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Assassin Hunt Bjt 500

MEMPHIS, Tenn. AP - FBI agents from Virginia to Florida were making an intensive hunt today for the mystery man whose abandoned white Mustang fits descriptions of a car seen leaving the scene of the Martin Luther King Jr. assassination.

The object of the widening search was Eric Starvo Galt, 37, known only as an unemployed seaman from Birmingham, Ala. A car registered in that name was seized by the FBI in Atlanta last Friday, eight days after King was shot to death in Memphis.

The FBI refused to acknowledge the hunt or to say why Galt was wanted. "No comment," was the routine reply. But Associated Press checks disclosed that FBI agents had contacted persons named Galt in several states including Virginia, Alabama and Florida.

An FBI alert for Galt was sent over the Florida police communications network last Friday, but withdrawn four hours later.

FBI agents have continued to inquire about Galt at numerous places including dry cleaners and service stations in Birmingham, where a man named Eric Starvo Galt rented a room at a Southside boarding house within the past eight months.

Meanwhile, in Jacksonville, Fla., a man picked up for questioning about the assassination was cleared, police said.

Agents have exhibited composite drawings of a man's face, but no photographs, according to persons contacted in Birmingham.

At the same time, police sources in Memphis disclosed Sunday that the FBI was withholding nationwide distribution of a composite drawing of King's killer, who fired the death shot from a dingy second-floor bathroom in a rundown rooming house. King, leader of nonviolent civil rights forces, was struck in the neck as he stood on a second floor motel balcony facing the rear of the rooming house.

"They haven't given us anything but a physical description. They aren't handing out pictures of the man," said a police official who asked that his name be withheld.

"They either don't have a good one, or they're going it alone."

There has been no indication from any source contacted by FBI agents that the FBI has a photograph.

The assassin's description given by the FBI: 30 to 32 years of age, 5-10, weighing 165, with a receding hairline and a long, thin nose.

Newsmen's requests for prints of the FBI's drawing were turned down.

Neither has there been a hint that authorities possess a photograph of the missing Eric Starvo Galt, whose name fails to appear on any official records except those showing ownership of the white Mustang found in Atlanta.

The car was sold to Galt last Aug. 30 in Birmingham, records show. Sources said he paid \$2,000 cash. His application for a driver's license last Sept. 6 gave his birthdate as July 1931 and his description as 5-11, 175 pounds, blue eyes and brown hair.

Little else has been uncovered. Thus he listed himself as an unemployed seaman, the Maritime Union had no record of an Eric Starvo Galt. Nor was there a recipient by that name in the files of the state unemployment compensation office in Birmingham.

Roomers at the Highland Avenue boarding house where Galt had a room during the past several months were unable to recall much if anything about the man, except that he was neat in appearance.

"I might have seen him in the daytime," said a boarder, Hill Hardy, who works the night shift at a paper plant.

"But I don't remember him."

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