

A052WX

8 June 68  
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Ray Bjt 2nd NL 280

By JOHN BECKLER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON AP - James Earl Ray, a fugitive convict accused of slaying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was arrested in London Saturday as he was about to fly to Belgium, the FBI announced.

Scotland Yard detectives took Ray into custody at London Airport, ending a two-month manhunt that had spread through the United States, Canada, Mexico and parts of Europe.

The Justice Department announcement of the arrest came while Mrs. Coretta King, widow of the civil rights leader, was attending the New York funeral of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, another victim of an assassin's bullet.

She was told of the arrest as she left St. Patrick's Cathedral but had no public comment.

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FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said Ray was carrying a fully loaded pistol but offered no resistance as he was seized before he could reboard a plane bound from Lisbon, Portugal, to Brussels.

British authorities charged the arrested man with using a false Canadian passport and with carrying a concealed weapon. He is to have a hearing on these charges Monday. Meanwhile he is held without bond under maximum security conditions at London's Cannon Row police station.

It was learned authoritatively that a check of Ray's fingerprints was used in identifying the arrested man as the long-time criminal wanted in King's murder. The arrest was made at 11:15 a.m. London time, 6:15 a.m. EDT.

Ray was wanted on federal charges of conspiracy to deny King his civil rights and on a first-degree murder indictment returned in Memphis, Tenn.

It is expected that extradition will be sought on the more serious charge of murder but the formal application is unlikely to be lodged with London authorities before Monday or Tuesday.

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Ray Bjt 2nd NL insert

WASHINGTON Ray Bjt 2nd NL A052WX insert after next to last graf: or Tuesday.

Asst. Atty. Gen. Fred M. Vinson Jr., head of the Criminal Division of the Justice Department, was leaving on Saturday evening for London, the department said, "to review on behalf of the United States the custody, protection and expeditious return to this country of James Earl Ray."

Memphis officials, last graf

JA735ped June 8

Memphis officials mailed the arrest and said Ray will be brought to trial as soon as possible.

It was 7th graf

EG441ped June 8

AO27WX

Ray Bjt NL 500, 2 takes 750

By JOHN BECKLER

Associated Press Writer

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

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The Justice Department announcement of Ray's arrest came as Mrs. Coretta King, widow of the civil rights leader, was attending the New York funeral of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, another victim of an assassin's bullet. She was told of the arrest as she left St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral.

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 charged him with using a false passport and carrying a concealed weapon. And he was placed under maximum security arrest.

The announcement said Ray was arrested at 11:15 a.m., London time, or 6:15 a.m., EDT.

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 King's death or under a first-degree murder indictment returned against him by a grand jury in Memphis, Tenn.

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 escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

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

AO36WX

Insert zyyyyxWX

Ray Bjt NL insert 170

WASHINGTON-Ray Bjt NL AO27WX insert after 9th graf: 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."

Although Butler went no further than that in saying the man arrested is Ray, the Justice Department statement said unconditionally that he is Ray without providing details on how the identification was verified.

AO46WX

u vyyx WX insert

Ray Bjt NL insert

WASHINGTON-Ray Bjt NL AO27WX and insert AO36WX, insert after 12th graf counting earlier insert : verified.

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

British etc. 13th graf.

CZ401ped June 8

British authorities said the man arrived in London by jet airliner Saturday 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. A spokesman at the U.S. embassy in London said the arrest was made at the request of the embassy's legal section in connection with the King slaying.

A Scotland Yard statement said the passports describe the bearer as a 29-year-old native of Toronto, Canada, unemployed and with no fixed current address.

The announcement, 10th graf and eliminating 13th graf beginning "The Canadian"-which has wrong age.

CZ314ped June 8

The announcement of his arrest was made in a statement issued at the Justice Department in the name of Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark and Hoover, neither of whom was present. No questions were permitted at that time.

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 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.

The Canadian passports, he was carrying when arrested described him as 35, unemployed, born in Toronto and having no fixed address.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who worked closely with the FBI in the hunt for Ray, supplied the tip that focused the search on London. 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.

There have been complaints from police authorities in the past that fugitives have been able to obtain Canadian passports too easily.

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.

As the trail appeared to grow dim there were complaints from civil rights leaders, particularly followers of King, that the G-men were not pursuing the investigation vigorously enough.

Among law enforcement people there was some fear also that Ray had been killed by others involved in a conspiracy to murder King.

RZ-CZ221ped June 8

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1036 wx

WASHINGTON-Take 2, Ray Bjt NL A027WX: King.

The FBI produced a massive file on Ray's activities up to the time of King's death and gathered such personal information as that he was an avid dancer, liked beer and was a loner.

The detailed description furnished by the FBI led to mystery and confusion in the manhunt as many who claimed to have been ~~the~~ <sup>SEEN?</sup> gunman after the shooting of King provided contradictory information. For example, some said the gunman was in his late 20s, in contrast to Ray's age of 40.

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

Ray had served seven years of a 20-year sentence for armed robbery when he escaped from prison. A fellow inmate at the time said Ray told him he would be willing to kill King for \$1 million.

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 McBridge, James Walton, James O'Conner. And now, Ramon George Sneyd.

Hoover said Ray is being held under maximum security conditions in a London police station. It is expected he will be brought into court by London authorities Monday on the charges of false documentation and carrying a concealed weapon.

At the State Department, officials said they expect a formal request will be made for his return to the United States under a U.S.-British extradition treaty, which lists murder as one of the crimes for which extradition will be authorized.

CR227ped June 8

A053WX

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Ray Bjt NL add 250

WASHINGTON-Ray Bjt NL original A027-028-036-046WX add: authorized.

Ray was reported wearing a sports jacket, flannel trousers, light raincoat and glasses when he deplaned from the Lisbon-Brussels flight at London.

He had checked his luggage through to Brussels when he boarded the plane at Lisbon but got off when the aircraft made a refueling stop in London.

It was learned here that Ray had flown from Canada to London May 6 with a round trip ticket but cashed in the return portion in exchange for passage to Lisbon and went right on to Portugal without stopping in the British capital.

The FBI, with the help of the RCMP, had picked up Ray's trail in Canada and officers satisfied themselves a few days ago that the man bearing a passport in Sneyd's name was, in fact, Ray.

It then became a matter of intercepting the bearer of this passport and immigration authorities were alerted on a wide scale.

The question of how Ray obtained Canadian passports remained something of a mystery.

Ordinarily, a person applying for a Canadian passport must have someone, usually a professional man or banker, swear he has known the applicant for two years. Or the applicant must have a notarized affidavit as to the facts in his application.

Authorities at Ottawa said Ray had no formal sponsor on his application.

An authoritative source in Washington said, however, that Ray gave the name Paul Bridgeman of Toronto as a reference on his application.

The source said that inquiry showed no Paul Bridgeman at the Toronto address given.

He said further that Paul Bridgeman was the name of one of Ray's fellow prisoners at the Missouri penitentiary. And he added that Ray himself apparently used this name while hiding out in Toronto before flying to London.

CR448ped June 8