

File #:

62-117290

Serial Scope:

EBF - 1103

REGISTRATION CARD

NOTICE TO GUESTS: — This property is privately owned and management reserves right to refuse service to anyone, and will not be responsible for accidents or injury to guests or for loss of money, jewelry or valuables of any kind.

RENTAL PAYABLE IN ADVANCE

NAME Eric S Galt

STREET 2608 Highland ave

CITY Birmingham STATE Alabama

REPRESENTING _____

ROOM 34 CAR LICENSE 6-24138993 STATE Ala

ARR. DATE 4-2-68 DEPT. DATE 7-2 NO. IN PARTY 1 CLERK 1 MAKE OF CAR Mustang

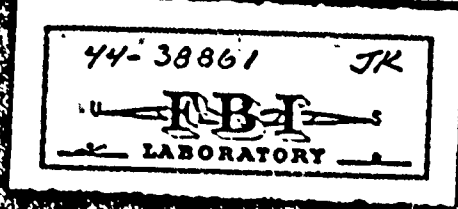
REMARKS _____

Nic Dupratt's New Rebel MOTOR HOTEL
 PHONE FA 5-7641 3406 LAMAR AVE. MEMPHIS, TENN.

ROOM	RATE	DATE	AMT. PAID	RECEIVED FROM

THIS IS YOUR RECEIPT

THANK YOU



ME 44-1987

**REVOLVER FOUND IN POSSESSION OF
JAMES EARL RAY WHEN ARRESTED
JUNE 8, 1968, IN LONDON, ENGLAND**

When JAMES EARL RAY was apprehended by members of [redacted] on June 8, 1968, in London, England, he had in his possession a .38 caliber "Liberty Chief" revolver manufactured by Hiroku Firearms Manufacturing Company, a Japanese concern. This revolver has serial number 715.

The National Police Agency of Japan was requested to determine to whom this revolver was shipped by the manufacturer, and the following letter was forthcoming from that agency:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/20/86 BY SP/ma/cm/te

ME 44-1987

On June 10, 1968, Mr. MILA SYDOBODA, owner, Liberty Arms Company and Solingen Cutlery Company, Post Office Box 306, Montrose, California, advised that Liberty revolver #715 had been sold to R. TATUM, New and Used Guns, 118 Edwards Drive, Mableton, Georgia, on October 3, 1966, under Invoice No. 13909.

On June 11, 1968, Mr. ROBERT TATUM, 118 Edwards Street, Mableton, Georgia, advised SA JAMES RICHARD FLICK that the Liberty Chief revolver having serial number 715 had been sold by him on December 3, 1966, for \$50.00 to WALTER E. SPAIN, 2904-42nd Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama.

NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY

2-1, 2-Chome, Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda ku, Tokyo
Japan

"J-NCB/ 7/9/68"

Mr. Roderick V. Prechtl, Jr.
Legal Attache
American Embassy
Tokyo

**I N T E R P O L
NATIONAL CENTRAL BUREAU**

Telegraphic Address:
"INTERPOLJAPAN TOKYO"
TOKYO, June 10, 1968.

Re: Information about a pistol
"Liberty-Chief" No. 715

Dear Sir;

In reply to your telephone request made this morning concerning the captioned matter, we wish to inform you as follows:

1. Destination of this weapon's shipment:
This pistol in question was shipped from the manufacturing company given below on August 3, 1966, and was cleared by our Customs' inspection on August 19, 1966 and was loaded on the "HAVANA-MARU" at "SUMA-PORT" in Hyogo Prefecture for shipment to:
Name of a company : LIBERTY ARMS CORPORATION.
Address: P.O. BOX. 306, MONTROSE, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A.
2. Items for your reference:
The name of this weapon's manufacturing company is "KABUSHIKI KAISHA, MIKOKU SEISAKUSHO" (translated in English : MIKOKU MANUFACTURING COMPANY LTD.).
Address: 160, INARI-CHO, KOCHI-CITY, KOCHI PREFECTURE, JAPAN.
Name of the President: IDO Chiyoki.

