

5/9/68

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM: SAC, NORFOLK (44-268)(P)  
MURKIN

Re Interview of passengers aboard American Airlines Flight 338 from Dallas, Texas to Philadelphia, Pa., on 4/6/68.

Re Oklahoma City airtel to Memphis dated 5/2/68.

The following investigation was conducted at Fort Eustis, Va., by SA H. CURTISS BURRELL, on 5/6/68.

Private TIMOTHY JOHN TAYLOR, was contacted at Ft. Eustis, Va. He advised that he is in Company E of the Second School Battalion, Transportation School Brigade. He advised that he boarded the instant flight 338 at Oklahoma City, Okla., on 4/6/68, with his destination being Philadelphia, Pa. He sat in the most rear seat in the tourist section, next to a white female with blond hair. He was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY with negative results. He advised that he could recall no one on said flight who even resembled RAY. He noted, however, that due to his close attention to the white female with whom he was sitting, that he did not really pay to much attention to any of the other passengers. He stated that due to his seat in the most rear section of the airplane, also, that his observation of all passengers in the tourist section would have been quite limited.

Due to the above, no further investigation being conducted re this matter by Norfolk.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

2 - Memphis  
1 - New York (Info)  
1 - Oklahoma City (Info)(44-686)  
1 - Norfolk  
DGF:edg  
(5)

44-1687-558

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 15 1968	
FBI - NEW YORK	

*Shanley*

1

INDEXED	FILED
MAY 15 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

*Handwritten signature*

5-11-68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, HOUSTON (44-1509)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

RE: New York teletype to Bureau dated 4-25-68.  
Seattle airtel 5-8-68.

RE: WILSHIRE BOOK COMPANY,  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

On May 10, 1968, LEE LAND L. WOODS, Chief of Security, Boeing Company, Beta Building, 11915 El Camino Real, Clear Lake City, Houston, Texas, advised SA WILLIAM M. SPENGLER that GERALD DORR RAY, Research Specialist, Engineering, is assigned to Boeing at Houston, but is presently stationed with the Boeing Unit at Grumman Aviation and Engineering Co., Bethpage, Long Island, New York. His supervisor is EUGENE HEYNER, phone 575-6277.

LEADS

NEW YORK

Contact GERALD D. RAY to determine the identity of B. J. RAY and if he is related to subject JAMES EARL RAY.

3-Bureau (AM)  
2-Memphis (AM)  
1-Seattle (Info) (AM)  
2-New York (AM)  
2-Houston

JSW-md  
(10)

*Narrow*

*see serial 436 for background. SA Tangel advised 5/15/68 airtel*

*5/15/68 serial 570*

*44-1609-559*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 11 1968	
FBI - NEW YORK	

*Shanley*



5-11-68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, HOUSTON (44-1509)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

RE: New York teletype to Bureau dated 4-25-68.  
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RE: WILSHIRE BOOK COMPANY,  
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1-Seattle(Info)(AM)  
2-New York (AM)  
2-Houston

JSH-md  
(10)

44-1609-559

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>tl</i>	FILED <i>tl</i>
MAY 14 1968	
FBI - NEW YORK	

*Ryf*



5/11/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (44-1609)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN  
(OO: MEMPHIS)

At 9:35 pm, on 5/10/68, Mr. HUNTER HELGESON, in Assistant Director ROSEN's office at the Bureau, called Weekend Supervisor EDWARD M. KAVANAGH of the New York Office and stated that at 9:30 pm, on 5/10/68, an anonymous male caller contacted the Bureau switchboard and said he was calling from Brooklyn, New York. *1 serial 550*

A Bureau supervisor took the call and the caller said he had a tip on the killing of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. The caller then stated AARON WEISBERG, 4323 Avenue J.

The Bureau supervisor, at this point, inquired if this address was in Brooklyn, NY, and the caller said he could say no more and hung up.

The Brooklyn, New York Telephone Directory lists AARON WEISBERG, M.D., with an office at 1060 Ocean Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, telephone number UL 9-5802, and his residence at 4323 Avenue J, Brooklyn, New York, telephone number ES 7-5688.

The New York Office indices contain no identifiable references.

3 - Bureau  
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (INFO)  
1 - New York

GVC:lev  
(7) *lev*

1 - Supv. #23

*ADIC Malone  
advised 5/14/68  
\$*

44-1609-560  
SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED *tl*  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED *tl*

*WJ*



NY 44-1600

The 24th Edition, 1967, American Medical Directory lists the following as to AARON WEISBERG, who is a member of the American Medical Association:

Office:	1060 Ocean Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11226
Date of Birth:	1914
Medical Education:	Eclectic Medical College Cincinnati, Ohio Doctor of Medicine degree awarded 1937
Year of License in New York State:	1939
American Specialty Board Certification:	American Board of Internal Medicine
Primary Specialty:	Gastroenterology
Secondary Specialty:	Internal Medicine
Type of Practice:	Full-time Specialty Practice
Special Societies:	American College of Physicians; American College of Gastroen- terology; American Society of Internal Medicine; American Physicians Fellow- ship, Incorporated.

Dr. AARON WEISBERG, interviewed at his office, 1060 Ocean Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, on 5/11/68, advised that he had no information concerning this case and did not telephone the FBI on the evening of 5/10/68. He advised, however, that he and his wife have received several annoying telephone calls, both at his residence and office since 1/1/68. In addition, several anonymous calls have been made concerning him to the New York Police Department, Fire Department, and to a local catering establishment, all of which have caused him embarrassment. On 5/10/68, at 8:15 pm, he received an anonymous call telling him to "drop dead."

These calls have been reported to the 63rd Precinct



NY 44-1609

for investigation. He suspects the caller to be either LANNY GOODMAN, 814 East 52nd Street, Brooklyn, NY, or BERNARD LANDSMAN, 742 East 51st Street, Brooklyn. He described these two boys as "psychos" who have had a lot of trouble with the police. LANDSMAN is his nephew. He believes the purpose of the call to the FBI was only to cause him more embarrassment.



F B I

Date: 5/13/68

PLAIN TEXT

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

TO: SAC, KANSAS CITY

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (44-1609)

MURKIN; CIVIL RIGHTS; OO: MEMPHIS

RE EASTERN AIRLINES FLIGHTS (EAL) OUT OF ATLANTA APRIL  
FIVE DASH TWELVE LAST.

RE MIAMI TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU DATED MAY TEN LAST, NO COPY  
TO KANSAS CITY.

RETEL ADVISED AS FOLLOWS:

"EAL IBM SET UP FOR TEN NUMBER TICKETS. WHEN AN AIRLINE  
USES NINE NUMBERS FOR TICKETS FOLLOWING IDENTIFYING NUMBERS, EAL  
INSERTS A ZERO FOR THE FOURTH NUMBER. ALL OFFICES, IN CHECKING  
TICKETS LISTED IN RE MIAMI TEL, DROP FOURTH NUMBER AS SHOWN,  
WHICH IN EACH INSTANCE IS A ZERO".

MEMPHIS ADVISED BY AIR MAIL.

SUBJECT RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- 1- New York
- 1- Memphis (AM)
- 1- Supv. #23
- 1- ADIC JOHN F. MALONE

JFS:jmr  
(4)

44-1609-561  
SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED tu  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED tu

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

Per



FBI KAN CITY

FBI NEW YORK

1007 AM URGENT 5-13-68 JLW

TO KANSAS CITY

FROM NEW YORK 44-1609 1P

MURKIN; CIVIL RIGHTS; OO - MEMPHIS

RE EASTERN AIRLINES FLIGHTS (EAL) OUT OF ATLANTA APRIL FIVE -  
TWELVE LAST.

RE MIAMI TEL TO BUREAU MAY TEN LAST, NO COPY TO KANSAS CITY.

RETEL ADVISED AS FOLLOWS:

"EAL IBM SET UP FOR TEN NUMBER TICKETS. WHEN AN AIRLINE  
USES NINE NUMBERS FOR TICKETS FOLLOWING IDENTIFYING NUMBER, EAL INSERTS  
A ZERO FOR THE FOURTH NUMBER. ALL OFFICES, IN CHECKING TICKETS  
LISTED IN RE MIAMI TEL, DROP FOURTH NUMBER AS SHOWN, WHICH IN EACH  
INSTANCE IS A ZERO."

MEMPHIS ADVISED BY AIR MAIL.

