

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI (44-38861)

FROM : SAC, Kansas City (44-760)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/19/68

Enclosed to the Bureau are six copies and to each office one copy of the following photographs:

JAMES EARL RAY, Missouri Department of
Correction #00416, dated 3/17/60 and
9/8/66

WALTER TERRY RIFE, Kansas City SO #29636
FBI #4558766

Stand up photographs of RAY on the left, Kansas City SO
#29637 and RIFE, Kansas City SO 29236, taken 3/28/55.

See 1A

2 - Bureau (Encs. 24) (AM)
2 - Each Field Office (Encs. 4) (AM)
2 - Kansas City
(120)



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

44-703-215

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 22 1968	
FBI - WASH.	
DAWSON	Hand

F B I

Date: **4-19-68**

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

Via **Airtel** _____
(Priority)

To: SAC's WFO
Memphis (44-1987)

From: ✓ Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Re WFO telephone call 4-18-68.

The remaining unidentified latent fingerprints and the latent impressions in this case are not identical with the fingerprints of Robert Joseph Corcoran, born [redacted] Baltimore, Maryland, Navy service # [redacted], who may or may not be the same as the Robert Corcoran named by WFO. No palm prints are available in our Identification Division files for Corcoran.

See serial 183

44-703-216

SEARCHED <i>PPH</i>	INDEXED <i>PPH</i>
SERIALIZED <i>PPH</i>	FILED <i>PPH</i>
APR 20 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Lanison Rmd

Sent Via _____ M Per _____

4/18/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231) (P)
MURKIN - CR

Re WFO airtel, 4/15/68.

RE: CHARLES HUMFORD - JAMES A. POUNCEY

On 4/5/68, CHARLES HUMFORD, 1926 1/2 7th Ave., No., St. Petersburg, Fla., personally contacted the St. Petersburg RA and advised JAMES A. POUNCEY, 216 S. Albany, Apt. 7, Tampa, Fla., had told him one month prior to the assassination of Rev. KING that KING would be shot before the summer. POUNCEY reportedly said this at a bus station in Feb., or early March, 1968. Investigation, thereafter, conducted to locate JAMES A. POUNCEY from April 5 through 9, 1968, and all negative.

On 4/9/68, interview of HUMFORD established he could not furnish more information, as he had been "under a strain," he said he wanted to get into "public life" and varied unnamed persons were trying to thwart his ambitions. HUMFORD exhibited "Order Adjudicating Incompetency" which declared him incompetent, 4/17/67 in Pinellas County, Fla., for "Schizophrenic Reaction, mixed type manifested by inappropriate actions, paranoid ideation, impairment of judgment due to psychotic thinking." HUMFORD claimed God follows him and wherever he goes, peace and harmony ensue, that he was arrested with a "retarded" boy in Miami a number of years ago for a homosexual act, and he wanted the FBI to clear up the unjust accusation. HUMFORD

3 - Bureau
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
2 - WFO (44-703)
1 - Tampa
SJJ:av
(8)
Σ

See serial 133

44-703-217

SEARCHED	PPH
SERIALIZED	PPH
APR 22 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

Dawson

TP 157-3231

stated he was leaving St. Petersburg, 4/10/68, to go to Pittsburgh, Pa., where a retired Supreme Court Judge would help him in his political aspirations.

In view of above, no further action was taken by the Tampa Office.

F.B.I.'s Statement on the Hunt for Galt

Following is the text of a statement released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation yesterday concerning a warrant issued for Eric Starvo Galt in the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.:

Attorney General Ramsey Clark announced today that Eric Starvo Galt is being sought by the F.B.I. as a fugitive on a Federal charge arising from the fatal shooting of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968.

Director J. Edgar Hoover stated that a Federal complaint was filed by the F.B.I. in Birmingham, Ala., today charging Galt with conspiring to violate the civil rights of Dr. King in violation of Title 18, Section 241 of the United States Code.

The F.B.I. complaint charges that "on or about March 29, 1968, in Birmingham, Ala., Eric Starvo Galt and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother, entered into a conspiracy which continued until on or about April 5, 1968, to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate Martin Luther King Jr. in the free exercise or enjoyment of a right secured to him by the constitution or laws of the United States; namely, the right to freely travel from state to state. In furtherance of this conspiracy Eric Starvo Galt did, on or about March 30, 1968, purchase a rifle at Birmingham, Ala.

Rifle Found

According to Mr. Hoover, a .30'06 rifle equipped with a telescopic sight was found near a rooming house on South Main Street in Memphis immediately after the fatal shooting of Dr. King occurred. The rooming house overlooks the Lorraine Hotel

and Motel where Dr. King was staying.

Mr. Hoover said that F.B.I. agents determined that the .30'06 rifle had been purchased from a gun dealer in Birmingham, Ala., on March 30, 1968. The telescopic sight was also purchased from this dealer.

The F.B.I. director said that Galt, who has used the names of John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer in the past, is the owner of a 1966 white Mustang bearing Alabama license plates which was located abandoned in Atlanta, Ga., on April 11, 1968.

Investigation disclosed that Galt purchased this car from a private citizen in Birmingham on Aug. 30, 1967. The Mustang odometer showed that it had been driven more than 19,000 miles between late August 1967, and early April 1968.

According to Mr. Hoover, Galt's travels in the Mustang included trips to Los Angeles, Calif.; New Orleans, La.; Birmingham, Ala., and Mexico, as well as to Memphis, Tenn., and Atlanta, Ga. Galt was reported to have been in Memphis on April 3 and 4, 1968, and to have departed from there for Atlanta.

Avid Dancer

Intensive investigation by the F.B.I. has disclosed that Galt has claimed to have been in Florida as a cook on Mississippi River vessels and as a merchant seaman. He is said to be an avid dancer and took dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965; in Birmingham between September and October, 1967, and in Long Beach, Calif., from December, 1967, to February, 1968.

Galt left Los Angeles on Dec. 15, 1967, and drove his white Mustang to New Orleans, where he claimed he contacted either an engi-

neering or contracting firm. He left New Orleans on Dec.

and arrived back in Los Angeles on Dec. 21, 1967.

While in the Los Angeles area earlier this year, Galt took a course at a school of bartending and was graduated on March 2, 1968.

The fugitive is described as a white male. He is approximately 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighs between 160 and 175 pounds. He is said to be a neat dresser and has a medium build.

Galt has brown hair which he wears in a "brush" cut. He reportedly has blue eyes; his nose is straight and narrow; his teeth are straight and clean; and he has given his date of birth as July 29, 1931.

Nervous Habit

The fugitive is said to have a nervous habit of occasionally pulling at an ear lobe with his hand. His left ear protrudes farther from his head than his right ear.

According to Mr. Hoover, persons who have met Galt describe him as a "loner" and state his language and diction have a "rural" quality and suggest that he probably does not have a high degree of education. He is said to drink alcoholic beverages and has a preference for vodka and beer. He is a fan of Western and country music.

The Federal statute under which Galt has been charged provides a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment and/or \$5,000 fine. Bond of \$50,000 has been recommended.

Galt should be considered armed and dangerous. Any information concerning him should be furnished immediately to the nearest F.B.I. office.

44-703-218

PPH PPH

Dawson

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, WFO (44-703)

FROM : ROBERT H. SYLVESTER, Clerk

SUBJECT: MURKIN - CR

DATE: 4/18/68

A woman identifying herself as VIRGINIA GUY, a photographer and journalist employed with a "small news service" in town, called WFO at 11:30pm, 4/18/68, and advised as follows:

While covering the funeral of MARTIN LUTHER KING in Atlanta, Ga., she took pictures during the procession from the church to Morehouse College. Among these pictures were three of a group of people standing on an overpass above the procession. These were developed and printed during the evening of 4/18 and reveal four men standing on the overpass. It is her opinion one of these men resembles the FBI poster photo of ERIC STARVO GALT.

She showed these photographs to JERRY O'LEARY of "The Evening Star" newspaper, and O'LEARY suggested that she report the matter to the FBI. O'LEARY told her he contacted someone at the FBI during evening of 4/18, who stated a FBI representative would be in touch with her.

She is willing to exhibit the photos to the FBI. Interview arrangements can be made by calling her office: 223-4088.

After GUY called, Bureau Supervisor HUNTER E. HELGESON, Division 6, contacted WFO and said O'LEARY had contacted the Bureau re this matter. Mr. HELGESON said that STERLING B. DONAHOE in Mr. DE LOACH's office has instructed that VIRGINIA GUY be contacted by a WFO agent in the A.M. of 4/19 and arrangements be made to examine the photographs.

