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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/11/68

At approximately 10:30 a.m. DONALD F. WOOD was contacted at Aeromarine Supply Company, 5701 Airport Highway, Birmingham, and advised that he is the son of ROBERT E. WOOD, SR., who is the owner of the Aeromarine Supply Company. WOOD was discreetly questioned concerning the sale of a Remington caliber 30.06 rifle, serial number 461476, which Aeromarine had purchased from Wimberley-Thomas in August, 1966. DONALD F. WOOD immediately stated that he had heard the accounts of the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING the previous day on the radio and had immediately recalled selling a rifle, as was described in the newspaper as the murder weapon, to an individual about a week before the murder. WOOD immediately searched for and found a sales invoice in his records and indicated that on Saturday, March 30, 1968, he had sold this gun to an individual using the name HARVEY LOWMEYER.

After obtaining both copies of this sales invoice, Mr. WOOD was requested to accompany the interviewing Agent to the Birmingham Office of the FBI, which he agreed to do. Mr. WOOD was transported to the Birmingham Office of the FBI, where he furnished the following signed statement:

"Birmingham, Alabama  
April 5, 1968

"I, DONALD F. WOOD, hereby make this statement to Special Agent [REDACTED] who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I reside at [REDACTED], Birmingham, Alabama and subscribe to telephone number [REDACTED]. I am employed by my father, ROBERT E. WOOD, SR. at the Aeromarine Supply Company, 5701 Airport Highway, Birmingham, Ala., as a salesman.

On 4/5/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 4/11/68

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"On Friday, March 29, 1968, sometime in the early afternoon I had just returned from lunch when I observed Mr. U. L. BAKER, also a salesman, completing the sale of a rifle to an individual unknown to me. Mr. BAKER had just sold this man a Remington, Model 700, Caliber .243 Winchester with a 2x-7x Redfield Scope mounted thereon. Mr. BAKER had made this sale and had also mounted and bore sighted the scope on our machine. This individual also bought one box of 20 rounds of .243 Norma ammunition. He paved cash for this sale. When I first observed this man he was dressed in a dark business suit with a white shirt and tie, as well as I remember. He was approximately 5'8" tall, 150 to 160 pounds and had dark hair. He had a medium complexion and appeared to be a meek individual. This individual had given his name as HARVEY LOWMEYER and stated that he resided at 1907 South 11th Street, Birmingham, Alabama. He also advised that he was 36 years of age.

"This information was not given to me personally by this individual, but I determined it from the bill of sale that was prepared by Mr. BAKER.

"Following the sale this individual left the store carrying the gun in a cardboard box utilized by the Browning Manufacturing Company. This box was used because with the scope mounted the rifle would not fit in the normal Remington box. He also took the empty Remington manufacturer's carton with him when he left.

"It was, as best I recall, either later that afternoon or early the following Saturday morning when this individual called on the telephone and stated that he had had a conversation with his brother and decided that the gun he had purchased was not the gun he wanted and he requested whether he could exchange it for a Remington, Model 760, 30.06 caliber. I advised him that we could make this exchange but that it would cost him an additional \$5.00.

"At approximately 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 30, this same individual returned to the store with the gun he had previously purchased. When he returned the gun he had the gun still in the Browning box. I told him that I would change the scope from the caliber .243 rifle to the Model 760, but that it would take me until approximately 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon and I instructed him to return at 3:00 o'clock and to bring the original Remington box for the caliber .243 weapon with him when he came as I would need a box to store the gun in. I gave him the Model 760 gun and I believe that I left it in the Browning carton. I did not receive the \$5.00 because in exchanging the scope I had to use a Weaver base and rings instead of the Redfield base and rings and this made up the cost difference. I also exchanged the box of .243 caliber ammunition for a box of 30.06 ammunition which I believe was Peters Core Lokt, 150 grain, 20 rounds per box. He left the store carrying the gun in the cardboard box.