SUBJECT RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

PHM

FBI KAN CITY

44-1609-561  
SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED HL  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED HL

PLAIN TEXT

5/13/68

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (44-1609)

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
(OO: MEMPHIS)

WW2. Re suspect driving car bearing New York License

Re Newark tel to New York dated 5/1/68. — *serial 463*

Above registration held by WALTER WEISBECKER, 30  
Manchester Road, Eastchester, NY. WEISBECKER has been  
eliminated as a suspect in instant matter through  
interview.

SUBJECT RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND  
DANGEROUS.

2- Memphis  
1- Newark (INFO)  
1- New York

JFS:jmr  
(5)  
1- SUPV. #23

*44-1609-562*

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

*Ran* *Ry*



FBI NEW YORK

FBI KAN CITY

344 PM URGENT 5/14/68 KSW

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861, MEMPHIS, NEW YORK, LOS ANGELES  
FROM KANSAS CITY 1P

MURKIN

RECORDS TWA, KANSAS CITY, REVEAL THAT COACH TICKET TWO TWO ZERO SEVEN ONE FIVE THREE ONE EIGHT PURCHASED APRIL SEVEN LAST BY A J. A. SMITH FOR TRIP FROM LOS ANGELES TO CHICAGO TO ATLANTA WITH RETURN FROM ATLANTA DIRECT TO LOS ANGELES ON APRIL NINE LAST WAS EXCHANGED IN ATLANTA FOR TRIP FROM ATLANTA TO CHICAGO SAME DATE WITH TRAVEL TO LOS ANGELES OPEN.

RECORDS FURTHER REVEAL THAT THIS TICKET WAS PURCHASED BY A TWA WORLD WIDE JET CREDIT CARD NUMBER ONE FIVE SIX TWO EIGHT FOUR FOUR THREE EIGHT NINE EIGHT ZERO T W ASSIGNED TO JAMES A. SMITH, FIVE ZERO SIX THREE INAGLEN WAY, LOS ANGELES, TELEPHONE AX THREE SIX THREE THREE SIX.

LOS ANGELES ATTEMPT TO CONTACT JAMES A. SMITH TO DETERMINE PURPOSE OF TRIP FROM ATLANTA TO LOS ANGELES. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P

END JAM

FBI NEW YORK

*Shanley* 44-1609-563

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 14 1968	
FBI - NEW YORK	

*Shanley*

FBI NEW YORK

FBI KAN CITY

344 PM URGENT 5/14/68 KSW

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861, MEMPHIS, NEW YORK, LOS ANGELES  
FROM KANSAS CITY 1P

MURKIN

RECORDS TWA, KANSAS CITY, REVEAL THAT COACH TICKET TWO TWO ZERO SEVEN ONE FIVE THREE ONE EIGHT PURCHASED APRIL SEVEN LAST BY A J. A. SMITH FOR TRIP FROM LOS ANGELES TO CHICAGO TO ATLANTA WITH RETURN FROM ATLANTA DIRECT TO LOS ANGELES ON APRIL NINE LAST WAS EXCHANGED IN ATLANTA FOR TRIP FROM ATLANTA TO CHICAGO SAME DATE WITH TRAVEL TO LOS ANGELES OPEN.

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LOS ANGELES ATTEMPT TO CONTACT JAMES A. SMITH TO DETERMINE PURPOSE OF TRIP FROM ATLANTA TO LOS ANGELES. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P

END JAM

FBI NEW YORK

44-1609-563

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 14 1968	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Ry



Routing Slip  
0-7 (Rev. 9-25-65)

(Copies to Offices Checked)

TO: SAC,

☐ Albany  
☐ Albuquerque  
☐ Anchorage  
☐ Atlanta  
☐ Baltimore  
☐ Birmingham  
☐ Boston  
☐ Buffalo  
☐ Butte  
☐ Charlotte  
☐ Chicago  
☐ Cincinnati  
☐ Cleveland  
☐ Columbia  
☐ Dallas  
☐ Denver  
☐ Detroit  
☐ El Paso  
☐ Honolulu

☐ Houston  
☐ Indianapolis  
☐ Jackson  
☐ Jacksonville  
☐ Kansas City  
☐ Knoxville  
☐ Las Vegas  
☐ Little Rock  
☐ Los Angeles  
☐ Louisville  
☐ Memphis  
☐ Miami  
☐ Milwaukee  
☐ Minneapolis  
☐ Mobile  
☐ Newark  
☐ New Haven  
☐ New Orleans  
☒ New York City

☐ Norfolk  
☐ Oklahoma City  
☐ Omaha  
☐ Philadelphia  
☐ Phoenix  
☐ Pittsburgh  
☐ Portland  
☐ Richmond  
☐ Sacramento  
☐ St. Louis  
☐ Salt Lake City  
☐ San Antonio  
☐ San Diego  
☐ San Francisco  
☐ San Juan  
☐ Savannah  
☐ Seattle  
☐ Springfield

☐ Tampa  
☐ Washington Field  
☐ Quantico

TO LEGAT:

☐ Bern  
☐ Bonn  
☐ Buenos Aires  
☐ Hong Kong  
☐ London  
☐ Manila  
☐ Mexico D.F.  
☐ Ottawa  
☐ Paris  
☐ Rome  
☐ Santo Domingo  
☐ Tokyo

Date May 13, 1968

RE:

**MURKIN**

☒ For information    ☐ Retention optional    ☐ For appropriate action    ☐ Surep, by \_\_\_\_\_

☐ The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, ☐ conceal all sources, ☐ paraphrase contents.

☐ Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks:

Enclosed for assistance of each office in connection with any laundry checks being made are photographs of laundry marks placed on shirt and bed linen for James Earl Ray while using the name of Eric Starvo Galt in the Los Angeles area. **44-1609-564**

Enc. (4)  
Bufile (44-38861)  
Urfile

*SW*  
*1A32*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - NEW YORK	

*Shanley*

FBI

 1968, DIR.  
 Date: May 9 1968  
 SAC I  
 SAC II

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via Airtel

SAC III

SAC IV

SURV. 23

(Priority)

 To: All SACS  
 LEGATS, Mexico City  
 Ottawa

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

 MURKIN  
 OO: MEMPHIS (44-1987)

In order to cover the possibility that subject may have died since commission of the crime, the U. S. Census Bureau and Department of Health, Education and Welfare were contacted and they advised that no central records of unidentified deceased are maintained by those agencies. It was suggested that each state may maintain such a record in their Bureau of Vital Statistics or similar agency.

There is no known Federal law requiring the maintenance of such information; and it is possible that if any record of unidentified dead is maintained, it would only be maintained at local police departments, morgues, medical facilities, or the like.

Each office covering state capitals should check to ascertain if such records are maintained, and if so, should check records for the period from 4-5-68, to date, for any information which might possibly identify subject Ray with unidentified deceased person over that period.

If there is no central record repository maintained in the various states or nationally in the case of Mexico and Canada, you should, in connection with your contacts with law enforcement agencies on this case or other Bureau matters, make appropriate inquiries relative to

Sent Via \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

44-1987-1609-565

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 1 1968	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Shanley



Airtel to All SACS and LEGATS, Mexico City and Ottawa  
RE: MURKIN

unidentified dead for the period beginning 4-5-68; and if fingerprints on such dead are maintained, they should be compared with those on the Identification Order on Ray in order to effect identification or nonidentification. This should be handled in the normal course of business and only reasonable investigation should be pursued along these lines.

The Identification Division has placed an appropriate stop on unidentified deceased inquiries it may receive. If feasible, appropriate offices and Legats, Mexico City and Ottawa should place similar stops with appropriate state, local or national agencies in your territories.

Armed and Dangerous.

FBI

Date: May 9, 1968

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via Airtel \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority)

To: All SACS  
LEGATS, Mexico City  
Ottawa

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN  
OO: MEMPHIS (44-1987)

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI-NEW YORK	

Sent Via \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per

44-1609-565



Airtel to All SACS and LEGATS, Mexico City and Ottawa  
RE: MURKIN

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Armed and Dangerous.

FBI

Date: May 10, 1968 DIR

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via Airtel

(Priority) SAC I  
SAC II  
SAC III  
SAC IV  
SUPV. 23

To: All SACS  
LEGATS, Mexico City  
Ottawa

From: Director, FBI

MURKIN

For your information and investigative assistance, subject James Earl Ray took a bartending course in Los Angeles, California, during the early part of 1968, and prior to his departing Los Angeles, in March of 1968, he made several telephone calls to country clubs in an effort to obtain employment.

