

Scotland Yard Seizes King Killer Suspect

WASHINGTON — (AP) — James Earl Ray, the escaped convict wanted in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, was arrested in London yesterday as he was about to fly to Belgium, the FBI announced.

A "colossal investigation" in which 200,000 passport photos were examined by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police led to the arrest.

In Ottawa a Royal Canadian Mounted Police spokesman said the RCMP had traced Ray's journeys in Canada, learned he was headed for Britain and tipped off Scotland Yard and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Scotland Yard detectives took Ray into custody, ending an intensive two-month search that spread through the United States, Canada, Mexico and Europe.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said Ray, carrying a fully-loaded pistol, was arrested as he was passing through British immigration offices on his way to Brussels.

British authorities, charging him with using a false passport and carrying a concealed weapon, placed him under maximum security arrest.

Hoover said extradition proceedings would begin shortly, but it was not immediately clear whether Ray would be returned under the federal complaint charging him with conspiracy in Dr. King's death or under a first-degree murder indictment returned against him by a grand jury in Memphis.

It was in Memphis on April 4 that King was killed as he stood on the balcony of a motel talking to friends. The search for his killer first turned up a suspect identified as Eric Starvo Galt, but the FBI later said Galt really is Ray, a 40-year-old escaper from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

Ray was using the name

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Ramon George Sneyd when he was arrested and was carrying two Canadian passports under that name. He had obtained one in Ottawa on April 24 and the other from the Canadian embassy in Lisbon, Portugal, on May 16.

Chief Inspector Thomas Butler of Scotland Yard's Flying Squad told newsmen in London:

"Although the man claims to be Sneyd, his physical description is in fact identical to that of James Earl Ray."

The Justice Department statement said unconditionally he is Ray without providing details on how the identification was verified.

It learned later, however, that the arrested man's fingerprints had been checked against Ray's and found to be identical.

British authorities said the man arrived in London by jet airliner yesterday morning from Lisbon, en route to Brussels.

While his passport was being examined and he was being interviewed at London Airport, he was searched and the loaded pistol was found in a hip pocket, the immigration men said.

Scotland Yard then was called and the arrest followed.

Among the questions raised by Ray's extensive travels since the shooting is where he got the money.

He had escaped from prison at Jefferson City about a year before Dr. King's murder. An extensive check of his activities during that year showed he rarely worked and had no apparent income but appeared to be well supplied with money.

A chief source of speculation about the shooting has been that Ray was part of a group that plotted Dr. King's death with care, but no other persons are known to be involved at this point.



SUSPECT, INTERNATIONAL TRAVELER

James Earl Ray, nabbed in London on way to Brussels

A fellow inmate at Jefferson said Ray told him he would be willing to kill Dr. King for \$1 million.

An RCMP spokesman said a check of Canadian passport files, begun soon after the FBI started looking for Ray, finally turned up one with a picture that looked like Ray. It had been issued to Sneyd and was found to be fraudulent.

Sneyd is a Toronto policeman.

Deputy Chief B. O. Simmonds of the Toronto police said Ray somehow learned enough about Constable Sneyd to take out a passport in his name and "our job now is to ascertain how he got that information." He said the constable knew nothing of Ray.

Besides Sneyd's name, Ray used the name Paul Bridgman while in Toronto.

The Toronto City Directory lists a Paul Bridgman as a teacher. A Washington source said a Paul Bridgman was a fellow prisoner of Ray at the Missouri State Penitentiary.

Mrs. Mable Agnew, operator of a photography studio, said the arrested man called himself Bridgman when he had passport photographs made at her shop.

An employe of a Toronto travel agency, Lillian Spencer, said she had mailed passport application forms to a George Sneyd, a "completely normal" procedure in the travel business, and booked him for the London flight and a return flight May 21.

She said the man who called himself Sneyd gave a Toronto address and listed Bridgman as the person to contact in case of accident.

Mrs. Agnew said RCMP officers found pictures of the man at her shop on Wednes-

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day. The Canadian passport photos show a neatly groomed man in a dark suit, white shirt and tie. He had a full head of neatly trimmed hair and was wearing glasses with dark rims.

Hoover praised the cooperation of the Canadian police and Scotland Yard, but said Ray's arrest was the direct result of an intensive investigation by the FBI that covered all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, Portugal, England and other countries.

Ray, the son of a laborer, had a long list of arrests for burglary, vagrancy, driving a car without an operator's license and forgery. He was a man of many aliases— including Eric Starvo Galt, John Willard, Harvey Lowmyer, James McBride, James Walton, James O'Conner, and now Ramon George Sneyd.