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# James Earl Ray Caught

## — Dramatic Search Ends





AP Wirephoto

Ray and three other fugitives used bloodhounds

## 2 Fugitives At Large

Petros, Tenn.

A police posse early today recaptured James Earl Ray, convicted assassin of Martin Luther King Jr., less than ten miles from the prison he broke out of with five other inmates 60 hours earlier.

Brushy Mountain State Prison spokesman Jim Henderson announced over a police radio at 2:35 a.m. EDT, "Gentlemen, we have Mr. Ray in custody" — thus ending a manhunt that began with a dramatic prison break Friday night and propelled Ray to the top of the FBI's "Most wanted" list.

The hunt came to an end near the tiny coal mine camp of Devonia, about eight miles northeast of Brushy Mountain State Prison, hours after guards recaptured Ray's cellmate, convicted murderer Earl Hill Jr.

Ray and five other convicts escaped over the prison wall at dusk Friday in a daring breakout punctuated by gunfire from guards. One fugitive was recaptured Saturday and two others — Earl Hill Jr., a two-time murderer and Ray's cellmate, and bank robber Larry Hacker, the alleged mastermind of the escape — were caught yesterday.

Lane said officers last night spotted Hill and two other men matching the description of Ray and another convicted murderer, Douglas Shelton, in the New River area of Anderson county, just south of the prison. They nabbed Hill at about 11:15 p.m. EDT, but the other two escaped.

"Inmate Earl Hill is in custody and they are in possession of two other inmates meeting the description of James Earl Ray and Douglas Shelton," prison spokesman Stoney Lane said earlier today.

Both Hacker and Hill were tracked down about four miles from the prison. Authorities said they thought another of the escapers, convicted murderer Douglas Ray Caylor, had broken from the group in full flight.

Police were guided to the area of Hill's capture by local residents who said they had seen three men on the run.

Hill was still wearing his jail clothes, indicating that he had received no outside help since the break.

Hill was taken in a highway patrol car slowly through the gates of the prison.

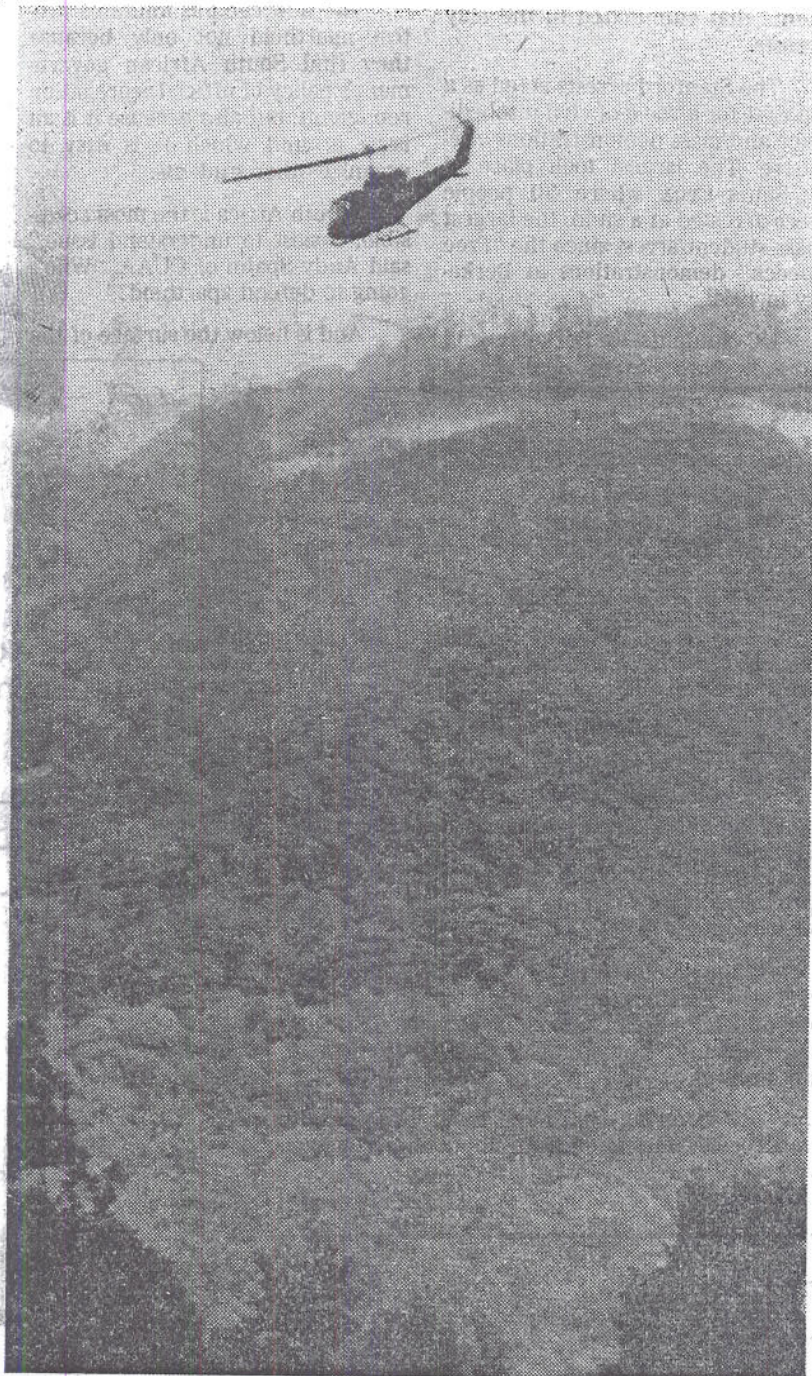
Dozens of reporters surrounded the car where he sat behind a wire grill with his head bowed.