This should be borne in mind in covering leads in connection with this and other cases.

Armed and Dangerous.

44-1609-566

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - NEW YORK	

Shanley

Sent Via \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_



FBI

Date: May 10, 1968

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via Airtel \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

To: All SACS  
LEGATS, Mexico City  
Ottawa

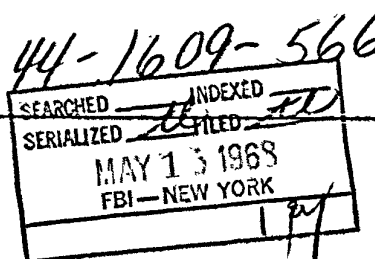
From: Director, FBI

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Armed and Dangerous.



Sent Via \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

F B I

Date: 5/13/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via A I R T E L \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: SAC, NEW YORK

FROM: SAC, SAN DIEGO (44-387) (P)

MURKIN  
(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re New Orleans airtel to Memphis, 5/7/68.

Following investigation was conducted by SA ARNOLD W. O'BRIEN, San Diego, 5/13/68:

Mrs. EDNA GOULD, Manager, apartments located at 4077 Hamilton Street, San Diego, California, advised no one by the name of STEVE FULLER has ever resided at this address. She advised, however, a Mr. and Mrs. STEVE TULLER resided at this address until 12/15/67. STEVE TULLER is a member of the U. S. Coast Guard and he was transferred to New York City. He departed California on 12/15/67 for New York City traveling via New Orleans, Louisiana.

Mr. and Mrs. STEVE TULLER can be located through his parents, STEVEN TULLER, Sr., 1600 Avenue T, Brooklyn, New York.

LEAD

NEW YORK

*Call was in room 1/16*

AT BROOKLYN, NEW YORK. Locate and interview STEVE TULLER for information as to his residency at the Provincial Motel, New Orleans, Louisiana on 12/18/67 for any information regarding his knowledge of subject JAMES EARL RAY.

- ② - New York
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 2 - San Diego

AWO:apg  
(6)

*Sol Tuller 645-6808*

*Covered - serial 575*

44-1609-567

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>tl</i>	FILED <i>tl</i>
MAY 16 1968	
FBI - NEW YORK	

*Shanley*

Approved: *2/803*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_



5/13/68

A I R T E L

TO: SAC, NEW YORK  
FROM: SAC, SAN DIEGO (44-387) (P)  
MURKIN  
(OO: MEMPHIS)

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NEW YORK

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- ② - New York
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 2 - San Diego

AWO:apg  
(6)

44-1609-567

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 16 1968	
FBI - NEW YORK	

1 RJ

5/14/68

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (44-1609)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

RE: GUESTS AT THE  
PROVINCIAL MOTEL,  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA,  
12/17-19/67

Re New Orleans airtel to Memphis, 5/7/68.

Enclosed herewith to Memphis are 15 copies of  
an insert reflecting negative information from Dr. DAVID  
ROSNER, 602 Main Street, Port Jefferson, NY.

RE: LAUNDRY  
TAG LEADS

Re Albany airtel to Bureau, 4/11/68, and Boston  
airtel to Bureau, 5/7/68.

For the information of Memphis, Laundry Tag Leads  
regarding machines of Textile Marking Machine Co. have been  
completed by NYO, with negative results.

Included in this investigation was Budget  
Cleaners and Shirt Laundry, 45 Avenue B, NYC, and Nu Clear  
Cleaners, Long Beach Boulevard, Long Beach, NY & 192-10 Linden  
Boulevard, Queens, NY, both with negative results.

2-Memphis (Encls. 15)

1-New Orleans

1-Boston (INFO)


1-New York

JFS:pml  
(6)

1-Supervisor #23

44-1609-568

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



NY 44-1609

RE: DANCING SCHOOLS

Re Bureau teletype to all SACS dated 4/15/68.

All dancing schools in the NY Division have been contacted with negative results.

CREW

RE: FLIGHT ~~THREE~~ MEMBERS  
OF EASTERN AIRLINES (EAL)  
FOREIGN BOUND FLIGHTS OUT  
OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, 4/5-6/68

Re Miami teletype to Bureau dated 4/19/68.

NY has contacted the following EAL personnel regarding captioned matter with negative results:

Pilots

E. D. HARTMAN and  
DONALD GROSMAN

Stewardesses

LUELLEN LOREHN,  
JOAN EVELYN HUEZDA,  
DIANE SARRAH TREMBLY and  
CAROL ANN SCOTT

RE: CIRCULARIZATION OF  
AVIS AND HERTZ CAR  
RENTAL AGENCIES

Re Bureau airtel to NY, 5/3/68.

Two thousand IOs of subject JAMES EARL RAY have been delivered to Hertz which is circularizing all of its continental offices (1500 copies) and all of its international offices (500 copies).

Avis has accepted the newspaper mat of subject, RAY, and stated it will appear in the Avis Magazine to be published 5/15/68. This magazine is distributed world-wide to Avis agencies.

SUBJECT RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND  
DANGEROUS.



NY 44-1609

Dr. DAVID ROSNER, 602 Main Street, Port Jefferson, New York, advised SA WILLIAM R. WALL that he recalls being at the Provincial Motel in New Orleans for one day in December, 1967. He advised he was accompanied by his wife and two children, ages 9 and 6. He stated that his stay at the motel was merely a stop-over en route to Mexico City and that he did not converse or socialize with any of the occupants of the motel.

Dr. ROSNER has seen various photographs of JAMES EARL RAY also known as ERIC STARVO GALT and has no recollection of ever having seen him in person. He advised that he definitely has no recollection of having seen RAY at the Provincial Motel.

5/14/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) AND SACS, ATLANTA (44-2386)  
MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
MIAMI (44-1854)

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (44-1114)

MURKIN.

RE MIAMI TEL TO DIRECTOR MAY TEN LAST.

RE EASTERN AIRLINES (EAL) FLIGHTS OUT OF ATLANTA  
APRIL FIVE THROUGH APRIL TEN LAST.

UNITED AIRLINES (UAL) TICKETS AS FURNISHED IN RETEL  
EXAMINED AND NO RECORD FOR JERRY HERRON.

UAL TICKET NUMBER FOUR SEVEN FIVE FOUR ZERO FOUR EIGHT  
TWO NINE WAS FURNISHED IN SIXTY SIX TO BURGESS VIBROCRAFTERS,  
INC., GRAYSLAKE, ILLINOIS, AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN LONG SINCE  
USED. MIAMI REQUESTED TO RE-EXAMINE TICKET NUMBERS AS  
FURNISHED IN RETEL FOR ACCURACY OF ABOVE TICKET NUMBER.  
IF ACCURATE, CHICAGO WILL CONTACT BURGESS TO DETERMINE WHY  
TICKET USED AT THIS LATE DATE AND UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES  
AS UAL HAS NO RECORD OF USAGE ON EAL FLIGHT TWO FOUR EIGHT.

AMCC TO NEW YORK AND MINNEAPOLIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

① - New York (44-1609) (AM)  
① - Minneapolis (157-450) (AM)  
DRH:jap (3)

44-1609-569

INDEXED	FILED
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*Shanley*

5/15/68

PLAIN TEXT

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (44-1609)

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Wilshire Book Company.

Re Houston airtel to the Bureau dated 5/11/68.

On 5/15/68, GERARD DORR RAY was eliminated as being identical with subject JAMES EARL RAY. While in Washington, GERARD DORR RAY resided at 327 First Avenue East, Pacific, Washington. His wife is BARBARA JEAN RAY and she received a magazine through Wilshire Book Company under the name B.J. RAY.

SUBJECT RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

2- Memphis  
1- Houston (INFO)  
1- Seattle (INFO)  
1- New York (44-1609)

JFS:jrf  
(6)

1- SUPV. #23

44-1609-570

SEARCHED	
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INDEXED	ll
FILED	

Ray



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1609)  
Attn: SAA JOHN SHANLEY, #23.