1-WFO
RHS:rhs



5010-108

Not in file 9:45 am 4/19

See serials 220 + 238

[Handwritten signature]

44-703-219

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 13 1968	
FBI - WFO	
<i>Dawson</i>	
<i>Cremer</i>	

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, WFO (44-703)

DATE: 4/19/68

FROM : SA JOHN J. CREAMER, JR.

SUBJECT: MURKIN - CR

Rememo of ROBERT H. SYLVESTER 4/18/68.

VIRGINIA GUY, Flair News Service, 1028 Connecticut Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C., and attorney, PHILIP HIRSCHKOP, 110 North Royal, Alexandria, Virginia, appeared at Washington Field Office on this date.

Mrs. GUY brought with her a series of photographs taken in Atlanta, Georgia, on the day of the funeral of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. These photographs depicted several individuals standing on an overpass which Mrs. GUY stated overlooked the funeral rally. The pictures were taken approximately ten minutes prior to the funeral procession passing this point.

Mrs. GUY pointed out one individual whom she believed may be identical to ERIC STARVO GALT. She also had blown up shots of this individual.

SAs CREAMER and JOHN BLAZEK observed these photographs and concluded that they did not resemble subject's photograph as it appears on the wanted poster. Mrs. GUY's attorney also was of the opinion that this individual was much younger than the subject.

Mrs. GUY did not wish to release her photographs and she advised that they would be available in the future if a better likeness is obtained and appears to be the same as the individual in her picture.

2 - WFO

JJC:nlr
(2)



5010-108

*See serials
219 + 220*
*AH to
Bureau
ME + KC
4/22
Rmt*

44-703-220

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 18 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

DAWSON

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

Conspiracy Charged to Galt

By JEREMIAH O'LEARY
Star Staff Writer

The nation today was being flooded with photographs of the man accused by the FBI of conspiracy in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The FBI broke its long silence on the search for King's slayer by filing a federal civil rights complaint against the man called Eric Starvo Galt late yesterday in Birmingham, Ala.

The warrant issued on authority of Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark says that Galt "and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother" entered into the conspiracy on or about March 30.

Police in Memphis, Tenn., filed a murder charge against Galt. The FBI only charged conspiracy because murder is not a federal offense.

King was shot to death on the balcony of a motel in Memphis on April 4, by a single shot fired by a sniper from the window of a flophouse 205 feet away.

The FBI warrant was the first mention of a conspiracy by any

See GALT, Page A-6

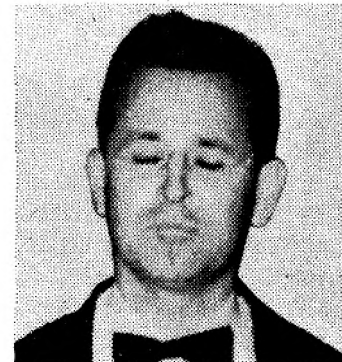
WANTED BY THE FBI

CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY
ERIC STARVO GALT

FBI No. 405,942 G



Photograph taken 1968
(eyes drawn by artist)



Photograph taken 1968

Aliases: Harvey Lowmyer, John Willard

A portion of the FBI "wanted" flyer in the killing of Dr. King.

DATE 4-18-68

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☐ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

☒ THE EVENING STAR

☐ THE SUNDAY STAR

☐ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

☐ WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

44-703-221

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>PH</i>	FILED <i>PH</i>
APR 22 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Lawson

GALT

Conspiracy Warrant Issued

agency involved in the nationwide man hunt. Galt is accused of conspiracy to violate King's civil rights.

Rewards totaling \$100,000 have been offered by non-federal sources for information leading to the arrest and conviction of King's murderer.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover ordered thousands of "Wanted" flyers sent out on the man known as Galt in hopes that the public will now be able to help locate a man about whom much is known, but whose true identity and present whereabouts are a mystery.

Galt is an Alias

Officials say "Eric Starvo Galt" is an alias used in purchase of a white 1966 Mustang which investigators are certain was the gunman's getaway car. But there is no certainty that Galt has a brother, although the fugitive is said to have mentioned a brother at the time he bought a rifle in Birmingham six days before King was slain.

In releasing the photographs and filing for the warrant against Galt, the FBI also said that the suspect used the names Harvey Lowmyer and John Willard. Sources in Alabama say Lowmyer was the name the suspect used when he purchased the rifle found a few blocks from the scene of King's murder.

