January 13, 1939

MEMORANDUM

In connection with the attempted escape of Arthur "Doc" Barker, Dave Stamphill, Henry Young, Rufus Roy McCain and William Martin, alias Martin Tyree, the following information is being set forth as to the particular violation of Federal law pursuant to which each was placed in the custody of the Attorney General of the United States, according to the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Arthur "Doc" Barker was sentenced in the United States District Court at St. Paul, Minnesota, on May 17, 1935, for his participation in the kidnaping of Edward George Bremer at St. Paul, Minnesota, on January 17, 1934.

Dave Stamphill was found guilty on October 26, 1937, in the United States District Court at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and on the same day was sentenced to serve the rest of his natural life in a United States Penitentiary with the recommendation that he be incarcerated in the United States Penitentiary, Alcatraz Island, California. This individual escaped from the Oklahoma State Reformatory, Granite, Oklahoma, on February 17, 1935, with other inmates, after killing a guard of that reformatory in making their escape, and subsequently on February 27, 1935, with two other inmates, robbed the First National Bank at Sailing, Oklahoma, with the use of firearms, and in order to avoid apprehension kidnaped Doctor Fred Lewis Myers and transported him in his automobile in interstate commerce from Leedy, Oklahoma, to Glazier, Texas.

Henry Young on December 29, 1934, entered a plea of guilty to an indictment returned against him on December 19, 1934, charging him with the robbery of the First National Bank at Lind, Washington, and on December 29, 1934, he was sentenced to a term of twenty years in the custody of the Attorney General, on each of two counts to run concurrently, the sentencing Judge recommending the United States Penitentiary, Alcatraz Island, California, as the place of incarceration for this sentence. This individual was paroled from

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The Washington State Penitentiary on October 12, 1934, and was out on parole at the time of the commission of this bank robbery.

On May 30, 1935, at Muskogee, Oklahoma, an indictment was returned charging Rufus Roy McCain with the robbery of the Idabel National Bank, Idabel, Oklahoma, on May 15, 1934, in three counts, and with the violation of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act in two counts. On June 11, 1935, McCain was sentenced on the bank robbery indictment to twenty years on the first count, twenty-five years on the second count, and ninety-nine years on the third and last count, and fined him $100.00 on each of these counts, and on the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act indictment, he was sentenced to five years on each of two counts, all sentences to run concurrently and to be served in a Federal Penitentiary designated by the Attorney General.

As to William Martin, alias Martin Tyree, who was received at the United States Penitentiary, Alcatraz Island, California, on March 16, 1937, for Post Office assault and armed robbery to serve twenty-five years, the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation fail to definitely indicate that this Bureau conducted any investigation resulting in this sentence being imposed as to him.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

10 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

[X] Deleted under exemption(s) B3 Title 28; U.S.C. 534 with no segregable material available for release to you.

[ ] Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

[ ] Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

[ ] Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

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[ ] For your information: _____

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[X] The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
Arthur Barker 76-4175-18

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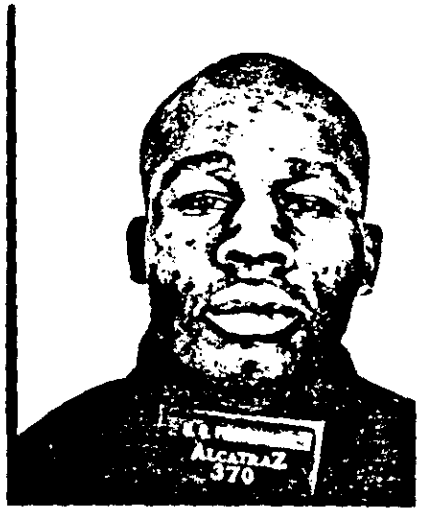

Henry Young

Arthur R. Barker

Dale Stamphill

JEH:BCB

January 19, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

With reference to the two memoranda which I have submitted as a result of the telephonic conversations which I had with the Agent in Charge of the San Francisco Office of the FBI concerning the attempted escape from Alcatraz on January 13, 1939, I am attaching hereto a communication dated January 16, 1939, from the Agent in Charge at San Francisco, and which relates in memorandum form and in somewhat greater detail the matters covered by him in his conversations with me.

Respectfully

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

MAILED
JAN 19 1939
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

76-4175-19
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 23 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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JEM:ECB

January 19, 1939

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR. JOSEPH B. KEENAN

With further reference to the attempted escape at Alcatraz on January 13, 1939, I am attaching hereto a copy of a memorandum which I have just addressed to the Attorney General, setting out details in connection with this matter.

Very truly yours

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Fenworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

RECORDED

76-4175-20

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 23 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JAN 19 1939
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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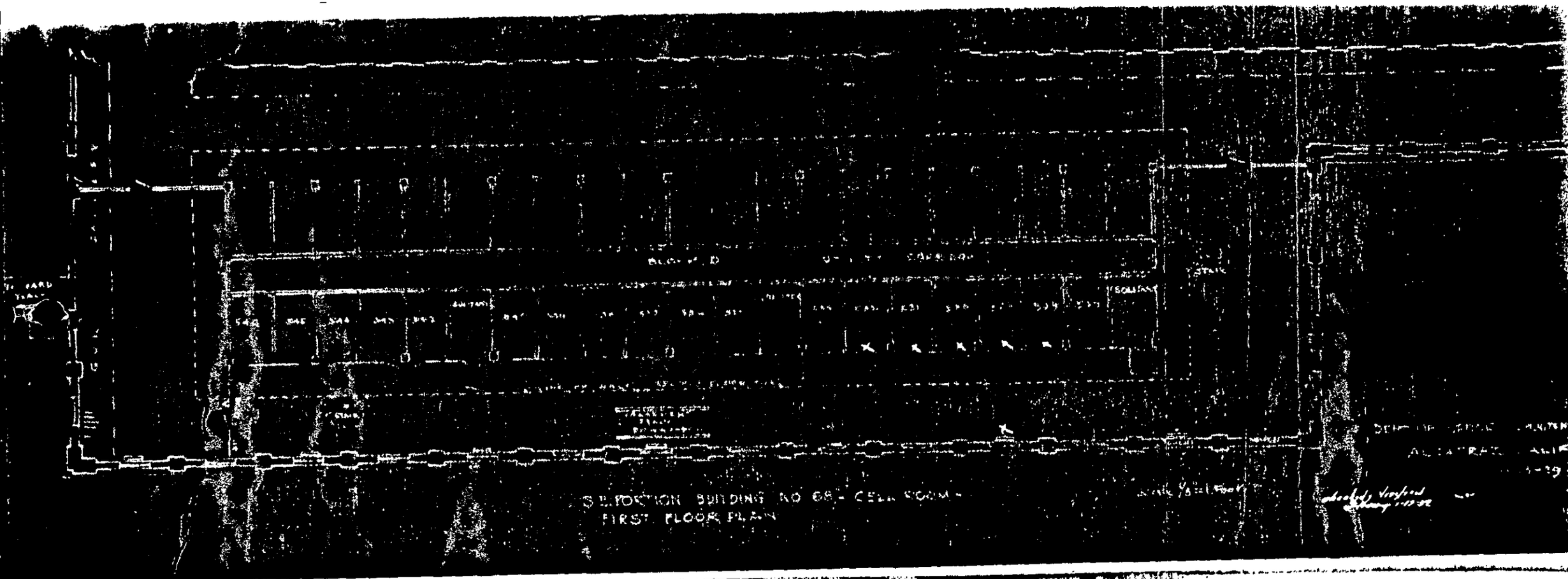
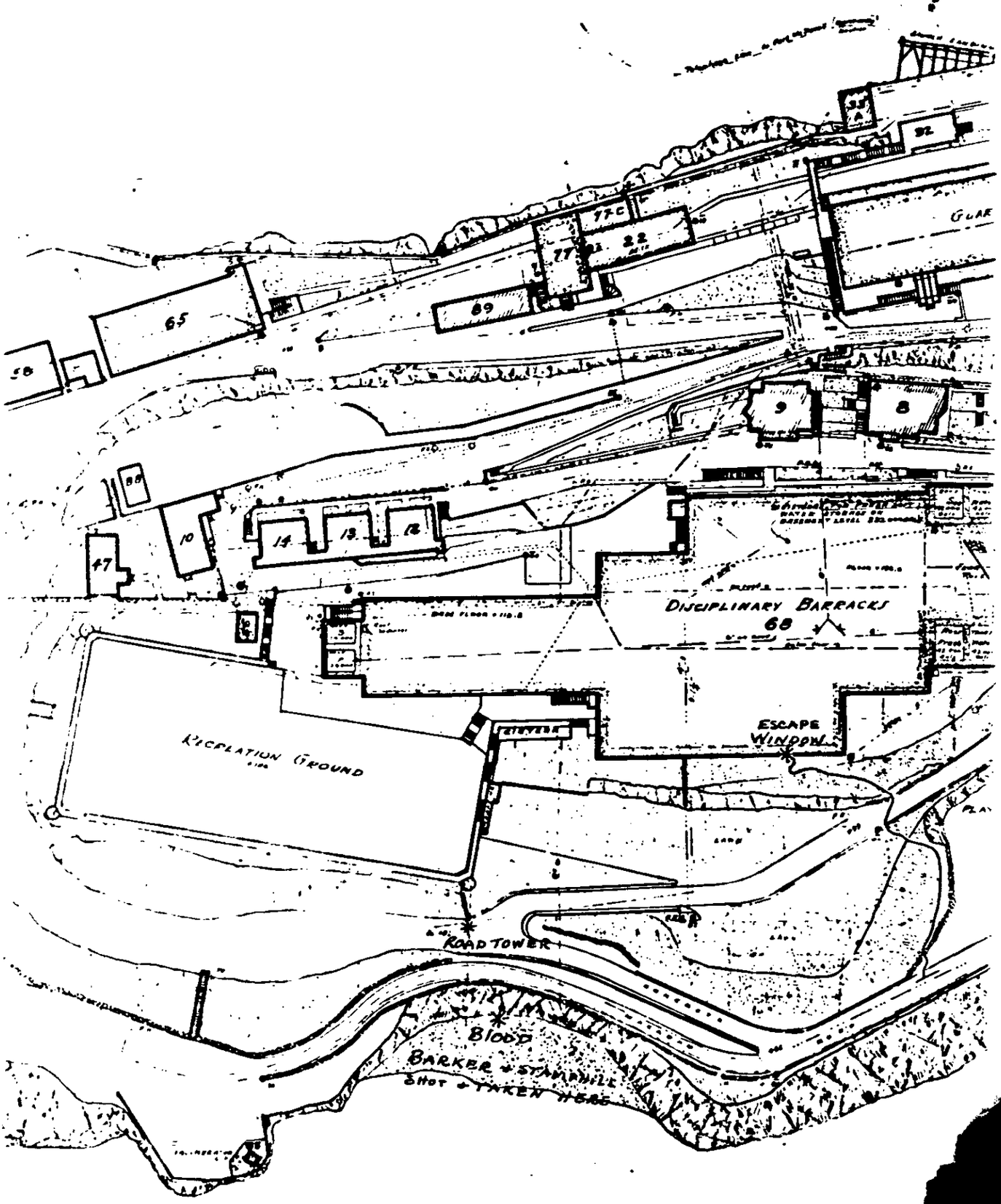

SELECTION BUILDING NO 68 - CELL ROOM -
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



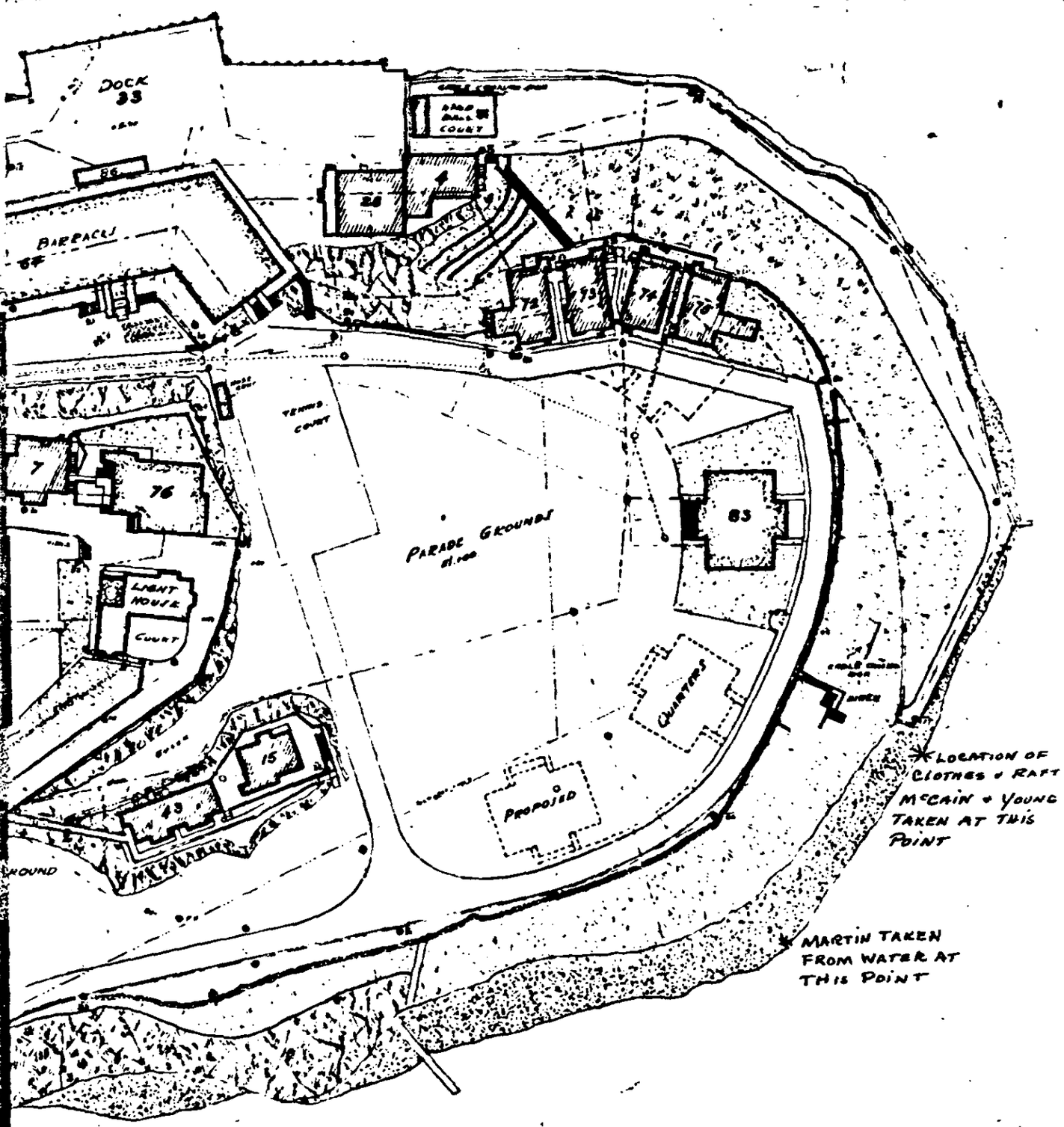
HISTORICAL LEGEND

SITUATED IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY, CALIFORNIA
RESERVATION DECLARED NOV. 6, 1850.
AREA 12 ACRES
POST ESTABLISHED DEC 30, 1859 UNDER AUTHORITY OF
ACTS OF MAY 3, 1853 AND AUG 18, 1856.
JURISDICTION CEDED, STATE ACT MARCH 31, 1891.
LATITUDE 37°49'. LONGITUDE 122°25'.
THE UNITED STATES OWNS THE WHOLE OF ALCATRAZ ISLAND
INCLUDING LANDS EXTENDING FROM HIGH WATER MARK
OUT TO 300 YARDS BEYOND LOW WATER.

LEGEND

FRAME BUILDINGS
CONCRETE "
CEMENT BLOCK "
SEWER LINES
SEWER MANHOLES
DRAINS
CATCH BASINS
WATER MAINS
FIRE HYDRANTS
GATE VALVES

SEA W
OIL LIN
ELECTRIC
ELECTRIC
"
"
"
TELEPHON
STEAM LIN
STEAM LINE



SCALE 1" = 50'
QUARTERMASTERS OFFICE, ALCATRAZ, CALIF.

PACIFIC BRANCH-UNITED STATES
DISCIPLINARY BARRACKS.
ALCATRAZ, CALIFORNIA

PLAN NO. DATE OCT 26, 1936

APPROVED William C. Webb
COMMANDANT

APPROVED W. D. Conrad
QUARTERMASTER

CORRECT J. H. McFadden
DEPT. OF CONSTRUCTION

DATE REVISIONS DRAWN BY APPROVED

(FIRE) (Approx. location underground)
ROUND LINES
LIGHTS
ES
WES
LINES
ES

attention during these interviews the fact that there is bitterness, that there are cliques, and the [redacted] main informants here, [redacted] rather bitterly accuse the Warden and the Deputy Warden of being responsible for the trouble, claiming that it is due to lack of proper administration. b7c b7d

THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS

[redacted] advised me that it was generally understood on the Island that the prisoners could "bargain" with the Deputy Warden on just anything that they wanted to, and he explained what bargaining meant in that he would make a deal with them to grant them certain wishes in return for their not causing any disturbances. He gives as an example the fact that prisoners have whatever cells they desire. He explains that this is done in several ways, either by requesting a particular cell, which he says is given them, or when they are put in certain cells which are not next to the man they want to be next to, if there is a vacancy, they continue to stop up the lavatories until they get to the right cell and then it stops. He gives an example of certain prisoners being together who wished to be together, this being an incident which I could not check, because at the time this information was brought to my attention, MR. BENNETT was on the Island and it was deemed inadvisable for me to go any further at the present time. It will be an easy matter to check, however. This is the specific example, existing at present, where inmates who might have a reason to call near one another are permitted to do so. [redacted] called attention to the RETTICH gang, and he stated that I would be surprised to know that RETTICH, DUGAN and GEARY all call in three adjoining cells. MILLER ("COUNT LUSTIG") is in the fourth cell, OLEY is just beneath, and HARRIGAN is within hailing distance. b7c b7d

[redacted] also advised me that the discipline is such that prisoners can become very abusive to the guards, and upon complaint to the Deputy Warden, nothing is done about it; that he has had instances of this occur and when he would go back into the cell block, the prisoners would swear at him and tell him he had better not try to cause them any trouble because they would have the Deputy Warden put him on the outside and get him out of the way. [redacted] also stated that he was on duty in the work shops after CLINE was killed and that it was his observation that the work could be done in approximately one and a half hours each day, although it took them all day to do it. He stated that he realizes that he is in disfavor with the prisoners because he insisted that they work all of the time. He attributes this laxity to the Deputy Warden's attitude, saying that he, himself, has had to fill out work sheets for men, showing that they had done

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work in the mat shop, when they actually had been sitting around doing nothing, in order that they could get good industrial time on it. He said that men were actually brought down to the work shops out of the cells when there was nothing to do, which, in his opinion, was a dangerous practice because it gave them a chance to loaf around, make escape tools and to stand around and "case" the whole work area. He added that at one time he had to get "DOC" BARKER down off of a table where he was standing, looking over the whole area. He observed also that the working conditions are such that a man by putting up the right kind of a story to the Deputy Warden can get himself in any place or line of work that he so desires and that it is common gossip among the prisoners that "you just have to give the right story to the Deputy".

In direct contrast to this, it has been brought to our attention by [redacted] that when guards want to get rid of a man and had, in their mind, a good reason why he should be removed from a certain detail or taken from a certain area, that that was not done as a matter of course at the guard's recommendation, which he felt left them at a great disadvantage. He gives as an example that a week before Officer CLINE was killed in the mat shop, information was obtained to the effect that there was something wrong, and CLINE made the complaint, as did he, [redacted] to Senior Officer GEORGE BOATMAN, who was in charge of the cell house, who had the cells of FRANKLIN and LUCAS searched, wherein was found contraband of two packages of raisins, which was felt by them to be indicative of the fact that they were planning to go and that these were emergency rations. He also stated that on or about the 18th of December 1936, in his mind several days after the escape of COLE and ROE, Deputy Warden MILLER came down and told [redacted] that he was going to put another man on the tower [redacted] because he had definite information that three more men were going out and that their method was to be by coming out of a window, climbing over the wire and getting to the guard in that watch tower. He stated that MILLER'S method of handling this, rather than moving those men, was to put another guard on the top, whereas the subordinate officers felt that the proper way to have handled that situation was to remove those men from that area.

b7c
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In connection with the COLE-ROE escape, it was mentioned by [redacted] that at that time the guard on duty in the model tower (name not yet verified by us) had his hand in a cast, having had it injured in beating some prisoner, and that it would have been impossible for him to shoot. We, of course, at the writing of this letter have not been able to verify this, but [redacted] insists that it is common talk and knowledge among the guards that this was the case.

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[redacted] have also stated that cell block "D", or the isolation cell block, is very much the type of country club penitentiary setup that one reads about. They claim that instead of the man being punished when placed in this cell block, that that cell block is the best ventilated, has an excellent view of the Bay area and city, that the man have no work to do, have all the reading material they desire, and, in fact, being placed in isolation is very desirable.

[redacted] stated that a guard at times cannot tell a prisoner what he has to do in ordering him to work, stating that he has known instances where prisoners have refused to take orders, saying that the Deputy Warden tells them what they have to do and that nothing is done about the situation when the matter is called to the Deputy Warden's attention.

WEAKNESSES IN D BLOCK ISOLATION

"D" block isolation is that section of Alcatraz cell block which is used for those men who are placed in segregation, more or less permanently and who do not have to work. There are approximately 22 men in isolation on two tiers. Whereas B and C blocks of cells are made of tool-proof steel, in which the ordinary run of prisoners are kept, D block, where the worst prisoners are kept, is of the ordinary steel bars which can be easily cut and which are hangovers from the time when the prison was used as a military disciplinary barracks. [redacted] advised me that he understood that the outside window bars were of the latest tool-proof steel and that he felt fairly secure in feeling that they could never get out of a window on that side. However, it might be mentioned at this time that the condition of the wall must be in pretty bad shape, because while Agent FARLAND and I were having Deputy Warden MILLER point out to us on the map certain points of importance in the case, MR. STEERE, who was repairing after the break, reported to him that it would be impossible to place a grill over the damaged area of the window, due to the fact that the minute they would begin hammering, the wall would crumble.

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I wish also to call to your attention the fact that the prisoners who escaped were in the worst possible cells to be observed by the man on the west gun gallery, who was the only person who could cover D block when the regular guard on foot was not making the rounds.

Junior Guard C. Y. HURST, who was on duty at the time of the escape,

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stated that the only protection that an officer on duty in the cell house had was that furnished by the officer on duty in the gun gallery and that the officer on duty in the gun gallery could not see the cells which were occupied by the inmates who escaped.