DATE: 5/15/68

FROM : SA F.J. SANDIN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 5/15/68 GERARD DOHR RAY, 8 8th Ave., Farmingdale, N.Y., home tel 694-9540 was contacted at his place of employment, Grumman Aircraft Engineering Co., Bethpage, N.Y. He stated he was born on 7/8/27, Los Angeles, California and has been employed by Boeing Aircraft, Seattle, Washington for 17 years and is still employed by that company assigned to Grumman. He owns his home at 327 First Ave. E., Pacific, Washington. He is married to BARBARA JEAN RAY, age 32, who is a subscriber to a ladies magazine through the Wilshire Book Co., Lynbrook, N.Y. RAY, based on observation and interview, is white, male, 6'2", 215 lbs, brown hair, hazel eyes, large build, wears glasses. From observation it was determined that he is not identical with JAMES EARL RAY. He ~~for~~ was shown the photo of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that the subject is not known by him and is not related in anyway. He could furnish no information concerning subject.

*See serial 570*

*44-1609-571*

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

FBI NEW YORK

FBI PITTSBGH

959AM URGENT 5/16/68 RLC

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

NEW YORK

FROM PITTSBURGH (44-578)3P

MURKIN

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU DATED MAY NINE SIXTYEIGHT  
AND SAVANNAH TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU DATED MAY TWELVE SIXTYEIGHT.  
ALIAS JOHN WILLARD.

FOR INFORMATION NEW YORK ATLANTA ADVISED RECORDS OF  
DOWNTOWNER MOTOR INN, ATLANTA, REFLECT JOHN O. WILLARD  
WITHEROW ROAD, SEWICKLEY, PA., REPRESENTING W. W. NORTON AND  
COMPANY, INC., WAS REGISTERED IN THE MOTEL IN ROOM FOUR ONE ONE  
ON APPROXIMATELY ELEVEN LAST WILLARD, WHO IS ONLY PERSON BY  
THAT NAME REGISTERED IN MOTEL FROM MARCH SIXTYEIGHT, UNTIL  
APRIL, SIXTYEIGHT, WAS DRIVING CHEVROLET BEARING NEW YORK  
LICENSE THREE EIGHT THREE TWO - W X.

ON MAY TWELVE LAST, SAVANNAH ADVISED EXPANDED AIRLINE  
CHECK REVEALED DELTA AIRLINES RECORDS INDICATE A JOHN WILLARD  
MADE RESERVATION ON EAL APRIL ELEVEN LAST, CHANGED FLIGHT, AND  
FLEW APRIL TEN LAST ON EAL AND RETURNED ATLANTA APRIL FIFTEEN  
END OF PAGE ONE

44-1609-572

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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Shanley

PAGE TWO

PG 44-578

LAST ON DAL FLIGHT NUMBER TWENTY. LEFT CONTACT NUMBERS MIAMI  
FOUR FOUR EIGHT DASH ZERO TWO SEVEN SIX AND SAVANNAH TWO THREE  
THREE DASH FIVE THREE ONE, ROOM FIVE TWO ONE. LATTER NUMBER IS  
SAVANNAH DOWNTOWNER MOTEL. AT WHICH INQUIRY DEVELOPED JOHN O.  
WILLARD, WITHEROW ROAD, SEWICKLEY, PA., REPRESENTING W. W.  
NORTON, COMPANY, DRIVING CHEVROLET CAR NEW YORK LICENSE THREE  
EIGHT THREE TWO W X, CHECKED INTO ROOM FOUR TWO ONE ON MARCH  
TWENTYSIX LAST AND OUT MARCH TWENTYEIGHT LAST. CHECKED IN  
AGAIN INTO ROOM FIVE TWO ONE SAME BACKGROUND INFORMATION, WITH  
A BARRY L. BEAL, SEVEN ONE ZERO N. W. FOURTEENTH AVENUE,  
GAINSVILLE, FLORIDA, ON MARCH TWENTYNINE LAST AND OUT ON MARCH  
THIRTYONE LAST.

INVESTIGATION AT SEWICKLEY, PA., ON MAY TEN TO MAY  
TWELVE LAST, DEVELOPS ONE LOUIS WILLARD, JR., RESIDING ON  
WITHEROW ROAD. ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT NEGATIVE. CREDIT CHECK  
REFLECTS JOHN O. WILLARD, WITHEROW ROAD, EMPLOYED BY W. W.  
NORTON AND U. CO., INC., FIVE FIVE FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, AS  
A COLLEGE TRAVELER.

AKF-9210

END OF PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

PG 44-578

NEW YORK, AT W. W. NORTON AND U. CO., INC., DETERMINE  
WHETHER OR NOT IDENTICAL WITH RAY. IF UNABLE TO ELIMINATE  
DETERMINE PRESENT WHEREABOUTS AND SET OUT LEADS TO INTERVIEW.

PITTSBURGH, AT SEWICKLEY, PA., WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO  
LOCATE LOUIS WILLARD, JR.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

AIRMAIL COPIES SENT MEMPHIS, SAVANNAH AND ATLANTA. P

END

JLW

FBI NEW YORK

P



FBI NEW YORK

FBI PITTSBGH

959AM URGENT 5/16/68 RLC

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

NEW YORK

FROM PITTSBURGH (44-578)3P

MURKIN

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AND SAVANNAH TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU DATED MAY TWELVE SIXTYEIGHT.

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END OF PAGE ONE

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PAGE TWO

PG 44-578

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END OF PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

PG 44-578.

NEW YORK, AT W. W. NORTON AND U. CO., INC., DETERMINE  
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ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

AIRMAIL COPIES SENT MEMPHIS, SAVANNAH AND ATLANTA. P

END

JLW

FBI NEW YORK

P

remuneration



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# The Real Life and Times of James Ray

Dusk was falling on the eastern Missouri woods, and the only light in the remote shack was the square glow of a TV set. An obscure figure emerged from the darkness and peered out through the dirty storm door. Suddenly he was frantic, gesturing menacingly, and bellowing curses of rage and fear. He vanished, but an instant later he was back and a silver-plated .38-caliber pistol was pointing at my chest.

"Get the hell outa here or I'll use this!" The voice, I'm convinced, belonged to a man who was supposed to be dead.

It took that frightening moment to fill the last gap in the puzzle. Newspapers and magazines were telling the world that this man of many names died years ago. Yet there he was in front of me—a desperate, wrinkled, old man manifesting the sense-

*This article, by staff writer Daniel Greene, is based on his on-the-scene reporting in the Midwest and in Washington, D.C.*

less violence that seems to be second nature to most of his family. Behind the gun, too, was the personified answer to the basic question that had lured me to the Mississippi River country of Missouri and Illinois: I wanted to know how Jimmy Ray had grown up to become the most wanted fugitive in the world—and I was looking at his father.

## Matched Fingerprints

One of the biggest manhunts in history focused on James Earl Ray three weeks ago when the FBI matched his fingerprints with prints found during the investigation of the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis on April 4. The Federal Government charges that James Ray, who used the name Eric Starvo Galt and other aliases, conspired to violate Dr. King's civil rights. There is no Federal law against murder, but Tennessee authorities have issued a state murder warrant for the fugitive.

For 40 years, Jimmy Ray was a luckless cipher. For the past three weeks, he has been a notorious mystery man—the enigmatic subject of endless theories and conjectures: If he *did* shoot Dr. King, was he hired to do it—or was he driven by racial bigotry? If there *was* an elaborate assassination plot, was he the triggerman—or the unwitting fall guy? Did he escape out of the country—or was he himself slain by co-conspirators?

Investigators soon learned that piecing together Ray's background was almost as difficult as finding him. The few records that could be found provided a sketchy outline of an inveterate loser from a rootless, impoverished family of losers who used various names, seldom had their pictures taken (except those who got arrested), and made few friends. Consequently, ever since the FBI released pictures of Ray, together with scanty biographical data culled from prison files, more contradictory and inaccurate reports have been circulated about him than about anybody since Lee Harvey Oswald.

## The Long Search

An effort to sort out the tangled threads has led me hundreds of miles up and down both sides of the central Mississippi valley, through public records and old newspaper files, into conversation with scores of people who have known the Rays and a few kinsfolk. And in the end, the

search led to a long-kept secret.

The tracer of Jimmy Ray's early life encounters ironies all along the trail, beginning in Alton, Ill., where he was born March 10, 1928. Alton is a blue-collar city of about 47,000 in the heavily industrialized area spreading out from St. Louis on both sides of the Mississippi. The city is known to historians as the site of the last Lincoln-Douglas debate and as the place where Elijah P. Lovejoy, the crusading preacher and newspaper publisher, was killed in 1837 by a mob incensed by his outspoken stand for the abolition of slavery. Now, 131 years after Lovejoy's death, a native of Alton has linked the city, indirectly, to the murder of another renowned campaigner for racial equality.