Trusting the above information is of some assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

for HEAD, NCB, JAPAN:

51

J. Sode

(YOSHITO SODE)
Chief

Criminal Research & Statistics Section
Investigation Bureau

3895

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 20, 1968

WALTER E. SPAIN, 2904 - 42nd Avenue North,
Birmingham, Alabama, furnished the following:

Sometime in December, 1966, SPAIN went to Atlanta, Georgia, with his father, WALTER LEON SPAIN, so his father could attempt to obtain employment. While in Atlanta, WALTER E. SPAIN saw an advertisement in a newspaper for a .38 caliber Liberty snub-nose revolver, which was being sold by a gun dealer in a small town outside Atlanta, believed to be Mapleton, Georgia. SPAIN, accompanied by his father, went to this gun dealer and bought the gun and SPAIN returned it to his residence in Birmingham, Alabama.

In the Spring of 1967, SPAIN gave the gun to his father in partial payment of a debt he owed to his father. SPAIN was later told by his father that he had sold the gun after placing a want ad for it in a Birmingham newspaper. SPAIN was not present when his father sold the gun and therefore did not see the purchaser.

On 6/11/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
ME 44-1987
by SA ROBERT M. BARRETT and
SA WILLIAM A. SAUCIER / RMB:hss 52 Date dictated 6/14/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

3896

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 20, 1968

WALTER LEON SPAIN, #3 Glen Iris Parkway, Birmingham, Alabama, furnished the following:

In the Spring of 1967, SPAIN's son, WALTER E. SPAIN, gave Mr. SPAIN a .38 caliber Liberty snub-nose revolver, which his son had purchased in late 1966 or early 1967 from a gun dealer near Atlanta, Georgia. His son owed Mr. SPAIN some money and the gun was a partial payment of this debt.

In the Fall of 1967, after having been hospitalized in August, 1967, at Huntsville, Alabama, for an illness and being in need of money to pay bills, Mr. SPAIN sold many personal items by means of placing want ads for these items in the "Birmingham News." Among the items sold was the .38 caliber Liberty snub-nose revolver. Mr. SPAIN recalled he placed an ad for this gun in a Sunday paper, and that same Sunday he received a call from a man who asked about the gun, the price, and the directions to get to SPAIN's residence. The caller said he was in the western section of Birmingham. About an hour after this call, and while SPAIN's wife and daughter were at church, a man came to the front door and said he had called about the gun. He looked at the gun, stated he had been looking for a gun of the same type, and when told again that the price was \$65.00, he gave SPAIN two twenty dollar bills, two ten dollar bills, and a five dollar bill, after saying he would take it. SPAIN did not give the man a receipt for the money, nor did he record his name or see any identification of the man, and he did not obtain any information as to his name. The man left carrying the gun in his hand. SPAIN furnished neither ammunition nor any papers for the gun.

When the man first arrived, SPAIN observed he had parked his car, described by SPAIN only as a late model, white or light-colored, on the street in front of SPAIN's house, a distance of about 150 feet. SPAIN did not pay any further attention to the car. SPAIN did recall the buyer saying he lived in the western section of Birmingham, ~~but he did not mention any specific address or employment.~~

On 6/11/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
ME 44-1987
 by SA ROBERT M. BARRETT and
SA WILLIAM A. SAUCIER / RMB:hss 33 Date dictated 6/14/68

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date June 20, 1968

All Sunday issues of "The Birmingham News," for the months of September and October, 1967, were reviewed at "The Birmingham News." From this review, it was determined that only one want ad for a .38 caliber revolver was placed by WALTER LEON SPAIN, that being in the October 1, 1968, issue.

On 6/11/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
ME 44-1987
 by SA ROBERT M. BARRETT and
SA WILLIAM A. SAUCIER / RMB:hss 55 Date dictated 6/14/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

BH 44-1740

The buyer said he wanted the gun to keep around his house. Mr. SPAIN described the buyer as a white male, about forty to forty-five years of age, 5'8" or 5'9" tall, 170 to 175 pounds, dark hair slightly graying at the temples, with a local (Alabama) accent. The man was wearing a sport shirt and slacks, colors unrecalled, and he did not have glasses.

