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## F.B.I. Says 'Galt' Is an Escaped Convict







Photos from Federal Bureau of Investigation show James Earl Ray at left in 1966 and at center in 1960, in prison. At right, he is shown this year under alias Eric Starvo Galt.

By FRED P. GRAHAM Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 19-The Federal Bureau of Investi-investigation were compared gation announced today that an with the prints of more than and side "mug" photographs of escaped convict named James 53,000 persons listed as wanted Ray that were taken by Mis-Earl Ray was the man being by the bureau. sought under the alias of Eric Attorney General Ramsey They bear a close resemblance

long record of erratic and violent behavior.

Galt's true identity was dis- of a 20-year sentence for prints uncovered in the King St. Louis.

Starvo Galt for the murder of Clark and J. Edgar Hoover, the to pictures of Galt, taken in the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther director of the bureau, said in 1968, that the bureau released a joint announcement that Ray Wednesday. The bureau pictured Ray as escaped from the Missouri State a trouble-prone drifter with a Penitentiary on April 23, 1967, and a leaner face than the Galt

Ray, a 40-year-old native of Illinois, had served seven years Continued on Page 31, Column 4

covered after latent finger-armed robbery and car theft in

The bureau released front souri prison officials in 1960.

Ray had close-cropped hair

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photo shows, but the protruding left ear, which the bureau emphasized in its initial description of Galt, appears to be the same in both photographs.

The F.B.I. announced Ray's identity after an around-theclock check of fingerprint records.

Fingerprints can be matched quickly by an elaborate classification and filing system when the full 10 prints of the person to be identified are available and it is known which finger and hand each prints represents.

But when only a few prints are available and it is not known which fingers or thumbs made them, they can be checked only by comparing each latent print with all 10 prints on the card of each wanted person.

This can be a monumental task, since the bureau's wanted list includes a cumulative file of all persons who have been reported as fugitives by the

local police forces around the country and who have not yet

been caught.

Latent fingerprints are not readily apparent and are discovered only by careful search and sometimes chemical development. There was no indication by the authorities where these prints were found.

Ray was said to have used the names of James McBride, James Walton, W. C. Herron and James O'Connor during his criminal career. When the F.B.I. filed formal charges against Galt on Wednesday, it gave two other aliases, John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer.
The identification of Galt as
the escaped convict explains
some of the circumstances that

some of the circumstances that led to speculation Galt might have established a false identity in contemplating the asassassination of Dr. King.

On Wednesday a fugitive warrant was obtained by the bureau accusing Galt of having conspired with a person "whom he alleged to be his brother" to injure Dr. King and violate his civil rights.

Dr. King was killed by a sniper on April 4 as the civil rights leader stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. The Tennessee authorities have sworn out an arrest warrant charging Galt with murder.

Bureau spokesmen declined to say whether Ray had a brother or to comment on reports that the bureau had the "brother" in custody.

## No New Warrant Planned Special to The New York Times

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., April 19—The F.B.I. does not plan to issue a new warrant for the arrest of Ray.

Joseph H. Gamble, the agent in charge of the Birmingham office, said that because Galt was an alias used by Ray, the warrant issued on Wednesday was legally sufficient.

A source said that the bureau thought that Galt's "alleged brother" probably was not a relative. Galt had reportedly told a gun store clerk in Birmingham that he and his brother planned to go hunting with a rifle he was purchasing.

The .30-'06 caliber Remington rifle was found on a Memphis street on April 4 near the site of Dr. King's murder.