Just about everybody in Alton and other places where the fugitive lived as a boy and young man now knows the name James Earl Ray. Pictures of him are on posters in every police station and post office. Local newspapers have been printing every scrap of information they can dig up about the suspect and his family—much of it inaccurate. Yet few Altonians actually remember any of the Rays. The rundown, two-story house on West 9th Street, where the parents lived when James was born, is now occupied by two Negro families, one on each floor. None of their neighbors was living in the block in the 1920s.

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

*The National Observer*

Date: 5-13-68

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

44-1609-573

SERIALIZED *th* *th*

FBI - NEW YORK

*SB*

## \* Forgotten in Alton

It is not surprising that the family was forgotten in Alton. The year after James Earl, the first of nine children, was born, his parents moved north. The family as a whole never again made Alton its home. After the marriage broke up and her husband disappeared, however, Lucille Ray and some of the kids lived there at various times. Mrs. Ray, who died in 1961, is buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery on the outskirts of town; the name on the little granite marker is Lucille Mary Ryan. (Ryan is one of several names members of the family assumed over the years.)

Lucille's Irish Catholic roots were in Alton. Her mother, Mrs. Mary Maher, and her aunt, Sadie Fitzsimmons, spent most of their lives there. Miss Fitzsimmons, still remembered by some townspeople as Aunt Sadie, was a respected resident who ran a small cleaning establishment on Broadway for many years, and in later life was an active precinct worker in local election campaigns. Roy Geltz, who is still an Alton alderman, remembers that she canvassed hard for him.

Aunt Sadie died the year after Lucille, and Mrs. Maher the following year. The only member of the family still living in Alton is William Maher, Lucille's younger brother. Mr. Maher is a large, ruddy-faced man of 51 who works as a painting contractor. He has been bothered so much by reporters since his relationship to the suspected killer was disclosed that he usually refuses to answer questions about his late sister's family. But during a leisurely conversation one afternoon, in the tastefully furnished living room of the modest bungalow he shares with his wife, Mr. Maher revealed a lot about the relatives he would just as soon forget.

### 'Sideburns and Muscles'

Bill Maher was 9 when his sister married James Ray in 1926. She was 17; Ray was a 25-year-old, unschooled rake who had moved from Quincy, Ill., to live with his mother a few doors from the Mahers. "I guess he just bowled her over with those Valentino sideburns and muscles," reminisces Mr. Maher. He remembers that Ray did not work, was probably being

supported by his father (who was reported to be operating a speakeasy in Quincy), and drove his own car. Ray also enjoyed something of a reputation as a fist-fighter, Mr. Maher recalls.

The couple was married by a justice of the peace in Edwardsville, not far from Alton. That may have been the biggest mistake of Lucille's life. For from then on, the history of the Ray family is a sordid chronicle of poverty, wretchedness, alcoholism, and crime.

The Rays were a Depression family—in some ways typical of the countless poor rural families forced to grub for survival in those lean years. But this clan sagged under an extra burden: The head of the household apparently had a lifelong aversion to gainful employment. Nobody can remember the man ever holding down a regular job. "He didn't have any skills," Mr. Maher says. "When he did work, it was as a sharecropper or section hand or something."

Mr. and Mrs. Ray, with their baby boy, moved to Quincy, about 115 miles upriver. But by the time the boy started school in 1935, they were living in Ewing, some 30 miles away on the other side of the river in Missouri. By this time, too, they had a different name. Ewing folks knew them as the Rayns family (spelled "Raynes" in some records). Two years after coming to Ewing, their second child, Marjorie, was burned to death while playing with matches.

Ewing is one of those sleepy little crossroads you drive past without even noticing. The sign on Route 6 says "Pop. 324"—but on a typical spring afternoon you can drive around the dusty streets for an hour and not see more than a dozen natives. The gloomy maroon train station on the edge of town has long been vacant and some sections of the rusty tracks are nearly hidden by weeds. Except for two grocery stores, a barber shop, two feed stores, and a post office, the business section consists of a few rows of boarded-up shells.

In the memories of long-time residents, the Raynses of Ewing were dirt poor, like most others at that time, and generally inconspicuous. They didn't mix much. They lived in a log house on a winding dirt road a mile or so outside town. The farmhouse, on land owned by Mary Maher, burned down—some say while the Raynses were living in it, others say shortly after they moved.

Today you can't even find a trace of the foundation under the tangled lespedeza and sweet clover blanketing the property. In the rolling woodland beyond the home site, Jimmy Rayns, his brothers, and their friends used to romp, pick blackberries, hunt, and fish for catfish.

A recent magazine article depicted the Rayns family of Ewing as a starving brood of untouchables, and Jimmy as a mean, unmanageable bully who was always getting in fights to compensate for his failings in the classroom. These descriptions are far from the truth, according to people who remember the family. "They were poor all right," acknowledges Carlisle Washburn, who went to school with Jimmy and is now the Ewing postmaster. "But so was everybody else around here. They just seemed more shiftless than the others; they didn't seem to care."

## Burning the House, Bit by Bit

The Peacock family were the Raynses' closest neighbors, and Charlie Peacock was one of Jimmy's best buddies. Mr. Peacock, now a 39-year-old metal worker in a Quincy plant, has retained childhood memories of the old Rayns place: "The mister was always home when I'd go around there to play. Instead of going out in the woods for firewood, he'd pull off a piece of the house and put it in the stove. When they had taken all they could from one room, they'd start on another. They tore most of the house down that way."

Charles Peacock remembers Mrs. Rayns as a tired, hard-working housewife who did the best she could. Her only "weakness" in those days, as he recalls, was her proclivity to catch a smoke when she thought nobody was watching. Hardly anybody around Ewing ate well in the 1930s, but Mrs. Rayns always managed to scrape up something—typically a pot of navy beans seasoned with beef suet and onions and served with cornbread.

The elder Rayns never struck anybody as particularly energetic, but he did teach his boys how to take care of themselves. "He taught them rough," Mr. Peacock says. "He'd spar with them, and talk to them like they were grownups."

Jimmy was an apt pupil; he and Charlie probably did more than their share of scrapping. Yet teachers who were at the Ewing public school when Jimmy was a student do not remember him as any more

bellicose than a lot of other spunky farm kids. "Oh, he got into things," says Miss Ina Kitson, who has been teaching in Lewis County for 43 years. "He was reserved, but I didn't see anything slow about Jimmy. I got along pretty well with all the little meanies."

Like many other things about Jimmy's youth, though, his school record is confusing. On one side of his achievement card is a section for "Character Traits," divided into grade columns. Curiously, only two of the columns are filled in, for the second and eighth grades, though he completed eight grades. The notations are not flattering. In both grades, he scored badly in Honesty ("needs watching"), Attitude Toward School Regulations, Appearance ("repulsive"), and Courtesy. Only his Emotional Stability impressed his judges, who characterized him as "quiet."

The other side of the card tells a different story. After repeating the first grade, Jimmy did at least satisfactory work, and often much better, until the eighth grade. From the fourth through the seventh grades (he skipped one to make up for the first-grade failure), his record shows an abundance of Es (Excellent) and Ss (Superior). But the file card also shows a deplorable attendance record.

### 'Tended to Resent Authority'

The record stops after the eighth grade, which Jimmy passed conditionally. Comments Virgil O. Graves, one of Jimmy's teachers who is now a social-science instructor in Philadelphia, Mo.: "To the middle of the eighth grade, he was an average student. He tended to resent authority, like most boys of that age. But I never had any trouble with him. He was just like a lot of kids who can—but just never get around to doing it."

Neither Mr. Graves nor his wife knew the boy's parents very well, but they do recall one episode that left them with fond memories of Mrs. Rayns. Jimmy's leg was broken in a ball game in the school yard one day, and Mrs. Graves, a substitute teacher, drove the lad and his mother to a doctor's office in Quincy. She also took them to town for the subsequent checkups. Mrs. Graves knew Mrs. Rayns had no money to reimburse her for the expenses, and didn't expect any payment. But some weeks later Mrs. Rayns came by the Graves' home and presented them with two plump frying chickens she had raised.