Mr. SPAIN was shown five different photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, and he chose one which had been taken in California during January or February, 1968, as "resembling the man" who bought the revolver; however, Mr. SPAIN would not make a definite identification of the photograph of RAY as the buyer.

Mr. SPAIN recalled he was contacted by FBI Agents on April 7, 1968, and shown an artist's conception of an individual the FBI was attempting to locate. At that time, he advised Agents the drawing reminded him of someone he may have seen previously, but was unable to furnish any other identifying information. After viewing the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and being questioned about the sale of the revolver, SPAIN said he was now able to connect the sale of the revolver with the drawing in that the person depicted in the drawing reminded SPAIN of the person to whom he had sold the revolver.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/14/68

JIMMIE ELLTON GARNER, 107 - 14th Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted at 10:37 P.M., April 14, 1968, at which time he furnished the following information:

GARNER made available a record book maintained by him concerning persons who rent rooms at both 107 and 113 - 14th Street, N.E., rooming houses operated by him on a lease basis. A review of this record book failed to disclose any registration in the name GALT. It should be noted this book contains only a record of roomers for the period beginning January 1, 1968.

Upon being questioned concerning individuals renting at these addresses who might have checked out prior to the completion of the period for which they had paid, or others who for any reason might not be recorded in this record book, GARNER named, among others, an individual named (First Name Unknown) GALT. On being questioned concerning GALT, he said this individual was first seen by him on the afternoon of April 5, 1968, between the hours of 5:00 and 6:00 P.M. He explained that another roomer, TED C. JONES, who occupies room #1 at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., had been sitting in front of this building and was approached by GALT, who inquired concerning the availability of a room. GARNER joined the pair and GALT indicated to GARNER he was interested in obtaining a single, quiet room. Having no such room available, GARNER told GALT he would put him in Room #6, at 107 - 14th Street, which room was a double room and that he would be moved to a single room as soon as one became available. GARNER said he noted GALT was driving a black car, probably a Ford, bearing an out-of-state license plate (state of registration not recalled), and that the car was possibly a 1962 or 1963 model.

GALT accepted this arrangement and paid GARNER while outside the dwelling and he believes he received a \$10 bill and a \$1 bill in payment. The cost of the room was \$10.50 per week and a \$.50 key deposit. During the conversation, GALT indicated he was a welder and originally came from "The Carolinas." He explained that he had a tag for a different state on the Ford because he had been working in another state.

On 4/14, 15/68, at Atlanta, Georgia

47

File # Atlanta 44-2366

by SAs JOHN H. CREECH and ROBERT L. BASS JRD:lcc

Date dictated 4/16/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/20/86 BY SP-6/mmc

425

AT 44-2386

2

At this point GARNER indicated that possibly the tag on the Ford was a Tennessee tag, but he was not at all certain of this.

GARNER described GALT as being a white male, 32 - 35 years of age, 5' 11", 190 pounds, dark brown or black hair worn in a brush cut, blue eyes, medium "outdoor" complexion and having a southern accent. He noted no distinguishing features or characteristics and had no recollection of any ring or other jewelry. His dress was casual, specifically described as a shirt and slacks.

GALT moved into Room #5 at 107 - 14th Street, N.E., where he remained until Sunday, April 7, 1968. On this day GALT was moved to Room #6 at 113 - 14th Street, N.E. On this occasion, GARNER observed GALT move his possessions and noted that he had no luggage and all of his possessions were either moved in a paper bag or box.

On April 7, 1968, MARSH G. ANDERSON, an employee of the Albert Pick Motel, 14th and Spring Streets, N.E., Atlanta, was brought to the rooming house by FRED C. JONES, who is also employed by this hotel. GARNER assigned ANDERSON Room #2 at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., and noted that the individual he believed to be GALT and ANDERSON became friendly.