Reporters shouted: "Are you tired, Earl, are you tired?"

Instead of answering he looked up and rolled his eyes. Then the car

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AP Wirephoto

A helicopter flew over the rugged terrain near the prison

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moved slowly into the darkened prison.

Hill is serving two consecutive life sentences for the murder of a Washington policeman and the 1967 rape and attempted murder of his wife.

His earliest release date would have been 1997.

Most of the searchers had been pressed yesterday into the New river area where Hill was discovered.

Bloodhounds, helicopters and 160 men have been searching through the wooded terrain around the maximum security jail since Friday night.

"You can't go much more than 48 hours without food and they've been out 48 hours now," said Joel Plummer, commissioner in overall charge of the manhunt.

Governor Ray Blanton yesterday ordered 150 National Guardsmen into the search for Ray, and the warden of Brushy Mountain State Prison selected a special squad of six mountaineer guards to pursue Ray and two other fugitives.

The 150 guardsmen assigned to a military police unit in West Tennessee will arrive here today.

They will be joined by about 50 officers, troops from the National Guard headquarters in Nashville, aircraft mechanics and 16 more helicopters.

Blanton said half the National Guardsmen will fly helicopter surveillance and the other half will relieve state troopers, prison guards and local police units that have been on duty since Ray and five others escaped over the prison wall Friday night.

Warden Stoney Lane said searchers believe Ray and one of the remaining fugitives were using cautious hide-and-seek tactics in the densely wooded Cumberland Mountains while Caylor had taken off in full flight.

"Some inmates when they escape run wide open, and that's how we think Caylor is going," said Lane. "And then there's the type that ease along, and we believe that's the others."

Lane said a "special force of six guards" familiar with the mountain terrain would spend the night in the hills, searching known hiding places and concentrating on fresh-

water springs.

"Tonight we're going to start trying to root them out," Lane said.

Ray was serving a 99-year prison sentence for the murder of King.

More than 200 Tennessee policemen, prison guards and FBI agents joined in the search, which was expanded to 25 miles around the prison.

The search perimeter now includes Oak Ridge, a mountain town of 55,000 where the atomic bomb was developed.

The suspected mastermind of the breakout, Hacker, was recaptured near Wartburg early yesterday. Lane said Hacker, and David Lee Powell, a murderer recaptured Saturday, were both interrogated. "But we learned absolutely nothing."

A seventh man, bank robber Jerry Wayne Ward, made it over the wall, but was wounded by guards and recaptured Friday.

Early in the evening of the second day of the manhunt, attention shifted about 20 miles from the prison to Caryville, where a car was stolen from one motel and some clothing was taken from a car at an adjoining motel.

Police refused to comment on a possible link to the escape, but said the thief passed up a camera and other valuables in the burglarized car and took only a shirt and pair of trousers.

Thundershowers drenched the mine-scarred mountain forests yesterday, and Lane said the sudden drought relief should improve tracking conditions for the bloodhounds.

Lane also said "15 or 20 inmates were possibly actively involved" in disturbances created to divert attention of guards as Ray and the five others escaped Friday night.

He said an investigation is being made into a faked fight, a bogus injury and a phony escape effort on the opposite side of the prison yard from the point where the real fugitives threw a pipe ladder against the wall and fled.

Blanton blamed a 1973 federal court order for Ray's escape. He had been kept in solitary confinement in Nashville and at Brushy Mountain from his conviction in 1969 until 1973, when a federal court granted his request to be housed in the general population.