



Photographs taken 1968

Photograph taken 1968  
(eyes drawn by artist)



*James Ray*

**DESCRIPTION**  
 AGE: 40, born March 10, 1928, Alton, Illinois  
 HEIGHT: 5'10" EYES: blue  
 WEIGHT: 162 to 174 pounds COMPLEXION: medium  
 BUILD: medium RACE: white  
 HAIR: brown, possibly cut short NATIONALITY: American  
 OCCUPATIONS: baker, color matcher, laborer  
 SCARS AND MARKS: small scar on center of forehead and small scar on  
 palm of right hand  
 REMARKS: noticeably protruding left ear; reportedly is a lone wolf  
 allegedly attended dance instruction school; has reportedly  
 completed course in bartending

**CRIMINAL RECORD**  
 Ray has been convicted of burglary, robbery, forging U. S. Postal Money  
 Orders, armed robbery, and operating motor vehicle without owner's  
 consent.

**CAUTION**  
 RAY IS SOUGHT IN CONNECTION WITH A MURDER WHEREIN THE  
 VICTIM WAS SHOT. CONSIDER ARMED AND EXTREMELY DAN-  
 GEROUS.

A Federal warrant was issued on April 17, 1968, at Birmingham, Alabama, charging Ray as Eric Starvo Galt with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional Right of a citizen (Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 241). A Federal warrant was also issued on July 20, 1967, at Jefferson City, Missouri, charging Ray with Interstate Flight to Avoid Confinement for the crime of Robbery (Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 1072).

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS PERSON, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FBI OFFICE.  
 TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES OF ALL FBI OFFICES LISTED ON BACK.

Identification Order 4182  
 April 20, 1968

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
 Director  
 Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 Washington, D. C. 20535

The latest FBI flyer on James E. Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt.

**PRINT-BY-PRINT PROCESS**

**FBI Assembles an Identity**

By JEREMIAH O'LEARY  
 Star Staff Writer

The FBI's identification of James Earl Ray as a suspect in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a sort of needle-in-the-haystack operation combining intuition with highly advanced scientific criminology techniques.

The key decision was to concentrate the resources of the FBI Identification Division on the existing files of known fugitives. These contain complete sets of fingerprints of 53,000 fugitives among 187 million sets of prints in the FBI files.

Possessing only latent and partial prints left behind in various places by the suspect, it was necessary for the ID experts to begin checking the 530,000 single fingerprints in the fugitive file against the incomplete traces left behind by the murder suspect.

The FBI will not say how many prints in its possession are considered as solid evi-

dence, but in no case was there a complete impression of a hand and many of the prints were of palms or blurred single fingers. The number of useful prints probably did not exceed 10, including those recovered from the suspected murder weapon and other items the killer is believed to have touched.

Experts explained that if they had had the prints of all Ray's fingers, it would have been possible to classify and identify them quickly. With the partial prints it had obtained, the FBI decided it had to focus first on the fugitive file.

By use of a standard electronic sorting device, he fugitive prints were flushed out of the 187 million sets of points and the painstaking search began.

Complicating the task was the fact that the suspect's prints did not reach the FBI all at once.

Dr. King was shot to death

on April 4. The suspected rifle was found almost immediately and was flown from Memphis, Tenn. to the FBI crime laboratory here along with 68 other items of evidence. Only partial prints of a few fingers and a palm were found on the rifle. More were found on a pair of binoculars believed to have been used by the sniper. Additional prints were found later on other undisclosed items.

New evidence continued to turn up, including more fingerprints as late as April 12. In the noon of April 19 the FBI had identified the suspect previously identified as Eric Starvo Galt, alias John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer as really an escaped convict named James Earl Ray.

This quickly led to Ray's entire criminal and military record, his birthplace, his relatives and much information about his habits, past occupations and leads about places where he might take refuge.

44-703-272

SEARCHED..... INDEXED.....  
 SERIALIZED..... FILED.....  
 APR 24 1968  
 FBI - WASH.

DATE 4/21/68

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- \_\_\_\_\_ THE WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD
- \_\_\_\_\_ THE EVENING STAR
- \_\_\_\_\_ THE SUNDAY STAR
- \_\_\_\_\_ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
- \_\_\_\_\_ WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN