

AFFIDAVIT

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA) ss:

GEORGE J. BONEBRAKE, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am a Fingerprint Examiner in the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D. C. I have held this position since October 1941. I have attended schools and other training classes conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to qualify me for my position. During the time I have been a Fingerprint Examiner, I have made millions of fingerprint comparisons for identification purposes. I have testified as a fingerprint expert witness in numerous cases in federal and state courts as well as in military courts-martial with regard to my findings based on comparisons of fingerprints.

2. On April 5, 1968, at approximately 5:15 a.m., at the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C., I received certain objects of evidence from Special Agent Robert Fitzpatrick. These objects were identified to me as being part of the investigation into the shooting of Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis, Tennessee, on the previous day. Among the items delivered to me were a Remington Model 760 rifle, serial number 461476, with Redfield telescopic sight number A 17350, and a pair of 7 by 35 Bushnell binoculars, serial number DQ 408664. I examined each of these objects for latent fingerprints, and subsequently on April 5, 1968, I developed one latent fingerprint on the rifle, one latent fingerprint on the telescopic sight, and one latent fingerprint on the binoculars. These were the only latent prints on these

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objects which contained sufficient characteristic ridge detail to be of value for identification purposes.

3. On April 19, 1968, I compared each of the afore-mentioned three latent prints with the known fingerprints of James Earl Ray obtained by officials of the Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles, California, on October 11, 1949. The fingerprint card made by the Los Angeles Police Department is contained in the official fingerprint files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D. C. From my comparison I formed the opinion that they were the fingerprints of the same man. I determined that the latent fingerprint on the Remington rifle and the latent fingerprint on the binoculars are identical to the left thumbprint of James Earl Ray, and that the latent fingerprint on the telescopic sight is identical to the right ring-fingerprint of James Earl Ray.

4. The official fingerprint files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington also contain the fingerprint record of James Earl Ray, taken in connection with his incarceration in the Missouri State Penitentiary on March 17, 1960, following a conviction of first degree robbery. I have compared the fingerprints of James Earl Ray taken in connection with his arrest on October 11, 1949, by the Los Angeles Police Department with the fingerprints taken in connection with the incarceration of James Earl Ray in the Missouri State Penitentiary on March 17, 1960, and I have determined that these prints are of the same person.

5. Attached as Exhibit I is a photographic copy of the known prints of James Earl Ray, taken in connection with his arrest on October 11, 1949, by the Los Angeles, California Police Department. Attached as Exhibit II is a photographic copy of the known prints of James Earl Ray, taken on March 17, 1960, in connection with his incarceration in the Missouri State Penitentiary. Attached as Exhibits III, IV and V are three photographs, each depicting one of the afore-mentioned three latent fingerprints developed by me respectively on the rifle, the telescopic sight, and the binoculars.

6. I am also an Assistant Custodian of the fingerprint records of the Identification Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. As such, I am familiar with the contents of those records and am authorized to have copies made of those records and to certify as to their authenticity.

7. The fingerprint card attached as Exhibit II on Form FD-249, is a true copy of the original record in my custody and was prepared under my supervision. The original was received by the Federal Bureau of Investigation from the Warden of the State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, on April 4, 1960 and contains the photograph (profile and front view), fingerprints, and signature of James Earl Ray, an inmate of the Penitentiary then serving a 20-year sentence.

George J. Bonebrake
GEORGE J. BONEBRAKE

Sworn to before me this




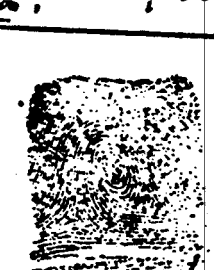
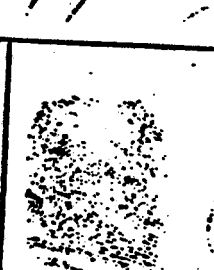




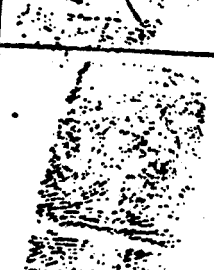

16th day of June, 1960.
ROBERT M. STEARNS, Clerk
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Robert M. Stearns
Deputy Clerk

I hereby certify that the attached three pages comprise the original affidavit of George J. Bonebrake.

25 A.C. . . . P.L.O.

EXHIBIT I

NAME RAY, James Earl		305-113 A NO. B-119908 CLASS 405-942-G		MALI	
					
					
21 140 5/10 Hair brown; eyes blue Suspicion Burglary			Illinois LAPD		Unemployed 10-11-49
DATE 10-11-49			PRISONER'S SIGNATURE 		PHOTO TAKEN BY
					OPERATOR <i>Papen...</i>
					CLASS BY
					SEARCHED
