. Sheley  
U.S. COMMISSIONER

And the complainant further states that he believes that

HAROLD SWENSON, Warden, MSP, Jefferson City, Missouri

are material witnesses in relation to this charge.

Signature of Complainant.

Special Agent

July 20, 1967

Official Title.

Sworn to before me, and subscribed in my presence,

United States Commissioner.

(1) Insert name of accused.

(2) Insert statement of the essential facts constituting the offense charged.



SAC (88-9449)

9/14/67

IC LEONARD L. AYRES (P)

JAMES EARL RAY,  
aka - FUGITIVE  
UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST  
OO:KC  
Bufile: 88-41730

Rerep SA ROWEN B. AYEES dated 8/29/67 at Kansas City.

CARL F. ZARTER, Administrative Assistant, U.S. Penitentiary (USP), Leavenworth, Kansas, on Sept. 12, 1967, advised that USP file # 72498-L, pertaining to JAMES EARL RAY, is now stored at the Federal Records Center, GSA, 2306 East Bannister Road, Kansas City, Missouri, Attention - Chief, Reference Service Branch, GSA - Accession Number 65 A 10, in Boxes 85327 - 87468.

LEAD:

AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI:

Will, at the Federal Records Center, examine records of subject under USP file # 72498-L, for information which may aid in locating him, pursuant to KC lead rerep at Leavenworth, Kansas.

BECAUSE RAY HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF ROBBERY WITH A DEADLY WEAPON  
AND BECAUSE OF HIS CONFINEMENT IN A STATE HOSPITAL, HE SHOULD BE  
CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

NOTE: Personnel covering above KCMO lead should receive copy of rerep (Serial 14).

KC  
88-9449  
LLA/  
(3)

88-9449-15

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 15 1967	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

SAC, KANSAS CITY (88-9449)

10/19/67

SAC, ST. LOUIS (88-7447) RUC

JAMES EARL RAY, aka  
FUGITIVE  
UFAC-ARMED ROBBERY  
OO:KC

Rerep of SA ROWEN B. AYERS dated 8/29/67 at KC.

Enclosed for the KC Division are nine copies of an  
investigative insert reflecting investigation conducted at  
St. Louis.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

2 - Kansas City (enc. 9)  
1 - St. Louis  
CBB/leh  
(3)

88-9449-16

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 21 1967	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

RK FBA  
10/27/67

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>KANSAS CITY</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>KANSAS CITY</b>	DATE <b>10/30/67</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>8/31/67 - 10/3/67</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA ROWEN B. AYERS</b>	TYPED BY <b>AKS</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST</b>	

**REFERENCES:**

Kansas City report of SA ROWEN B. AYERS, dated 9/29/67.  
St. Louis letter to Kansas City, dated 10/19/67, (Interoffice).

-P-

**ENCLOSURES:**

TO CHICAGO:

One copy of referenced report of SA ROWEN B. AYERS,  
at Kansas City, dated 8/29/67.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS: NONE**

Case has been: Pending over one year ☐ Yes ☒ No; Pending prosecution over six months ☐ Yes ☒ No

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE: 1 - Bureau (88-41730) 2 - Chicago (Incs.1) 2 - Springfield 2 - St. Louis (88-7447) ② - Kansas City (88-9449)		88-9449-17	
		Searched _____ Serialized _____ Indexed _____ Filed _____	
Dissemination Record of Attached Report		Notations	
Agency			
Request Recd.			
Date Fwd.			
How Fwd.			
By			

LEADS:

CHICAGO DIVISION

At Wheeling, Illinois

Will attempt to locate and interview JERRY RAY, Box 22, brother of subject, regarding whereabouts of subject, associates, relatives, and for any other information which might aid in locating subject.

SPRINGFIELD DIVISION

In addition to investigation already requested of the Springfield Division, the following should be conducted:

At Alton, Illinois

1. Will attempt to establish the whereabouts of GEORGE RAY, father of subject, formerly of 538 East Broadway and mother, LUCILLE of the same address. However, it is noted that LUCILLE RAY may be an aunt, who was last known to reside in St. Louis, Missouri.

2. Will contact WILLIAM MAHER, 1118 East 7th Street, a former address of subject, as listed in military records as 538 Broadway, Alton, Illinois (1945).

At Quincy, Illinois

Will conduct logical investigation to locate subject, it being noted he resided at 215 Oak Street in 1948; in care of LUCILLE RYAN, and 214 Spring Street in 1952.

