

MO 157-2627

JTE:mb

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RE: WILLIAM MADISON LEONARD  
Former Inmate, Draper  
Prison, Elmore, Alabama

[REDACTED] a prisoner in Los Angeles County Jail, Los Angeles, California, on April 13, 1968, advised that in 1957 or 1958, he was [REDACTED] in Draper Prison, Elmore, Alabama, with one WILLIAM LENNARD or WILLIAM LENNORD. He said that the profile photograph of the suspected killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING which appeared in the Los Angeles Times newspaper fits LENNARD "to a 'T'." He said that LENNARD had been in prison on a murder charge in Alabama for shooting a Negro. He described LENNARD as a white male, 35 - 36, 5'11" to 6', 175 to 180 pounds, brownish-red hair, home address, Birmingham, Alabama.

The following investigation was conducted on April 15, 1968, by Special Agent SPENCER H. ROBB:

On April 15, 1968, M. S. DEAN, Identification Officer, Alabama Board of Corrections, Montgomery, Alabama, made available his file on WILLIAM MADISON LEONARD, JR., Number 78492, which he stated was only former convict of this name or similar name he could locate in his files. He also made available a photograph of LEONARD made in 1965.

A review of this file reflected the following background data:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	March 23, 1933
Place of Birth	Jefferson County, Alabama
Height	5'11" (1965)
Weight	180 pounds (1965)
Build	Heavy
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Brown, balding (1965)
Complexion	Ruddy
Marks	Mole, left side of chin

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Father

[REDACTED]  
Piney Town, Alabama (1965)

Wife

[REDACTED]  
Government Street,  
Wetumpka, Alabama (1965)

Mother-in-law

[REDACTED]  
Wetumpka, Alabama (1965)  
Steelworker, gunsmith  
U. S. Army, January 1951  
to December 1952, honorable  
discharge, Serial Number

Occupation  
Service, Military

FBI Number

The file reflects LEONARD was convicted of first degree murder in Jefferson County, Alabama, and sentenced to ten years imprisonment. The offense report reflects LEONARD and two other men were reportedly forced off road in their car by three Negroes in another car. LEONARD then drove alongside the Negroes' car and fired a .32 automatic into the driver's side; this car then stopped, and LEONARD shot and killed one of the Negroes who he allegedly thought was reaching for a gun.

The file reflects LEONARD was paroled on July 13, 1959, revoked March 11, 1960, paroled February 10, 1964, revoked March 16, 1965, and was discharged November 10, 1965. He had a record of escape and several disciplinary actions while in prison.

He served at Draper Prison during the early part of his confinement in 1956 and 1957.