Even before quitting school, Jimmy's mind was probably wandering far from arithmetic and spelling. On week ends and summer vacations he would sometimes go to Quincy to visit his Uncle Earl. Earl Ray had always been well known in the rougher parts of Quincy, especially to the police. His adult arrest record started in 1920, and is crammed with charges for everything from rape to assault with intent to kill. In 1948 he was sent to prison for throwing acid in his wife's face.

The sudden departure of the family from Ewing, in 1943 or 1944, closed the least eventful, and last respectable, chapter of the Ray-Rayns history. Their movements for the next few years are uncertain. But by the time they returned to Quincy, some time after the war, the clan was in hopeless disarray. The picture that emerges from records and conversations in Quincy bears little resemblance to the quiet family Ewing residents describe.

Jimmy, after living in Alton with his grandmother for a while, had joined the Army. Brothers John and Gerald were gaining reputations as juvenile delinquents. Melba, eldest of the three remaining girls, was becoming a mental case. Both parents were drinking heavily, working as little as possible, and usually letting their kids run wild. They lived in the sleaziest sections of town, most of the time in a two-story, red-brick house on Spring Street in a neighborhood crawling with vice. They were also going by another name: Ryan.

When things couldn't get worse, the father finally took a bold step: He deserted, leaving his spouse and the seven kids

who remained at home to fend for themselves. Where he went, nobody seemed to know. Eventually, he was presumed dead. Most of the biographical accounts published since the FBI put the finger on James Earl Ray have indicated that the elder Ray-Rayns-Ryan probably died in the early 1950s.

The family's final disruption is chronicled in the closed files of juvenile court in Quincy. In 1954, the three youngest children—Franklin, Susan, and Max—were put in the Catholic Children's Home in Alton. The other two girls, Melba and Carol, were placed in foster homes. In the early 1950s, all three elder boys were involved in criminal careers that would lead to prison.

Grandmother Maher was especially disappointed when Jimmy became a crook. When he had lived with her as a teen-ager after leaving home, he had seemed to be on the right path. He got a job in a shoe factory and built up a \$1,100 savings account. In a statement she gave the assistant state's attorney after Jimmy was charged with burglary several years later, Mrs. Maher described her grandson during his most productive period:

"He worked with a man in the tannery from Germany, and learned the trade of dying leather. . . . Never went out, never runned around. As far as girls, he was backward. He was bashful with girls. No pals of men either. Just stayed home." Further in the statement she added: "He's quiet and easy. Always comes in with a smile on his face. He don't smoke."

William Maher saw a lot of his oldest nephew during the lad's Alton residence too. Sometimes the two of them would go to St. Louis to watch the old Browns play. "He loved baseball, just like any other boy," Mr. Maher says. "He used to go down to the neighborhood field and play baseball with the other boys; he was a pretty good shortstop. But you'd never see him hanging around on the corner with any of them."

This period of industry and promise came to an end, however, when Jimmy joined the Army in 1946. Stationed in Germany most of his tour, he never climbed above private first class, did a stint at hard labor for drunkenness and resisting arrest, and was ultimately handed a general discharge in 1948 because of "ineptness and lack of adaptability to military service."

A civilian again, James Ray promptly embarked on an aimless career of maladroitness and lawbreaking. He was a gutsy crook who could be as elusive as an eel when cornered.

### Arrest in Los Angeles

Caught in 1949 trying to steal a typewriter from a Los Angeles cafeteria, he wrestled away from two men to make his getaway—only to drop his discharge papers in the process. Four days later he was spotted by one of the men, caught, tried for second-degree burglary, and sentenced to 90 days in jail and two years probation. That was followed by arrests for vagrancy in Iowa and for driving a car into Alton without a driver's permit. (William Maher paid the fine and drove the car to the edge of town for him.) In May 1952 Ray held up a Chicago cab driver, but was cornered in an alley and shot by a policeman when he tried to get away. After two years in prison, he returned to the Mississippi River towns of his youth to try his luck in more familiar territory.

By then, the Alton cops knew James Ray. To William H. Petersen, who is now the Alton police chief, he was just a two-bit "dirty-neck" who didn't know how to be honest or tell the truth. Ray has changed a lot in appearance since Chief Petersen last interrogated him in the early 1950s, but the chief says he still remembers the fugitive's protruding left ear ("one of those that flap in the wind") and long nose ("like some of the caricatures of LBJ or Bob Hope").

One August night in 1954, Ray drove over to East Alton and broke into the National Cleaners on Broadway. Andrew Biro, a special policeman hired to keep watch on the local businesses, was riding with a city patrolman when he noticed something moving around inside National. When they investigated, the thief climbed back out the window and ran off. Mr. Biro gave chase and pursued the fleet-footed culprit all around the neighborhood before losing the trail along the railroad tracks going to Alton. Evidently Ray ran and walked the five miles to Alton bare-foot; he left his shoes behind at the cleaning plant. When he was arrested in Alton the next day, Mr. Biro recalls, the soles of his feet were "like raw meat."

The only record of the incident in East Alton's police files is a little, 13-year-old ID card bearing the suspect's name and age (26), a Quincy address, and a few bits of identification. There's not enough space in the old brick station house for a lot of bulky files, so every six years they burn up all the old ones. The loafer shoes Ray left at National Cleaners, which were kept

as evidence for a few years, went up in one of the file-burnings too. In the police photo album are two small mug shots, identified as James E. Ray, showing a good-looking young man with wavy, mussed hair, and a long, pointed nose.

But Police Chief Harold Riggins prides himself on his memory. Propping his feet on the corner of a bare desk, he relates the interrogation episode: "I figured he must have been slapped around a lot as a kid. Every time he'd tell a lie, and knew that you knew he was lying, he'd duck—jerk his head several inches to the side like he was expecting you to slug him or something. He wouldn't look you in the eye."

Was this nervous, inept thief capable of fulfilling a plot to kill someone like Dr. King? Hardly, judging by his performances in the early '50s. Yet even then he demonstrated a tendency that seems incompatible with a curious aspect of the King assassination: In his most ludicrous failures, Ray took pains to act like a pro.

For instance, he left no fingerprints at National Cleaners simply because he took the precaution of wearing gloves. Yet the first indication that James Ray was involved in the murder of Dr. King was the identification of his fingerprints. And the question lingers: Why, after all the careful, protracted efforts to establish the false identity of Eric Starvo Galt, did the killer or conspirators leave obvious clues that had to eventually incriminate James Ray?

## 'It's Hard for Me to Picture'

"You know, it's hard for me to picture him doing that," remarks Mr. Maher. "It was too elaborate; if he was involved, somebody told him exactly what to do." Something else about the case puzzles Mr. Maher and others: The white Mustang identified as an escape car for "Eric Starvo Galt" was littered with cigaret butts and ashes when found in Atlanta. Jimmy Ray, according to his uncle and others who knew him, never smoked.

Another notable characteristic was his stubbornness. Persistent failure never discouraged Ray. While awaiting trial on the East Alton burglary charge, Ray went back to Quincy and hooked up with a guy he had known since the early '40s, Walter Rife. They left in Jimmy's car to see some of the country. In less than three months they passed through 38 states and cashed forged money orders in many of them. When they reached Hannibal, Mo., not far from Ewing, they were picked up. Ray served two years and nine months; Rife, 27 months.

Rife now runs the small cafe at the Virginia Hotel in Quincy, a block from where the Ray family used to live. Sitting at one of the tavern's small tables the other morning, he chatted about his erstwhile traveling companion: "He wasn't a bad-looking fella. But his bone structure was bad in his shoulders; his shoulders were round and too narrow for his waistline. He never looked good in clothes unless he wore padded shoulders. He was always a neat dresser, though, even when we were boys."

Both men were tough in brawls. "Ray was a mean, nasty fighter. He fought to win, no matter what it took—a club, knife, or gun. I never saw him lose a fight." When they were in prison together, Rife adds, Ray lifted weights regularly and built himself up to a rugged 200-pounder.

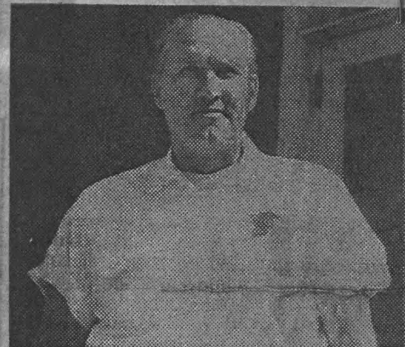
Most people do not remember Jimmy Ray as a racial bigot. But Walter Rife confides that he often heard his friend express hatred for black people. "He was

prejudiced to the point that he hated to see a colored person breathe," Mr. Rife says. "You could gather from his conversation that if it was up to him, there wouldn't be any colored—they would either be shipped back to Africa or disposed of some way."