ST. LOUIS DIVISION

At St. Louis, Missouri

At 1135 South 10th Street, will attempt to locate LUCILLE RYAN, probably an aunt, rather than mother of subject, and ascertain from her the location of subject and the names of all of his relatives with their addresses. Set out appropriate leads.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

Report of: SA ROWEN B. AYERS  
Date: 10/30/67

Office: KANSAS CITY

Field Office File #: 88-9449

Bureau File #: 65-41730

Title: JAMES EARL RAY

Character: UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY, FIRST

Synopsis: Efforts to locate relatives of subject at St. Louis, Missouri negative. LUCILLE RAY variously listed in institutional records as mother and aunt, and appears to be relative with whom he was most in contact. She was last known to reside at 1135 South 18th, St. Louis, Missouri. Parents may be deceased. BECAUSE RAY HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF ROBBERY WITH DEADLY WEAPON AND BECAUSE OF HIS CONFINEMENT IN A STATE HOSPITAL, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

-P-

## DETAILS:

KC 88-3449

WCM:jab

1

The following investigation was conducted by  
IC WILLIAM C. MC DONALD:

At Fulton, Missouri:

On August 31, 1967, ROBERT ROSSON, Registrar, State Hospital No. 1, advised that JAMES EARL RAY was received on September 8, 1966, and discharged on October 21, 1966. Mr. ROSSON stated that RAY had been sent for examination due to his attempted escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary; however, it was determined that RAY was actually hiding out inside the walls and no escape charge was filed.

Mr. ROSSON stated that after examining RAY it was determined that he had no mental disease or defect and recommended his return to the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri.

Mr. ROSSON advised that according to his records there is no information to reflect that RAY is dangerous.

Mr. ROSSON stated that the only relative listed in this file is JERRY RAY, Brother, Box 22, Wheeling, Illinois.

KC 88-9449

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
ROWEN B. AYERS:

At Leavenworth, Kansas:

CARL F. ZARTER, Administrative Assistant, U. S.  
Penitentiary (USP), Leavenworth, Kansas, on September 12, 1967,  
advised that USP file number 72498-L, pertaining to JAMES  
EARL RAY is now stored at the Federal Records Center, GSA,  
2306 East Bannister Road, Kansas City, Missouri, Attention -  
Chief, Reference Service Branch, GSA - Accession Number 85 A 10,  
in Boxes 85327 - 87468.

KC 88-9449

JWW:rmb

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The following investigation was conducted by  
Investigative Clerk JAMES W. WRIGHT:

AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI:

On October 2, 1967, Mr. JAMES H. YATES, Archives Assistant, Federal Records Center - General Services Administration, 2306 East Bannister Road, made available U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, file number 72498-L pertaining to JAMES EARL RAY, from which the following information was obtained:

RAY was sentenced on July 1, 1955, in U. S. District Court, Kansas City, Missouri, to a term of three years and nine months on a charge of Forgery of U. S. Post Office Money Orders. He was committed to U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, on July 7, 1955, and was given a Conditional Release from that institution on April 5, 1958, the period of supervision terminating October 2, 1958.

At time of admission to U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, RAY listed the following relatives:

GEORGE RAY, Father, (Deceased);  
MARY RAY, Mother, (Deceased);  
LUCILLE RYAN, Aunt, 108 N. 12th St., Quincy, Illinois.

RAY requested numerous changes of address for his aunt, Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN, while she resided in Quincy, Illinois. She resided at Lancaster, Missouri, for a brief period, and the last known address for Mrs. RYAN was 1135 South 10th Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

On December 20, 1955, RAY requested permission to correspond with a cousin, JERRY RYAN, 339 1/2 South 7th Street, Quincy, Illinois, however, the request was denied. He also requested permission to correspond with an uncle, WILLIAM MAHER, 1118 East 7th Street, Alton, Illinois.

Records reflect RAY served in U. S. Army, Serial No. RA 16163129, from February of 1946, to December 23, 1948, at which time he was given a discharge under honorable conditions by reason of ineptness and lack of adaptability



KC 88-9449

2

for military duty. He was on foreign service from July 18, 1946, to December 21, 1948.

Records further reflect that RAY has no trades or skill and during his period of confinement at U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, he was not interested in vocational training or self-improvement programs. He claims to have completed ten grades of public school at the age of 16 in Alton, Illinois. RAY claims he is an only child and that his father died in 1947 and his mother died in 1949.