On April 9, 1968, at approximately 9:00 P.M., GALT and ANDERSON came to GARNER's room at 107 - 14th Street, N.E., at which time GALT advised GARNER that both he and ANDERSON were checking out. He said both men appeared to have been drinking. During the conversation, GALT advised he had received a telephone call from a friend in Michigan and had learned that welders were receiving a higher hourly wage there. For this reason, he had decided to go to Michigan to seek work. ANDERSON, who was a motel employee, indicated he was going to Michigan with GALT and hoped to obtain employment as a welder's helper. GARNER recalled he refunded approximately \$17 to ANDERSON, who had paid two weeks in advance on registering on April 7. GALT did not ask for a refund, although he was paid through April 11, but did receive the return of his \$50 deposit for the key.

4/6

426

AT 44-2386

3

Thereafter, GARNER accompanied GALT and ANDERSON to ANDERSON's room where he secured the room keys from both GALT and ANDERSON. At this time he noted several beer bottles in the room and presumed GALT and ANDERSON had been drinking together. GARNER did not actually observe the departure of GALT and ANDERSON, but noted both were gone on the morning of April 10, 1968, as was the previously-described black Ford auto.

GARNER made available the registration for HAROLD G. ANDERSON. This registration does not reflect an address for ANDERSON, but indicates that his father is G. F. ANDERSON, Duluth, Georgia, telephone number 443-4672. GARNER explained that he always attempts to obtain the name and address for a next of kin for his roomers.

GARNER provided the following physical description of HAROLD G. ANDERSON:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	40
Height	5' 9"
Weight	155 - 160 pounds
Hair	Light brown, parted on side
Complexion	Medium
Eyes	Unknown
Distinguishing Characteristics	None noted
Dress	Casual, shirt and slacks

GARNER identified other tenants who resided at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., during the same period that GALT was a roomer there.

GARNER said he was unable to recall GALT's first name, but advised he had observed nail on the hall table of the rooming house at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., which nail was

49

427

addressed to GALT. At this point, GARNER accompanied the interviewing Agents to 113 - 14th Street, N.E., where it was observed that there were two letters and a package on the hall table addressed to ERIC S. or E. GALT. The package was postmarked 4/1/68, and the letters were postmarked 4/9 and 4/10/68. GARNER advised his sister, ROBBIE LEE GARNER, a school teacher who resides in the Dixieland Apartments, 1295 Donnelly Avenue, S.W., Atlanta, had visited him on either Friday or Saturday night, April 12 or 13, 1968. At this time his sister had thumbed through the mail on the table at the 113 - 14th Street address and upon noticing the mail addressed to ERIC GALT, she commented to GARNER that this was the same name as the individual who, according to newspaper publicity, was a suspect in the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. GARNER stated that he did not feel there was any likelihood that the GALT who had stayed at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., was identical with this suspect, stating many people have the same name.

GARNER stated that he had neither seen nor heard of GALT prior to April 5, 1968, and that during GALT's stay at his rooming house he saw nothing to indicate that GALT had any connection with any other tenant at this address prior to his arrival there. GARNER was asked whether he had any explanation for the fact that GALT had mail postmarked 4/1/68 addressed to him at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., and according to GARNER, GALT did not arrive at this location until April 5, 1968. GALT said he was unable to explain this, and had no idea how this could occur.

GARNER was also questioned concerning the possibility that GALT or any other roomers had left material with him in storage or for safekeeping. He assured that this was not so. He did report that Rooms #4 and #5 at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., both of which it was noted were fastened with hasps and padlocks, were storage rooms. He stated they contained only linens and possibly a few items of no value left behind by roomers.

AT 44-2386

5

With regard to Room #5 at 107 - 14th Street, N.E., GARNER said that this room had not been occupied by anyone since GALT was transferred from this room on April 7, 1968. He noted, however, that the maid, PERRY LEE ZACHERY or her helper, identity unknown, would have changed the sheets in Room #5 after GALT was moved.