As we chatted, a plump woman in faded brown Levis cut off at the knees, a flannel shirt, and a black jacket came in and sat at the next table. "That's Melba," volunteered Rife.

Jimmy Ray's oldest sister has been in and out of mental institutions for years and now lives at the Virginia Hotel. She has turned to religion in recent years, but demonstrates her faith in strange ways. She put together two big wooden crosses, and painted one red, white, and blue, the other, green and brown. One day she lugged one of them downtown, explaining to the curious that she was on her way to church to have it blessed.

Rife introduced me, and we chatted as she nibbled at a hot roast beef sandwich. Melba speaks slowly and smiles faintly now and then. Her conversation rambles—moving from one subject to another with-



Chief Riggins: 'He got slapped around.'

out continuity—but some of her comments suggest that she is more perceptive than most people think.

She went on without prompting: "They make heroes out of Bonnie and Clyde, but they want to put my brother in the electric chair or something. . . . I don't know if he done right or wrong. Martin Luther King should have carried a wooden cross; then everybody would have known which side he was on. . . . There was always a lot of excitement in our family; usually you didn't know what had happened until later. We moved around a lot. We'd just get in the car and go. Jimmy had better sense than the rest of my relatives. He would have gone to college and made something of himself. . . . I wouldn't believe a word any of them told me."



By the time he got out of prison in 1958, Ray had become a little more proficient at his trade. He and a partner held up a St. Louis grocery store and got away. Then they robbed a food store in Alton; Ray escaped, but his cohort was caught. Several weeks later he and a new accomplice hit another St. Louis food store, but witnesses gave the police a description of the getaway car, which was soon spotted in front of the rooming house where Ray was staying. Characteristically, Jimmy put up a fight when detectives trapped him upstairs, and was not subdued until one of them bashed him with a revolver.

In December 1959, shortly after a vain attempt to escape from the court house, Jimmy Ray was sentenced to 20 years.

Three times during his stay at the Missouri State Penitentiary, Ray tried to escape. The third time, in April 1967, he succeeded by hiding under loaves of bread and getting away in a delivery truck. At that point, James Earl Ray faded into oblivion; a few months later Eric Starvo Galt emerged from nowhere.

I was almost at the end of the trail. The whereabouts of James Earl Ray was still a mystery. What about the other members of the Ray family? Susan and Carol are married and trying desperately to protect their privacy. Max, the youngest child, was put in a foster home long ago. Gerald, who had been working at a golf course in the Chicago suburbs, issued a public plea for his brother to surrender—then suddenly quit his job and dropped from sight. John had not been heard from.

### One Son Drowned

The other son, Franklin, drowned in 1963 when he lost control of his speeding car and it plunged into the Mississippi, across from Quincy. A newspaper report of the accident included one surprising name in the list of survivors: "James Raynes." I drove to the little town of Palmyra, Mo., where the funeral arrangements had been made. At the Sprague Funeral Home there, the report was substantiated: The expenses of burying Frank had been borne by his father, who gave his address as Clarence, Mo. Disappointingly, though, a trip to Clarence was futile; nobody had ever heard of the man.

Back at Quincy, some people admitted long-held suspicions that the missing father of the Ray children was still alive, but nobody could or would offer any clues to his whereabouts. Snapped an attorney familiar with the details of the family's disintegration: "If you ever find him, tell me. I would love to call him a dirty . . . to his face."

At last, in the course of a casual conversation about the old man, a relative dropped the name of a tiny Missouri town. I located the place on my well-worn road map. When I got there, a greasy little phone book in a gas station indicated that this wasn't just another wild-goose chase. Among the Rs was one Jerry Rayns.

A man's voice answered the phone in a slow drawl. I introduced myself, and asked permission to stop by for a chat. "You got the wrong man," he mumbled. "That ain't my boy. The guy you're lookin' for is dead."

That evening I called again. The same man persistently denied he was Jimmy Ray's father. But he stayed on the line long enough to answer a few questions. He acknowledged that he had once lived in Ewing, that he had worked as a railroad switchman in several places, and that he had sold cars in St. Louis.

More revealing, he admitted that FBI agents had questioned him. "They was around here several times," he said. "They might be around here now, for all I know. I don't pay no attention to them. I told 'em everything I know. I don't have nothin' to hide." (In response to my phone inquiry, the FBI refused to confirm or deny that it had questioned the father of the suspected killer.)

### 'There Has to Be a Goat'

He also offered some random thoughts about the King assassination. "Personally, I think the guy who done it is dead. He probably done it for money, and the others killed him to cover it up. Just like Oswald—there has to be a goat. It was pretty damn stupid if you ask me—plumb crazy. I don't believe in killing, myself."

"I don't know who done it. Mighta been one of his friends; mighta been one of those politicians scared that King would get to be President. Too many killings among them people—money and power, that's all they know. I don't care nothin' 'bout those things. I don't care who's President—he won't help me none."

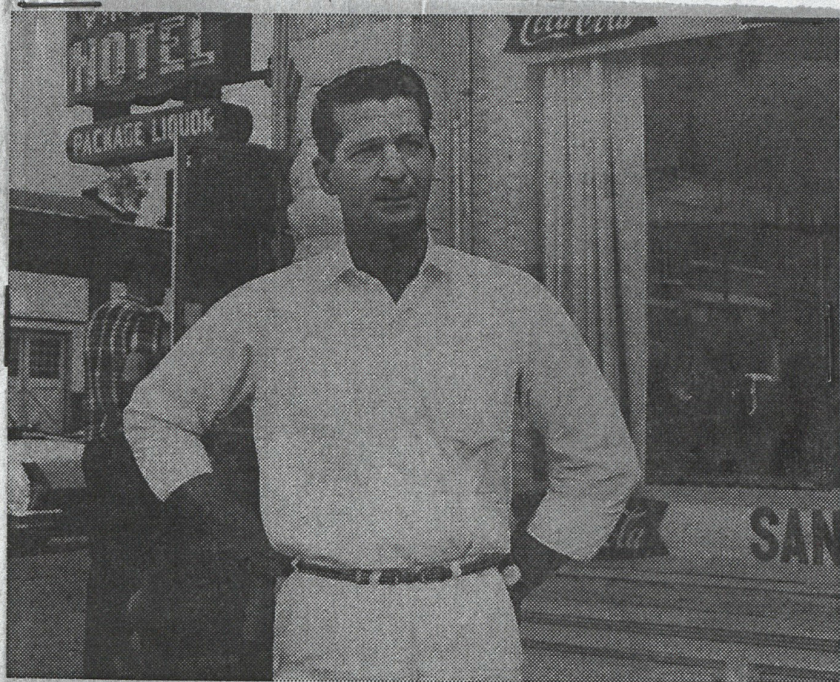
Before he hung up, I tried a long shot; I asked if he had seen Gerald or John lately. "Sure, they're right here with me," he responded. "You want to meet my boys? We'll come over to see you."

Not knowing what kind of welcome I might get from three Rays together, I said I'd call again tomorrow. The next morning, the old man answered and then called "Jerry" to the phone. I explained to the younger man that I wanted to talk about his brother, Jimmy Ray, and he suggested that the four of us meet that afternoon in the MacArthur Hotel in St. Louis. They didn't show up. I decided to return to the little burg and confront Jerry Rayns—or whatever his name is.

I confronted him all right—except that a gun was between us. Yet in his own way, the yelling, frightened old man, barely visible on the other side of the dirty storm door, gave me the answer I had come for. I left with no doubt that I had found the father of James Earl Ray.

—DANIEL GREENE





Walter Rife: 'Ray was a mean fighter.'





—T. Mike Fletcher

— Missouri house of 'this man of many names.' —



James Earl Ray: Subject of endless theories and speculations.





Ewing, Missouri: 'One of those sleepy little crossroads you drive past without noticing.' It was one of James Earl Ray's home towns. —Photographs by Daniel Greene

PLAIN TEXT

5/16/68

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (44-1609)

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
(OO: MEMPHIS)

Alias JOHN WILLARD.