The suspect used the Willard alias when he registered at the flophouse on April 4 and took a room which gave a clear view of the door of King's room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis.

Officials believe all three names — Galt, Lowmyer and Willard—are false.

The photograph of Galt was located at a school for bartending in Los Angeles, Calif., where a man using the name Eric S. Galt was graduated on March 2, 1968.

The full photo, which the FBI did not release, is in color and depicts Galt holding his certificate of graduation from the bartending school.

The name "Eric S. Galt" is easily seen on the certificate. Thomas Lau, owner of the International School of Bartending furnished the picture to the FBI and recalled Galt as a "nice looking fellow with a nice personality" and a slight Southern accent.

Nationwide circulation of the photo is already bringing the expected massive response from people who may have seen Galt or think they have.

But some persons with whom he had contact were not so sure. Bessie Brewer, owner of the Memphis flophouse from which the fatal shot was fired, said, "I just don't know if it's him." Peter Cherpes, operator of a Birmingham rooming house where Galt lived last year, said the picture was not Galt. An Atlanta cab driver who reported driving the suspect the night after the slaying said the face of the man in his cab was thinner.

But the FBI in Birmingham said the picture was Galt beyond doubt.

While the true identity of the suspected killer is not known, the FBI has amassed a large body of evidence against the man known as Galt. Hoover disclosed that the 30.06 rifle found near the Memphis flophouse was traced to a gun dealer in Birmingham. The telescopic sight on the rifle also was purchased from the gun dealer on March 30.

Informed sources said Galt went to the gun shop on March 29 and said he wanted a gun to shoot deer in Wisconsin. He bought a 30 caliber weapon, using the name Lowmyer. The next day, these sources said, he returned and said his brother had told him to get a 30.06 Remington Gamemaster.

Owner of Mustang

The FBI also said Galt is the owner of the Mustang seen in front of the flophouse the day King was shot and later found abandoned in an Atlanta, Ga. housing development.

Agents learned that Galt bought the car from a private citizen in Birmingham on August 30, 1967. The car's odometer showed that it had been driven more than 19,000 miles between the date of purchase and the day it was found in Atlanta.

According to the FBI, Galt traveled in the Mustang to Los Angeles; New Orleans; Birmingham, Mexico, Memphis and Atlanta. He was seen in Memphis on April 3 and 4 and is known to have departed from there for Atlanta, the FBI said.

The FBI investigation turned up information that Galt claimed to have been a cook on Mississippi river boats and a merchant seaman, although records of maritime unions contain no such name. Galt was also

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THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

☒ THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

said to be an avid dancer and had taken dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1966; in Birmingham during September and October 1967; and in Long Beach, Calif. from December 1967 to February 1968.

Agents have verified that Galt left Los Angeles on Dec. 15, 1967 and drove the Mustang to New Orleans where he claimed to have contacted either an engineering or a contracting firm. He drove back to California on Dec. 19. It was then that he took the course in bartending in Los Angeles that led FBI agents to the photograph.

Galt Described

Galt is described as white and by his own account, 36 years of age, although his supposed birth date of July 20, 1931 is not borne out by records. He is 5 feet 8 to 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighs between 160 and 175 pounds. His acquaintances and witnesses describe him as a neat dresser of medium build.

He has brown hair which he wears in a brush cut. His eyes are blue or hazel, his nose is straight and narrow and his teeth are regular and clean. Galt reportedly has the nervous habit of occasionally pulling at the lobe of his ear. His left ear sticks out noticeably.

The FBI said persons who have met Galt described him as a "loner" whose manner of speech has a "rural" quality and suggests that he probably has no high level of education. He is said to drink alcoholic beverages, preferring vodka and beer, and is a fan of country and Western music.

The FBI warned that Galt probably is armed and dangerous and asked that any information concerning him be furnished immediately to the nearest FBI office.

"He's our man no matter what his name really is," said one official.

There are witnesses who can identify the suspect from his purchase of the car and the rifle, and two witnesses saw him in the flophouse. There is a witness who saw a man of Galt's description park the Mustang in Atlanta after the crime. The FBI laboratory has latent fingerprints from the murder weapon and other unnamed objects believed used by the suspect.

Ballistics tests have been made of the rifle and the bullet taken from King's body.

DATE 4-18-68

PAGE A-6

___ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

X THE EVENING STAR

___ THE SUNDAY STAR

___ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

___ WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

F B I

Date: 4/19/68

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

TO: SAC, ALBANY
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN - COST DATA

ReButel to ME 4/17/68.