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[redacted] stated that it was impossible to see the man on the gun gallery when going along the cells from which the men escaped. He stated that he made a suggestion to move the man up closer to the west gun gallery in order to overcome this weak spot. He does not recall exactly when he made this recommendation but believes it was about a month ago. His recollection is not clear either as to whether it was in regular memorandum form or on a regular "63" form, which is used for suggestions. He was very emphatic about the point that he had pointed out this weakness and that nothing was done about it. He stated that these men could not have had a better spot to work in than that in which they were located. He also pointed out that when he came into D block from C block, a warning was repeatedly sounded and that this had been called to the attention of the Deputy Warden but that nothing had been done about it. That there was some sort of a signal it is known, because the notes recovered from the lavatories after the time of the escape specifically state that the signal was a "clnck", the note reading as follows: "I heard Jack clnck a couple of times. He will have bull on case---"

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[redacted] He stated that immediately after taking over the post he makes a routine inspection and immediately upon completion of the inspection, about 4:10 each evening, proceeds to the north end of the gun gallery, which, incidentally, is the fartherest point from the post in which he would have a clear vision of D block isolation. He must remain at this particular spot, which commands a view of the corridor between blocks A and B, until such time as the inmates assemble for their evening mess, whereupon he goes to the port which commands a view of the messhall, at which position he stays until the inmates are returned to their cells for the nightly lockup and then after giving the keys to the officer who makes the count of the inmates confined in the hospital, he again returns to the post at the north end of the cell house, remaining there until the nightly lockup and final count is completed; then he returns to the small port which commands a view of the main dining hall, remaining there until such time as the entire number of inmates assigned to kitchen duty are returned to their cells, which is approximately 5:30 every night.

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[redacted] states that these are rigid orders to be carried out without

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variance, although for this period of time, which amounts to about one hour and fifty minutes, he does not have any opportunity to observe the activities which might transpire in D block isolation. It will be noted that he could not see the cells in which the escaped man were locked, and this explains why they could work out of their own cells, cross the corridor and climb up on the wall, without fear of being molested, because they could bank on approximately one hour and fifty minutes when they knew that the only man who could see them was tied up at another point.

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[redacted] stated that conditions, in his mind, had become acute of late and that he had surveyed the situation, because he had noted that the entire inmate population was uneasy, and that the entire cell house was pervaded with that tenseness which is noticeable prior to a state of emergency. He said that he had suggested to Captain P. J. MADIGAN that all of the doors of the isolation block be checked, especially as to the bolts which are on the hinges and have in the past been unscrewed without aid of tools whatsoever, allowing the inmates to remove the isolation doors and set them by the side of their cells.

Following is a suggestion letter written by [redacted] on January 9, 1939, and placed on the Warden's desk on January 9:

"May I submit for your consideration three items which I deem necessary to further the security of this Institution?

"First: i. e. The upper gallery floor in D Block, Isolation, be extended until it coincides with the outer wall of the building proper. That both ends be likewise sealed off; the one facing the Gun Gallery to be made of unbreakable glass, and that the utility corridor also be sealed with sound-proof material. This structural change would forestall the continuous passing of contraband, and eliminate most of the causes from which commotion in the Cell-house originates. Further, it would in no way interfere with the present lighting, heating, or ventilation of the Cell-house proper, while at the same time these facilities in the newly created isolation block would remain adequate. In all it would result in keeping those inmates who need additional security or disciplinary action to be housed in maximum security cells instead of being in the least secure cells as is the present practice.

"Second: That a section, at least two panels, of grill screen be placed on and attached to the bars of both Gun Galleries. This would not only afford added protection to the Officer here stationed from thrown missels which could be expected in times of commotion in the cell-block; but it would

also and the situation wherein the Gas Grenades, Gas Masks, and Night Sticks, could be procured by the inmates; this later being especially true in the day time when numerous inmates are consigned to orderly duties, as they have but to await that time when the Officer is called to the upper level in order to procure these articles. Such a screen would in no way interfere with the vision or impede the action of the Officer in time of stress.

"Third: That the practice of counting the inmates confined in isolation and solitary while regular inmate mess be discontinued and changed until such time as they are again locked securely in their cells. That the grill barricade be kept locked at this time. This slight change of routine would circumvent the possibility of attack both front and rear, in a time of emergency. The inmates in isolation are well aware of the fact that the Officer in the West Gallery must remain at a certain point in order to view the inmates at mess, and he is therefore unable to give protection to the Officer making this count. These inmates have in the past made keys. Material is ever at hand with which to make more keys; therefore in order to avert the possibility of them overpowering the Officer and getting possession of keys to the entire interior of the cell house, it should be discontinued."

A copy of this letter is being retained in our files, having been obtained fro[redacted] It will be noted in this letter that he points out another weakness of the whole cell block--namely, that prisoners can obtain gas grenades, gas masks and night sticks without much trouble. b7c b7d

We have made several requests for information regarding periodic checks on testing of the cell bars and window bars, but so far we have been unable to determine that any records are maintained on these checks or when they are held.

[redacted] pointed out that his duties on the west gun gallery are so explicit and confining and that the officer on duty has to do certain little things which allow the man in isolation to be utterly unobserved on occasions to the extent of one or maybe one and a half hours at a time when the inmates are in the messhall or when the inmates confined to the kitchen are still in the kitchen, after the regular guard force has completed their duties, and the inmates are left in charge of but one officer, the kitchen guard, and it is very easy for the inmates of isolation at such times to commit any act unmolested.

Junior Guard C. Y. HURST stated that "about 5:00 A. M. it is the custom for the convicts employed in the kitchen to report for duty. I wake them up, having been furnished with a list who were required to do that work, and as a rule they go into the kitchen about 5 o'clock. About 15 minutes prior to the kitchen detail going to the kitchen, the guard in the east gun gallery goes out back of the kitchen to watch the outside of the kitchen where he remains, leaving no one to guard the cell block, except the guard on duty in the west gun gallery. As a matter of fact, he is the only one that can see the isolation cells. However, he cannot see the doors of the cells. He can see the corridor and can see the windows where the convicts made their escape, and when the convicts go to the dining room to eat or to the kitchen, his duty is to watch the dining room and kitchen through the dining room, and while doing that it is impossible to watch the isolation block. I also wish to state the guard in the west gun gallery has specific orders to keep the officer in charge of the cell house under constant surveillance. However, if he watches the dining room, he cannot do both at the same time, watch the cell house and the dining room too."

MEANS OF GETTING TOOLS INTO CELL BLOCKS

It has been called to our attention that tools of escape might be brought into cell blocks through the kitchen or kitchen basement, it being pointed out that there is no screen between the cell block and the kitchen and that there are a number of cell block orderlies working around in that area constantly who might very easily have something slipped to them by the kitchen detail; and, further, that the shake-down given the kitchen help is done in a very slipshod manner and that it would not be very hard at all for those of the kitchen help to actually slip something out as they came out, and they could even bring something with the food, which was admitted by the Warden to me, himself.

[redacted] stated to me that the shake-down of the kitchen men was perfunctory, and it is noticed that P. F. REED in his articles on Alcatraz, appearing in the San Francisco Examiner, also mentions this means of obtaining tools in the cell block. b7c b7d

It is known by us, as has been pointed out in the investigations conducted on the Island heretofore, that tools are made in the blacksmith shop, and it is claimed by the guards that the so-called metal eye, the instrument which is known as the "snitcher", is not infallible, and as is pointed out in the statement by WILLIAM MARTIN, one of the escaped men,

these instruments can and are regularly beaten by the prisoners, so this is obviously a weakness. The Warden advised me that it was possible that tools might be mixed in with supplies for the kitchen, and it is generally agreed by those persons talked to by the Agents that it is not extremely difficult to get tools and materials for escape purposes out of the work area. The instrument that WILLIAM MARTIN claims was used to break the tool-proof steel bar—namely, a thumb screw jack—was made in the shops, as well as the files that were used. MARTIN also makes the statement in his written statement that there are knives all over the place, which are mostly of brass, which does not react at all on the "snitcher" and that these knives are not found in the mattresses either when they are shaken down. It was MARTIN'S statement that these knives were intended for the Warden, that the men hated him, and that that was their purpose in bringing them in. MARTIN makes the assertion in his written statement that STAMPHILL, while a cell orderly, was seen to go over to isolation block, and it was believed that he had hidden some contraband. A check apparently was made by MR. SHUTTLEWORTH, who was at the penitentiary at that time; however, we can find no record of this. MARTIN claims that they missed the material in the shake-down, which is possible in view of the fact that STAMPHILL was later caught with a knife with a four inch blade, stolen from the kitchen, which knife was found in his cell, for which he was placed in solitary on November 22, 1938. It has been suggested that he had committed this violation in order that he could get into isolation to effect his escape with the tools already planted there.

MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO MAKE ESCAPE TOOLS

To those of us who have found it necessary to proceed in the work area around the blacksmith shop, it is obvious that there is an unlimited source of material for escape tools. With the number of men who work in that area, with the limited supervision, which has already been reported in detail in regard to the COLE-ROE escape, it is easy to see how tools can be made by these men when unobserved. There is likewise material in the shops, which is verified by the shake-down that was made the night after the escape, when a mitre box saw was found concealed; also a spad, which is an instrument similar to a putty knife, used to spread printer's ink. This was found to have been sharpened to a knife-blade edge on one side and a saw-blade edge on the other. In addition, there was found a thin steel bar, which had on one side been converted into a saw edge. There were also found two heavy pieces of wire about 30 inches in length, on which the ends had been curled. In the opinion of some of the prison officials, these were used to push contraband from one cell to another.

It was also called to our attention that when they shook down the

kitchen after the recent break, a sack full of miscellaneous material was taken out, and at this time we have been unable to determine just exactly what kind of material it was. As to whether it was all concealed or whether part of it was found concealed and some just lying about, we do not know.

Also, during the shake-down, there were found two saw blades and a hand screw jack on the top of D cell block, the isolation section. There was no indication that these had been used. If this had been available to any of the prisoners in that section, they could easily have escaped with it.

It has also been suggested that musical instruments might be a source of escape material, particularly that a steel guitar or banjo string is/very likely instrument to use to saw a steel frame.

As far as material to cover up the work that they are doing, it was admitted in this instance that putty was not used, but rather wax from the floor was scraped up, mixed with a little paint, picked from the cell walls or bars, which, when covering the point of cutting, appeared the same as the paint.

Razor blades are suggested by the guards as a material for escape; however, it is known that there is a close check on razor blades, and no further information has been developed regarding razor blades.

As to the means of disposal of contraband after the purpose has been served, the statement of WILLIAM MARTIN in this case states that they were disposed of by being thrown down the lavatory. This is logical because they did not in any way want the prison authorities to know that they had these instruments of escape, because having discovered them in some shake-down, they would have immediately caused a thorough check of the bars to see whether they had been used. It is suggested that this possibly was the means of disposing of the thumb jack screw.

The recommendation has been made and is being followed out at this time to use a magnet on the lavatories, because tools still may be available for escape which are reposing in the lavatory drains, as it was called to our attention that they had devised a means of tying a long string to a tool and letting it go down the drain until it rested normally and then the string would float in reach of the arm, but still out of sight in a shake-down.

The raft which was recovered by which the prisoners intended to escape from the Island after being in the water was found to be made of timbers, driftwood, a chair, and material which was available floating around the Island. The photographs already forwarded to you best describe this material; however, there is on the Island and was at the time of the escape, a number of piles of lumber, which, when examined by the Warden and myself, were very similar to that of which the raft was made. The only statement that we have obtained to date from MARTIN is to the effect that the raft lumber was obtained from driftwood along the shore and from wood in the vicinity of the dock. However, material exactly like that in the raft is piled and thrown around on the parade ground, which undoubtedly was in the near vicinity of the building, since it is not known exactly what their direction was after having gone down towards the water level from the window of escape. This wood is being used in construction work on the Island and makes excellent raft material. The binding material used to hold the wood together was sheets taken from the cells.

We have not endeavored to go into this source of material as a particular phase of this investigation, but the matters mentioned herein have come to our attention through the regular interrogation along other lines.

ALARMS

b7c
b7d

Questioned as to what part he took in the apprehension of the escaped men, [redacted] stated that [redacted] and immediately went to his room and there was unable to hear the siren or whistles, as were a number of other men sleeping in the same quarters. He did not know of the escape until the next morning, when he went to breakfast. Agent FARLAND was also advised by DR. HUNTER, the Protestant Chaplain, that he also had not heard the alarm. It is to be noted that the siren is directly over the Administration Building. This matter of failure to hear the alarms, we thought should be called to your attention.

There was also apparently considerable confusion, particularly as to whether there was an escape or a fire, inasmuch as Deputy Warden MILLER stated that he instructed that both the fire alarm and the siren be sounded in order that everyone might be awakened. This is borne out by W. C. OBSINGER, dental interne, who stated that he was awakened by the blowing of the siren, and he immediately dressed and started towards the direction, at which time he observed the launch McDowell coming into the dock and later inquiry by him at the dock disclosed that there had been a

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prison break. MR. ORSINGER stated that he had never been advised as to the signal for a prison break.

We also have learned that three men obtained the fire truck, believing there was a fire and were on the road with the fire engine, having gotten as far as the canteen, when they were turned back, being advised that it was an escape.

WEAKNESSES STILL APPARENT

b7c
b7d

[redacted] advised me that they are getting ready to go from the power house. This rumble was picked up by Agent FARLAND and myself several months ago. [redacted] stated that DeSHELLY, BARTLETT'S partner, who is suspected in this break of having possibly assisted in getting tools, because of his ability as an engineer, is now working in the electrical shop. [redacted] explains to me that from the laundry, where a great many of the prisoners are employed, men can go down to the laundry store room, from which store room, they can go to the electrical shop, which is adjoining. There is just a grill between the store room and the electrical shop, which can be easily cut. He said that DeSHELLY works in this area unobserved for as long as an hour at a time and that there is just a four inch wall between the electrical shop and the power house, which could be very easily knocked through, and from then on, if a weapon were obtainable, there could be a wholesale escape out of the laundry down through the store room, the electrical shop, and the power house, merely by killing the guard in the powerhouse tower, either by shooting him or setting fire to the tower, which is wooden, as he is absolutely alone and uncovered. From that point, the only thing that would have to be done to get the last guard out of the way would be to dispose of the guard in the tower over the docks and, with a wholesale escape in mind, that could be easily accomplished, particularly if some weapon were available, and then nothing could stop them from getting boats or taking over the Island.

The statement of WILLIAM MARTIN also mentions the fact that a crew of convicts in the kitchen had made preparations for escape and that they were planning to take women and children as hostages when they went. To our knowledge at this time, although certain things were taken from the kitchen, we have not had brought to our attention any sawed windows or anything of that type which might have been ready for a break.

Our attention now has been brought confidentially to the fact

that about the time of the COLE-ROE escape, there was a window sawed in the hospital.

Junior Officer C. W. HURST stated that he was informed several days ago that convict RUFUS FRANKLIN, #335, tried to smuggle a letter out to someone in the blacksmith shop, probably BARTLETT, to furnish him with hack saws; however, before they had the opportunity to deliver the letter, he was searched and threw the letter in the lavatory, where it was recovered by Guard PEPPER and turned over to the authorities.

As stated in the beginning of this letter, we are merely reporting to you what we have heard and what has come to our attention without any effort being made to verify, except where it could be done without appearing to be making an administrative investigation. I, personally, am not satisfied with taking some of these statements without verification, realizing that they might be prompted by personal prejudices or jealousies or personalities, but these are the things that we are getting from the men, and, taking them for their value as such, I felt that they would be of great interest to you.

Very truly yours,

W. J. L. PIEPER
Special Agent in Charge

WJLP/mjd
AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

76-4175-24

RECORD JEN:NCB

January 19, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

With reference to the two memoranda which I have submitted as a result of the telephonic conversations which I had with the Agent in Charge of the San Francisco Office of the FBI concerning the attempted escape from Alcatraz on January 13, 1939, I am attaching hereto a communication dated January 16, 1939, from the Agent in Charge at San Francisco, and which relates in memorandum form and in somewhat greater detail the matters covered by him in his conversations with me.

Respectfully

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Fenworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JAN 19 1939
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-29076-22

147

RAG:MP January 27, 1939

76-4175

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the request contained in your letter to the Bureau dated January 19, 1939, there are attached hereto photographs of the following individuals:

Arthur Barker, Alcatraz #268
William Martin, Alcatraz #370
Rufus McCain, Alcatraz #267
Henry Young, Alcatraz #244
Dale Stamphill, Alcatraz #435

These pictures are being forwarded to you in order that they may be included in the album retained in your Office.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Q. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

RECORDED

76-4175-25

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 30 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MAILED
JAN 27 1939
P. M.

148

Federal Bureau of Inv

United States Department of Justice

San Francisco, California
January 26, 1939

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

RE: ARTHUR E. BARKER alias
DOC BARKER (Deceased) ETAL
ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS,

Reference is made to Los Angeles letter dated January 24, 1939 enclosing a letter and papers received by that office from MISS FRANCES HELD, which is believed by the Los Angeles Office to have some connection with the above entitled case.

Our reading of this letter discloses that it is undoubtedly a letter written by someone in a Veterans' Administration Home, which is borne out by letter of reference stating Sawtelle is a Veterans' home near Los Angeles. There is nothing in the letter to indicate that it came from an inmate at Alcatraz, and further such a letter as this would not have been transmitted from Alcatraz, nor could a newspaper clipping have been sent from there since newspapers are not allowed on the Island for inmates.

Letter of reference does not state how Miss HELD obtained these documents, whether or not she is reliable, whether they came to her in some regular or irregular manner, and in view of the fact that it is my opinion this matter is not of importance regarding any phase of the investigation in connection with the most recent attempted escape from Alcatraz, despite the fact that there is a photograph of the Island and a comment "From the window we will escape shortly", no investigation will be conducted in this connection.

It is noted in the last paragraph of letter of reference that this office is requested to furnish the Bureau and Los Angeles Office immediately with photostatic copies of the documents enclosed, but in view of the fact that this matter will not receive investigative attention by us, it is suggested that the Bureau, when more important matters permit, have photostatic copies made forwarding them to the San Francisco and Los Angeles Offices so that the files will be complete.

Very truly yours,

76-4175-26

ENCLOSURE BEHIND FILE

N. J. L. PIEPER,
Special Agent in Charge

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 30 1939

NJLP:MLA
Enclosures
cc Los Angeles
76-347

cc San Francisco 1/31/39
cc Los Angeles

149

Cook
Mon. 8 am

INSTRUCTIONS TO PATIENT FOR GASTRIC ANALYSIS: Your Doctor desires a Laboratory Examination made on specimens of your stomach contents. You should fast for 12 hours before a special test breakfast will be given you. One-half hour after this special test breakfast the specimens will be taken by the Out-Patient Nurse in Room #134 at about 8 A.M.

Cook
Mon. 8 am

INSTRUCTIONS TO PATIENT FOR GASTRIC ANALYSIS: Your Doctor desires a Laboratory Examination made on specimens of your stomach contents. You should fast for 12 hours before a special test breakfast will be given you. One-half hour after this special test breakfast the specimens will be taken by the Out-Patient Nurse in Room #134 at about 8 A.M.

Enclosure Behind File

150

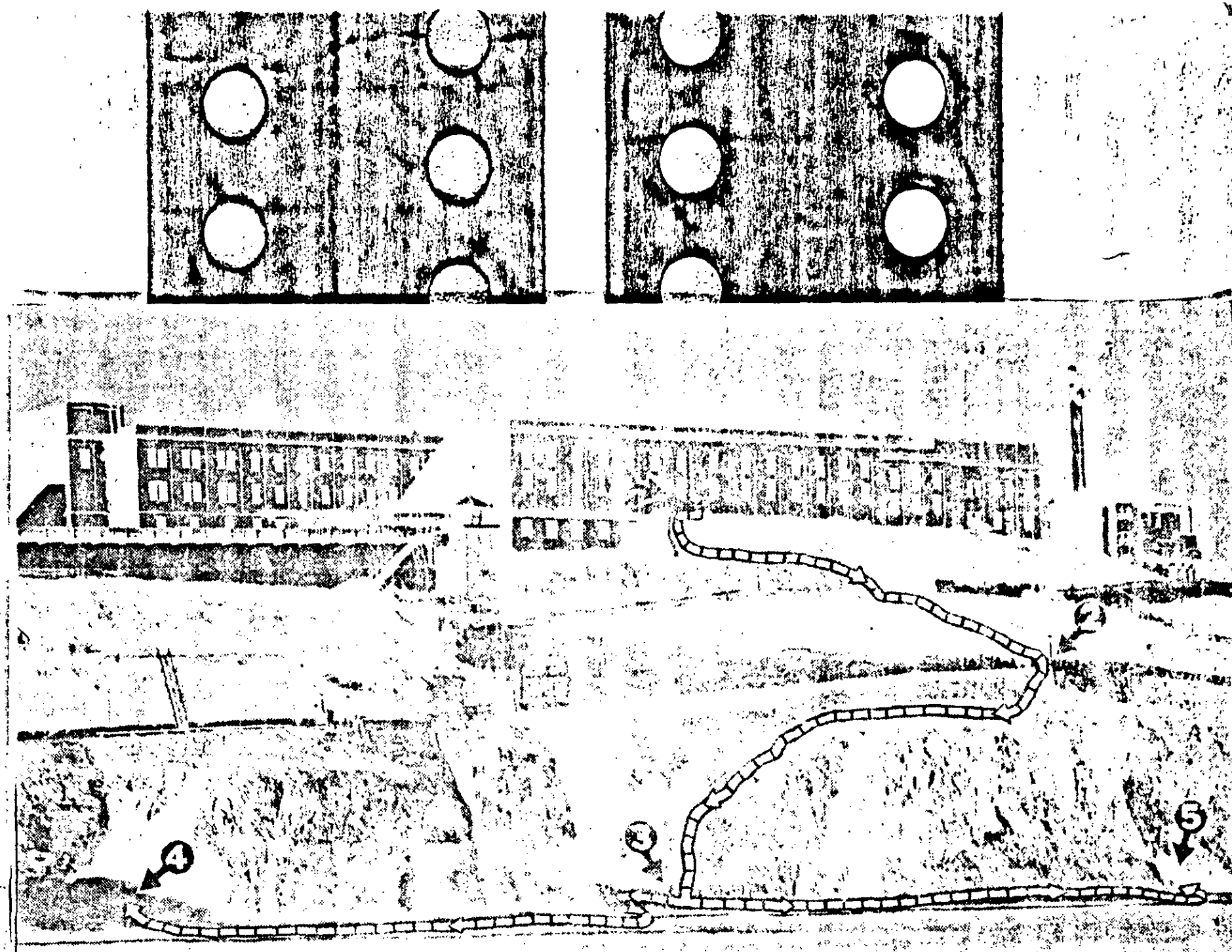
Right now we must beg forgiveness for
all this Chatter - hard detail & all - its a
glorious [illegible] - so what the devil
[illegible] to [illegible] this outlet - [illegible]
[illegible] - [illegible] how [illegible]
[illegible] my [illegible] - its there or go
[illegible] - we don't care so its that
[illegible] got [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] well we know
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] did feel [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] there

was [illegible] - but [illegible] the Circle
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] who can tell [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] you [illegible]
[illegible] like your fine fellow [illegible]
[illegible] Dollars [illegible]
[illegible] all [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible] 15
[illegible]

I'll send nothing to [illegible]
it with

Jenny confess that this old
bulb has been mighty
good hopes & plans for some-
thing in these parts - biggest
which I am planning - see
they are mostly in [illegible] - [illegible].
But a whole parcel
it is [illegible] to [illegible]
equal - [illegible] to Bellevue
from our [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] christmas card [illegible]
[illegible] adequately express my
gratitude for the letter & [illegible]
[illegible] will not try - but
your sweet & useful com-
binations no doubt

15



THWARTED—Here's how the Alcatraz escape attempt failed. The five felons made way through window (1). Then [illegible] (2) and clambered down rocks to cove (3). Arthur "Doc" Barker and Dale Stamphill were shot by guards there. Convicts Rufus McCain and Henri Young made way along beach to cove (4) where they were captured attempting to build rafts of driftwood. Convict William Martin was captured (5) as he sought to use his clothing to tie together a driftwood raft so he could make his escape in the dense bay fog.

—Photo by San Francisco Examiner

morning when the eerie fog
horns & whistles presaged the
coming of the fog — [illegible]
[illegible] in the [illegible]
upper bay regions & [illegible]
drifted out there [illegible]
Sate — on the [illegible]
[illegible] is shining, but on the
bay side the fog hides both
the Sate & the [illegible]

I'm so pleased & relieved to
know all's well with the [illegible]
lady — that's just swell —
My [illegible] I'm not [illegible]
whether or not my [illegible]
called relatives will come
to see me — in my letter to
my nephews I [illegible]
[illegible] out [illegible]
brother, now with the [illegible]

[illegible]

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RAG:DF

76-4175 -26 February 8, 1939

RECORDED

35391

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated January 26, 1939, in which you inclosed a letter and papers which you received from the Los Angeles Office concerning information furnished by Miss Frances Held.

In accordance with your request there are attached hereto two photostatic copies of these documents. The Los Angeles Office, to which copies of this communication are also being directed, is likewise being furnished with two photostatic copies of the documents furnished that office by Miss Frances Held.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

INDEXED
DATE 6/5/51
15

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. L. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tamm

Inclosure
cc Los Angeles (Inclosure)

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
FEB 8 1939
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

(Escaped Federal Prisoner)

SUBJECT Arthur Barker (Death of)

FILE NUMBER 76-4175

SECTION NUMBER 2

SERIALS 27-41

TOTAL PAGES 61

PAGES RELEASED 50

PAGES WITHHELD 11

EXEMPTION(S) USED B3 B7C B7D B7E

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

San Francisco, California
January 26, 1939

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: RE: ARTHUR E. BARKER alias "DOC" (DECEASED), ETAL. ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS

On January 23, 1939 Special Agents A. E. FARLAND and J. H. RICE, while at Alcatraz, conferred with Warden JOHNSTON and asked whether or not there had been any new developments since their last visit, and the Warden stated there had been none. This question was asked the Warden for the very purpose of seeing whether or not he would tell us what we already knew regarding certain things found in the search and shake-down which is still continuing at Alcatraz.

It was learned confidentially that during the check-up that has been going on since the escape, five bars in the Hospital were found to have been sawed. This information has come to us from several confidential sources but the Warden has not seen fit to tell us and we have not questioned him point-blank concerning this discovery.

I have also learned that it is the general opinion among the guards, with the exception of a few, that nothing will come of the investigation made by Mr. BENNETT, and their opinion is that the investigation is nothing more or less than a "white wash".

I have delayed in advising you this information developed because I had hoped to get something definite for you, and get corroboration if possible regarding this somewhat general information, but to date I have not been able to substantiate these statements positively and wanted you to have the information we have developed to date. I know that you appreciate our position in not being able to give you better corroborated information because these men will say a few words and then refuse to say any more; they are afraid of their jobs, they know certain guards will go to higher

1 EXCL.

RECORDED & INDEXED

76-4175-27

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 31 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COPIES DESTROYED
215 SEP 9 1966

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

TOLSON TAMM FUGSUM ONE NICHOLS Miss Gandy

161

Director
P & C RE ARTHUR E.
BARKER etal.

Jan. 26, 1939

authorities if it is ascertained they have furnished us information, all of which makes it difficult for us to substantiate, unless we are going in on a direct investigation.

The investigation which we have been conducting at the request of Mr. BENNETT, looking to the possible connection of Guard[redacted], has not materialized, and a report will be submitted as soon as the Los Angeles Office has completed its investigation at [redacted] California, but I wanted you to know that nothing of import has shown up.

b7c

Undoubtedly the newspaper clippings have reached you by this time reflecting the criticism being directed at the administration of the Island, by city officials in San Francisco.

Very truly yours,

N. J. L. PIEPER,
Special Agent in Charge

NJLP:MLA
AIRMAIL

76-347

162

Unwanted Alcatraz

A CORONER'S jury urges the Government to find a "more suitable location" than Alcatraz Island to imprison its worst murderers, kidnapers, jail-breaking wizards, gangsters and "income tax evaders."

As Coroner Leland says in behalf of San Franciscans, "We don't like it and we don't want it"—and we never have. The inquest into the recent escape plot shows Alcatraz is not "impregnable" against the super-cunning of the men caged there. The Rock is dynamite in our Bay!

Won't Uncle Sam find a better Devil's Island?

SAN FRANCISCO NEWS

FORWARDED BY
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

JAN 26 1935

76-4175-27

163

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
JANUARY 28, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

RE: ARTHUR R. BARKER alias
"DOC" BARKER (deceased)
ET AL.
Escaped Federal Prisoners.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the personal and confidential letter of January 23, 1939, pertaining to the whereabouts of [redacted] a guard at Alcatraz. b7c

On January 26, 1939, Special Agent G. V. DIERST contacted [redacted] with whom this office has had previous satisfactory dealings, advised that he was well acquainted with [redacted] having previously resided at [redacted] and that he presently has a brother living in [redacted] b7d b7c

[redacted] advised that he could definitely state that [redacted] was in [redacted] on December 26th, January 2nd and January 15th. During the intervening times, [redacted] stated he saw [redacted] around [redacted] but could not fix any particular dates as to these other occasions. He stated he did not believe that [redacted] during the period of time mentioned in the reference letter, was away from [redacted] for any extended visit, but that he may have gone to [redacted] or thereabouts. b7d b7c

INDEXED

76-4175-27

[redacted] suggested to Agent DIERST that [redacted] was very reliable and could probably furnish Agent with other information concerning [redacted] b7d b7c

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 2 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[redacted] was contacted and stated that the first he saw [redacted] was on either Christmas Day or the day before, and that for the next three weeks, he saw him around town on an average of at least four or five times a week, in company with [redacted] advised that he is quite positive [redacted] was not away from [redacted] during the three-week period, although his observations of him were merely seeing him around the streets and with his brother. b7d b7c

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b7d

b7c

Agent DIERST, during the conversations, requested [redacted] and [redacted] to treat this inquiry with utmost confidence, and was assured by both that it would be treated confidentially.

In view of the information developed above, and the fact that [redacted] is only a small town, and that [redacted] is well known in that community, it was believed best not to make further inquiry for fear that it might become known that an investigation was being conducted, and in a town the size of [redacted], such information would spread rapidly. Therefore, no further investigation at [redacted] will be conducted unless otherwise requested by the office of origin.

The Los Angeles Office is presently carrying out the other leads requested in this case, and such information will be reported in the near future.

Very truly yours,

GVD:AB
76-454

CC BUREAU

VAL C. ZIMMER
Special Agent in Charge

165

U. S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

San Francisco, California
January 20, 1939

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Re: ARTHUR E. BARKER, with alias,
Et Al - ESCAPED FEDERAL
PRISONERS

Dear Sir:

Kindly furnish the known criminal record of the following:

1-246

Name (inc. aliases)	City, Police Arrest, or Other Number.	Approximate Date Fingerprints forwarded Bureau of Investigation.	Fingerprint Classification.
DALE STAMPHILL	Alcatraz Penitentiary No. 435		
ARTHUR E. BARKER alias DOC	Alcatraz Penitentiary No. 268		
WILLIAM MARTIN	Alcatraz Penitentiary No. 370		
HENRY YOUNG	Alcatraz Penitentiary No. 244		
RUFUS McCAIN	Alcatraz Penitentiary No. 267		

RECORDED

76-4175-28
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 2 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
INDEXED

Very truly yours,

N.J.L. Pieper

N.J.L. PIEPER
Special Agent in Charge.

JHR:LR
76-347

reply QT Nov 2-1-39

QT

166

4-750 (2-7-79)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

10 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

[X] Deleted under exemption(s) B3; Title 28; U.S.C. 534 with no segregable material available for release to you.

[ ] Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

[ ] Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

[ ] Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

_____

_____

[ ] For your information: _____

_____

[X] The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
Arthur Barker 76-4175-28

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FBI/DOJ

167

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Fenworth
Mr. Gandy
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

San Francisco, California
January 19, 1939

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

RE: ARTHUR E. BARKER alias "DOC";
DALE STAMPHILL, RUFUS McCAIN,
HENRY YOUNG, WILLIAM MARTIN.
ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS

I am enclosing herewith two completed photographic albums portraying the recent attempted escape of the above named prisoners, from the U. S. Penitentiary at Alcatraz on January 13, 1939. These albums have been prepared at the telephonic request of the Director.

It will be noted that we have changed the set-up in the books a little, attempting to make them more attractive. We have included in the album the map of the Island, which is pertinent to the investigation of this case, and a photostatic copy of the cell blocks, which is the only diagram we have, the original having been forwarded to the Bureau.

It is suggested that the Bureau, in order to make this album more complete, might wish to include the photographs of the escaping prisoners, and in view of our desire to expedite the transmittal of this volume to the Bureau, no photographs were obtained at the Island since copies were not readily available.

We would appreciate the Bureau sending us a photograph of each of the prisoners involved so that we can include these in our album.

RECORDED & ~~INDEXED~~

The different type of cover for the album was necessitated because no others were available of the type heretofore forwarded.

Very truly yours,

N. J. L. PIEPER,
Special Agent in Charge

NJLP:MLA
760347
Enclosures

76-4175-29
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 2 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TOLSON
TAMM
FENWORTH
FIN. SUB.
NICHOLS

Send Reg

This should be done at once.
EN 1/23/39

One album detached.

Bulky Enclosure disposed of notation on memo Nichols to Rosen dated 4/22/50

Album filed behind file

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Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ladd
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

San Francisco, California
February 2, 1939

PERSONAL ATTENTION

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover: RE: ARTHUR BARKER (DECEASED), ETAL. ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS

I am forwarding herewith two sets of three additional photographs which we feel will complete the albums heretofore transmitted.

Very truly yours,

N. J. L. PIEPER,
Special Agent in Charge

NJLP:MLA
76-347
Enclosures/6

2 - Copy photographs placed in File Album Ser #79 2-10-39

RECORDED

76-4175-30

Copies placed in Director's album. HWG 2-8-39

TOLSON
TAMM
FUG.
NIT

169

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
FEBRUARY 11, 1939

W

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

RE: ARTHUR E. BARKER, alias DOC, et al
ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS

Sheriff HAROLD L. WILEY, Fairview, Oklahoma, called at this office and advised he had noticed in the newspapers an account of an attempted escape from the Federal Penitentiary at Alcatraz Island. He stated that DALE STAMPHILL has two brothers, OLEN and VERLIN, who are believed [redacted] and it is known that they have been at San Francisco, California for some time.

b7c

This information is furnished to you as having a possible bearing on the investigation presently being made by your office of the attempted escape. It is possible that these two individuals visited their brother at the penitentiary prior to the attempted escape.

The Sheriff advised he believed he could secure their address in San Francisco, California, if the same would be of value; that the father of these boys is a respected citizen and is an engineer for the Santa Fe Railroad.

Very truly yours,

H. B. FLETCHER
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

HBF:cs
cc - Bureau

76-4175
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 14 19[illegible]
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF [illegible]
FUG. [illegible]

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SJT:JMC:MC

February 3, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to articles appearing in various newspapers throughout the country containing information furnished by one P. F. Reed, a former inmate of Alcatraz. Two copies of an article which appeared in the Chicago Herald and Examiner on January 15, 1939, are transmitted herewith.

The Bureau desires that you note the contents of this article which undoubtedly was published also in San Francisco papers and which contains information to the effect that numerous hack saw blades are allegedly in the possession of convicts in the United States Penitentiary at Alcatraz Island; that guards consistently and regularly sleep on duty; that they drink on occasions, et cetera.

The Bureau believes it desirable that Mr. Reed be interviewed and in this connection it is requested that you ascertain his present whereabouts and, if in your district, conduct the necessary interview. If in another field division, you should furnish the necessary background to the Special Agent in Charge and request that the interview be conducted and the Bureau promptly advised.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Very truly yours,

76-4175-31

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 6 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

John Edgar Hoover
Director

1 ENCL. T

Inclosure

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
FEB -3 1939
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Ex-Inmate's Story—

ALCATRAZ PRISON FULL OF SAWS

Convicts Outwit Electric Eye for Detecting Metals, Reed Reveals

While prison authorities sought solution of how Arthur ("Doc") Barker of Chicago, former Public Enemy No. 1, and four other convicts were able to saw their way out of Alcatraz cells, P. F. Reed, former convict, declares that despite all precautions dozens of saws are circulating among the prison colony.

Barker was slain in his attempt to escape, but only after he was clear of the cell block. This article, first of two by the author of "Murder on Alcatraz," who spent four years on the island, again lifts the lid.

BY P. F. REED.

Special to The Herald and Examiner.

(Copyright, 1928, by Hearst Publications, Inc.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 14.—The electric stool pigeons you have heard so much about are a long way from fool proof.

And Uncle Sam, who spent plenty of money to make the Rock briar proof, economized on hack saw blades.

That is the reason Arthur ("Doc") Barker of Chicago, one of the worst troublemakers and agitators they've ever had out on the Rock, is dead and the bars on five cell doors will have to be fixed.

Barker, "Casey" Young, Rufus McCain, Rale Stamphill and Bill Martin sawed their way out of their cells—or had the sawing done for them—with blades that have been floating around the "stir" for more than two years.

I was working in the butcher shop about June, 1936, when a guard-mechanic came in to fix a compressor that broke down and flooded the joint.

He was a loud-mouthed, loose-lipped screw. He told me that he'd lost lost a package of new hack saw blades. He said the ones the government furnished him weren't

1/31/39

CHICAGO HERALD & EXAMINER

76-4175-31

1-15-38

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'ny good and he bought some of his own. Then he lost them.

The loss was never reported because he was afraid of what would happen. And he never located them. They've been circulating ever since. There's a hundred places around the cell-house, particularly in the kitchen basement, where they could have been planted.

It would be a simple matter to get the blades into the cell block from the kitchen. How? Simply by plastering them to the recessed bottom of the slop cans which frequently pass from the kitchen into the cell block. Even sandwiches have been brought in that way.

Belts Offer Easy Hiding Place

Any of the kitchen help or the cellhouse runners who have access to the cell block after 8:30 in the morning could have carried the blades in. The kitchen help are allowed to wear belts, and it would be easy for them to slip the top of their pants, stick in a couple of blades and cinch their belts up tight.

When they go through the door, they get only a rough fan. For that matter, the blades could have been carried in inside their shoe soles. Slit the seam of a sewn shoe sole and slip a blade into the leather—as simple as that.

The blades could have been carried indefinitely without serious danger. In the first place there isn't a mechanical stool pigeon between the kitchen and the cell block. But even if there had been, it would have been safe enough.

I bet Alley T. Anderson one time he couldn't carry metal through one of them and he won. He carried a half-inch steel bar about a foot long through the gadget and it didn't let out a chirp. Another time a mechanic twice packed a crescent wrench through two stool pigeons, and the machines didn't turn a whisker.

Saws Held Capable of Cutting Bars

As for the cell and window bars being impregnable to hack saw blades—that's a lot of baloney. I have been able to vouch for that ever since I drew my first cell assignment. I was parked in the center block and after a short residence discovered one of the bars sawed through a quarter of the way. I squawked for a cell change pronto. I had no desire to be present when the thing was discovered.

Another sample that didn't get publicity showed up in the hospital late in 1937. Somebody sawed his way through a window bar. It was prepared for six months before they hauled in a welding outfit and fixed it up. Then it wasn't discovered. An old con, whom I understand was later transferred to Springfield, put the finger on it.

They never did explain where those hack saw blades came from, but they were floating all over the joint.

Quietness of Work Called a Mystery

When the stir went up over there, they talked a lot about how the bars would resist any hack-saw blades. If that's the case, why are they so worried about saw blades getting loose?

The blades and the bars would have been a mark for any con in the place. But the real question is how they got the bars sawed without being seen or heard by the cell-block guards.

I can figure only one answer to that one. The screws went to sleep.

There are always two of them on duty on the catwalks at the ends of the cell block, day and night, one at each end. At night there's a floor guard who's supposed to make the rounds of the tiers every half hour. A lieutenant is in and out all night long.

During the day, two guards are on the floor and there is always one on each catwalk. All, unless they fall asleep or just don't want to see, have a full view of the block. The walls are as bare as a pool table and as light as day in both ends and down the side corridors.

I've seen a guard on the catwalk dead to the world. I came out of the kitchen at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and you could hear him snoring all over the block. There he sat with his feet propped up on the bars of the cellhouse side.

Any con could have stepped up on a desk below the catwalk and snatched the gun. He snored right on, with his mouth open, through all the noise of the cons walking down the tiers on their way to take a bath.

Anothtr time, twenty-five or thirty cons in the kitchen saw a screw in the tower snoring away. They could look through the kitchen window and see him with his head tilted back next to the telephone so he could hear the bell if it rang.

That happened so many times

later, the kitchen help used to tell him, "He'd say he was being too so good he was getting so fat he couldn't help it. He weighed 140 when he came in on the bum and weighed 235 when he left. He was the guy who lost the blades.

To get from their cells to the window they went through, those five cons had to pass down a long corridor, turn a corner within twenty feet of the catwalk screw and then go through a locked wire gate.

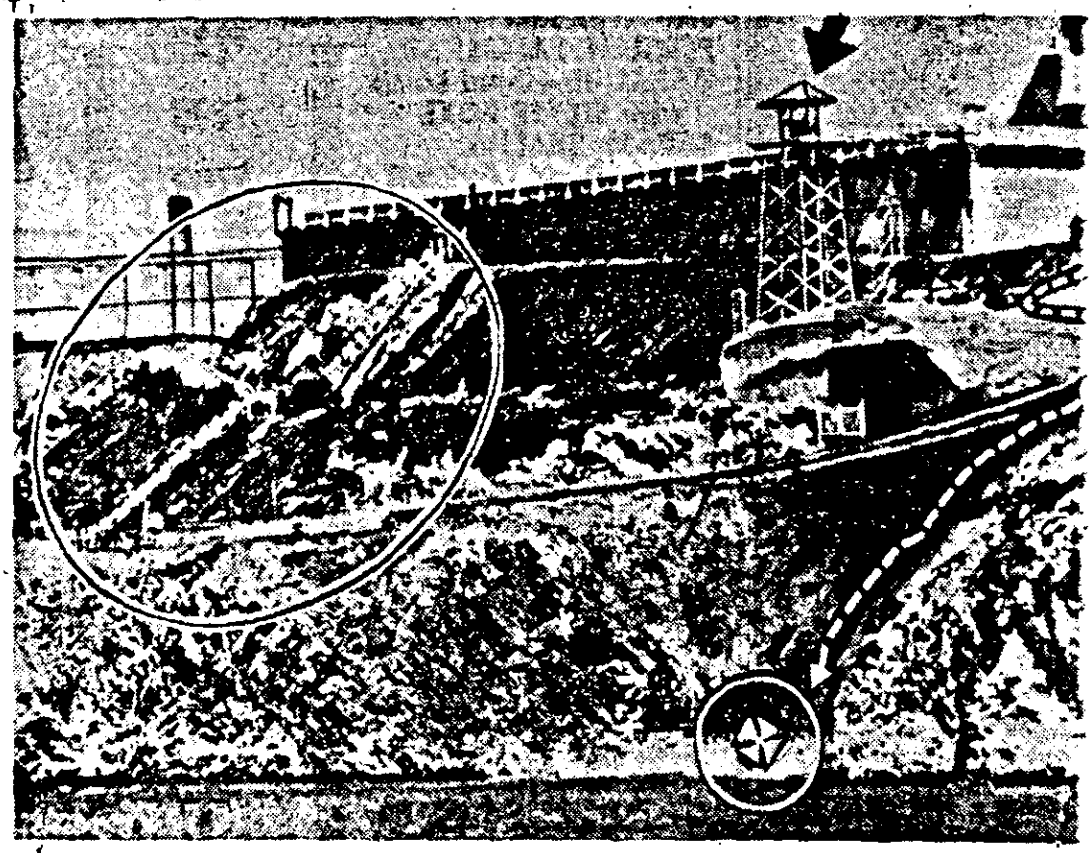
You tell me how they got a key to that gate and maybe I'll tell you how they did it without being seen or heard when it's so quiet a cough sounds like a cannon shot.

Although it's strictly against the rules, some of the guards over there have been known to drink. But they wouldn't all be drunk at once. I'm certain no federal employe could be fixed, although one free man was canned for bringing money in to the cons along late in 1935.

There was a heavy fog when the boys went out. That gives the outside crew an out, even though the cons had to parade through an oscillating searchlight as bright as a battleship's. They had to dodge a car which patrols the island all night with two guards.

(Another of the series of stories about Alcatraz by P. F. Reed, author of "Murder on Alcatraz," will appear in The Herald and Examiner tomorrow.)

Path of Barker Break



LINE SHOWS ROUTE TAKEN BY FLEEING CONVICTS
'X' marks spot of capture; in circle are prisoners going to cells.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
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Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Los Angeles, California
February 3, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Re: ARTHUR E. BARKER, alias Doc (deceased);
DALE STAMPHILL; RUFUS McCAIN; HENRY
YOUNG; WILLIAM MARTIN;
ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS.

Dear Sir:-

Reference is made to letter from San Francisco to Los Angeles dated January 23, 1939, requesting information concerning one [redacted] The following investigation concerning the activities of [redacted] was made by Special Agent G. V. Dierst.

In connection with the investigation of [redacted] it was noted in Los Angeles Division file [redacted] entitled [redacted] with aliases - [redacted] that [redacted] formerly was associated with [redacted] subject of that file, and [redacted] was interviewed under the pretext that [redacted] and during the interview he was questioned as to his activities in such a way that he believed the purpose of the interview was [redacted] Details of the information which he furnished [redacted] will be reported separately in the above-mentioned case.

