

## TIGHTLY GUARDED RAY SPED TO JAIL IN U.S.

By BILL JOHNSON

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—James Earl Ray, handcuffed and wearing what appeared to be a bulletproof vest, was whisked into the Shelby County Jail before dawn today to await trial on a charge of murdering Dr. Martin Luther King.

Ray was placed in his cell at the jail at 4:34 a. m., 46 minutes after he arrived at the nearby Memphis Naval Air Station aboard a U.S. Air Force Boeing jet transport

(Other pictures appear on Page 21.)

from London. He had left London about midnight—6 p. m. GDT—so the entire trip took about 10½ hours.

FROM THE NAVY BASE, a blue-and-white prison van, surrounded by a half-dozen police cars and an equal number of motorcycles, roared into the parking lot behind the jail building at 4:29 a. m.

No newsman was allowed to see Ray, but Sheriff William Morris distributed photographs of the prisoner showing him dressed in what the sheriff told a news conference was "protective gear." He appeared to be dressed in a bulletproof vest and he was handcuffed to a heavy leather belt.

"WE TOOK CUSTODY OF Mr. Ray at 3:48 a. m. aboard a Boeing 707 at Millington," the sheriff said, referring to the Navy base at suburban Millington. "He arrived at the jail at 4:29 a. m. and was in his cell at 4:34."

The sheriff said Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle has been chosen to hear the murder trial, but "no courtroom has been selected for the trial yet." He added that no date for arraignment on the murder indictment has been set.

THERE WAS SPECULATION that Ray may be tried in a basement courtroom at the jail-courthouse building, so that he would never have to leave the jail.

Judge Battle already has issued his first order in the case, the sheriff said. This forbids cameras, tape recorders or other similar devices from the courthouse—jail building, its grounds or sidewalk surrounding the structure—and forbids anyone connected with the case from giving

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interviews or otherwise discussing the case outside the courthouse or with anyone but lawyers connected with the case.

AS PHOTOGRAPHERS took Morris' picture during the news conference, the sheriff went on to explain that the "no publicity" order would go into effect immediately after the news conference.

The van carrying Ray to the jail was preceded by another police car loaded with officers who immediately jumped out and joined a security guard of deputies who had taken up stations across the parking lot driveway 11 minutes before the prisoner arrived.

One other car, carrying Criminal Court Judge John Coulton, had driven into the parking lot a short time earlier. There was no indication why Coulton came to the jail.

RAY'S DEPARTURE from London's Wandsworth jail was as shrouded in secrecy as was his arrival in Memphis. It could not be determined where he boarded the jet in England, nor who accompanied him.

Throughout the night in Memphis, deputies and city policemen had guarded the jail and court complex. Then, at 4:15 a. m., a large bus was backed across a driveway, blocking the view of the jail entrance.

Three minutes later, 10 sheriff's deputies carrying riot guns marched out of the building and blocked the entrance. Four deputies sealed off the other side of the parking lot.

IN WASHINGTON, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said the international transfer of Ray was accomplished "without incident."

Ray's American lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., was refused permission to speak to Ray once he was turned over to U.S. authorities in London. Hanes' request to accompany Ray on the flight was denied.

Hanes took a commercial flight to New York today and told newsmen at London air-

port he would protest "this bizarre affair — the spiriting away of a man in the night."

"FOR ALL I KNOW," said Hanes, "my man could still be in Britain. I knew at 9:30 last night that a move was imminent. I was told that I should appreciate that I could not travel with my client. I said I most certainly did not.

"The entire affair was bizarre in the extreme—undercover and secretive . . . I don't know what the U.S. attorney general is up to in not giving permission for me to go with my client. I shall be taking this matter up most strongly when I get home."

As Ray left Britain, the London Daily Sketch reported that his fingerprints had been matched with those of a gunman who robbed a London bank a few days before he was arrested June 8. The report had circulated in London for several weeks, but British law bans the publication of such information involving a man facing legal proceedings.

SCOTLAND YARD officials refused to confirm or deny the report in the Daily Sketch, which said a gunman on June 4 thrust a "give me cash" note a teller in the Trustee Savings Bank in London's Fulham District and escaped with about \$240 in British pounds.

Scotland Yard detectives later matched fingerprints on the gunman's note with Ray's the Sketch said.

Bank manager Alan Perkins told police: "The man was about 40, 5 feet 10 inches tall, with brown hair. He was wearing sunglasses and a blue suit."

OFFICIALS IN London disclosed that Ray left aboard a U.S. Air Force Boeing transport from the World War II base at Lakenheath just north of Cambridge. Supt. Thomas Butler of Scotland Yard, who arrested Ray June 8, escorted him from Wandsworth jail to Lakenheath, where the jet transport waited with the U.S. marshals who escorted Ray to the United States.

Officials said the marshals took custody of Ray at the base, put him aboard the plane and took off. It was not known how many marshals were on the trip.

THE WAY WAS cleared to return Ray when Britain dropped charges of entering the country on a forged passport and carrying an unlicensed gun. Ray had abandoned his fight against extradition earlier in the week, and the British Home Office said the extradition order was signed last night.

Ray was arrested in London June 8—two months and four days after King was killed by a single bullet as he stood on a motel balcony here.

Ray's home until his trial for murder, expected to come in late September or early October, is a block of four air-conditioned, freshly painted cells on the third floor of the jail in downtown Memphis. This will be shared by his guards.

A REPORT from the jail-keeper said the suite contains its own lavatory, a telephone and two television monitors. Closed-circuit television has been installed so Ray will be under 24-hour surveillance.

Quarter-inch steel plates have been placed over the cell windows. The air conditioning was installed after the steel plates were erected.

It is understood the telephone will be for the use of the guards, but it was expected that Ray would have access to it to forestall any contention he was being held incommunicado.

THE SPECIAL arrangements for Ray—especially the telephone—have made some of the 300 other prisoners in the jail unhappy with their lot.

"They're especially upset because the very limited access to a telephone they normally have has for two days been cut off entirely," a trusty said. "The security around here is stricter than I can tell you."

Washington ave., which separates the jail and the county courthouse, was blocked off to traffic yesterday. Police guards are stationed at each corner of the jail yard. Exit doors are barred around the district attorney's offices and the door of the elevator leading to the basement of this building has been locked.

### Ray Is Transported In 'Thompson's Tank'

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — James Earl Ray traveled the final 25 miles to jail in Memphis, Tenn., today in "Thompson's tank," a \$15,000 armored car owned by the city of Jackson.

Chief of Detectives M. B. Pierce of Jackson Police confirmed today that Shelby County, Tenn., deputies got the 13,000-pound vehicle yesterday and used it to transport Ray from Memphis Naval Air Station in suburban Millington to county jail in Memphis.

Jackson bought the tank under Mayor Allen C. Thompson after racial troubles in 1963 that included the sniper murder of Negro leader Medgar W. Evers and a near-riot just after Evers' funeral.

In appearance like an over-length panel truck with windows, the tank has armor plating, searchlights, sally ports for tear gas and gunfire, and finger-piercing steel barbs around the base to prevent tipover by mobs.

In one of its few appearances, the tank moved in on a disturbance by Negro students at Jackson State College one night in February, 1964—and a nervous policeman touched off a tear gas canister inside, sending eight officers and the driver pell mell into the street.

But for the most part, the



—AP WIREPHOTO.  
JUDGE W. P. BATTLE  
Named for Ray trial.

tank sits parked on the street outside police headquarters, between battery charges and repairs of flat tires.