1

SL 88-7447  
CDB/leh

The following investigation was conducted by SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL at St. Louis, Missouri:

A check of the records of the St. Louis Police Department on September 5, 1967, reflected the details surrounding the arrest of subject, RAY, in connection with the armed robbery of the Kroger Store, 3417 Ohio Street in St. Louis, on October 16, 1959, and also reflected that on April 23, 1967, a teletype was received from the warden at Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, in connection with the recent escape of subject, RAY, from that institution. Detectives FRANCIS AUER and CHARLES BILLINGS, assigned to the 3rd District, St. Louis Police Department, conducted investigation on the same date, in an effort to locate subject. A check by these officers at 1918 Park Avenue, 2018 Park Avenue, and 1913 Hickory Street, previous addresses listed for subject, his mother and other relatives developed no information whatever of subject or other members of his family.

On October 3, 1967, HELEN CREAMER, residing at 1915 Hickory Street, advised she had resided at that address for the last couple of years and had never seen subject or any of his relatives. Investigation in the neighborhood of 1913 Hickory Street, revealed this to be a blighted area and the majority of the residences have been evacuated preparatory to being demolished. Members of families still residing in the area were interviewed and all denied ever having known a RAY family residing in the area since they have resided there.

At the time of the contact with officers AUER and BILLINGS at the 3rd District, Detective ROBERT FREINAUT and several other members of the 3rd District Detective Bureau, who are personally acquainted with subject, RAY, were advised of his fugitive status and all promised to be alert for any available information concerning the whereabouts of subject or members of his family.

A review on September 13, 1967, by IC EARL M. RANNEY of the military service records on file at the Military Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri, for JAMES EARL RAY, Serial Number 16 123 129, indicated he enlisted in the United States Army on February 19, 1946, at East St. Louis, Illinois,

2

SL 53-7447

and served on active duty until December 23, 1948, at which time he was given a General Discharge as a Private First Class at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, by reason of inaptness and lack of adaptability for military service.

Records indicated he was tried and convicted by a Special Court-Martial for being drunk in quarters and breaking arrest. He was sentenced to be confined at hard labor for three months and forfeit \$45.00 per month for four months.

Records also indicated he received treatment for gonorrhea and syphilis while he was a member of the military.

The following background and descriptive information is contained in the United States Army records for RAY:

Date and place of birth	[redacted] Alton, Illinois
Height	5'11"
Weight	145 pounds
Race	White
Hair	Black
Eyes	Blue
Military Occupation	Military Policeman
Civilian Occupation	Color Hatcher;
Addresses	538 Broadway, Alton, Illinois, February, 1946; 215 Oak Street, Quincy, Illinois, December, 1948; In care of Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN, 214 Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois, July, 1952.
Relatives	Father, GEORGE RAY, Mother, LUCILLE RAY, both of 538 East Broadway, Alton, Illinois, February, 1946.
Photograph	None available.

SAC, KANSAS CITY (88-9449)

10/30/67

SAC, SPRINGFIELD (88-5361)

-RUC-

JAMES EARL RAY, aka -  
FUGITIVE  
UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST

(OO: KANSAS CITY)  
Bufile 88-41730

Re report of SA ROWEN B. AYERS, dated 8/29/67, at  
Kansas City.

TOM DUFFY, Records Office, Illinois State Penitentiary,  
Pontiac Branch, Pontiac, Illinois, was contacted 10/23/67.  
He advised that records pertaining to JAMES EARL RAY, Pontiac  
#19121, FBI #306-443A, have been reduced to micro film. He  
advised that all that is kept on micro film is certain cata-  
gories.

The micro film records pertaining to subject were  
reviewed by SA ARTHUR LEE WOODS, on 10/23/67. Records reveal  
that RAY was received at the Illinois State Penitentiary, Joliet,  
Illinois, on 6/13/52 on the charge of robbery to serve a one to  
two year sentence on a plea of guilty from Cook County, Illinois.  
RAY was released upon expiration of a short term sentence on  
3/12/54.

Subject listed relatives as follows:

Father, GEORGE RAY, deceased.

Mother, Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN, 214 Spring Street, Quincy,  
Illinois.

Brothers, JOHN and JERRY, both at home with mother.

Correspondence file was checked and determined the  
only person who corresponded with subject while he was incar-  
cerated at the Pontiac Prison was his mother, Mrs. LUCILLE  
RYAN.

- ② - Kansas City (88-9449)  
1 - Springfield (88-5361)  
ALW/eab  
(3)
- Inc. in rep  
12/29/67 Kuc*  
*cc V. J. in to  
Kuc*

88-9449-18

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NOV 1 - 1967	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

*Leach*

SI 88-5361

Subject, while incarcerated, had no visitors.  
Records fail to reveal any associates or former addresses  
for subject.

SAC, KANSAS CITY (88-9449)

11/24/67

SAC, SPRINGFIELD (88-5361) P.

