

Fatal King Bullet Reported Too Scarred to Identify

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MEMPHIS, Tenn. April 11— Predictions by the Memphis police and by Attorney General Ramsey Clark of a quick arrest in the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. have not materialized.

Dr. King was shot to death on the balcony of a Memphis motel a week ago tonight.

And despite what Mr. Clark called an "unusually large amount of physical evidence," the four men known to have been questioned since the slaying have all been released.

Two of the men were law students who were in Memphis last week to help plan a civil rights demonstration. The third was a bald-headed man arrested over the weekend near the assassination site, and the fourth was a minister arrested Tuesday in Joplin, Mo.

Saw Man Drop Rifle

According to a report today, the bullet that killed Dr. King had been smashed and laboratory technicians of the Federal Bureau of Investigation had been unable to match it with the Remington .30-06 caliber rifle believed to have been the assassin's weapon.

Witnesses said that the rifle

had been discarded by a long-nosed young man who ran from a rooming house near Dr. King's motel immediately after the shooting.

The F.B.I., refused to comment in the report that the bullet could not be identified. But the report was consistent with information furnished by a source in Memphis, who said that the bullet was a soft-nosed and had been squashed, apparently when it hit Dr. King's left shoulder blade.

Soft-nosed bullets are used in big game hunting because they expand on contact and do much more damage than do the steel-jacketed bullets used by soldiers.

The Remington .30-06 caliber rifle cartridges are powerful enough to kill a man at a distance of more than a half-mile.

In an other development today, the Remington Company at Bridgeport, Conn., confirmed that one of its 30-'06 rifles had been traced by the F.B.I. through its serial number.

A company spokesman said, however, that employes had been told not to give out information such as where the rifle had been shipped to be sold at retail.

The rifle apparently pur-

chased by the assassin or an accomplice in Birmingham, Ala., last week. A clerk at a gun store near the Birmingham Airport said that the F.B.I. had checked the store's records, but she denied that the rifle was sold there. "That is just a rumor," she said.

There has been no information released on what the many fingerprints found at the site of the shooting revealed.

Frank C. Holloman, director of the Memphis Police and Fire Departments, said on the night of the murder that the sniper had fired from the bathroom of a second-floor rooming house 205 feet from the spot on the balcony of the Lorraine Hotel and Motel where Dr. King was standing.

Detectives found a handprint and numerous fingerprints in the bathroom.

The police refused to say today whether there were any further developments in the investigation of false police broadcasts that drew police attention away from downtown Memphis about 30 minutes after Dr. King was shot.

False reports of a dramatic car chase, including the firing of shots between a white Mustang and a blue Pontiac, were broadcast over the central po-

lice radio shortly after Dr. King had been taken to a hospital.

Witnesses near the scene of the shooting had given statements that led police to believe that the assassin had fled in a white Mustang.

The police dispatcher making the broadcast said that the descriptions of a chase were being fed to him by "police car 160."

A review of a tape recording of the broadcast showed that at one point the dispatcher said that the officer in police car 160 had gotten information from a "complainant."

There was speculation in the Police Department today that Lieut. R. W. Bradshaw, the officer who was assigned to car 160 on the night of the murder, might have been relaying information furnished to him over a citizens band radio.

Lieutenant Bradshaw refused to comment.

In another aspect of the investigation, F.B.I. agents in Mississippi and Alabama were known to have been checking the whereabouts on the night of the murder of known violent segregationists.

The inquiries included many members of the Ku Klux Klan. So far, the agents have been unable to turn up any useful leads, a source said.