For information of all offices, the Bureau by retel requested of the Memphis Division as follows:

"Please furnish following information on above matter compiled or estimated through 4/30/68, and thereafter submit cumulative totals through the end of each month until further notice:

- 1) Number of man hours spent on case broken down as to regular hours, overtime hours, and total man hours by following employees (separate figures for each class of employees shown):
 - A. Special Agents
 - B. Clerical Employees
- 2) Total mileage (estimated or actual) traveled by Bucars used on case. Include mileage for cars traveling to and from other field offices on special assignment and any personally-owned cars.
- 3) Any unusual or out-of-ordinary costs, such as cost of chartering airplane, rental of special office space, leased telephone lines, etc. These should be itemized and cost of each item shown.

① - Each Office
2 - Memphis
HEG:LF
(59)

WFO

44-703-222

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 22 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Dawson Rnd

Approved: RG Jensen
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

ME 44-1987

- 4) Peak number of Special Agents working on case during month for which report is submitted.

You should promptly request all Bureau offices involved in this case to furnish information requested herein to you and it should be included in your report."

Each office is requested to expeditiously furnish the Memphis Division with the above designated data within two work days after the close of each month. Secondly, each office is also requested to advise the Memphis Division even in the event each category is zero or no work is performed on this case during the month.

4/22/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: SAC, RICHMOND (44-651)

FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703)

MURKIN

RE: JAMES EARL RAY

ANONYMOUS TELEPHONE CALL RECEIVED WFO REPORTED INDIVIDUAL
RESEMBLING RAY OBSERVED RIDING MOTORBIKE, VIRGINIA LICENSE
SIX TWO FIVE EIGHT AT SHOPPING CENTER, FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA,
ON APRIL TWENTY LAST.

RICHMOND REVIEW REGISTRATION ABOVE LICENSE AND IDENTIFY
RIDER. AIRMAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. P

1 - Teletype Unit
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)
2 - WFO

RWD:nlr
(4)

Searched _____
Serialized PPH
Indexed _____
Filed PPH

44-703-223

4/22/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: SAC, BALTIMORE (44-669)

FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703)

MURKIN

RE: JOHN WILLARD

DAVID ECCLESTON, PRODUCER, RADIO STATION AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON, D. C., ADVISED WFO A FAN LETTER CONCERNING THEIR COUNTRY MUSIC PROGRAM HANDLED BY SPOTS WOOD, DISC JOCKEY, RECEIVED APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK AGO WAS SIGNED WILLIAM JOHN WILLARD, ONE THREE ONE SOUTH MADIARA STREET, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND. HANDWRITING APPEARS TO BE THAT OF A CHILD.

BALTIMORE DETERMINE IF WILLIAM JOHN WILLARD ABOVE IDENTICAL WITH RAY. AIRMAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. P

1 - Teletype Unit
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)
2 - WFO

RWD:nlr
(4)

Searched _____
Serialized PPH
Indexed _____
Filed PPH

44-703-224

4/22/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703)

MURKIN

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER THOMAS R. OWENS
WASHINGTON, D. C., OBSERVED WHITE MALE BEARING RESEMBLANCE
TO JAMES EARL RAY RIDING IN SIXTYFIVE WHITE FORD BEARING
CURRENT TENNESSEE TAGS DP FIVE TWO NINE FIVE AT WASHINGTON,
D. C., THIS DATE. AUTO OPERATED BY NEGRO MALE WITH NEGRO
MALE PASSENGER.

MEMPHIS AT DMV, NASHVILLE, OBTAIN TAG REGISTRATION DATA
AND DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS OF REGISTERED OWNER. SET FORTH
LEADS TO LOCATE AND HANDLE.

AIRMAIL COPIES TO KANSAS CITY AND KNOXVILLE.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. P

- 1 - Teletype Unit
- 1 - Kansas City (88-9449) (AM)
- 1 - Knoxville (AM)
- 2 - WFO

RWD:nlr
(5)

Searched _____
Serialized PPH
Indexed _____
Filed PPH

[Handwritten signature]

44-703-225

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, WFO (44-703)

DATE: 4/22/68

FROM : SA LOREN E. BEACH

SUBJECT: MURKIN

MPD TAC Squad Officer THOMAS R. OWENS, home telephone 372-8748, Brandywine, Maryland, telephonically advised 4/22/68, that on his way home from work this a.m., he observed a white male wearing sunglasses who bore a great resemblance to instant subject riding in a white 1965 Ford bearing current Tennessee License Plates DP5295 on Suitland Parkway headed for Maryland. Officers stated instant auto exited parkway at Alabama Avenue, S.E.; described occupants as two Negro males front seat, white male look-alike in light shirt and sunglasses in back seat and claimed all appeared nervous. Observation at approximately 7:00 a.m., 4/22/68. Rough draft teletype Memphis for registration data submitted.

