

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

PAGE A-1

- 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.	
<i>Stinson</i>	<i>But</i>

U. S. ... PH. Lead, BR ...

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, 1963.

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 such name. Galt was also

DATE 4-18-68

PAGE A-6

— THE WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD

THE EVENING STAR

— THE SUNDAY STAR

— THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

— WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

4175105 re cover H. Dadvers & Assoc. 11, 11/11/67 to Ph. Lead, SR Dochman

said to be an avid dancer and had taken dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965; 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

THE EVENING STAR

___ THE SUNDAY STAR

___ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

___ WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN