

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/20/68

Private WILLIAM DENNIS HARRY, ASN [REDACTED] assigned to Company G, Third Battalion, Student Brigade, U. S. Army Southeastern Signal School, (USASSS), Fort Gordon, Georgia, advised he has been assigned to this unit at Fort Gordon since February 8, 1968, and his home address is 3498 Bosworth Road, Cleveland, Ohio.

HARRY related that on April 6, 1968, he boarded a United Airlines flight #396Y from Atlanta, Georgia, to Cleveland, Ohio, leaving Atlanta at approximately 6:30 PM, as well as he could recall, and arriving Cleveland around 9:00 PM. He pointed out he has made several trips since then to Cleveland, and for that reason his mind is confused as to the exact departure and arrival time on this flight on April 6, 1968.

HARRY continued that after boarding the plane at Atlanta, he observed a man to take a seat about six or seven rows ahead of him, sitting on the right side of the plane, HARRY was seated on the left side, and noticed that this man bore a resemblance to the composite sketch being shown at the time on television of the fugitive who later turned out to be JAMES EARL RAY. He said that he does not recall that this man was carrying a briefcase or any other article and after taking his seat, the man did not appear to pay any attention to anyone else around the plane. However, he noticed that as the man came aboard, he seemed to look around at the various passengers already seated before taking his own seat.

HARRY said he did not pay much attention to this man en route to Cleveland, does not recall if he talked to anyone who may have been seated beside him, and did not observe any further activity by this man until he left the plane at Cleveland. HARRY said that he had to get a couple of dress uniforms before leaving the plane at Cleveland, and this man left before he did. Consequently, HARRY did not see where he went after leaving the plane.

On 6/18/68 at Fort Gordon, Georgia 44-1987-Sub G-1068
 by SA CARLTON M. DILLARD /bb [Signature] Date dictated 6/18/68
 Savannah 44-1768
 JUN 24 1968
 FBI - MEMPHIS

According to HARRY, this man was about 35 - 37 years old, his weight and height he would not estimate because he paid more attention to the man after he was seated than before, was dressed in a gray sport coat with white shirt and dark tie, with dark trousers. He did not wear a hat and his hair appeared to be of medium length, and was probably brown. He said the man did not appear nervous to his recollection.

HARRY further stated he did not pay any attention to this man's left ear to detect any difference between the left and right ears.

HARRY related that after he reached Cleveland, he discussed this matter with his mother, but he reached the conclusion that this would not have been the fugitive because he did not believe the fugitive would have gone back to Atlanta so soon after the murder of Dr. KING. Consequently, he forgot the matter, thinking that it would not be important, and would not have reported it had not his mother contacted the FBI at Cleveland.

HARRY continued that he had made connections with the United Airlines flight #296Y from Augusta, Georgia, by Delta flight #423 to Atlanta on the same date.

HARRY said that he, prior to entering military service, was a compositor and Linotype operator for the Mansfield News Journal Company, Mansfield, Ohio, for about ten years and for about seven or eight weeks immediately prior to entering military service with the "Toledo Blade", Toledo, Ohio.

HARRY concluded by saying that he could not make a positive statement as to whether this individual was JAMES EARL RAY, but could only say that it might have been.