*See serial
226*

① - WFO

LEB:acd
(1)

acd



5010-108

44-703-226

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 22 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Dawson Rml

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

Theory: Hired Gun Killed King

Sniper Went Nightclubbing?

ATLANTA, April 17 (UPI) — The mysterious fugitive in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. apparently went nightclubbing in Atlanta the night after the murder and hailed two taxis in a hippie neighborhood.

Meanwhile, there is growing speculation among investigators that the assassin was a professional hired gun. Evidence, they say, points to a well-paid skilled craftsman.

One Atlanta taxi driver vividly recalled the man — whom the FBI has identified as Eric Starvo Galt — because he tossed part of his fare onto the floor of the cab.

"I remember him because he was a smart guy, the way he threw that money at me. You remember the smart guys," the driver said yesterday.

The man rode only two blocks and then hurriedly left the taxi. Apparently the same man caught another cab several blocks away and went to a modern, two-story apartment building.

The area, around Peachtree and 14th streets, is about seven miles from the public housing project where a 1966 White Mustang registered to Galt was abandoned April 5, more than 12

hours after Dr. King was shot to death by a white sniper.

FBI agents, tracing Galt's movements after the car was left in an apartment parking lot, apparently followed a trail to the Playroom nightclub near Peachtree and 10th streets.

One cab driver said the FBI asked him if he'd picked up any fares at the Playroom April 5, and, when shown a sketch of



This composite sketch of a man seen running from the flophouse from which the fatal bullet was fired was made by a Memphis Commercial-Appeal staff artist. Galt, he said he remembered picking up the man.

DATE 4-17-68

PAGE 2

___ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

___ THE EVENING STAR

___ THE SUNDAY STAR

X THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

___ WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

44-703-227

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 22 1968	
FBI — WASH. F. O.	

Ranston

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, WFO (44-703)

DATE: 4022068

FROM : SA KENNETH J. HASER

SUBJECT: MURKIN

This is to advise that when the identity of JAMES EARL RAY became known on the afternoon of 4-19-68, the writer initiated a check of the files of the Passport Office, Department of State concerning him, with nothing identifiable being located. Further checking is underway at the Washington National Records Center at Suitland, Md. in retired passport files and anything of interest will be reported.

In order to cover the possibility that subject RAY may have recently been issued a passport and the record thereof is not yet in Washington, the writer arranged through Mr. EDWARD STOKEN of the Passport Office to send a teletype message to all its Passport Agencies. The Passport Office on 4-19-68 also telephoned its Agency in Honolulu to check on RAY, with negative results. Mr. ROBERT D. JOHNSON, Acting Director, Passport Office telephonically advised SA HASER on 4-19-68 that the Agencies had all teletyped Washington that their records are negative as to RAY.

Mr. JOHNSON also issued instructions whereby the weekend Duty Officer of the Passport Office, Mrs. NELL ALLEN, was alerted concerning RAY and ~~xxx~~ instructions to all Passport Agencies to refer immediately to the nearest FBI Office any information received concerning RAY and intended travel. Mrs. ALLEN was told to telephone the Duty Agent at WFO concerning any information received. SA HASER alerted the Night Supervisor's office in WFO concerning this matter.

1 - WFO
KJH:KJH

*See serial
251, 211
4
251*

*A/T to Bureau
ME + KC
4/22
KJH*

44-703-228

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>PPH</i>	FILED <i>PPH</i>
APR 22 1968	
FBI - WASH. F.	
<i>DAWSON</i>	



5010-108

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

F B I

Date: 4/19/68

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

TO: SAC, ALBANY

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN

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

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

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

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

2 ALBANY

2 ALL CONTINENTAL OFFICES

1 MEMPHIS

RGJ:BN
(111)

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

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Date 2-19-69

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Lawson Paul

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ARMED & DANGEROUS.