Re Pittsburgh teletype to the Bureau dated  
5/16/68.

JOHN E. NEIL, Vice President of W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 55 Fifth Avenue, NYC, advised JOHN O. WILLARD, DOB-5/8/39, was employed by this company as a college traveler on 12/12/66. As such WILLARD calls upon college teachers in an attempt to sell the company's textbooks. WILLARD graduated from Phillips Academy in 1957 and received his MA in Music, History and Literature, in 1966 from the University of Pittsburgh.

WILLARD's itinerary for January - May, 1968, indicates he intended staying at the Downtowner Motel, Atlanta, Georgia, 4/4-15/68 at which time he would be visiting Agnes Scott College, Atlanta University, Morris Brown College, Morehouse College, Clark College, Oglethorpe College and De Kalb College.

New York conducting no further investigation regarding WILLARD.

SUBJECT RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

2- Memphis  
1- Pittsburgh (INFO)  
1- Savannah (INFO)  
1- Atlanta (INFO)  
1- New York  
JFS:jnr (7)  
1- SUPV. #23

44-1609-574

SEARCHED	_____
SERIALIZED	_____
INDEXED	_____
FILED	_____

PLAIN TEXT

5/17/68

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (44-1609)

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re: Guests at Provincial Motel, New Orleans,  
Louisiana.

5/13/68. Re San Diego airtel to New York dated - serial 567

Enclosed herewith to Memphis are 15 copies of  
an insert reflecting negative contact with Chief Petty  
Officer STEVE TULLER on 5/17/68.

SUBJECT RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND  
DANGEROUS.

2- Memphis (Encls. 15)  
1- San Diego (44-387) (INFO)  
1- New Orleans (INFO)  
2- New York

JFS:jmr  
1- (6)  
1- SUPV. #23

*Make 11 copies of Memphis insert for Son*

44-1987-575

SEARCHED	_____
SERIALIZED	_____
INDEXED	_____
FILED	_____

*Ray*

1.  
JFS:jrf  
NY 44-1609

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA JOHN F. SHANLEY: on May 17, 1968:

Chief Corpsman STEVE TULLER, United States Coast Guard, Coast Guard Supply Center, 31st Street and Third Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, advised he did stay at a motel in New Orleans, Louisiana, about December 18, 1967 with his wife DOROTHY, however, he could recall neither the date nor the name of the motel. He recalled only that his room was adjacent to the motel's swimming pool.

The only thing Chief TULLER recalled about the other guests at the motel was that the occupants of the room next to his were an elderly couple. Pictures of JAMES EARL RAY were unfamiliar to Chief TULLER.



**WANTED BY THE FBI**

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

James Earl Ray, a Missouri prison escapee, sought under the alias Eric Starvo Galt in connection with the gunshot slaying of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is one of the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives." FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover ordered the special addition of Ray to the "Top Ten" list to insure widespread dissemination of Ray's photograph and description to speed his location.

Ray has been intensively sought since the murder of Dr. King on April 4, 1968, as he stood on the balcony of a Memphis, Tennessee, motel. 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 were posted, determined that Galt and Ray are identical.

A Federal warrant, issued at Birmingham, Alabama, on April 17, 1968, charges Ray, under the alias of Galt, with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional Right of a citizen. Ray, who escaped on April 23, 1967, from the Missouri State Penitentiary, is also sought for unlawful flight to avoid confinement for robbery. His long criminal record also includes convictions for burglary and forging U.S. Postal Money Orders.

A white American, born in Alton, Illinois, on March 10, 1928, Ray is 5'10" tall, weighs 163 to 174 pounds, has blue eyes and short brown hair. He has a nervous habit of tugging at an ear lobe and his left ear protrudes noticeably. Known as a "loner" and "drifter," Ray has worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher. He has taken dancing lessons and completed a course at a school of bartending.

Consider Ray armed and extremely dangerous. Report any information concerning him to the nearest FBI office.

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

Page 1  
"THE NASSAU EAGLE"  
Smithtown, N.Y.

Date: 5/15/68  
Edition: 5/15/68 WED.  
Author: -  
Editor: -

Title: "Wanted By the FBI"

Character:

or

Classification: 44-1609  
Submitting Office: NYO

☐ Being Investigated

44-1609-576

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 27 1968	
FBI - NEW YORK	



# WANTED BY THE FBI



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

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Consider Ray armed and extremely dangerous. Report any information concerning him to the nearest FBI office.

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

*Page 2*

*"The Suffolk Eagle"*

*Smithtown, N.Y.*

Date: *5/15/68*  
Edition: *5/15/68 Wed.*

Author: —

Editor: —

Title:

*"Wanted By The FBI"*

Character: —

or —

Classification: *44-1609*

Submitting Office: *NYO*

☐ Being Investigated

*44-1609 577*

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 27 1968	
FBI — NEW YORK	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : *Sac, New York (44-1609)*

DATE: *5/16/68*

FROM : *Supv. R. Young #23*

SUBJECT: *Murkin*

*Please make 10 copies of attached*

*(Handwritten in a circle: R, Ry, #23)*

*Done  
5-16-68  
js*

*44-1609-578*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1968	
FBI—NEW YORK	



5010-108

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

5/17/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) AND SACS, ATLANTA (44-2386)  
MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
MIAMI (44-1854)

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (44-1114)

MURKIN.

RECGTEL MAY FOURTEEN AND MIAMI MAY FIFTEEN LAST.

RE EASTERN FLIGHTS OUT OF ATLANTA APRIL FIVE THROUGH  
APRIL TEN LAST.

INQUIRY BURGESS VIBROCRAFTERS, INC. GRAYSLAKE, ILLINOIS,  
REVEALED UAL IN ERROR AS UAL TICKET ENDING EIGHT TWO NINE  
NOT ISSUED TO THAT COMPANY. RECONTACT WITH UAL DEVELOPED  
TICKET ACTUALLY ISSUED TO ELRICK AND LAVIDGE, INC. CHICAGO  
IN SIXTY SIX.

CONTACT ABOVE COMPANY DEVELOPED TICKET USED BY CHARLES  
PLOCAR WHO, AMONG OTHER CITIES, FLEW OUT OF ATLANTA APRIL  
NINE LAST ON EAL FLIGHT TWO FOUR EIGHT. PLOCAR EMPLOYED  
ABOVE FIRM SINCE EARLY SIXTY FIVE. ELIMINATED. UAL CHECK  
RE EAL FLIGHTS CONCLUDED.

AMCC NEW YORK AND MINNEAPOLIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

1 - New York (44-1609) (AM)  
1 - Minneapolis (157-450) (AM)  
RJD:jap (3)

44-1609-579

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 19 1968	
NEW YORK	

Shanley



F B I

Date: 5/20/68

PLAIN TEXT

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

TO: SAC, MOBILE

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (44-1609)

MURKIN; CIVIL RIGHTS; OO: MEMPHIS

AT APPROXIMATELY NINE A.M. ON MAY TWENTY INSTANT, MRS. CARMEN HINES, RONKONKOMA, NEW YORK, A SECRETARY FOR NEWSDAY NEWSPAPER, WHILE DRIVING ON THE LONG ISLAND EXPRESSWAY IN THE VICINITY OF HOLBROOK, NEW YORK, OBSERVED A BLUE CONVERTIBLE AUTOMOBILE WITH A BEIGE TOP, YEAR AND MAKE OF CAR NOT KNOWN, BEARING ALABAMA LICENSE PLATE TWO FIVE DASH TWO ZERO ZERO FOUR EIGHT. THIS CAR WAS DRIVEN BY A WHITE, MALE, WHO LOOKED LIKE JAMES EARL RAY. THERE WERE NO OTHER OCCUPANTS IN THE CAR. MOBILE, AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA WILL DETERMINE THE OWNER OF ALABAMA LICENSE PLATE TWO FIVE DASH TWO ZERO ZERO FOUR EIGHT AND CONDUCT FURTHER INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE IF THIS CAR COULD HAVE BEEN DRIVEN BY RAY.

- 1- New York (44-1609)
- 1- Memphis (44-1987) (AM) (INFO)
- 1- Supv. #23
- 1- ADIC JOHN F. MALONE

44-1609-580

Searched	_____
Serialized	_____
Indexed	_____
Filed	_____

Approved: PLC:jrf  
(4)

Special Agent in Charge

Sent 5210 M Per gms