"During the course of our dealings on Saturday I asked this individual why he didn't want the caliber .243 gun and I told him that it was a big enough gun to bring down any deer in Alabama. He stated in an offhand manner that he wanted the 30.06 caliber gun because he was going to use it to hunt in Wisconsin.

"At the present time this is all that I can remember concerning the transaction with this individual.

"4/5/68

"I have read this signed statement and accept where I have initiated one correction. I find it to consist of this and two other pages and it is true and correct.

"/s/ DONALD F. WOOD

"/s/ [REDACTED] Special Agent,  
FBI, 4/5/68.

"/s/ [REDACTED] Special Agent,  
FBI, Birmingham, 4/5/68."

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 4/8/68

JOHN WEBSTER DE SHAZO, [REDACTED] Mountain Brook, furnished the following:

DE SHAZO is a regular and frequent customer at Aero-marine Supply Company, Airport Highway, Birmingham. DE SHAZO is also a member of the National Rifle Association (NRA) and therefore has an extensive and avid interest in weapons.

On March 29, 1968, DE SHAZO went to the Aero-marine Supply Company, arriving sometime around 3:00 P.M. He was there for about one to one and one-half hours. At the time he arrived, the son of the owner, DON WOODS, was out to lunch, and DE SHAZO wanted to conduct his business with WOODS. About twenty minutes after DE SHAZO arrived, a man in a dark shade of brown business suit which was wrinkled as if he had been working or traveling, came into the store. DE SHAZO said his first impression of this man was that he did not look like a hunter or an outdoorsman, and that he appeared to be out of place in the store. It was apparent to DE SHAZO in watching this man that he did not know anything about rifles. He looked at and handled several different weapons and finally decided to buy a Remington Model 700 .243 Winchester. He also ordered a Redfield Variable scope. The total cost of this purchase would have been about \$270. DE SHAZO recalled saying to this man, "You've really got quite a gun there - you'll have to learn how to use it." The man replied that he was going deer hunting with his brother or brother-in-law, in Wisconsin, who had invited him to hunt. This man also said that he was now able to buy a rifle so he was going to get a good one. Sometime while DE SHAZO was observing this man, he noticed that he could detect the odor of alcohol on his breath. He said the man was not drunk, bleary-eyed, nor was his speech slurred, but he had definitely been drinking. DE SHAZO said when he left the store this purchaser was still in the store waiting for a salesman named BAKER to get the scope sight mounted on the rifle that this man had purchased.

44-38861-2323

On 4/7/68 at Mountain Brook, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Date dictated 4/8/68

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 4/8/68

On April 6, 1968, JOHN DENNIS HANNERS, [REDACTED] furnished the following:

HANNERS went to the Aeromarine Supply Company on Airport Highway twice on March 29, 1968. The first time was about 10:00 A.M., and he was there for about an hour, during which time he made a purchase. He returned sometime between 2:00 and 2:30 P.M., and stayed until sometime after 4:00 P.M. About fifteen minutes after he arrived, a man wearing a business suit, dark brown in color, came in and looked at some rifles. From this man's actions it was obvious to HANNERS that this man knew little or nothing about rifles. He was waited on by an employee named BAKER. He finally purchased a Remington, model unknown, rifle and ordered a scope sight to be installed at that time. HANNERS left sometime after 4:00 P.M. and at that time this purchaser was still in the store. At the time HANNERS left, the purchaser was watching BAKER equip the rifle with the scope sight. HANNERS said he is quite positive he could identify this purchaser if he ever saw him again.

HANNERS recalled that this purchaser talked to a customer who was in the store at the same time on March 29, 1968, which customer was buying a gun case for a Varmint model rifle. This customer apparently was well known to BAKER and HANNERS recalls seeing this customer have some conversation with the purchaser of the rifle.

HANNERS advised he had no conversation with this purchaser nor did he hear him mention any name, locality, occupation, residence, and/or automobile. When HANNERS left the store he noticed there were several cars parked in the store parking lot, but could not recall any one specific car, except a small red midget-type compact. HANNERS further said he had never seen the purchaser of the rifle before nor has he seen him since this occasion.