With regard to Room #6 at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., this room remained vacant until April 13, 1968, when it was rented to DAVID O'DONNELL, 12 Andover Drive, Syosset, New York. He described O'DONNELL as a very young man who is also employed at the Albert Pick Hotel and who was brought to the rooming house by FRED C. JONES. He said he does not believe this room was made up prior to its being rented to O'DONNELL, but advised he had given O'DONNELL clean sheets so that he could change the linens himself.

GARNER said he did not know of any association between GALT and other roomers at either of the rooming houses except the association with HAROLD G. ANDERSON, as previously described.

In explanation for the failure of the name "GALT" to appear on the rooming house records, GARNER said that he can only explain this by saying he received payment for the room while away from the place where he maintains his records and had inadvertently failed to record the name when he returned to his room.

The interview of GARNER concluded at 1:38 AM, April 15, 1968.

51

429

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/16/68

During the interview of JIMMIE DELTON GARNER, he asked the question, "How are you coming on the King murder?" He was then asked by interviewing Agent if he had heard or read much concerning this and he stated he had read quite a bit in the newspapers and seen a lot on television. GARNER then indicated that he knew this was why ye were asking about GALT.

On 4/14, 15/68 Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2326
by SA ROGER L. KAAS:lcc Date dictated 4/16/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

430

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 16, 19681

At 2:30 a.m. JIMMIE DELTON GARNER telephonically contacted the Atlanta Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at which time he provided the following information:

Since providing the information concerning ERIC GALT during a personal interview by agents, he has rechecked his records and now believes that the individual whom he knew as GALT actually was registered at the rooming house under the name of WILLIAM LEE, Route 1, Gastonia, North Carolina. GARNER said his records do not reflect the room number to which LEE was assigned but noted that the records do show LEE arrived April 5, 1968, and paid through April 12, 1968. When renting the room, LEE supplied the name Miss BETTY DENTON, 1952 Waltz Street, Warren, Michigan, as the individual to be notified in case of emergency. GARNER said all information provided during the prior interview was accurate except that he now feels certain that WILLIAM LEE's registration pertains to ERIC GALT.

GARNER was questioned as to how he determined this man's name to be GALT when the registration was in the name of LEE. GARNER was unable to satisfactorily explain this except to say that he feels that he concluded that LEE was GALT when GARNER's sister called his attention to the mail at the rooming house which was directed to ERIC GALT.

53

On 4/15/68 at Atlanta, Georgia File# Atlanta 44-2836

by SA JOHN S. COOPER :cjm Date dictated 4/16/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

431

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 16, 1958

In response to a telephonic request received at 9:31 a.m. from JIMMIE DELTON GARNER, he was interviewed in front of his restaurant located at 1052 Northside Drive, Northwest, Atlanta, Georgia.

GARNER opened the conversation by stating "Lee is not Galt." He then made available the registration records for his rooming house. It was again noted these records do not reflect a registration in the name of GALT. At the same time, GARNER produced an envelope bearing the printed name "Eric S. Galt." GARNER said this name was printed thereon by GALT when GARNER requested his full name. Other handwritten notations thereon were, according to GARNER, prepared by himself.

GARNER stated that subsequent to a prior interview, he had been searching his records and his memory and had now determined that on March 24, 1958, late in the evening, an individual knocked on his apartment door, introduced himself as Mr. GALT, and requested a single room.

He was placed in Room Number 2, 113 14th Street, Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia, on noting that the room was small, was offered an adjoining storage room in which to place his surplus belongings. At this point, GALT remarked he would be able to utilize a desk in the storage room for his television set.

GARNER did not see GALT unload his automobile or bring his possessions into the room. He next saw GALT on March 31, 1958, at which time the rent was due and GALT made the statement, "I may as well pay you for another week." This was between 1:00 and 2:30 p.m.

On April 5, 1958, GARNER entered the room at approximately 11:00 a.m. to change the linens. At this time, he found a note on the bed written on a piece of cardboard, believed by him to be a laundry shirt backing, which stated in effect "I've had to go to Birmingham. I've left my TV set here and will try to return for it in

On 4/15/58 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386

SA ROGER L. KAAS and
 SAs JOHN D. COEHL :hjc

54

Date dictated 4/16/58