

BU 44-374

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RE: PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT
ORDERED BY JAMES EARL RAY
FROM SUPERIOR BULK FILM
COMPANY, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS,
UNDER NAME ERIC S. GALT

By communication dated April 30, 1968, Chicago advised that JAMES EARL RAY ordered photographic equipment from Superior Bulk Film Company in late September, 1967.

Ordered was one Kodak Dual Projector, M-95-Z. He also ordered Kodak Super 8 D-38 plus an HP 1 combination 8 MM Super Splicer.

The Super 8 camera was not in stock and Superior shipped a Crestline camera as a replacement. The subject returned the Crestline and insisted on the Kodak Super 8, Model M 8.

Chicago desired to know if serial numbers were available on this equipment, and they also desired a search of warranty slips under RAY's true name and aliases.

On May 2, 1968, BERT S. LONNGREN, Coordinator, Outbound Traffic, Eastman Kodak Company (EKCO), Rochester, New York, advised SA WALTER J. SAMELSTAD that no warranty is given for any Kodak camera and serial numbers are not recorded when shipped by EKCO.

RAYMOND PORTER, Director of Security, EKCO Office, Rochester, advised that warranty is furnished for Kodak projector M-94-Z, and approximately 50 per cent are returned by purchasers.

Approximately 6,000 projectors have been sold with warranties returned since October, 1967. Mr. PORTER said these would be examined to determine if subject had returned a warranty which should contain a serial number. 44-1987-Sub 2-774

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RICHARD TOWNSEND, General Manager, Repair Center, EKCO, Rochester, advised cameras received for repairs are recorded by name and by state in which the owner lives. There are also repair shops for EKCO at New York City, Atlanta, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and Dallas, plus 34 camera shops recognized by EKCO to do repairs on EKCO equipment.

On May 7, 1968, RAYMOND PORTER, advised SA SAMELSTAD that a review of the 6,000 warranties for the Kodak Dual Projector M-95-Z, failed to locate any information for RAY under his true name or known aliases.

Mr. PORTER said that a review of repair records could be made at each of the seven regional centers, but he estimated it would take approximately 40 Agent hours at each center. The time needed for review of records at the 34 authorized shops in the United States was not known to Mr. PORTER because he did not know the volume or nature of the records maintained at these shops.

By letter dated May 23, 1968, F. H. WAKELEY, Manager, Equipment Services, EKCO, advised that the following letter was mailed to all EKCO repair shops in the United States, Hawaii and Bermuda, where a person might seek service on a piece of Kodak equipment. This letter was accompanied by an identification sheet of JAMES EARL RAY.

The letter reads as follows:

"May 23, 1968

"The FBI recently asked us to send the enclosed identification sheet to you with the information that the party wanted -- James Earl Ray -- purchased a Kodak Instamatic M8 Movie Camera and a Kodak Instamatic M95 Movie Projector around October or November, 1967. The serial numbers of the equipment are not known.

TO: [redacted]
FROM: [redacted]
SUBJECT: [redacted]

"There is the chance that Ray may appear sometime, at some place, to request service for his equipment. Should this happen in your place of business, please notify your local FBI Office at once. You will find the address and phone number on the back of the identification sheet.

"Yours very truly,

"/s/ F. H. Wakeley

"Manager,
"Equipment Services

"FHWakeley:smb

"Enclosure"