On 4/6,7/68 at Center Point, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Date dictated 4/8/68

ENCE  
EVIDENCE  
EVIDENCE

Dear Sir;

Inclosed is two keys  
I rented from you.  
am moving to Louisiana so won't  
need them, I my half left  
some containers of something  
in the box if so just destroy  
them. Thanks

Eric S. Salt

Undated letter from Eric S.  
Salt to Birmingham Trust  
National Bank

The above document obtained from  
[redacted] Ala. on 4/9/68 by SA [redacted] BTNB, Birmingham  
FBI, Birmingham

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/16/68

Mrs. CATHERINE REEDY, Manager, Safe Deposit Box Section, main office, Birmingham Trust National Bank (BTNB), Birmingham, Alabama, furnished the following information concerning safe deposit box number 5517.

She advised that a review of the contract for this box reflects that ERIC S. GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, South, rented this box on August 28, 1967, for a period of one year at an annual rental of \$7. She said that the rental ledger card reflected that GALT surrendered the keys to this box on December 13, 1967, (prior to expiration of his contract) and a notation on the ledger card states he had moved out of town.

Mrs. REEDY advised that she recalls the keys were received from GALT through the mail and that GALT had enclosed a letter saying he was returning the keys as he had moved out of town and that if anything was remaining in the box that the bank was to destroy the items. Mrs. REEDY added that the envelope the letter was received in has been destroyed and she does not recall what postmark the envelope bore.

Mrs. REEDY stated that on December 13, 1967, the box was opened in the presence of bank officials BRUCE BEYER, C. E. KIRKPATRICK, BILLIE BENDER and herself, and the box was found to be empty. She advised that a notation to this effect was made on the record of access to the safe deposit box.

Mrs. REEDY, on examining the contract on this box executed by GALT on August 28, 1967, stated that she is certain she accepted the contract from GALT and, to the best of her recollection, she is certain GALT rented the box on the morning of August 28, 1967, and at that time GALT did not have anything to put into the box, but advised her he would return later in the day to place something in the box. She added that, although normal banking hours are from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., customers do have access to their

On 4/10/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740  
by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] 88 Date dictated 4/16/68

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44-38861-2323

safe deposit boxes until 4:00 p.m. She stated that, according to the record of access to GALT's safe deposit box, he had entered the box at 2:32 p.m. on August 27, 1967, and stayed there for a period of seven minutes, having checked out at 2:37 p.m.

Mrs. REEDY advised that each time a customer goes to his box, either she or her assistant will go to the box with the customer to assist the customer in getting the box and the bank employee will then place his initials by the signature of the customer. She added that each time a customer enters the box he will sign the record of access. The record of access will be stamped showing the date and time the customer entered the box and the time the customer leaves.

Mrs. REEDY advised that, according to the record of access, GALT entered the box on dates and times set forth below and that DIANNE BATTLES, an employee of her section, assisted GALT in going to the box:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIMES</u>
August 28, 1967	2:32 p.m. to 2:37 p.m.
September 5, 1967	1:52 p.m. to 1:56 p.m.
September 21, 1967	11:04 a.m. to 11:08 a.m.

Mrs. REEDY advised that on September 28, 1967, her initials appear by GALT's signature, indicating she assisted GALT in going to the box on that date and that GALT was at the box from 10:16 a.m. to 10:19 a.m.

Mrs. REEDY stated that she recalls GALT's name; however, she was unable to recall anything specific concerning him and could not describe him. She is certain she would not be able to recognize him again if she saw him since she had only limited contact with him.

She advised that when GALT opened the account she does not recall any specific conversation with him and, since she did not make any notation on the contract as to where he was employed, she feels he probably told her he was self-employed, or possibly did not give her an answer to this question.



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Mrs. REEDY stated that the only other person in her section who may recall GALT is DIANNE BATTLE, who had been employed in this section until January 17, 1968, when she resigned from the bank.

Mrs. REEDY added that only she and one other employee are assigned to this section and, therefore, there is no one else in the section who would have known GALT.