JAMES EARL RAY, Aka -  
FUGITIVE  
UFAC - ROBERT FIRST

(OO: KC)

Re KC report of SA ROWEN B. AYERS, dated 10/30/67.

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
ROBERT C. HAINES:

AT ALTON, ILLINOIS:

Records of the Alton Police Department and the Credit Bureau of Alton, were reviewed on 11/15/67 and found to contain no reference for the subject or his father, GEORGE RAY.

It is noted that at the time of his admission to the U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, RAY indicated his father and mother were both deceased.

Investigation at 1118 East 7th Street, to locate and interview WILLIAM MAHER disclosed that the house is now vacant.

A review of the records of the Alton PD and the Credit Bureau of Alton in connection with WILLIAM MAHER was unproductive in developing information concerning his current whereabouts.

Records of the Illinois Bell Telephone Company and a review of the City Directory of Alton, Illinois, and of Wood River - East Alton were unproductive with regard to MAHER.

(2 - Kansas City (88-9449)  
2 - SI (88-5361)  
RCH:sjs  
(4)

88-9449-19

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - KANSAS CITY	

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SI 88-5361

On 11/16/67, DOROTHY WALKER, clerk, U.S. Post Office reviewed records of that office and advised that there was no removal notice on file for MAHER.

Investigation continuing Springfield Division.

- 2 -

SAC, KANSAS CITY (88-9449)

12/21/67

SAC, ST. LOUIS (88-7447) (RUC)

JAMES EARL RAY, aka -  
FUGITIVE  
UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST  
OO: Kansas City

Re report of SA ROWEN B. AYERS dated 10/30/67  
at Kansas City.

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL at St. Louis, Missouri.

A check of the St. Louis City Directory reflected  
no address listed for 1135 South Tenth Street. A visual  
inspection of the area revealed no residence addresses on  
the west or odd-numbered side of the 1000 block of South  
Tenth Street. The highest odd-numbered address in this  
block was 1133, which is a business establishment which  
was built a few years ago.

An inspection of the St. Louis City Directories  
and St. Louis Telephone Directory listed a LUCILLE RYAN,  
4992 Lansdowne, an employee of the Land Clearance and  
Housing Authority, who was determined not to be identical  
with any relative of subject RAY.

Also listed was a Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN, 8747 New  
Hampshire, who also advised upon interview she was not  
a relative of subject JAMES EARL RAY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

2 - Kansas City  
1 - St. Louis  
CBB:jc  
(3)

88-9449-20

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FBI - KANSAS CITY	



DIRECTOR, FBI (88-41730)

12/29/67

SAC, KANSAS CITY (88-9449) P

JAMES EARL RAY, aka -  
FUGITIVE;  
UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST  
OO KC

Re FBI Handbook, Part I (39), Pages 25 and 26.

The file on the captioned individual has been reviewed and it does not appear that an Identification Order should be issued for the subject at this time.

Investigation currently is continuing for the purpose of locating and interviewing relatives and associates of the subject and it is believed that this information might well result in the location of the subject.

ARMED & DANGEROUS

3 Bureau  
② Kansas City  
JLK:ksw  
(5)

*ksw*

88-9449-21

Searched	<i>EC</i>
Serialized	<i>EC</i>
Indexed	<i>EC</i>
Filed	<i>EC</i>

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>KANSAS CITY</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>KANSAS CITY</b>	DATE <b>10/26/67</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>10/23/67 - 12/21/67</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE</b>		REPORT MADE BY  <b>JOSEPH L. KISSIAH</b>	TYPED BY  <b>KSW</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST</b>	

**REFERENCES:** Kansas City report of SA ROWEN B. AYERS, 10/30/67.  
 Springfield letter to Kansas City, 10/30/67. (Interoffice)  
 Springfield letter to Kansas City, 11/24/67. "

P

**LEADS**

**CHICAGO, SPRINGFIELD AND ST. LOUIS (INFORMATION)**  
 One copy of this report is submitted for the information of Chicago, Springfield and St. Louis, all whom have current investigation outstanding to locate the subject.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT-TALS
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES	

Case has been: Pending over one year ☐ Yes ☒ No; Pending prosecution over six months ☒ Yes ☐ No

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

- 1 Bureau (88-41730)
- 1 Chicago (Info)
- 1 Springfield (88-5361) (Info)
- 1 St. Louis (Info)
- ② Kansas City (88-9449)

Searched

Serialized

Indexed

Filed

**Dissemination Record of Attached Report**

**Notations**

Agency					
Request Recd.					
Date Fwd.					
How Fwd.					
By					