

NO GRAND TOUR

Ray Had a Tough Time in Europe

LONDON (UPI)—James Earl Ray had a terrible tour of Europe.

Ray, accused of slaying the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., was confused by British currency.

He was so nervous that he had his breakfast tray set down outside his hotel door.

A London hotel clerk judged him simple. A Lisbon waiter called him cheap. One hotel owner said his going was "good riddance" and announced plans to change the name of the hotel where Ray slept.

Extradition Proceedings

As more details of Ray's stay in Europe became known, British Home Secretary James Callaghan signed an order authorizing the Bow Street Magistrate's Court to conduct extradition proceedings against the 40-year-old escaped convict. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Frank Milton was expected to schedule a hearing in about a week.

Ray had about a month in Europe to visit such sights as the Tower of London, the sunny beaches of Portugal and the British Museum. But he was on the run, it rained and Ray stayed mostly in his hotel rooms or sought out just those bars that feed on luckless travelers.

A girl in thigh-high miniskirt, a hotel clerk who thought Ray was neurotic and a night porter who refused to let the lonely man bring a girl upstairs have filled in some of the pieces of the last days of freedom of James Earl Ray.

Arrives in Taxi

Jane Nassau, 21, first saw Ray when he showed up May 28 in a taxicab at London's new Earl's Court Hotel, a building of white stone adorned with blue awnings. Miss Nassau, a hotel clerk said he "gave the impression he had just come from an air terminal."

The clerk who checked in Ray is off on holiday on a Channel island. But Miss Nassau remembers Ray. She is a north-of-England girl, with dark hair and shapely legs and a blue miniskirt, and she came to London to better herself and see the world. Ray interested Jane.

"He was extremely shy, pathetically shy. I didn't know why he was so secretive. I just thought he was nervous," she said.

"He signed in as a Canadian. But I thought it was strange. He had this deep Southern drawl. I learned about Southern draws from television and I can tell a Southerner from a Canadian.

"I asked him lots of questions, like if he was seeing a lot of London. But he would just say, 'Oh, yes,' and fiddle with his keys. He was extremely nervous, always doing things with his hands.

Knocks Porter Over

"I tried to talk to him but then I stopped myself. I was afraid he might think I was trying to chat him up (flirt)," Miss Nassau said.

Ray emerged one night from his room in search of the bathroom. In a dark hall he bowled over a porter who had climbed a ladder to change a light bulb. "He apologized," Miss Nassau said.

Patience Miss Nassau tried to explain British currency. "But he was a bit thick and it didn't sink in. He was very slow," she said.

Later another hotel clerk found a paperback spy novel, "Assignment Tangier," that Ray had dropped. In the back was a mass of figures indicating Ray's attempts to compare the value of dollars to pounds.

A second man had appeared with Ray when he checked in. Miss Nassau never saw him again. Ray left June 5, carrying the airline flight bag he always clutched, possibly containing the Liberty chief pistol he was arrested with Saturday at Heathrow Airport.

Miss Nassau called out goodbye and that Sen. Robert F. Kennedy had been shot. "He just shrugged and walked away," she said.

Contrary to what he had told her, Ray headed for a new hotel. It was raining and the first hotel he tried was full. The clerk recommended the Hotel Pax, owned by Mrs. Anna Thomas.

He paid \$10.80 in advance for three nights' stay. Mrs. Thomas saved the 5-pound note he paid with. She also saved the syringe she found in his room. She didn't like Ray.

Ray had a "friend" with him when he asked at the first hotel. The second man was gone when he checked into his small room at the Pax.

Got 4 Phone Calls

He received four telephone calls — Scotland Yard is trying to find out who from — and a postcard. The card came for Ian Colvin, a newspaperman Ray had telephoned in search of help in joining an African mercenary unit.

Mrs. Thomas said one telephone caller was a woman with an American "twang." Ray was out and the twang was heard no more. Mrs. Thomas thought something was funny.

"I always thought he slept in bed with his clothes on. When I brought his breakfast tray, he told me to leave it outside, like he was still in bed. Then, a minute later, before I had gone a step, he was at the door fully dressed, picking it up... he was so neurotic," she said.

Ray kept out the maid. He made his own bed. She ordered

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