76-4175

[redacted] advised that he had been born and raised [redacted] California, and had come to Los Angeles about six years ago, and since coming to Los Angeles he had been in the bookie business; that his parents, as well as his brother, still reside in San Francisco, his father being [redacted] resides at [redacted] and his brother, [redacted] resides at [redacted]

[redacted] stated that he had not been to San Francisco since about February 1938, and on that occasion he drove his father back to San Francisco from Los Angeles, his father having made an extended holiday visit with [redacted] in Los Angeles. On this occasion, he advised, he arrived in San Francisco one evening and left late the next day, and at that time stayed with his brother, [redacted] As to other absences from Los Angeles during the past year, [redacted] advised that approximately six months ago he made a one-day trip to Delano, California, to see about the purchase of a cafe, but negotiations ended without any deal having been made. He also stated that several months ago he had made a trip to Chula Vista, California, to look after some gambling interests, and that about three weeks ago he had made a trip to Agua Caliente, Mexico. Beyond this, he stated, he could not recall of his being out of the Los Angeles area.

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[redacted] also mentioned that on previous occasions while in San Francisco he stopped at the New Fillmore Hotel, which is a residential hotel near [redacted] residence, but on his last trip to San Francisco in February 1938 he did not stop at this hotel. b7c

During the conversation, when [redacted] was being questioned as to possible parties whom [redacted] of the case mentioned might contact in San Francisco, he advised that [redacted] probably would visit in the vicinity of Ball and Ellis Streets where the gambling element of San Francisco hang out, and that the only specific name which he could recall as to individuals well in the gambling and underworld circles was a NICK CONSANTINE, whom he stated he had not seen for the past eight or nine years. He also mentioned the name of BILL LYONS and the MC DONOUGH brothers, bail bond brokers. In this connection he stated that his San Francisco contacts were rather limited because of the long period of time he had been absent from San Francisco and the infrequency of his visits there. b7c

During the past two years [redacted] advised, he had resided at [redacted] and had moved from there tothe [redacted] about two weeks ago, inasmuch as so much pressure had been placed on bookies recently in Los Angeles, he having been arrested twice within the past six weeks. b7c

Agent Dierst, under the same pretext as used in the interview with [redacted] contacted [redacted] advised that [redacted] had resided on the second floor of that building for the past two years until recently, and that the only time she knew of his being away from Los Angeles was about a year ago when he drove his father to San Francisco, and also in about July 1938 when [redacted] took a week's vacation and went to Reno, Nevada. She further advised that from time to tim[redacted] would have numerous people at his apartment but they were always very quiet, and she never became acquainted with any of them. b7d b7c

[redacted] also stated that the apartment originally was rented by a woman who gave her name as [redacted] and that after being in the apartment a very short time [redacted] moved in. She stated she did not believe this was [redacted] wife, but inasmuch as they were good tenants and always paid their rent and did not make any noise, she had never inquired into their personal lives, and it was her understanding that a few weeks ago this [redacted] who represented herself to be the wife of [redacted] was supposed to have gone to Chicago. b7d b7c b7c

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SAC, San Francisco Re: ARTHUR E. BARKER Los Angeles 2-3-39

b7c b7d

Agent Dierst, in locating [redacted] contacted [redacted] and who also is mentioned in [redacted] During Agent Dierst's interview with [redacted] concerning [redacted] activities were discussed and [redacted] stated he saw [redacted] on an average of at least two or three times a week, and during the past six or eight months did not know of [redacted] having been out of the Los Angeles area, and further, he did not know of any contacts which [redacted] had in San Francisco.

As to the information obtained from [redacted] however, it might be noted that [redacted] is the typical [redacted] and while he seemed to be in a cooperative mood there is doubt as to what extent his information can be relied upon.

There being no further investigation in this territory, this case is being considered referred upon completion to the office of origin.

Very truly yours,

VAL C. ZIMMER
Special Agent in Charge

GVD:RS
76-454

2cc Bureau
cc L. A. File [redacted]

b7c

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA FILE NO. 76-347

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
San Francisco	2/4/39	1/18,19-21,23, 27,31/39	J. H. RICE - MLA

TITLE: ARTHUR E. BARKER alias DOC, (Deceased), DALE STAMPHILL, RUFUS McCAIN, HENRY YOUNG, WILLIAM MARTIN

CHARACTER OF CASE: ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

JAMES BENNETT, Director of Bureau of Prisons, requested confidential investigation of one [redacted] employed as prison guard at Alcatraz, particularly as to his activities during Dec. 1938 and Jan. 1939 when he was on annual leave. Information developed at San Francisco reflects name furnished by Director BENNETT as [redacted] probably [redacted] SFPD [redacted] inquiry of [redacted] who know [redacted] reveals he was recently released from Folsom State Prison and last heard of at Los Angeles. PAT SULLIVAN reported to be conducting rooming houses Mission District, San Francisco, father of HARRY SULLIVAN, now serving sentence at Alcatraz as #198. No further information obtained from prison authorities at Alcatraz.

b7c

b7c
b7d

- P -

DETAILS: This is a joint report of Special Agent A. E. FARLAND and reporting Agent.

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

This investigation is predicated upon an oral request made by JAMES BENNETT, Director of the Bureau of Prisons, during

Memo Bu of Prisons 3/8/39 Reg.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [signature] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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76-4175-32 FEB 9 1939

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FEB 8 - A.M.

FUG. UP. HARBG

1 cc Bureau of Prisons 2-8-39

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his recent visit at Alcatraz with reference to the attempted escape on January 13, 1939 by subjects in this case. Mr. BENNETT requested investigation based on confidential information furnished him by certain inmates whose names he did not divulge to the effect that Prison Guard [redacted] had probably aided in the escape of subjects. b7c

Mr. BENNETT stated he had obtained confidentially from one of these individuals information tha[redacted]d been "kiting" information for BARKER and possibly others; that his information was tha[redacted] was to help or had helped in making a contact ashore for BARKER and his companions. [redacted] left the prison on annual leave on December 23, 1938 and returned from leave and reported for duty on January 16, 1939. [redacted] claimed his home was in [redacted] and that that was where he spent his vacation. b7c

Mr. BENNETT'S information further was that [redacted] was getting the payoff and had made arrangements with someone, name unknown, at the Senator Hotel at Reno, Nevada; that the Ford Apartments located at 3rd and Mission Streets, San Francisco, are operated by one PAT SULLIVAN, who is reported to own that apartment building and several others in that vicinity and that a former convict named [redacted] out of Leavenworth Annex, is a friend of SULLIVAN. The information was tha[redacted] was making a contact with SULLIVAN and [redacted] at the Ford Apartments; that SULLIVAN and [redacted] might possibly be the payoff for BARKER. Mr. BENNETT'S information was that PAT SULLIVAN had formerly been connected with the San Frandisco Police Department. b7c

The records at the penitentiary reflect that [redacted] worked several nights in the cell block. b7c

HAROLD FONTAINE'S (Alcatraz 53) [redacted] reported to reside a[redacted] has been receiving mail from FONTAINE which was "kited" out of the prison. Mr. BENNETT further stated that FONTAINE had talked to him and stated that he wanted to get a letter from [redacted]nd [redacted] that if [redacted]or [redacted] had received mail from FONTAINE, MR. BENNETT states the mail was "kited" as FONTAINE has not had mail privileges for the past 18 months. FONTAINE has applied for mail privileges. b7c

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Mr. BENNETT requested that [redacted] the [redacted] and [redacted] be discreetly interviewed for the purpose of asking them whether they had heard from HAROLD FONTAINE, Alcatraz 53, without asking them, unless necessary, whether they had received any mail from HAROLD and when, and again stated that if they had heard from him in the past 18 months, the letters they received were "kited". Mr. BENNETT also requested that if [redacted] were located, to ask [redacted] had been in St. Louis and where [redacted] was located. He stated FONTAINE told him plainly he believed prison authorities were holding out on his mail. b7c

With regard to the above request, no leads are being set out at this time, unless instructed to the contrary by the Bureau, in view of the fact that the investigation has disclosed that Mr. BENNETT'S source of information probably was unreliable. Further, it is not believed that a general investigation looking to possible mail-kiting activities of any of the prison personnel would be of particular value in this investigation.

Mr. BENNETT stated a former inmate's [redacted] address not given (inmate being named LOOMIS) had received a payoff for some favor extended and had written a letter to AL CAPONE, believing it came from him, thanking him for the money. Mr. BENNETT stated this letter received was a "kite". b7c

Mr. BENNETT further stated the records reflect ALFRED M. LOOMIS was transferred from Alcatraz December 2, 1935 to Leavenworth; that his minimum discharge date was December 14, 1935 and that he has since been involved in further trouble and is now reported to be an inmate at the Folsom State Prison, Represa, Calif. He requested that the records of that prison be examined and that LOOMIS' [redacted] address be obtained, so [redacted] might be interviewed. b7c

This lead will likewise not be covered, unless instructed by the Bureau to the contrary, for the same reasons as set out hereinabove.

Director BENNETT further stated that [redacted] may have had dealings with Guard [redacted] to contact PHIL RYAN, one of [redacted] pals while he was in prison. The records reflect that PHIL RYAN has since been transferred to the Prison for Defective Delinquents located at Springfield, Missouri. b7c

A further request was made by Mr. BENNETT to ascertain whether [redacted] who resides [redacted] has a post office box in the Post Office at San Francisco, or possibly Oakland, although he said nothing about Oakland. b7c

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b7c

At the U. S. Civil Service Bureau, Mr. BRADFORD, in charge of records, was interviewed on January 20, 1939, for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not [redacted] had on file at that office an application for the position of guard, or for any other position. Mr. BRADFORD stated, after making a careful examination of his files, that there was no record of this individual in their files and that the files of his office include the entire 12th Civil Service district. He stated the records for [redacted] could be obtained in Washington, D. C., at the Civil Service Bureau where [redacted] photograph and record would be on file.

[redacted] discreet inquiries were made by Agents for the purpose of ascertaining whether one PATRICK J. SULLIVAN, a former police officer, known to be operator at this time of the Ford apartments at 957 Mission Street [redacted] Inquiries were made of [redacted] stated SULLIVAN was the owner of a number of apartments and that he operates the following at present, all being in San Francisco:

b7c
b7d

Grand Central Apts., 1412 Market Street
Hale Hotel, 939 Mission Street
Hillsdale Hotel, 51 6th Street
Mint Hotel, 141 5th Street
Potter Hotel, 1288 Mission Street
Thomas Apt. Hotel, 971 Mission Street

[redacted] further stated that the Mint and Ford are havens for ex-convicts and members of the underworld and that PAT SULLIVAN is a man about 73 years of age; that he was formerly connected with the San Francisco PD, as nearly as they could recall [redacted] They stated he is believed to be well fixed financially; that he has a son, HARRY SULLIVAN, now serving a sentence in Alcatraz on a charge of robbing the U. S. Mails with firearms.

b7c
b7d

[redacted] inquiries were made as to whether or not they knew one [redacted] reported to be very friendly with PAT SULLIVAN, and reported to be an ex-convict. [redacted] stated he did not know anyone by that name but did know [redacted] an ex-convict. [redacted] it was ascertained that [redacted] formerly served in the McNeil Island Penitentiary, his number there being [redacted] he also has a record in the Los Angeles Police Department, their number [redacted] San Francisco PD number is [redacted]

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b7c
b7d

[redacted] was recently released from Folsom State Prison and last heard of at Los Angeles where he was running a book and beer joint and has not been seen in or around San Francisco for over a year by [redacted] who are well acquainted with him; [redacted]

At Alcatraz the records reflect HARRY SULLIVAN, AZ 198, is now serving a sentence of 25 years on a charge of robbery of U. S. Mails with firearms, having been sentenced to 25 years on January 19, 1929 from the Northern District of California at San Francisco; he was received at Alcatraz from Leavenworth on September 4, 1934; for infraction of prison regulations he forfeited 3,000 days good time due him on November 3, 1930. The records reflect his minimum date for discharge as November 1, 1945, and the maximum date as January 27, 1954. His record for visitors reflects he is visited by his mother or father practically every month; that Mrs. P. J. SULLIVAN, who gives as addresses 299 Dolores Street and 890 Hayes Street, both San Francisco, visited him on October 18, 1938 and December 15, 1938. No other dates were given for her visits but the records reflect that either the mother or the father visit him once a month.

P. J. SULLIVAN, who gives his addresses as 85 4th Street and 936 Mission Street, both San Francisco, visited him September 15, 1938, November 15, 1938, and January 19, 1939.

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Agents made discreet inquiries at the Post Office through the Inspectors' Office to ascertain whether or not [redacted] had a box at the Main Post Office, the Ferry Post Office, or in the Customs House; also in Oakland, California, all with negative results. It was ascertained that [redacted] does not receive mail through General Delivery at any of these offices. These inquiries were made in view of the fact that information furnished Mr. BENNETT was to the effect that [redacted] was possibly "kiting" letters out of the penitentiary and bringing "kites" into Alcatraz. b7c

While at Alcatraz on other official matter, Agent A. E. FARLAND made inquiries of Warden J. A. JOHNSTON for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not there were any new developments in the investigation being conducted in connection with the escape of BARKER, ETAL, and Warden JOHNSTON advised there were none. On January 31st reporting agent again contacted Warden JOHNSTON relative to any new developments and the Warden again advised he was not in possession of any additional information.

Pending receipt of information from the Los Angeles office as to [redacted], no further investigation is being conducted by the San Francisco office. b7c

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE LOS ANGELES OFFICE

Will expedite investigation relating to a discreet inquiry concerning the activities during December and January last of [redacted] as requested in San Francisco letter dated January 23, 1939. b7c

PENDING

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RECORDED

RAG:JHK
76-4175-32

March 8, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
BUREAU OF PRISONS

Re: Arthur E. Barker, with alias (deceased); et al; Escaped Federal Prisoners.

There is attached hereto a copy of the report of Special Agent J. H. Rice, dated at San Francisco, California, February 4, 1939, in connection with the investigation conducted by this Bureau relative to the request made by you during your recent visit to Alcatraz prison.

You will note a lead is included in this report, requesting further investigation concerning the activities of one [redacted] was subsequently interviewed by an Agent of this Bureau at which time he stated he had not been to San Francisco, California, since February, 1933, at which time he drove his father there from Los Angeles. [redacted] was interviewed under the pretext that [redacted] and during the interview he was questioned as to his activities in such a way that he believed the purpose of the interview was [redacted] He indicated that his parents as well as his brother still reside in San Francisco, his father being [redacted] who resides at [redacted] and his brother being [redacted] who resides at [redacted]

b7c

b7E

b7c

Investigation conducted concerning this particular matter has not disclosed any irregular activities on the basis of the allegations made. As a result, no further investigation will be conducted by this Bureau relative to the confidential information furnished you by certain inmates of Alcatraz prison.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Mr. Tolson
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Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

San Francisco, California
February 4, 1939

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: RE: ARTHUR E. BARKER alias DOC (Deceased); DALE STAMPHILL, RUFUS McCAIN, HENRY YOUNG, WILLIAM MARTIN. ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent J. H. RICE, San Francisco, dated February 4, 1939, and to Los Angeles letter to this office dated January 28, 1939.

Pursuant to the request of the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, Mr. James Bennett, investigation based upon information that he had received from a confidential informant was conducted as set out in reference report and letter.

Mr. Bennett did not desire to disclose the identity of his informant, unless it was absolutely necessary; he did state, however, that if it was absolutely necessary the name of the informant be known, he had instructed Warden J. A. Johnston at Alcatraz to furnish that information to us. The investigation as conducted by us discloses the probability that his informant is unreliable.

The requests to check out the possible mail "kiting" activities of prison employees were not deemed of import to this case, and it appeared to us we would just be running out a prison problem which, at this time, would have no particular connection with the investigation as it has developed. We also feel that no further action should be taken with regard to running out a number of leads looking to possible outside connections of BARKER, as suggested by the Director of Prisons, because we would be doing extensive investigation of matters unrelated to the particular inquiry being made as to the Barker escape. We too are still not receiving the full confidence of the Warden because we have

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February 4, 1939

several times asked him whether or not there have been any new developments and he has stated there have been none; however we do know from confidential sources that during a check-up and shake-down which has been going on since the escape, the prison officials found five bars in the hospital which had been sawed. It seems to us that if the proper spirit was being displayed by the Warden he would tell us of these things, and I do not see why we should conduct a general survey of possible outside leaks on Alcatraz for the Bureau of Prisons, with the display they have given of holding out on us.

I am sure you will agree with us that if we are to make a complete investigation we will have to have all the facts and know everything that is going on, and the matter of discretion as to what is and is not important should be left to us as investigators, and not to the Warden as his desires dictate. We, therefore, are not conducting any further investigation with reference to the phase of inquiry requested by the Director of Prisons, other than the lead set out for the Los Angeles Office in report of reference.

The matters concerning the requests of the Director of Prisons have been included in reference report, and a separate report is being submitted, copies of which will necessarily go to the United States Attorney, on other investigative matters, including the coroner's verdict on Barker's death, and pertinent details which will affect his decision on prosecution.

Very truly yours,

N. J. L. PIEPER,
Special Agent in Charge

NJLP:MLA
76-347

186

Suite 1729, 111 Sutter,
San Francisco, California
February 17, 1939

RE: ARTHUR BARKER w/a (deceased) ETAL
ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS

Warden J. A. Johnston,
U. S. Penitentiary,
Alcatraz, California

Dear Warden: ATT: L. O. Mills

Reference is made to letter dated February 7, 1939, signed by L. O. Mills, Chief Clerk, requesting three photostatic copies of a declaration sheet signed by ARTHUR R. BARKER.

Please be advised that I have had photostatic copies made of this sheet and the original together with the copies are forwarded herewith to you.

Very truly yours,

M. J. L. PIEPER,
Special Agent in Charge

Encs/4

NJLP:MLA
CC BUREAU

76-347

INDEXED

76-4175-33X

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 23 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT SAN FRANCISCO

FILE NO. 76-347

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
SAN FRANCISCO	3/21/39	3/7/39	A. E. FARLAND

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
ARTHUR E. BARKER alias DOC, (Deceased), DALE STAMPHILL, RUFUS McCAIN, HENRY YOUNG, WILLIAM MARTIN	ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Final medical report of death of ARTHUR BARKER Alcatraz Number 268 furnished by ROMNEY M. RITCHIE, Chief Medical Officer Alcatraz which reflects subject BARKER died at 5.40 P.M. 1/13/39. Copy of Coroner's report obtained. U.S.Attorney, San Francisco advises prosecution in this case held in abeyance.

P.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent in Charge N. J. L. PIEPER, San Francisco, California, 1/17/39.

DETAILS: AT ALCATRAZ PENITENTIARY.

DR. ROMNEY M. RITCHIE, Surgeon, Chief Medical Officer, Alcatraz Prison, was interviewed and a request was made for his final report on the death of ARTHUR E. BARKER Number 268, Alcatraz Penitentiary.

DR. RITCHIE furnished a memorandum to the Warden dated 1/14/39 which he signed and this is quoted as follows:

"United States Public Health Service,
U. S. Penitentiary, Alcatraz, California.
January 14, 1939.

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: J. L. Pieper SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES: 76 | 4175 - 34 | MAR 27 1939

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MEMORANDUM TO THE WARDEN:

RE: ARTHUR BARKER, 268-AZ.

This will inform you that above captioned inmate who came to the hospital yesterday morning with injuries mentioned in a previous memorandum, showed a gradual loss of strength during the day and died at 5.40 PM last night.

When first brought in he was greatly confused but partly conscious and complained of pain in the left leg, which was broken and of being cold. Later on during the morning he was restless in bed and would rally to look around him but made no statement or gave any indication that he understood the situation more than to realize at times his own precarious physical condition. Everything possible was done to improve his condition and DR. E. M. TOWNSEND of the U.S.Marine Hospital was called in consultation. During the afternoon he became more restless and confused and was constantly rolling about in bed. His circulation became weaker more rapidly during the afternoon and his breathing more labored and it was realized that he probably would not survive the night. A spinal puncture revealed a large amount of blood in the Spinal Fluid showing that there was bleeding into the cranial cavity resulting from a skull fracture. His condition showed little change after 3.00 P.M. until 5.30 P.M. when he became rapidly worse and in spite of stimulants died at 5.40 P.M.

Cause of death: Fracture of skull.

Respectfully,

ROMNEY M. RITCHEY, Surgeon
Chief Medical Officer"

This memorandum is being retained in the files of the San Francisco Field Office.

At the Coroner's Office, copy of the findings of the Coroner's Inquest, dated 1/24/39 was obtained which furnishes findings of the Coroner's Jury and also gives the names of the Coroner's jurors. The original of the same is being retained in the files of this office:

"CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

INQUISITION taken at Coroner's Court on the 24th day of January, 1939, before THOS. B. W. LELAND, M.D. Coroner of said City and County, upon the oath of 8 qualified jurors who, being duly summoned and sworn to inquire into all the circumstances attending the death of ARTHUR BARKER and by whom the same was produced, and in what manner and when and where the said deceased came to his death, do say upon their oaths aforesaid:

That the said ARTHUR BARKER, male, white, single, about 39 years old, occupation, laborer, nativity, unknown, residence, Alcatraz Island, came to his death on January 13, 1939, on Alcatraz Island, from shock and hemorrhage following gunshot wounds of head and thigh (left), specimens to toxicologist; negative for alcohol. Specimens to pathologist: Gunshot wound of the head with contusion of the brain and brain hemorrhage, traumatic.

And we further find:
that the said ARTHUR BARKER met his death attempting to escape from Alcatraz Prison from gunshot wounds inflicted by guards unknown. From the evidence at hand, we, the jury, believe this escape was made possible by the failure of the system for guarding prisoners now in use at Alcatraz Prison and we recommend a drastic improvement by those in authority. Further, that a more efficient system be adopted for illumination of shores and waters immediately surrounding the prison; that the citzens of San Francisco unite in an effort to have a more suitable location for imprisonment of the type of desperados at present housed at Alcatraz.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the said Coroner and the Jurors aforesaid have to this Inquisition set their hands and seals on the date thereof.

s/s CHAS J. McKEON - Foreman

s/s - R. WILLIAMSON
J. E. BUTTERFIELD
J. C. CAIN
S. SPIELLER
A. W. LUNDSTROM
K. D. WEBSTER
GEO. C. CORY,

Approved - THOS. B. W. LELAND, M.D.
CORONER."

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This matter was presented to the U.S.Attorney FRANK J. HENNESSY, for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not he contemplated prosecution of the other subjects in this case. MR. HENNESSY advised that he had taken the matter up with the Attorney General's Office and that he had received a reply to hold prosecution in this case in abeyance.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE SAN FRANCISCO FIELD OFFICE WILL keep in contact with the U.S.Attorney's Office and if prosecution is authorized a report will be submitted furnishing the results of prosecution.

PENDING

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RPK:MP

March 29, 1939

76-4175

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

During the investigation conducted by the San Francisco Office relative to the recent attempted escape from Alcatraz Penitentiary by Doc Barker and others, an Agent had occasion to review the findings of the Coroner's Jury which investigated the death of Doc Barker. The following quotation taken from the report of the Coroner's Jury dated January 24, 1939, is of interest:

"And we further find:
that the said ARTHUR BARKER met his death attempting to escape from Alcatraz Prison from gunshot wounds inflicted by guards unknown. From the evidence at hand, we, the jury, believe this escape was made possible by the failure of the system for guarding prisoners now in use at Alcatraz Prison and we recommend a drastic improvement by those in authority. Further, that a more efficient system be adopted for illumination of shores and waters immediately surrounding the prison; that the citizens of San Francisco unite in an effort to have a more suitable location for imprisonment of the type of desperados at present housed at Alcatraz."

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Gaffney
Mr. Grout
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. G. Tamm
Mr. Trudy
Miss Gandy

1 ENCL. T

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76-4175-34

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 6 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

February 4, 1939

MEMORANDUM

RE: ALCATRAZ ESCAPE

On January 13, 1939, at 8:00 AM, Special Agent in Charge N. J. L. Pieper of the San Francisco Office telephonically communicated with Mr. E. A. Tamm stating five prisoners who had been missing from the prison at Alcatraz had been located on the beach on the island having been successful in getting outside the confines of the Penitentiary. Approximately one hour later, Mr. Pieper called the Bureau furnishing information indicating that all five escapees had been returned to the prison. He named the five individuals who attempted to escape as being Arthur Barker, Dave Stamphill, Rufus McCain, Henry Young, and William Martin (colored). At that time Mr. Pieper declared that Arthur Barker and Dave Stamphill had been wounded but from the information obtained it was his understanding the other three prisoners were all right.

At 10:00 AM on January 13, 1939, Mr. Bennett, Director of the Bureau of Prisons, called Mr. Foxworth at the Bureau advising of the attempt which five prisoners made to escape from Alcatraz that morning. Mr. Bennett further advised that the Warden of the Penitentiary had notified the San Francisco Office of the FBI requesting their cooperation in the investigation. He likewise indicated that he might have to go to San Francisco himself concerning this matter. Mr. Bennett in addition furnished a copy of a news release which he had furnished to representatives of the press.

At approximately noon on January 13, 1939, the Director telephoned Special Agent in Charge Pieper at San Francisco informing him that the Department wants a thorough investigation made of this matter and instructed Special Agent in Charge Pieper to call him directly as soon as he received any comprehensive information. At that time, Mr. Pieper informed he had already sent two Agents to Alcatraz and he himself was proceeding to that point within a short while.

On the basis of information telephonically communicated to the Director from Mr. Pieper, the following data in connection with the attempted escape are set forth:

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MAR 29 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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There are three prison count checks made during the night at Alcatraz, the first at midnight, the second at 3:00 AM and the third at 6:00 AM. On the morning of January 13, 1939, the 3:00 AM count was made and everybody was accounted for. At approximately 3:35 AM, however, one man was missing from the "D" cell block which is the isolation ward where the five men who attempted to escape were located. The prison guard immediately notified the prison administration as per instructions without waiting to see if any more prisoners were missing. At 3:42 AM, an actual count of the tier was made and it was found that five men were missing. At 4:01 AM the general alarm whistle blew and the San Francisco Office of the Bureau was notified as were other law enforcement agencies in San Francisco. At 4:10 AM Barker and Stamphill were sighted on the shore at Alcatraz and by 4:30 AM all of the remaining prisoners who attempted to escape were sighted. At 5:18 AM Barker was sent to the hospital at Alcatraz and at 5:21 AM Stamphill was similarly confined. At 5:36 all five of the prisoners had been returned to the prison and at 6:00 AM the count showed all prisoners accounted for.

Each of the prisoners had been confined in separate cells and it was later discovered two of the bars on the door had been sawed and filed smooth. Each prisoner escaped through his own cell door and crossed the corridor of the cell block to the window on the outside wall where a bar had been broken loose and an outside window with steel framing had been cut out. It was by this means that the prisoners reached the outside. One of the prisoners who attempted to escape and was subsequently saved from drowning, William Martin, informed that each of the five prisoners had worked on the bars in his respective cell and the window during night and day. It was likewise learned that the escape was planned by Barker and had been ready for at least a month and their only reason for waiting was for the right foggy night. The cell bars had been covered from time to time by paint mixed with floor wax instead of putty which is the usual practice in such attempts as this. When the sawing of the bars was completed, the blades were thrown into the lavatories so that any search of the cells would not disclose the blades. The heavy bar on the inside of the outside wall window is made of steel and could not be cut, in view of which the prisoners pried it loose with an instrument they had made, known as a screw-jack. The use of this screw-jack caused a tension which snapped the bars several times. It was determined that the saws and screw-jack were smuggled into the isolation ward many weeks ago by Stamphill who later committed a violation of the rules as a result of which he, too, was placed in the isolation ward into which he had already smuggled the tools to be used in effecting the escape. The saw blades went through prison inspection in view of the fact that they were glued into musical instruments believed to be mouth harps.

It was the plan of the five prisoners to get away on a raft which they had crudely made from lumber and driftwood readily obtainable upon the shores of Alcatraz Island. The raft was tied together with sheets torn in strips.

Barker and Stamphill were sighted first and refused all orders to halt, upon which they were immediately fired upon. McCain and Young were apprehended without injury and Martin was pulled out of the water at a point very near to that point of the island which is nearest to San Francisco. Barker died on the evening of January 13, 1939. Stamphill was wounded on the outer part of the upper thigh with another wound a little lower down on the internal surface of the thigh and another wound still lower on the external side of the right leg above the ankle. It was learned that after he was apprehended Barker exclaimed to one of the guards, "I am crazy as hell! I should never have tried it!"

It has been learned from information received, a similar break had been planned by the prisoners detailed to the kitchen of Alcatraz prison, and in connection with this planned escape, it was the intention of the prisoners to seize some of the women and children at the island. The Special Agent in Charge of the San Francisco Office was immediately instructed to advise Warden Johnston of the information in the possession of the Bureau indicating there are numerous knives in the possession of the prisoners in the cells at Alcatraz and also the proposed break to be made by the kitchen crew.

b7c
b7D

[redacted] has stated that the "D" block is a very bad spot and that some weeks ago he made a report on this situation setting out the fact that he could not see the guard on the gun gallery and that the man on the gun gallery could not see him. If this condition existed, it may offer an explanation to some extent as to why the prisoners were able to carry on the sawing of the bars in the windows without being noticed by the guards.

In connection with the administration angles at the prison, it appears that the Deputy Warden, Mr. Miller, has definitely not maintained good relations with his subordinates and does not tell the Warden of the Penitentiary all of the information which comes to his attention by reason of his position as Deputy Warden. It is understood that the guards have from time to time made reports on certain conditions but when furnished to Mr. Miller he has often taken them as personal criticisms which makes the guards appear foolish in performing their duties in front of the prisoners. He also indicated the "D" cell block, used for

isolation purposes is considered by many as an ideal place by reason of the ventilation and reading material. From the information developed, it would not appear that anyone connected with the prison administration at Alcatraz has been corrupt although there appears to be a question of persons in administrative position failing to properly handle the guards, resulting in a breakdown of morale.

In his letter dated January 14, 1938, the Special Agent in Charge of the San Francisco Office furnished the Bureau with an album prepared of photographs taken subsequent to the attempted escape. Four sets of these photographs were made and forwarded to the San Francisco Office.

In his conversation with the Director on January 14, 1939, Mr. Pieper stated the situation in the isolation section almost makes that section similar to a country club. It appears that the administrative officers of the prison appear to bargain with the prisoners, allowing them to be in any cell they desire or next to anyone they wish just as long as they behave. Mr. Pieper further disclosed the kitchen was thoroughly searched but nothing of value was found, although a meter box saw was located in the paint shop, together with a putty knife with a saw blade on one end of it.

On January 16, 1939, the Director instructed the Special Agent in Charge at San Francisco to prepare two more volumes of the photographs as well as two more copies of the chart and forward them to the Bureau. Mr. Pieper stated that Agents Rice and Farland were continuing their investigation at the island. He likewise revealed that Mr. Bennett of the Bureau of Prisons was there and desired to have Agent Farland present on the following day when questions were being asked. Mr. Pieper advised both Mr. Bennett and Mr. Schilder are living on Alcatraz Island.

Mr. Pieper further informed he had obtained a copy of the letter written by [redacted] stating it was impossible to see the cells in Block "D" of the isolation section from the guard stand, this letter being dated January 9, 1939. He further disclosed that several saw blades and another hand-jack had been found in the isolation section although nothing has developed from the magnet search as the drains go down to the ocean at a steep angle. b7c b7d

In his teletype dated January 17, 1939, the Special Agent in Charge of the San Francisco Office stated a report had been dictated and should be received at the Bureau by Thursday noon, January 19, 1939.

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He indicated that no additional information had been developed although the inquiry with prison authorities was still proceeding. The prisoners interrogated have refused to make any statement to Director Bennett and the search for tools of escape has been negative although the search is being continued. Mr. Pieper concluded by stating his investigation is substantially complete.

On January 13, 1939, upon receipt of the original information as to the attempted escape a memorandum was prepared outlining briefly the sentences in connection with which these five individuals were sentenced to the United States Penitentiary at Alcatraz Island. Also attached to this memorandum are photographs of the prisoners together with copies of their criminal records.

On January 18, 1939, the Special Agent in Charge of the San Francisco Office telephonically communicated with the Director, at which time he stated that Mr. Bennett, Director of the Bureau of Prisons, had confidential information indicating that a guard by the name of [redacted] is possibly a contact man who worked between Doc Barker and somebody on the shore. Mr. Bennett requested the Bureau to ascertain whether or not there were any contacts made by this guard and whether or not he acted as a contact man between the inside of the prison and the outside. The source of Mr. Bennett's information is not available, although Mr. Bennett was in a conference with convicts in the hospital all day, January 18th. The Director instructed Mr. Pieper to proceed with this investigation, but effort should be made to obtain the source of Mr. Bennett's information. b7c

By letter dated January 16, 1939, the Special Agent in Charge of the San Francisco Office transmitted a personal and confidential letter to the Director, in which he outlined information developed as a result of the investigation conducted at Alcatraz subsequent to the escape. His letter was broken down into different divisions as mentioned herein.

MORALE AT ALCATRAZ ISLAND

b7c b7d

In this connection [redacted] bitterly accused the Warden and Deputy Warden of being responsible for the trouble, claiming that it is due to a lack of proper administration.

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THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS

b7c
b7d

Information from [redacted] revealed that the prisoners could "bargain" with the Deputy Warden, who would make a deal with them to grant them certain wishes in return for their not causing any disturbances. In this connection it was also mentioned relative to the Cole-Roe escape by one of the guards, that the guard on duty in the model tower had his hand in a cast and it would have been impossible for him to shoot.

WEAKNESSES IN D BLOCK ISOLATION

Under this section Mr. Pieper outlined a letter written by [redacted] on January 9, 1939, directed to the Warden, in which he submitted for the latter's consideration three items which he deemed necessary to further the security of the institution. [redacted] also pointed out that his duties on the west gun gallery are so explicit and confining and that the officer on duty has to do certain little things which allow the men in isolation to be utterly unobserved on occasions for possibly one and a half hours at a time.

b7c
b7d

MEANS OF GETTING TOOLS INTO CELL BLOCKS

With regard to this classification Mr. Pieper explained that tools of escape might be brought into cell blocks through the kitchen or kitchen basement, as there are a number of cell block orderlies working around in that area constantly.

MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO MAKE ESCAPE TOOLS

It is pointed out there is an unlimited source of material for escape tools, particularly in the various shops. As a result of the shakedown different saw blades and other tools of escape were located.

ALARMS

It appears that immediately following word of the escape the fire alarm was sounded in addition to the regular escape siren, which caused a number of the officials on the island to believe a fire was in progress. It was learned that three men obtained the fire truck, but when they reached the canteen they were turned back, after being advised it was an escape rather than a fire.

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WEAKNESSES STILL APPARENT b7c b7d

[redacted] advised that his information indicates that the prisoners in the power house are getting ready to go. Mr. Pieper discloses that this rumble was picked up by Agent Farland and himself several months ago.

A copy of the above mentioned personal and confidential letter was sent to the Attorney General and to Honorable Joseph B. Keenan, The Assistant to the Attorney General. A copy was also transmitted to the Director of the Bureau of Prisoners, with the suggestion that the information contained therein relative to the identity of various employees be handled in a most discreet manner.

The report of Special Agent in Charge Pieper, dated at San Francisco, California, January 17, 1939, was received at the Bureau on January 19, 1939. This report contains information secured as a result of signed statements furnished by various guards at the Penitentiary. A copy of this report was likewise furnished to the Director of the Bureau of Prisons.

The San Francisco Office also furnished two additional albums containing various photographs showing different points of interest on the island. One of these albums was forwarded to the Attorney General. In the album retained at the Bureau, photographs of the five subjects were included on the last page. Copies of these photographs were also forwarded to the San Francisco Office, pursuant to the request received from that Division.

By personal and confidential letter dated January 26, 1939, the San Francisco Office advise that contact had been had with Warden Johnston of the Penitentiary, who stated that there were no new developments. The Warden was specifically asked concerning new developments for the purpose of seeing whether or not he would reveal information relative to developments as a result of the shakedown which was still in progress at Alcatraz. It had been learned confidentially that during the check up that had been going on during the escape, five bars in the Hospital were found to have been sawed. This information had reached the San Francisco Office from various confidential sources, but the Warden at the Penitentiary had not seen fit to furnish that information to the Agents, although he was not questioned point-blank concerning this discovery. It is further indicated that it is the general

opinion of the guards that nothing will come of the investigation made by Mr. Bennett, it being their opinion that the investigation is nothing more or less than a "white wash".

Mr. Pieper also furnished a copy of an editorial from the San Francisco News, wherein a coroner's jury urges the Government to find a "more suitable location" than Alcatraz Island to imprison its worst murderers, kidnapers, etc.

In conclusion Mr. Pieper stated that the investigation conducted at the request of Mr. Bennett looking to the possible connection of Guard [redacted] has not materialized, and a report will be submitted as soon as the Los Angeles Office has completed the investigation in its district. b7c

By letter dated January 26, 1939, the San Francisco Office furnished a letter and papers received from a Miss Frances Held of Apartment 311, 2709 West Pico Street, Los Angeles, California. It is the opinion of the San Francisco Office that there is nothing in this letter to indicate that it came from an inmate at Alcatraz. Photostatic copies of the letter have been prepared and forwarded to the San Francisco and Los Angeles Field Divisions.

By memorandum to the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, dated March 8, 1939, the Bureau furnished a copy of the report of Special Agent J. H. Rice, dated at San Francisco, California, February 4, 1939, containing information relative to the investigation conducted concerning the activities of one [redacted] This particular investigation was conducted at the request of Mr. James V. Bennett, who had received information of a confidential nature from certain inmates of Alcatraz Prison. b7c

(P. Jones)

200

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

RAG:JHK March 28, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Attached hereto is a memorandum which was originally started immediately following the receipt of information indicating that an escape had been attempted at Alcatraz Prison. As additional information was received from time to time, it was recorded in this memorandum. Since this investigation has been practically completed, the need for the continuance of this memorandum no longer exists and consequently it is being included in the file.

Respectfully,

R. A. Guerin

1 ENCL.

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76-4175-35

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 29 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TAMM

201

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

RPK:MP March 29, 1939

76-4175

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

During the investigation conducted by the San Francisco Office relative to the recent attempted escape from Alcatraz Penitentiary by Doc Barker and others, an Agent had occasion to review the findings of the Coroner's Jury which investigated the death of Doc Barker. The following quotation taken from the report of the Coroner's Jury dated January 24, 1939, is of interest:

"And we further find:
that the said ARTHUR BARKER met his death attempting to escape from Alcatraz Prison from gunshot wounds inflicted by guards unknown. From the evidence at hand, we, the jury, believe this escape was made possible by the failure of the system for guarding prisoners now in use at Alcatraz Prison and we recommend a drastic improvement by those in authority. Further, that a more efficient system be adopted for illumination of shores and waters immediately surrounding the prison; that the citizens of San Francisco unite in an effort to have a more suitable location for imprisonment of the type of desperados at present housed at Alcatraz."

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 3 193
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TOLSON

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Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

San Francisco, California
April 14, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: ARTHUR E. BARKER, with aliases,
et al; ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS.

Dear Sir:

I am transmitting under separate cover a death mask of ARTHUR E. BARKER, with aliases: "DOC" BARKER, BOB BARKER, CLAUD DALE, which was made by PAUL C. GREEN, Technician on the staff of the Coroner for the City and County of San Francisco. This death mask was prepared on January 14, 1939, prior to the autopsy, and was made available through the courtesy of DR. T. B. W. LELAND, Coroner, City and County of San Francisco. It is suggested that you may desire to address a communication to DR. LELAND and MR. GREEN, thanking them for giving this mask to us.

It is interesting to note that the attempt to escape was made on "Friday the Thirteenth", the mortal wounds being inflicted in the early morning hours of that day and BARKER dying at 5:40 P. M. on Friday the thirteenth. It occurred to me that you may desire to use this death mask in one of the exhibits at the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

N. J. L. Pieper
BNT.

N. J. L. PIEPER
Special Agent in Charge

LHR/mjd
76-347

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&
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Mr. Nelson
Mr. Rosen
Mr. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Dawsey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Foster
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EPC:MTG

76-4175-37

April 20, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NATHAN

Re: Death Mask of "Doc" Barker

The San Francisco Division, under date of April 14, 1939, transmitted to the Bureau a death mask of "Doc" Barker. This was made by Paul C. Green on the staff of the Coroner's Office of the City and County of San Francisco on January 14, 1939, following the autopsy after Barker was caught attempting his escape.

This is a very good death mask. I am arranging for a negative mould of the same to be made at once in the Laboratory so that several copies can be made in moulage and can be used in the Director's Office or wherever else it may be considered desired to exhibit.

Mr. Pieper in transmitting this mask suggested a letter be addressed to Dr. Leland and Mr. Green thanking them for presenting the mask to the Bureau. Such a letter is attached hereto subject to the Director's approval.

Respectfully,

E. P. Coffey

RECORDED 76-4175-37
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 24 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Enclosure

1 ENCL. T

NATHAN
TAMM
NICHOLS

204

EPC:MTG

RECORDED 76-4175-37

April 21, 1939

Dr. T. B. W. Leland
Coroner
San Francisco, California

My dear Coroner:

Mr. Pieper in charge of the San Francisco Division of this Bureau has forwarded to me the death mask of Arthur E. Barker, with aliases. I want to thank you for your kindness in making this available to the Bureau. I am sure it will make a valuable record in the FBI.

May I also commend the excellent work of Mr. Paul C. Green of your technical staff as reflected in the preparation of this mask.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

APR 22 11 12 AM '39
RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
FBI
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

CC-San Francisco

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Growl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Q. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNI[illegible] SECTION
APR 23 [illegible]
FEDERAL [illegible] STIGATION,

205

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EPC:MTG

April 24, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NATHAN

Re: Death Mask of "Doc" Barker

Reference is made to my memorandum of April 20, 1939, concerning the "Doc" Barker death mask received from San Francisco. Several copies of this mask have been very successfully made in the Laboratory.

Pending further instructions as to disposition the original death mask is being placed for safe keeping in the glass exhibit case on moulage in the front exhibit room of the Laboratory.

For the present time I am not labeling this exhibit and Bureau instructions are requested as to whether the same should carry a label indicating it to be a death mask of "Doc" Barker.

Respectfully,

E. P. Coffey

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Gavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gi...

I see no objection
EO 1/29/39

76-4175-38

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 2 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NATHAN TOLSON TAMM SHF. FOUR FUG. SUB. ONE NICHOLS LAB.

206

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

FILE NO. 76-347

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.	5-28-41	3-22;4-18-41	H. P. WINTER LDJ

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
ARTHUR E. BARKER, alias Doc, (Deceased) DALE STAMPHILL, RUFUS McCAIN, HENRY YOUNG, WILLIAM MARTIN	ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: U. S. Attorney San Francisco advises no prosecution will take place in this case inasmuch as he has been so advised by James V. Bennett, Director of the Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.

-C-

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent A. E. Farland, dated March 21, 1939, at San Francisco.

DETAILS: AT SAN FRANCISCO:

By letter dated March 22, 1941, the San Francisco Field Division requested U. S. District Attorney FRANK J. HENNESSY, San Francisco, that he advise this office as to the status of prosecution relative to this case.

In reply to the above noted letter, the U. S. District Attorney advised the San Francisco Field Division by letter dated April 17, 1941, that on February 7, 1939, he had communicated by letter relative to this matter with the Attorney General of the United States requesting the latter's instructions with regard to this matter and that he had received a letter dated February 13, 1939, from JAMES V. BENNETT, Director of the Bureau of prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, in which Mr. BENNETT indicated that there would be no prosecution

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: N. J. L. Pieper SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES SE

76-4175-39

JUN 18 1941

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JUN 2 1941

7-8084

207

in this matter. The United States District Attorney stated that for this reason his office was treating this matter as closed.

In view of the above, this case is being closed by this office.

-CLOSED-

208

76-347

RE: ARTHUR E. BARKER, alias Doc,
(Deceased); DALE STAMPHILL;
RUFUS MC CAIN; HENRY YOUNG;
WILLIAM MARTIN
ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS

DELINQUENCY:

An inspection of the bulky exhibits in this office disclosed an album containing photographs of Alcatraz Penitentiary and grounds surrounding in connection with this case. This case was closed on May 28, 1941 and there appears to be no further use for this picture album in instant case.

EXPLANATION:

This album will be retained in this office and appropriately indexed in the general indices under the caption "ALCATRAZ PENITENTIARY, PHOTOGRAPHS OF PRISON AND GROUNDS". The album will be turned over to the Chief Clerk for appropriate filing in order to have it available for ready reference.

INDEXED
DATE 8/5/57
15

INSPECTION REPORT
San Francisco Field Division
August 26, 1944
SAC N. J. L. PIEPER

76-4175
RECORDED
SEP 21 1944

209

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

4-341

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. ROSEN

DATE: 4/22/54

FROM : L. B. NICHOLS

SUBJECT: ARTHUR E. BARKER, ALIAS "DOC", ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS ALCATRAZ PENITENTIARY

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Tretter
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Bulky Exhibit File Number: 76-4175-29

We are presently in the process of reviewing all bulky exhibits presently on hand, in order that we may weed out those which will serve no useful purpose by being retained. Inasmuch as a great many of these bulky exhibits pertain to inactive cases and are occupying badly needed space, it is requested that you have the appropriate substantive supervisor review the above-listed bulky exhibit and render a decision as to the retention or disposition of the material contained therein. A notation as to the decision rendered should be placed on this memorandum, and it should be returned to the Filing Unit of the Records Section, room 1113, Identification Building. This memorandum will be filed in the case file.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above-listed bulky exhibit be reviewed and a decision rendered as to the retention or disposition of the material contained therein.

JWM:dbb

Destroy
4/29/54
SIX - CBS

RECORDED-49

76-4175-40

Noted 5/6/54

53 MAY 13 1954

210

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI DATE: 9/5/56

FROM : SAC, Kansas City (7-0)

SUBJECT: DALE STAMPHILL
INFORMATION CONCERNING

The Bureau is advised that DALE STAMPHILL, United States Penitentiary #L-51862, was released from the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, on 4/11/56. He was placed on parole and the terms of his release reflect [redacted]

b7c

It is to be noted that STAMPHILL reportedly became quite active in religious affairs at the penitentiary and may have some effect on his conduct in the future.

STAMPHILL had previously been sentenced to a life sentence for the crime of kidnaping from the Western District of Oklahoma.

A photograph of STAMPHILL has been obtained and is being maintained in the Kansas City office for future reference.

2-Bureau
1-Oklahoma City
1-Kansas City
PW:B
(4)

K-13989

76-4475-41

RECORDED-59 28 SEP 7 1956

INDEXED-59

61 SEP 21 1956

EX-116

211

4-750 (2-7-79)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- [x] Deleted under exemption(s) B7C with no segregable material available for release to you.
- [ ] Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- [ ] Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- [ ] Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

- [ ] For your information: _____

- [x] The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
Arthur Barker 76-4175

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FBI/DOJ

312

(Escaped Federal Prisoner)

SUBJECT Arthur Barker (Death Of)

FILE NUMBER 76-4175

SECTION NUMBER Sub A

SERIALS –

TOTAL PAGES 47

PAGES RELEASED 47

PAGES WITHHELD 0

EXEMPTION(S) USED NONE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Alcatraz Break Probe

Use of Saws by Felons Proved by Prison Chief

Any doubt that saws were used to cut the bars of the five Alcatraz convicts who attempted a break for freedom last Friday was set at rest last night following a second day of on-the-scene investigation led by Director of Federal Prisons James V. Bennett.

Bennett had previously entertained the possibility that other instruments had been employed—such as banjo string and valve grinding compound, piano wire or watch springs, or any thin strips of metal and abrasives.

Bennett, who had been scheduled to return last night to Washington, D. C., decided to remain at least another day. Much of his time yesterday was spent in questioning prisoners in an effort to learn how wide-spread was advance information regarding the escape plot.

He was endeavoring also to learn how the escape saws were obtained and to find others believed hidden in the prison. The saws used by the plotters were believed to have been cast into the bay when the fleeing men reached the island shore.

Reiterating his personal inquiry had disclosed no reason for anything approaching a "shakeup," Bennett said yesterday that if further investigation by himself and Warden James A. Johnston indicated a need for change in methods of handling prisoners or supervision, these changes would be made.

The prison, he mentioned, houses the country's most cunning and nerviest escape artists—who have plenty of time to think up ways of getting out.

"And when they go through our first line of defenses, we have to rebuild them," he said. "That is what we are doing."

Inquest into the death of Arthur (Doc) Barker, notorious Oklahoma criminal slain in the attempted break, has been set for Tuesday by Coroner T. B. W. Leland.

Barker's body was buried yesterday in a Government-owned cemetery plot south of San Francisco. The prison chaplain, a prison clerk and four pallbearers from an undertaking parlor were the only persons present at the brief services.

Subpoenas for the inquest will include one for the slain convict's father, George Barker of Joplin, Mo. Subpoenas might be issued, it was said, for one or more of the four survivors of the break—Dale Stamphill, who was shot in both legs; Henry Young, Rufus McCain and William Martin.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

FORWARDED BY
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

JAN 18 1939

76-4175-A

214

Oklahoma City, Okla.
January 13, 1939

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

STATE FELONS SHOT TRYING ALCATRAZ DASH

Doc Barker, Stamphill Wounded, Third Caught With Two Companions

By United Press

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 13. Five convicts, including Arthur (Doc) Barker, member of the once notorious Karpis-Barker gang, and Dale Stmphill, Oklahoma convict, made a desperate attempt to escape from Alcatraz rock today but were captured after guards opened fire, wounding two of them.

Barker and Stamphill were wounded seriously.

Barker, serving life for kidnaping, was shot in the left leg and head.

Stamphill, serving life for kidnaping, under sentence from Oklahoma City, was shot in both legs.

Warden James A. Johnston identified the other three convicts in the break as:

Rufus McCain, 99 years for national bank robbery and kidnaping.

Henri Young, 20 years for robbing a national bank.

William Martin, Negro, 35 years for armed robbery of a postoffice.

Sawed Way Out

Martin suffered scratches and abrasions caused by his attempt to slide down a rocky bank to the water.

The convicts sawed their way out of their cells and were almost in the swirling tides of San Francisco Bay when guards caught up with them. Prison authorities did not know how the convicts had obtained the saws.

Three Surrender

McCain, Young and Martin surrendered after Barber and Stamphill fell.

The five were captured before they had a chance to get off "The Rock"—the Federal Government's famous penitentiary in San Francisco Bay.

Indicating a carefully planned break, the attempt was made in a dripping fog—the thickest fog to blanket the San Francisco area in months.

A gigantic search for the fugitives was organized and under way when Warden Johnston announced the men had been captured.

"They got out of a cell building

Oklahomans in Attempted Prison Break Have Long Records

Doc Barker, the most notorious of the Oklahomans involved in the break at Alcatraz, was out of McAlester penitentiary on parole when he became involved in the Bremer kidnaping.

He had been paroled Sept. 10, 1932, after serving 10 years of a murder sentence.

His recorded crime career began in 1918 when he was arrested for larceny of Government property. He escaped jail at Muskogee and was captured in Joplin. In 1921 he was arrested on charges of attempting to rob a bank.

The underworld knew Barker as a companion of Alvin (Old Creepy) Karpis, bank robber and murderer—at one time America's public enemy No. 1. He is a member of the notorious Barker family of Oklahoma.

Brother, Mother Slain

Members of the family included Kate (Ma) Barker, Freddie Barker and Arthur, known as "Doc." "Ma" and Freddie were slain in Oclawa, Fla., after a six-hour gunfight with federal agents.

In 1933 the Karpis-Barker gang became the nation's worst criminal outfit, made nearly $500,000 by robbing banks, kidnaping such victims as St. Paul's brewer, William Hamm, and Edward George Bremer, a banker. Then G-men and police began weeding out the gang. "Ma" and Fred and another hoodlum were slain. Six other mobsters were put behind bars and seven more were indicted for the Hamm snatching.

Stamphill began his criminal career at Granite reformatory in 1928, sentenced to five years for car theft. In 1931 he was sent to McAlester on a four-year burglary charge. He went back to Granite in 1933 under a 20-year sentence for robbery with firearms.

He escaped and was later recaptured and returned to McAlester prison.

McCain Bank Robber

He was arrested in 1937 on bank

about 4 a. m.," Warden Johnston said. "A heavy fog enveloped the island.

Coast Guard Out

"The fugitives attempted to get to the water but were defeated in the attempt by guards.

"The convicts were so desperate in their efforts to get to the water, however, that two of them, Barker and Stamphill were shot before they halted.

"The others then surrendered."

Johnston said a routine checkup at 4 a. m. led to discovery that the men were missing from their cells

Crawling Toward Water

"I don't know yet how they got out," the warden added. "The guards found them somewhat scattered out and crawling down to the beach over the rocks on the west end of the island.

"The fugitives were crawling and running toward the water. They evidently were planning to swim for it.

"The guards opened fire after first warning the men to stop.

"They didn't stop until Barker and Stamphill were shot.

"Then they surrendered."

Inspector George Ingels of the San Francisco Police Department

(Please turn to Page 8, Column 3)

robbery and kidnaping charges and sentenced to Alcatraz, according to records of the state Crime Bureau.

Oklahoma's third criminal in the break was Rufus McCain who began his criminal career in McCurtain County. He later was sentenced to 12 years for bobbery and assault in Arkansas and was committed to the penitentiary at Little Rock. He escaped and was recaptured.

In 1935 he was arrested by the Oklahoma City Police Department and sent to prison on charges of robbing a national bank at Muskogee.

Two Oklahoma convicts were the only ones ever to crack the iron ring about Alcatraz—but whether they paid with their lives for their bid for freedom still is a secret locked in the waters of San Francisco Bay.

No Trace Found

Ted Cole and Ralph Roe broke a lock on a high fence, leaped to a rock ledge and plunged into the treacherous waters of the bay under cover of a dense fog Dec. 16, 1937.

From that day to this no direct trace of them has been found. Prison officials incline to belief they drowned. Both were good swimmers but the tides of the bay are extremely dangerous and the water was icy cold.

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15

TWO CONVICTS SHOT IN ALCATRAZ BREAK

(Continued From Page One)

said that the five were captured on the island before they had a chance to even reach the swirling waters of the bay.

Dozens of police and Coast Guard boats had been mobilezd for the search. Soldiers guarded the shoreline of San Francisco and Marin counties, the mainland nearest Alcatraz. The Navy stood by, ready to dispatch speed boats.

Alcatraz Island is inside the Golden Gate, one and one-fourth miles from the nearest mainland.

Only once have prisoners escaped from this island, formerly a military prison, and that feat has not been substantiated. Ralph Roe and Theodore Cole, Oklahoma desperadoes, went over the wall during a fog the night of Dec. 16, 1937. They never have been heard from. Presumably they drowned in the treacherous tides.

Difficult Prisoners

Barker was committed originally to Leavenworth penitentiary but was transferred to Alcatraz. The Justice Department said: "He has been a difficult prisoner to manage." He participated in a "strike" at Alcatraz in September, 1937.

McCain, Young and Martin also were "difficult to manage," according to Justice Department records.

McCain was convicted of kidnaping bank employes in an attempted robbery of the Idabel National Bank of Idabel, Okla. He was sentenced in Durant, Okla., June 11, 1935, and served time at Leavenworth before being transferred to Alcatraz.

Another Striker

Young was convicted of robbing the First National Bank of Lind, Wash. A former inmate of McNeil Island penitentiary, Young was described by the Justice Department as "a disciplinary problem." He took part in the Alcatraz "strike" of September, 1937.

Stamphill was sentenced in 1937 for kidnaping Dr. Fred Louis Meyers, and taking him from Leedy, Okla., to Canadian, Tex.

Martin was sentenced to 25 years for armed robbery of a Chicago postoffice. He served time at Leavenworth. He also was involved in the Alcatraz "strike."

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Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Gavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Candy
Mr. Kramer

Drastic Improvement Of Guard System At Alcatraz Urged

Coroner's Jury Blames 'Failure' of Set-Up for 13 Break Attempts

By the Associated Press.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 25.—"Drastic improvement" in the system of guarding "impregnable" Alcatraz Island Prison, from which 11 of America's most dangerous criminals tried to escape in the last 13 months was recommended today by a coroner's jury.

The jurors blamed "failure of the system" for the latest attempted break in which Arthur "Doc" Barker, Midwest murderer and kidnaper, was killed. The jury found he was shot to death "by guards unknown."

The jury suggested that:

"The citizens of San Francisco unite in an effort to have a more suitable location for the imprisonment of the type of desperadoes at present housed in Alcatraz."

Coroner T. B. W. Leland was caustic in questioning Associate Warden Edward J. Miller about the safeguards of the island penitentiary.

"There appears to be only the matter of water between the prisoners and liberty," he commented.

He questioned the use of saws in island workshops which could be used to saw bars, wondered whether Government economy prevented a more elaborate guard system, demanded to know how the convicts could saw their way out of five separate cells and wrench a bar loose from the end of a corridor watched by three guards.

"It might seem foolish to the jury," the coroner said, "to carry on prison occupations which would furnish implements of escape."

76-4175 A

WASH. STAR

JAN 25 1938

218

New Angle Found In Alcatraz Break

5 FELONS MAY NOT HAVE USED SAWS

James V. Bennett, boss-in-chief of the entire Federal prison system, hadn't been on Alcatraz ten hours, yesterday, before he broke an entirely new angle in last Friday's sensational prison break investigation!

Ever since the break of Arthur "Doc" Barker and four other convicts, Alcatraz officials have been proceeding on the theory that the men sawed their way out of their cells, out of a steel-barred window to escape to the beach, where gunplay ended their escapade.

But last night, Bennett said flatly:

"There's a possibility the men didn't use saws at all!"

SANDED STRING.

Bennett's analysis goes far to explain why the four-day search for the hacksaws which Barker and his pals are believed to have used has been in vain.

"There are many ways in which the bars might have been broken, besides the use of saws," said Bennett last night. "Wire or even sanded string, properly manipulated, could in time cut through bars. Or a certain type of brace could be used to break the bars. There are many ways."

Bennett arrived on the island yesterday morning, after a rush trip from his office in Washington. He went at once into secret conferences with Warden James A. Johnston and Assistant Warden Edward J. Miller, as well as guard officers and other prison attaches. He looked over the entire ground.

RENEWS GRILLING.

Then he personally undertook renewed grilling of the four survivors of the break—Dale Stamphill, who lies in the prison hospital with bullet wounds in both legs; Rufus McCain, Henri Young, and Negro William Martin.

"I can't say, at this time, if I've been able to develop anything new from the men," said Bennett. "You know, I can't come out here like Sherlock Holmes and solve this case in one day!

"However, I believe we have opened up certain new lines, which may be developed and lead to the solution of how the men engineered their attempt to get away. I have no particular comment to make at this time on anything that's going on here. I haven't gone far enough as yet.

G-MEN HELP.

"As a matter of fact, I doubt if I can complete the investigation while I am here, but what we unearth today and tomorrow will give leads on which we will continue our investigation."

Agents of the FBI—G-men—have been co-operating with Alcatraz officials and were in on yesterday's conferences with Bennett, he added.

Bennett scouted talk that his visit here, on top of the Friday break, portended a shakeup in the personnel of the Alcatraz penitentiary.

"If by the term shakeup, you mean that any men will lose their jobs, or that we're out head-hunting, then the answer is: No shakeup," said Bennett. "However, if we find that the system or routine can be changed so as to prevent a recurrence of this sort of thing, or to help make our defenses as impregnable as possible, then we shall of course make such changes at once, for the good of the service."

NO AIDES FOUND.

"So far," Bennett added, "we have found no evidence or indication that any individual—guard or other officers—was to blame for last week's escape attempt."

While Bennett was busy on the island, the body of Barker lay in the morgue here, a bullet hole through the head. On Thursday of this week, it was indicated, the coroner's inquest will probably be held into his death. Prison officials will testify. Bennett himself, however, will not be there. He expects to finish his work on "The Rock" tonight, and will return at once to Washington.

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

FORWARDED BY
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

JAN 17 1939

76-4175-A

219

2 SHOT DOWN AS ALCATRAZ BREAKS FAILS

Karpis' Pal Barker Hit in Head as 5 Scale Walls

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 13 (UP).—Five convicts, including Arthur (Doc) Barker, member of the once notorious Karpis-Barker gang, made a desperate attempt to escape from Alcatraz Federal Prison before dawn today, but were captured after guards opened fire, wounding two of them.

Barker, serving life for kidnaping, was shot through the head and leg and critically wounded. Dale Stamphill, also under life sentence for kidnaping, was struck in both legs.

Other 3 Identified

Warden James A. Johnston identified the other three as:

Rufus McCain, ninety-nine years for national bank robbery and kidnaping; Henri Young, twenty years for robbing a national bank; William Martin, Negro, thirty-five years for armed robbery of a post office.

McCain, Young and Martin surrendered after Barker and Stamphill fell. Martin suffered scratches and abrasions caused by his attempt to slide down a rocky bank to the water.

The five were captured before they had a chance to get off "the rock"—the Federal Government's famous penitentiary in San Francisco Bay.

Make Break in Fog

Indicating a carefully planned break, the attempt was made in a dripping fog—the thickest fog to blanket the San Francisco area in months.

A gigantic search for the fugitives was organized and under way when Warden Johnston announced the men had been captured.

"They got out of a cell building about 4 A. M.," Johnston said. "A heavy fog enveloped the island.

"The fugitives attempted to get to the water but were defeated in the attempt by guards.

"The convicts were so desperate in their efforts to get to the water, however, that two of them, Barker and Stamphill, were shot before they halted. The others then surrendered."

At Johnston's request Coast Guard cutters and police boats surrounded the island and circled in the bay until the fugitives were caught.

Johnston said a routine checkup at 4 A. M. led to discovery that the men were missing from their cells.

Planned to Swim for It

"I don't know yet how they got out," the warden added. "The guards found them somewhat scattered out and crawling and running toward the water. They evidently were planning to swim for it."

"That was a tough way to start out Friday the 13th," Inspector George Ingels of the San Francisco Police Department, one of those who directed the search from shore, said.

(In a statement issued in Washington, James V. Bennett, Prison Bureau director, said:

("In some manner, we do not yet understand, the prisoners managed to obtain a saw and with it got out of their cells and through the exterior window of the cell block. In the dense fog enveloping the island they managed to elude officers guarding the outside, and reached the shore before they were apprehended.

("There was no evidence that they had any help from the outside, and no boats were found in the vicinity of the island.")

No. One's Pal

Barker was a companion in crime of Alvin (Old Creepy) Karpis, kidnaper, bank robber and murderer—at one time America's public enemy No. 1.

He is a member of the notorious Barker family of Oklahoma, which included "Ma" Kate Barker, Freddie Barker and Arthur. "Ma" Barker and Freddie were slain in Oclawa, Fla., after six-hour gunfight with Federal agents.

Arthur was sent to Alcatraz for life for the abduction of Edward G. Bremer, wealthy St. Paul banker, in 1934. Bremer was released after twenty-one days on payment of $200,000 ransom.

Stamphill was sentenced in 1937 for kidnaping Dr. Fred Louis Meyers, and taking him from Leevy, Okla., to Texas.

Alcatraz Island is located inside the Golden Gate, one and one-fourth miles from the nearest mainland.

Only once have prisoners escaped and that feat has not been substantiated. Ralph Roe and Theodore Cole, Oklahoma desperadoes, went over the wall during a fog the night of December 16, 1937. They never have been heard from. Presumably they drowned in the treacherous tides.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Carson
Mr. Dennis
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Emerson
Mr. Gandy
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hoover
Mr. Jones
Mr. Kerr
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nease
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carter
Mr. Mohr
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

76-4175-A

Clipping from
NEW YORK POST

DATE: JAN 13 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

220

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

ROCK HUNTS ESCAPE SAWS

How Did 5 Hack Cells Unheard? Question At Alcatraz

In the most intensive "shakedown" in the history of Alcatraz penitentiary, guards and officials at the island prison sought today the solution to the escape attempt of five inmates which ended in the death of one and the critical wounding of another.

With Arthur ("Doc") Barker, 40-year-old midwest kidnaper dead from a bullet wound in the head, and Dale Stamphill, 27, also a kidnaper, in the prison hospital, Warden James A. Johnston spurred a search of the prison in an attempt to answer these questions:

First, where are the saws used by the escaping convicts to hack theeir way through cell bars of five individual cells and a barred window of the main prison block?

HOW LONG FOR SAWIN?

Secondly, how long did it take the prisoners to saw through the bars?

Thirdly, why were the sounds of sawing not heard by prison guards?

As the prison remained under the most strict disciplinary regulations in its history, each cell, down to the most remote corners, was made the object of a minute scrutiny.

THREE IN SOLITARY

In solitary confinement, meanwhile, were three other members of the biggest escape plot on the "Rock."

The three—Rufus McCain, 36, serving ninety-five years for bank robbery and kidnaping; Henri Young, 28, twenty years for bank robbery, and William Martin, 25, Negro, serving twenty-five years for postoffice robbery—surrendered at the water's edge of the island early yesterday as bullets, scattering through a wool-thick fog, wrote "finis" to the break attempt and the life of Barker.

Trapped on the island beach, Barker and Stamphill chose to take a "thousand to one chance" on escaping the bullets of sharp shooting guards and rushed for the water.

Barker fell, shot through the

Continued on Page A, Col. 7

SAN FRANCISCO CALL-BULLETIN

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'ROCK' ESCAPE SAWS HUNTED

Continued From Page One

head, while Stamphill was shot through both legs.

Dr. Sherman Leland, who examined the body of Barker in the San Francisco morgue today, said the kidnaper and one time member of the notorious Barker-Karpis gang, had been shot through the right eye, the bullet leaving the body below his right ear.

First word of the break reched San Francisco police headquarters at 4:13 a. m., and the police boat D. A. White sped to the island. The Coast Guard cutter Daphne and two picket boats joined it.

Presidio soldiers were ordered to patrol the beach and fifteen police radio cars were dispatched to cruise back and forth along the water's edge.

CAUGHT BUILDING RAFT

But meanwhile, piercing lights zig-zagged through the fog to reveal the five men on the beach. Nearly nude, the five men were striving desperately to fashion a raft or rafts from driftwood, using their clothes as binding.

Within less than two hours after the escape was discovered all were captured.

"They were ordered to surrender," the warden declared, "and the order was repeated as the two men started to run. When they refused to halt, the guards opened fire."

The convicts, it was believed, deliberately waited for a heavy fog to shield their movements, following the technique of Ted Cole and Ralph Roe, who vanished from the island in December, 1937. No trace of them has ever been found.

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Outside Aid Theory In Alcatraz Break Stirs Harbor Hunt

Coast Guard Investigates Strange Craft

SEARCH

The possibility that outside confederates may have waited to aid Arthur "Doc" Barker and his four fellow convicts in their futile dash for freedom from Alcatraz Island early Friday morning loomed stronger yesterday.

Throughout the night and during the early hours of the morning Coast Guard cutters were making an intensive patrol of all yacht harbors in the bay district.

All small craft were carefully observed and all strange vessels received a thorough investigation.

OFFICIAL COMMENT.

Officials in charge of the Government's investigation, commenting on the possibility that the quick apprehension of the men may have thwarted a rendezvous with outside confederates, said:

"We are not overlooking anything. All things are being taken into consideration."

An autopsy by Dr. Sherman Leland in San Francisco yesterday disclosed that Barker was shot in the right eye and left leg when gunfire brought a halt to the attempted break.

FELON GIVEN CHANCE.

Dale Stamphill, 27 year old Oklahoma kidnaper, whose leg and thigh were shattered by bullets in the fusillade, was reported slightly improved in the prison hospital and given a chance to recover.

Rufus McCain, 36, serving 99 years for bank robbery and kidnaping, and Henri Young, 28, doing a 20-year stretch for bank robbery, two more participants in the break, were in solitary confinement, Warden James A. Johnston admitted. The fifth convict, Negro William Martin, 25, serving 25 years for post office robbery, was still in the prison hospital suffering from exposure and cuts and bruises.

Deep concern over how the five convicts obtained saws and then managed to cut their way through the Rock's famous "file proof bars" was evident in the voice of Warden Johnston when he said that a 24 hour search of the prison had failed to disclose the saws.

TURNED UPSIDE DOWN.

Everything movable in the prison was literally turned upside down on Friday following the break and all prisoners were submitted to repeated scrutiny by the island's "electric eye" without success, officials disclosed.

Normal prison routine was resumed yesterday, but G-men were still on the Island aiding Johnston in his investigation.

James V. Bennett, director of Federal prisons, was en route

(Continued on Page 10, Col. 1)

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OUTSIDE AID SEEN IN BREAK ON ALCATRAZ

Coast Guard Cutters Give Strange Vessels Thorough Investigation; Harbors Searched

(Continued from Page One)

from Washington to take charge of the investigation, and is due to arrive tomorrow.

Whether action will be taken against the survivors of the break for their participation will be determined when Bennett arrives, Johnston said.

Bruises on the knees of Barker and the other convicts told their own story of how they had crawled and scrambled along the steep sides of Alcatraz to the tiny beach where they were finally captured.

Warden Johnston said it was not known exactly who killed Barker, notorious member of the Barker-Alvin Karpis kidnaping and murder combine.

"They were in the fog. We were in the fog," Johnston explained tersely. "We were scurrying all around, and they were scurrying trying to escape us.

"When we saw them, we ordered them to put up their hands. McCain and Young did, but Barker and Stamphill started to run. One minute we could see them, and then we couldn't.

"So Barker was shot in the eye. He may have been caught in cross-fire, or struck by a shot fired from the boats that were around the Island."

Barker, 40 years old, was serving a life term for the $200,000 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, wealthy St. Paul banker. Date for an inquest in his death will be set by Coroner T. B. W. Leland next week.

Alcatraz officials yesterday asked Coroner Leland to release Barker's body to the Lasswell Undertaking Company, which has a contract for the burial of Government prisoners, but Leland refuses to do so. The coroner declared he would take no action on the request until he received an answer from a wire he sent to Barker's father, in Joplin, Missouri.

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2 Shot as 5 Fail in Break At Alcatraz

'Doc' Barker Gravely Wounded; Fog Masks Flight

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 13 (By International News Service). — Two convicts, including Arthur "Doc" Barker, one of America's most notorious criminals and former lieutenant in the dreaded Alvin Karpis gang, were shot and three confederates captured today when they attempted to escape from Alcatraz Federal Prison in San Francisco Bay.

Barker was serving life for kidnaping.

Other incorrigible "Rock" prisoners participating in the break were:

DALE STAMPHILL, serving life for kidnaping.

RUFUS McCAIN, serving 99 years for bank robbery and kidnaping.

HENRI YOUNG, serving 20 years for bank robbery.

WILLIAM MARTIN, Negro, serving 25 years for a post office robbery.

Barker was reported in serious condition. He was shot in the right side of the head and left leg.

Stamphill was shot in both legs.

GOT OUT OF BUILDING.

Warden James Johnston announced:

"Five prisoners were defeated in their attempt to escape Alcatraz Island."

He named the prisoners.

"They got out of cell building about 4 a. m., and in the fog that enveloped the island attempted to get to the water, but were defeated in the attempt by guards.

"But they were so desperate in their efforts to get into the water that two of them, Barker and Stamphill, were shot before they halted.

"At request of Warden Johnston the Coast Guard and San Francisco police boat rushed to the island and with the prison launch stood by and circled in the bay around the island until the men were placed back in prison."

An official report to the Bureau of Prisons in Washington said the five desperadoes sawed their way out of a cell block, and made their way out of a rear window at 4 a. m.

A heavy fog enveloped the prison during the early morning hours and the fleeing men managed to make their way some distance from the cell block before being discovered.

Guards opened fire on the prisoners who were unarmed.

LIKE MASS OF WOOL.

"We don't know how they got out," Warden Johnston told newsmen later. "When we found them missing we turned on the flood lights. The bay looked like a mass of wool.

"The convicts were running toward the northeast shore. We could see them faintly in the fog.

"When the shots were fired Barker and Stamphill dropped like poled oxen. The other three surrendered immediately without resistance.

"There's no doubt they intended to swim for it. They were that desperate. We made a search of the shoreline, and found no raft or boat."

The Warden said the fleeing men had been given ample shouted warning to halt before the shots were fired. They were spread crawlwise, running, crawling and rolling down the slope of the rocky cliffs of the island.

Arthur Barker, convicted kidnaper, was one of the five convicts who tried to escape from Alcatraz Prison. Barker was shot

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DATE: JAN 13 1939

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Mr. L[illegible]
Mr. M[illegible]
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SLAIN AT ALCATRAZ

Associated Press Photo

DOC BARKER

The pal of the notorious Alvin Karpis was shot down by Alcatraz guards when he and four others sawed their way out of their cells and dashed for the waters of San Francisco Bay.

ALCATRAZ BREAK INQUIRY BEGUI

U. S. Prison Chief Flie West—Doc Barker Slain as Five Try to Flee

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 14 (UP) —The Government conducted a "shake-down" at Alcatraz, its prison for tough desperadoes, today to learn how five of them managed to saw out of their cells. The ringleader, Arthur (Doc) Barker, was fatally wounded in the recapture.

Federal Prison Director James V. Bennett flew here from Washington to direct the investigation.

"Stool Pigeon" Failed

The strictest discipline prevailed in the island prison as guards searched for other saws that might have got past the "electric stool pigeon." The "stool pigeon" is an electric eye that detects the presence of metal objects which pass its beam.

How the desperadoes obtained a saw for their break was a mystery. What became of it was reported to be unknown to prison officials.

Recaptured with Barker, as all five slid down the steep slopes in a frantic effort to plunge into the bay and swim a mile to the mainland were Dale Stamphill, twenty-seven; Henry Young, twenty-eight; Rufus McCain, thirty-six, and William Martin, twenty-five.

Barker Dies of Wound

Barker died last night in the prison hospital. He had been shot through the head and leg. He was sentenced to life imprisonment for the kidnaping of William Bremer, of St. Paul, and was a co-leader of the Barker-Karpis gang which terrorized the Middlewest three years ago.

He was the third son of Kate (Ma) Barker to die violently in a clash with the law. A fourth is serving life in Leavenworth Federal Prison. Ma Barker was slain with another son in a battle with Federal agents in Florida.

Stamphill, a lifer from Oklahoma was reported near death in the prison hospital. He was shot through both legs and an artery was severed

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Kidnaper Killed In Alcatraz Break

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 13 (INS).—Death followed the latest attempt of Alcatraz convicts to escape from the grim rock in San Francisco Bay. Fatally wounded by the rifle bullets of guards as he led four companions in a dash for freedom, Arthur "Doc" Barker, 40, former Karpis gangster and kidnaper, died in the prison hospital tonight.

Barker was the third convict to be shot to death by guards in escape attempts since the "Rock" became a Federal prison four years ago.

The guards' bullets wiped out the last dangerous member of one of the nation's most notorious criminal families, when Barker joined in death his mother and brother, "Ma" and Fred Barker, shot down by G-men four years ago in Florida.

Barker was sent to Alcatraz for life for the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, in 1935.

Tonight Warden James A. Johnston, his aides, and G-men, were questioning the survivors of the desperate break and attempting to locate the instruments, with which they sawed their way to freedom.

In the prison hospital, one of Barker's fellow plotters, Dale Stamphill, 27, Southwestern kidnaper, lay seriously wounded tonight.

Arthur Barker

D. Stamphill

Guards' fusillade kills one, wounds other.

Barker was shot in the head and leg and Stamphill in both legs, as they ran toward the waters of the Golden Gate, under cover of fog, and ignored the shouted commands of guards to halt.

The other three inmates surrendered as guards closed in with high-powered rifles and machine-guns on the rugged cliff looking toward the Golden Gate.

They were Rufus McCain, serving 99 years for national bank robbery and kidnaping; Henri Young, 20 years for national bank robbery, and William Martin, 25 years for robbing a post office.

Rufus McCain

Henri Young

Caught after attempted break from Alcatraz.

The convicts made their dash shortly before 4 o'clock this morning.

The alarm was sounded, bringing every guard and official from their homes on the island. The weather was very mucky. It was impossible to see more than a few feet in any direction.

Guards finally located the fleeing men on the cliff above the waters facing the Golden Gate. Barker and Stamphill refused to surrender. The guards fired to bring them to a halt. Martin was slightly injured when he fell.

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Barker Break Called 'Start' for Alcatraz

(With the death of "Doc" Barker, Alcatraz has lost a prolific trouble-maker, but there are plenty of others to take his place, says P. F. Reed, author of "Murder on Alcatraz" and a veteran of four years on The Rock. In today's article, last of two stories dealing with the most recent attempt to break from the American Devil's Island, Reed traces the history of other disorders at Alcatraz, and tells why he thinks the trouble has just begun there.)

BY P. F. REED.

Special to The Herald and Examiner.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 15.—They're a long ways from being through with their trouble over on The Rock. I said it when I was writing "Murder on Alcatraz." I say it again now. This is only a nice start.

They may think they have seen something pretty tough in the way of capers. They have not. I happen to know that one of the toughest mobs they've ever had on the rock is liable to turn loose any day, and when that mob does turn loose, somebody is going to get hurt. This caper has been going along underground while the other ones have popped up and exploded. The only thing I can say about it is that it's going to be rough, because this crowd has always played rough.

BARKER HALF SMART.

That is more than I can say for the gees who were mixed up in Friday's go. Barker was the only one that had any guts, and he wasn't so terribly tough. He thought he was tough, and he thought he had a reputation to live up to, and he was in on all the strikes, but he lost practically every fight he ever got into. But he had some guts and he was half smart and he was very unhappy about being double-crossed by Roe and Cole when they left without telling him.

So he figured out his own caper, though why he picked the way he did is puzzling. Maybe it was because the main cell block was the only place where he could get all his men together at one time.

Anyway it isn't hard to understand why he organized his party the way he did. For one thing, when the big shots get ready to go, they always seem to want to take a lot of people along with them—seems to give them Dutch courage or something.

But there's another reason.

GREEN KIDS TOUGHER.

Barker undoubtedly took green kids because green kids are tougher than good men when you get them ribbed up to do anything. And when you have four or five of them, they make good slug-stoppers, though they didn't work out that way for Barker. He stopped the slugs.

I said the trouble is just started on Alcatraz. I'm not going out on any limb. I mentioned one caper, a big one ,that is getting ready to go. Well, there is never any time, and never has been any time, when there hasn't been some caper cooking on the fire. Some of them never get ripe. That's why there are as many live men on the island as there are.

For instance, there was one big go being hatched up to spring eight men. They had been working on this for months. They say politics doesn't work on Alcatraz, but it worked to this extent—the men all got themselves jobs in one department at the same time. They figured they had to put four men on the spot. Two of them were convicts in the same department that they couldn't trust.

ESCAPE PLAN TOLD.

One was a free man, also working there. The other was a guard. They were going to put the convicts and the free man out of the way first. Then the guard. There was a catwalk along the outside of this department and a window overlooking the catwalk. They were going to saw out two of the bars in the window, take a piece of wire and lean out and kill the guard as he walked by.

Before they could do it, somebody squawked and the convicts

CHICAGO HERALD & EXAMINER

1-16-38

Kidnaper Slain, 4 Captured in Alcatraz Break

(Special to The News)

San Francisco, Jan. 13.—A Friday the 13th escape attempt brought death today to Arthur (Doc) Barker, notorious kidnaper; serious wounds to a second convict, and recapture for three others. Under cover of the heaviest fog of the Winter, they sawed their way out of their cells at Alcatraz Island and reached the water's edge before they were discovered.

Barker, 38-year-old member of the Alvin (Creepy) Karpis gang, serving a life term for the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping, was shot through the head and leg and died tonight.

Also wounded was Dale Stamphill, 27, of Leedy, Okla., serving a life term for kidnaping Dr. Fred Myers. Stamphill was shot through both legs. His condition was critical.

So Near, Yet So Far.

The men had stripped off their clothes and one had obtained pieces of driftwood which he was attempting to lash together to form a raft when the searching beams of the Rock's searchlights picked them out.

Others in the attempt besides Barker and Stamphill were:

William Martin, 25, colored, doing twenty-five years for post office robbery. He was injured as he scrambled down the cliffs about the island.

Rufus (Rufe) McCain, 36, serving 99 years for bank robbery and kidnaping.

Henri Young, 27, under a twenty-year term for a Lind, Wash., bank robbery.

Two Quickly Surrender.

"Our guards saw a group of men by the incinerator near the water on the Golden Gate side of the island," Warden James A. Johnston said.

"Searchlights picked out two of the men, McCain and Young. They stopped and raised their arms above their heads at command of the guards.

"Two others, Barker and Stamphill, started to run. The guards fired, hitting them.

"Stamphill was struck in both legs and was not believed badly hurt, but at the prison hospital surgeons seemed unable to stanch the flow of blood and it is believed that one of the large arteries was severed. His condition is critical.

"After four had been apprehended, Martin was discovered between 100 and 150 yards further south. All of the men had divested themselves of their shoes and outer clothing and Martin was practically nude.

"The men were all housed in the same aisle in the main cell block.

Two Sets of Bars Cut.

"Not only were the bars of the cell doors cut, but some of them had been pried apart.

"After escaping from the cell, the men fled down a corridor to a window where the bars were sawed through and removed also.

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The late Arthur (Doc) Barker
Mortally wounded in break.

Then they dropped ten feet to the ground and slipped by a patrol and tower guard.

"No saws or other implements have been found. Where they came from we do not know."

Only two men may have escaped from the island in recent years. They are Ted Cole and Ralph Roe who vanished Dec. 16, 1937. No trace of them has ever been found, and many believe they drowned in the swift current while attempting to swim to the main

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Five Saw Way Out of Alcatraz; Barker Killed

Bremer Kidnaper Dies in Break With Four; One Is Shot, Others Give Up

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 13 (AP).—Arthur (Doc) Barker, forty years old, gangland terrorist and kidnaper, participated with four other convicts in an attempt to break away from Alcatraz prison, regarded as escape proof, early today and lost his life.

Shot in the head and through the legs by guards as he made ready for a desperate swim into fog-shrouded San Francisco Bay, Barker died at 5:45 p. m. tonight in the prison hospital.

Barker, who was shot as he allegedly ignored a guard's order to halt, had joined fellow prisoners in sawing their way out of a steel cell block in the island Federal penitentiary in which he was serving a life term for the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping.

In one of the thickest fogs the rock prison island had experienced since it became the home of desperate Federal convicts in 1934, the five prisoners slipped quietly through the bars they had severed and out into the darkness.

At 4 a. m. a guard noticed the empty cells and saw the severed bars. In a moment the entire twelve-acre island was aglow with light. But even powerful searchlights did not penetrate far into the fog, which Warden James A. Johnston described as "like a mass of wool."

Guards along the island's rim finally sighted the prisoners fleeing toward waters of San Francisco Bay.

Barker was shot through the head and legs as he ignored a guard's order to halt. Dale Stamphill, twenty-seven, Oklahoma kidnaper, was shot through both legs.

Other Three Surrender

The other three fugitives surrendered. They were William McCain, thirty-six, a kidnaper; Henri Young, twenty-eight, bank robber, and William Martin, twenty-five, Negro, a postoffice robber.

Martin was bruised and cut as he slid down the rocky northwest side of the island toward the water. Warden Johnston said the convict was collecting pieces of driftwood and tying them together when ordered to surrender.

Incidentally, Alcatraz gave up one of its secrets—one of the things that keeps alive the hope of escape.

The secret was driftwood. Day by day the "escape-minded" prisoners among Alcatraz's 300 to 400 convicts see logs, boxes, old masts and other flotsam drifting past, offering potential lifesavers to any one who would attempt to swim the mile and a quarter of treacherous bay current to the mainland.

How the convicts got the saws remained a mystery. Johnston said the prisoners were permitted to have no direct contact with any one from the outside. Whether they filched the instruments from the prison machine shop was "a matter of speculation," the warden said. The saws were not found.

To get out of the cells, each prisoner had to saw through several steel bars, each about three-fourths of an inch in diameter.

Barker, a leader of the Barker-Karpis gang, was serving a life sentence for the kidnaping of Mr. Bremer. Alvin Karpis, co-leader of the notorious gang, also is in Alcatraz. Stamphill is serving a life term for the abduction of Dr. Fred L. Myers, of Leedey, Okla.

Under 99-Year Sentence

McCain is under a ninet-nine-year sentence for kidnaping employees of the Idabel, Okla., National Bank. Young robbed the First National Bank of Lind, Wash., and is serving twenty years. Martin is under a twenty-five-year sentence for a postoffice robbery in Illinois.

Presumably the five were following the same route taken by Ted Cole and Ralph Roe, the first convicts to escape from Alcatraz, who disappeared from the island prison in a heavy fog on Dec. 16, 1937. Johnston expressed belief Cole and Roe drowned in the treacherous tides, but some prisoners have clung to the belief the pair escaped.

An abortive attempt to escape from Alcatraz ended in the death of a prisoner and guard last May 23 and the conviction of two other convicts on murder charges.

James C. Lucas, Rufus Franklin and Thomas E. Limerick broke through a window in the prison carpenter shop and attempted to scale a wall to freedom. Limerick was killed by a tower guard and Franklin seriously wounded. Lucas surrendered.

After the escape had been thwarted, prison officials discovered Royal M. Cline, carpenter shop guard, lying on the floor of the shop, fatally injured, his head battered.

Lucas and Franklin were convicted last November for Cline's death.

Convicts Locked in Cells

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 (AP).—More than 300 "hard-boiled" convicts were locked in their cells on Alcatraz Island today for careful inspection as a result of an attempted jailbreak by five prisoners.

James V. Bennett, director of the Federal Prison Bureau, said all normal activities would be suspended at Alcatraz pending a thorough search of every inmate.

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were split up. That's one big reason a lot of jobs don't pan out. The big shots never talk, but the little ones can't keep anything to themselves.

Jack Statig was working on a getaway before he blew his top. He got hold of a pint of acid and he was trying to get hold of some other stuff to make an explosive. He was going to blow the side of the wall out, and he said he had enough high gees lined up so that he thought some of them could get away.

He tried to proposition me to help him, but I wouldn't play. The next thing I knew he had got hold of $300 toward buying a couple of roscoes. But it wasn't enough money and they never got the roscoes, and as far as I know the acid is still planted somewhere along with the $300.

RED LINE IS OUTCOME.

In each corner of the prison yard they have a little box for the guards with a screen across it. These fellows figured to get a lot of convicts grouped under one of the boxes, boost a man up on their shoulders, and have him grab the guard and his gun. With that gun they were going to knock the other guards over, get their guns and then boost themselves over the wall by using a big crate from the baseball field. The guards got wind of it, and now there's a red line six feet in front of each guard box and the convicts can't cross it.

It's my strictly personal guess that trouble on the Rock could be headed off by taking ten or fifteen men—that's all the real trouble-makers they have—and segregating 'em.

A good 60 or 70 per cent of the men are trying to do their time peacefully, as long as they're let alone and not agitated. But when somebody comes along and starts a job and offers to cut you in and you won't go in, then you're in a crack, going and coming.

If you go in, you're a heel with the guards, and will maybe get your head blown off. If you stay out, then the rest of the convicts will make it hot for you, talking about you and calling you a scab and fink and yellow and loudmouthing all over the lot. If you start a fight with them over it, the guards grab you and throw you in the hole.

The only other way I can see to avoid trouble would be to make Alcatraz a strictly tough stir and keep everybody out of it who isn't tough.

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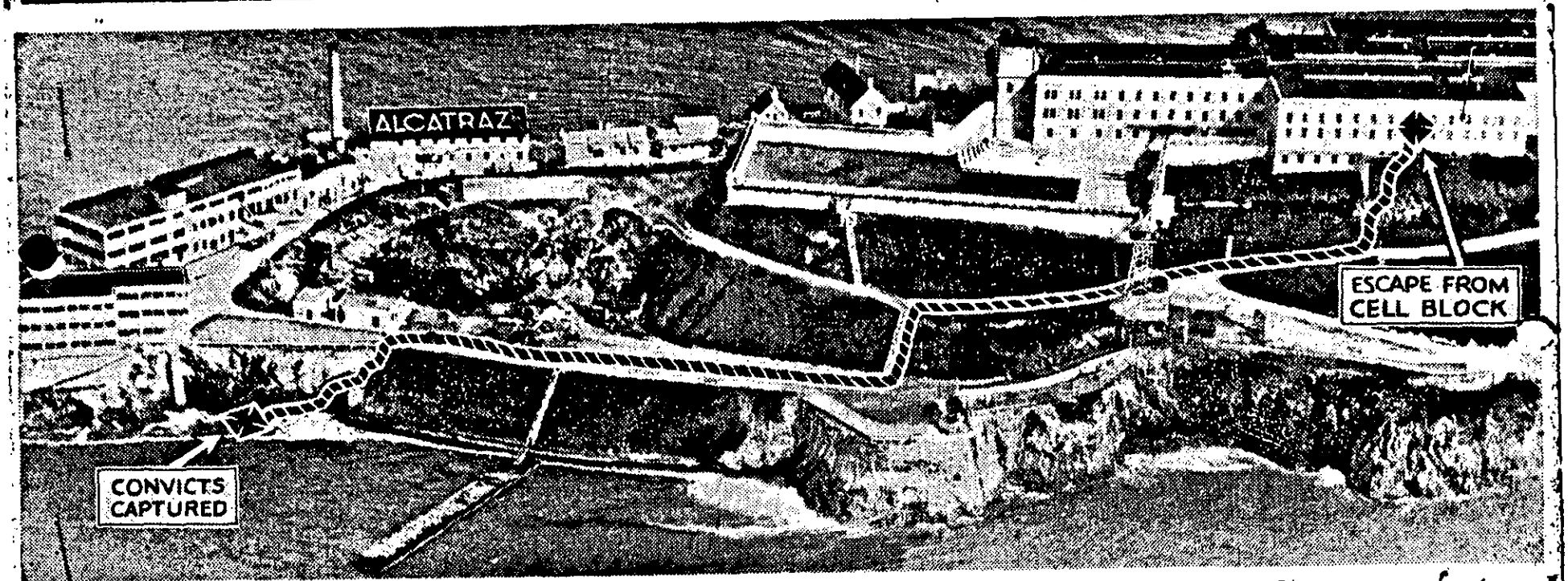

Alcatraz Prison showing convicts' route from cell block to point on island where they were captured

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
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JAN 14 1939

Prison Record

Bullet Victim Last of Clan

Lying behind a machine gun, Ma Barker poured lead at Federal agents until a bullet ended her life.

That was in Florida.

Early yesterday, on fog-shrouded Alcatraz island, another Federal bullet brought a possible end to the life of her "baby," Arthur "Doc" Barker, last of the vicious Barker clan that came out of the Ozarks to leave a red trail over the Nation.

There were five of the outlaw Barkers. One was killed by police while still in small-time as a criminal. Another was sent to Leavenworth for life. Fred and Doc followed Ma into a nationally notorious career of robbery and kidnaping, culminating with their biggest job, the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, in 1934.

CAPTURED IN CHICAGO

In January, 1935, Doc Barker was captured in Chicago.

Ten days later the Federals found Ma and Fred in Florida.

Ma had a machine gun. Fred an automatic rifle.

Both were firing as they died.

Of the other prisoners who attempted escape from Alcatraz, Dale Stamphill, 27, also is serving a sentence fro kidnaping. His victim was Dr. Fred Louis Meyers, who was kidnaped after a bank robbery and taken from Leevy, Okla., to Canadian, Texas.

Rufus McCaxin, 36, was convicted of kidnaping bank employes in an attempted bank robbery at Idabel, Okla. His sentence was 99 years.

CONVICTED OF ROBBERY

Henri Young, 28, was convicted of robbing a Lind, Wash., bank and sentenced to 20 years.

William Martin, 25, robbed a Chicago postoffice and was sentenced to 25 years.

All were described by the Department of Justice at Washington as prisoners who have been "difficult to manage," and Young, a former inmate at McNeil island, was described as a "disciplinary problem," who took part in the 1937 Alcatraz strike.

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Barker Killed in Alcatraz Break

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Two Shot

Bullets Foil Escape From 'The Rock'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 (AP)—The Justice Department announced tonight that Arthur (Doc) Barker, gang leader who sought to escape Alcatraz Prison, died tonight of gunshot wounds inflicted when he ignored commands of guards to halt.

Warden James M. Johnston of Alcatraz notified the department of Barker's death.

Barker was one of five convicts who sawed their way out of a cell and sought to escape into fog-bound San Francisco bay early today. A second convict, Dale Stamphill, Oklahoma kidnaper, was wounded.

Barker was shot through the head and legs.

Two Alcatraz convicts were shot and three others were captured in a desperate escape attempt in the dense fog of early yesterday. The injured men were in a serious condition last night.

The attempted break brought Prisons Director James V. Bennett speeding westward from Washington to make a thorough inquiry.

Obtaining saws the men had cut through bars of their five individual cells, sawed and pried open bars of an outer window of the cell block and fled to a beach on the island.

PRISON SIREN SOUNDS

Then the plot was discovered.

The prison's siren screamed above the roar of the bay's fog horns, sounding through a "wool thick" atmosphere.

Coast Guard and police boats joined the Alcatraz launch.

Piercing lights aganst the blanket of white that shrouded the island revealed the five men huddled on the beach, nearly nude, striving desperately to fashion bits of drift wood into a raft, using their clothes to bind it.

Shots from the launch followed the light into the dim group. From the other direction guards' rifles blazed.

Arthur "Doc" Barker, one of the most notorious of the island's more than 300 "hard boiled" criminals, fell with a bullet through the back of his neck that came out near his right eye, and another bullet in the thigh.

KIDNAPER SHOT

Dale Stamphill, another kidnaper, sentenced to life, dropped with a bullet through his left leg above the knee and another in the right leg near the ankle. The upper bullet was believed to have severed a major artery and he bled profusely. His condition was critical.

Cut and bruised by rocks and possibly suffering other injuries, William Martin, Negro, a postoffice robber, also was taken to the hospital.

Rufus McCain, serving 99 years for kidnaping, and Henri Young, national bank robber, surrendered as they saw their comrades fall.

Alcatraz officials immediately started a search to learn how the convicts obtained the saws, cut the bars and obtained their brief liberty.

Bennett left Washington by train

Continued on Page 3, Col. 3

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Two Shot, Two Captured

More on Alcatraz Escape Plot

Continued from Page 1

and planned to board a plane at Chicago.

He said prison officials had "no idea" where the convicts obtained the saw or saws.

Every prisoner's clothing, shoes, bedding and cell, he said, was to be subjected to the closest examination.

The break was discovered by the officer in charge of the cell block at about 4 a. m. Immediately the siren was blown.

San Francisco police were notified at 4:14 a. m. and the police boat U. A. White sped to the island. Coast Guard cutters joined it. Ashore soldiers at the Presidio patroled the beach in the event the men were carried in by the swiftly swirling tides.

Fifteen police radio cars cruised back and forth along the water's edge.

Late yesterday prison doctors were unable to say whether Barker, one of the four sons led in a famous crime career by their mother, "Ma" Barker, would survive.

ALL CAPTURED

Within approximately an hour after the escape was discovered all were captured. All normal activities of the prison were suspended and prisoners locked in their cells.

The first attempted escape from the Rock since it became a Federal prison was by Dutch Bowers, killed trying to climb a wire fence. Ted Cole and Ralph Roe reached the water and disappeared. No trace of them has been found. That was in December, 1937.

Last May three convicts broke from a prison shop and reached the roof. Guard Royal Cline and Convict Thomas Limerick were slain.

In a cell only a short distance from that of Barker was Alvin Karpis, Barker's former partner, who was led into big-time cime by "Ma" Barker and her boys.

All to Win, Nothing To Lose for Convicts

Life to gain, nothing to lose—except possibly a life already in forfeit.

That was the motive of the Friday the 13th gamble of the five Alcatraz convicts yesterday.

Frank J. Hennessy, United States Attotrney, said that unless he receives orders from Washington he will not prosecute any of the convicts. Conviction would mean a maximum sentence of five years or a $5000 fine or both.

It would be an "idle gesture" to add five years to the sentence of Arthur Barker, 40, who is doing life, or to that of Rufus McCane, 27, sentenced to 99 years, on kidnaping convictions, said Hennessy.

Henri Young, 28, is serving a 20-year term for robbing a national bank, and William Martin is serving 25 years for a postoffice robbery.

All the men will lose their credits for good behavior and convictions would serve no purpose, the attorney said. There would be no chance of collecting the fines, he added.

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CALL BRINGS QUICK ACTION BY S. F. POLICE

Boat Speeds to Island as Six Radio Patrol Cars Take Up Guard Over Waterfront

Ten minutes after the first "escape" message was flashed from Alcatraz yesterday morning, the waterfronts of Marin, Alameda and San Francisco counties were bristling with armed officers.

So swift and methodical was the response to Warden James A. Johnston's warning that, had the five felons succeeded in getting off the island by boat or raft, their ultimate escape would have been a miracle.

The land and sea mobilization was accomplished with the precision and dispatch of a well-drilled war-time maneuver.

TELEPHONED FLASH.

First telephone flash came to the San Francisco police department. An Alcatraz attache told Night Operator Ralph H. McKenna:

"Five men have escaped the cell-block. We want help."

That was at 4:13 a. m. A minute later, the police boat D. A. White had been notified and was leaving her pier to speed toward the Rock. Moments later, six radio cars were on their way to strategic points along the waterfront.

AUTHORITIES NOTIFIED.

Meantime Alcatraz authorities had notified the Coast Guard, the Army and the police of all neighboring counties.

The Coast Guard dispatched the cutter Daphne and two picket boats to patrol the Alcatraz waters.

Word reached the Presidio at almost the same moment and an officer and ten men were immediately ordered to patrol the beach front along Crissy Field.

A call was put through to Chief Agent Nat Pieper of the local Federal Bureau of Investigation office and Pieper himself mobilized his staff and hastened to Alcatraz.

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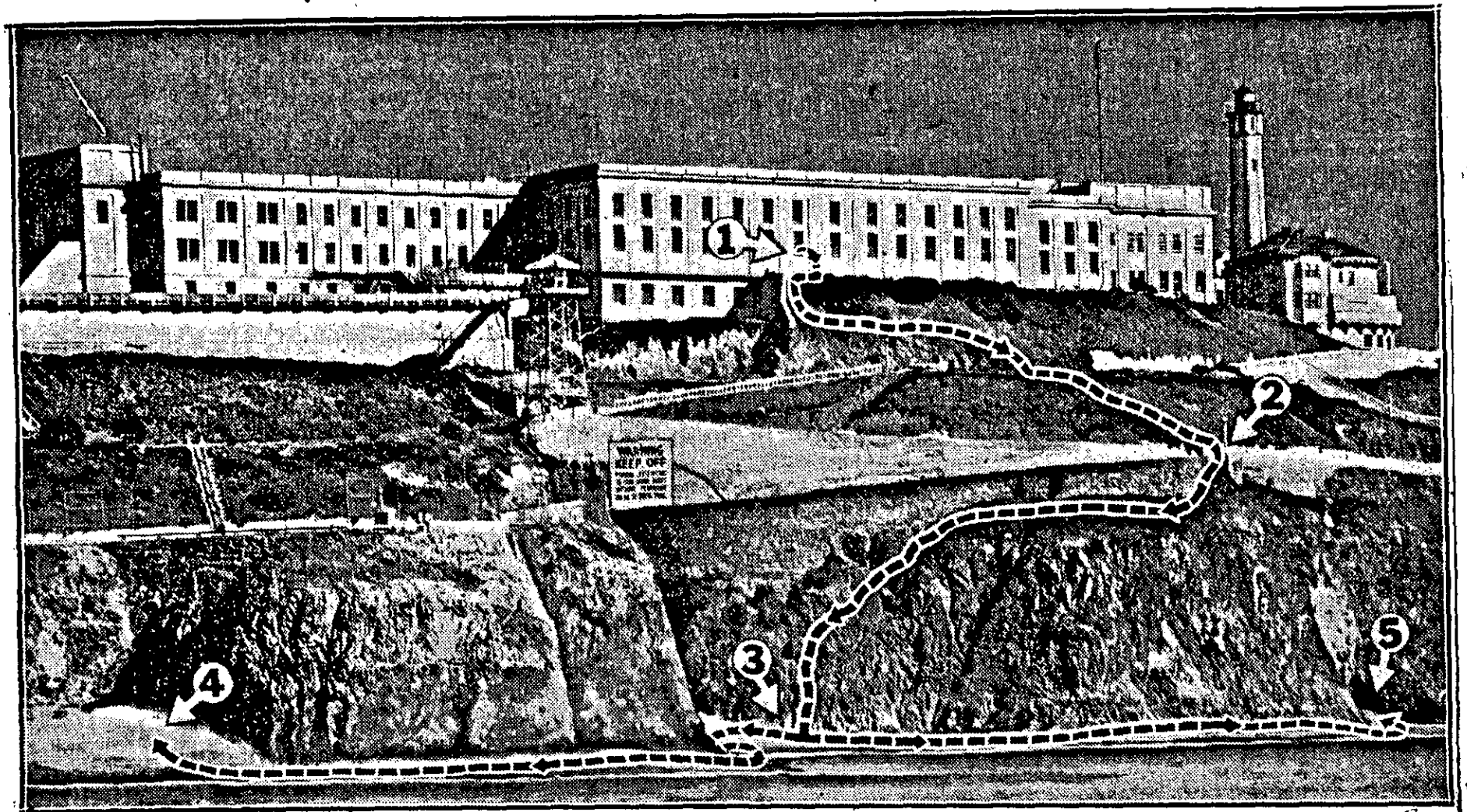
Gamble With Death at Prison

HOW FELONS' ESCAPE WAS THWARTED



THWARTED—Here's how the Alcatraz escape attempt failed. The five felons made way through window (1). Then they ran to bluff (2) and clambered down rocks to cove (3). Arthur "Doc" Barker and Dale Stamphill were shot by guards there. Convicts Rufus McCain and Henri Young made way along beach to cove (4) where they were captured attempting to build rafts of driftwood. Convict William Martin was captured (5) as he sought to use his clothing to tie together a driftwood raft so he could make his escape in the dense bay fog.

—Photo by San Francisco Examiner.

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Inside Details of Rock Break Plot to Be Bared

What lay behind the latest desperate attempt of five convicts to break out of Alcatraz? Who was the "brains" behind the break? How did they get hold of the tools with which they sawed their way out?—

P. F. Reed, author of "Murder on Alcatraz," who served a four-year "stretch" on Hell Rock, answers these questions as only an "insider" could answer them, in a series of two articles beginning in tomorrow's Examiner.

Reed, whose sensational series in The Examiner gave the first complete inside picture of the workings of "The Rock," will shed a new and sensational light on the latest attempt by convicts to beat Alcatraz. Reed virtually forecast this break in his previous writings.

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Police Record of Five Desperadoes

Toughest of the five felons who tried to saw their way out of Alcatraz early yesterday was Arthur "Doc" Barker, 40, member of the notorious murder and kidnaping combine headed by Barker and Alvin Karpis.

The record of Barker, who was fatally wounded in yesterday's escape attempt, dates back 18 years to August, 1921, when he was convicted of killing Thomas J. Sherrill, elderly night watchman at St. John's Hospital, Tulsa, Okla. He was sentenced to life in the Oklahoma State penitentiary, but was paroled September 10, 1932.

Two years later he and Karpis engineered the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, wealthy St. Paul banker, and released him 21 days later on payment of $200,000 ransom.

ASSOCIATE SLAIN.

Department of Justice agents followed Barker's trail for a year, finally caught him in Chicago on January 8, 1935. They took Barker alive, but killed an associate, Russell Gibson. Earlier, they had killed "Ma" Barker and Fred Barker, mother and brother of the outlaw, in a pitched battle at Oklawaha, Fla.

Convicted of the kidnaping, Barker was sentenced to life imprisonment and brought to Alcatraz.

Records of the other four convicts in the escape plot:

Dale Stamphill, 27, was serving a life term for kidnaping Dr. Fred L. Meyers in Leedy, Okla., in 1935.

Stamphill had been a leader in the break of 33 inmates of the Granite, Okla., reformatory a few months earlier, in which a guard was killed.

ANOTHER KIDNAPING.

Following the break, Stamphill teamed up with Malloy Kuykendall and W. L. Baker Jr., to conduct a reign of terror climaxed by a bank robbery and the kidnapping of Dr. Myers. They were captured, sentenced to life at McAlester Penitentiary.

After Kuykendall broke out of that prison and was recaptured following another kidnaping, the Federal Government decided to take all three of the young hoodlums in hand, tried and convicted them in the Myers case, and sent them to "The Rock."

Rufus McCain, 36, was also a kidnaper, spending 99 years in Alcatraz for the abduction or bank employes during an attempted robbery of the National Bank of Idabel, Okla. Originally sent to Leavenworth, he was transferred to Alcatraz after he attacked a fellow inmate at the Kansas prison.

Henri Young, 28, had only one major "job" to his record—robbery of the First National Bank at Lind, Washington. He was sentenced to McNeil Island for 20 years in 1937, transferred to Alcatraz, and was a participant in the Alcatraz strike of 1937.

William Martin, 25, Negro, and youngest of the five, was serving 25 years for the robbery of a post office in Chicago in 1936. He started at Leavenworth, was transferred to "The Rock," and, like Young, was a participant in the strike at Alcatraz.

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PRIOR ATTEMPTS TO FLEE RECALLED

Tragedy Marks Record of Island Prison

Twice before, desperate little groups of Alcatraz long-termers have taken the short end of the "chance in a million" in efforts to crash out of the nation's toughest prison.

What happened to Theodore Cole and Ralph Roe has never been learned.

What happened to James Lucas, Rufus Franklin and Thomas Limerick is a matter of record—two are serving life terms for the murder of Guard Royal C. Cline; Limerick was shot to death in the battle on the "Rock."

Roe and Cole, Oklahoma bad men, made their fantastic escape try a year ago last December, under a mantle of fog comparable to that in which the five convicts dashed for freedom yesterday.

The morning of December 16, the two men slipped through a window in the machine shop in which they were working, and dropped out of sight. Their escape was discovered within a half hour—but from that day to this, no tangible clue to their fate has been found.

Whether they tried to swim the chill, swirling waters and were drowned, whether they had fashioned a crude raft and capsized, or whether, by some outside chance they actually made shore and shrewdly dropped from sight, has never been learned.

One of the most intensive manhunts in the region's history was carried on for weeks, but failed to discover a single trace. Warden James A. Johnston expressed the conviction that the two had drowned, and the complete absence of evidence to the contrary has added weight to his contention.

DESPERATE ATTEMPT.

On May 23, five months after Roe and Cole made their dash for freedom, Lucas, Franklin, and Limerick made their desperate plunge. But they took a different route.

The three clubbed Guard Cline unconscious in the model shop, climbed through a window onto a roof top, and tried to "rush" Tower Guard Harold Stites.

But Stites stood, calmly, and poured lead at the trio, killing Limerick and wounding Franklin. Lucas put up his hands and surrendered.

LIFE SENTENCES.

Cline died the next day, and for his murder, Lucas and Franklin were tried in Federal Court. The jury returned a verdict of first degree murder with recommendation for leniency, and the two went back to "The Rock" to serve out their life sentences.

Prior to either of these attempts was the incident of the fatal shooting of Joe "Dutch" Bowers, mail robber. Prison officials said he was shot to death as he tried to escape over the high wire fence. Convicts who have been freed from the rock have maintained, however, that Bowers was "stir crazy" and having got outside, was trying to clamber back over the fence when a guard shot him down.

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Barker Slain in Alcatraz Break

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Prison Searched For Arms After 5 Fail in Escape Plot

Sweeping Inquiry Launched But Saws Used by Men Not Discovered

BARS OF 5 CELLS CUT

By ALVIN D. HYMAN

Arthur "Doc" Barker, a public enemy of note before Alcatraz took him over, took the short end of a thousand-to-one gamble at freedom yesterday—and lost.

Last night, the one-time partner of Alvin "Creepy" Karpis paid his debt in full. He died in the prison hospital, twelve hours after he and four fellow convicts were captured at the edge of the island, desperately trying to fashion driftwood rafts to aid them in reaching the mainland.

Even as Barker died, the most intensive "shakedown" in the brief but turbulent history of the Federal penitentiary on "The Rock" was being launched, to hunt out the vulnerable point in Alcatraz' internal armor.

ARTHUR 'DOC' BARKER
Succumbs to Wound
—International News Photo

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SAW CELL BARS.

For the five men had sawed their way through specially treated bars of five cells, cut their way through the outer bars of the "escape proof" prison and leaped down over the cliff to the narrow beach before the guards caught up with them. At that point, Barker's overwhelming yearning for freedom outweighed his fear of the guards' rifles, and he tried to run for it. So did Dale Stamphill, Oklahoma kidnaper.

A roar of rifle fire rang out, and both men fell, Barker with a bullet in his skull and another in his leg, and Stamphill with a shattered thigh and leg.

Last night, as Barker was carried, dead, from the prison hospital, Stamphill's condition was reported serious.

Barker's body was brought to San Francisco in a launch, and placed in the county morgue.

The three other partners in the escape plot—Kidnaper Rufus McCain, Bank Robber Henri Young and William Martin, Negro post office robber—surrendered in the face of the guards' guns.

PRISON SEACHED.

McCain and Young surrendered together. Martin, who had apparently detached himself from the four white men, was found a quarter hour later on a narrow stretch of beach, naked and working furiously in an effort to tie drift wood together with his clothes and improvise a raft.

He received hospital treatment for exposure and far cuts and bruises received in scrambling down the rocky cliffs to the water.

With the five convicts recaptured, Warden James A. Johnston immediately launched a prison-wide "shakedown" designed not only to uncover the facts behind the almost-successful break, but also to prevent a recurrence.

Every mattress and piece of clothing and stick of furniture in every cell was subjected to minute scrutiny by guards and by the celebrated "electric stool-pigeon," the mess hall and the bathroom, and the numerous shops were closely examined; every conceivable hiding place on the Rock was pried into as authorities went after possible weapons or instruments which might aid a prisoner toward escape.

Despite the closeness of the search, the saw-blades used to cut the "saw-proof" steel of cell bars and window bars had not been found by nightfall.

Nor had prison officials found an answer to the obvious questions posed by the "caper" of the five desperadoes, such questions as: Where did they obtain the saw blades? How were they able to cut through, not only one, but five cells? How could they escape detection while, out of their cells, they performed the

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Doc Barker Slain, Pal Shot As 5 Fail in Alcatraz Break

CONVICTS SEIZED BY ARMED GUARDS ON BEACH

(Continued from Page One)

long and difficult task of cutting the bars of the cellhouse window?

PRISON HEAD DUE HERE.

So important were the early and correct answers to such questions considered that James V. Bennett, director of Federal prisons, left Washington a few hours after news of the attempted escape reached him, and started for San Francisco to take personal charge of the investigation. He intended to go to Chicago by train and then hasten the journey by flying to this Coast.

Meanwhile, Nat Pieper and his G-men were on the island, aiding Warden Johnston in the investigation.

The five convicts, Warden Johnston disclosed, made their break at approximately 3:45 a. m.

"We know they were in their cells at 3:30," he said. "We found they were missing when we made the hourly checkup at 4 a. m. An alarm was immediately sounded. Every guard on the island was awakened. San Francisco police and the Coast Guard, and military authorities at the Presidio, and police of the East Bay and Marin were notified in accordance with a pre-arranged escape plan.

VISIBILITY LOW.

"Everything worked out as planned. Local police threw men along their respective waterfronts. The San Francisco police boat, and three Coast Guard boats came up and began cruising around the island. Our own launch, with its searchlights stabbing the intense fog, cruised closer to the shore.

"It was the foggiest night I have ever seen. Visibility was little above zero. The guards formed a ring around the entire outer edge of the island, and then began closing in, backed up by the boats."

LONG PLANNED.

The search, Warden Johnston said, had been actually under way only a few minutes when the convicts were spotted on the beach.

"They were ordered to surrender," he said, "and the order was repeated as the two men started to run. When they refused to halt, the guards opened fire."

DALE SAMPHILL
Shot by Guards
—International News Sound Photo.

HENRI YOUNG
Captured Convict
—International News Sound Photo.

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Although the attempted break had obviously been planned long in advance, and although it seems certain that the bar-sawing must have been done in snatches over a long period of time, Warden Johnston pointed out that nothing definite can be learned on these points.

"Anything I might say about that," he told newspapermen, "would be pure speculation."

It was generally believed that the five convicts, following the technique first used by Ted Cole and Ralph Roe when they disappeared from the Island in December, 1937, deliberately waited for a heavy fog to shield their movements.

Mariners described the fog that swirled around the island early yesterday morning as the heaviest of the season—and Warden Johnston, who made a personal test as soon as the convicts were rounded up, declared it was impossible for any guard in any of the towers to spot the men as they moved through the fog to the beach.

PREVIOUS BREAK.

Participation of Barker in the unsuccessful attempt to "beat" the Rock brought up interesting conjectures. Discharged Alcatraz prisoners have revealed that Alcatraz convicts generally believe that Barker engineered and financed the celebrated Cole-Roe break. They say Barker and many others were scheduled to make the break, that a boat had been "planted" near the island; that Cole and Roe had double-crossed their confederates by making the break alone and ahead of schedule.

Accepting this theory as correct, and also accepting the convict belief that Cole and Roe did not drown but made a clean getaway, it was held not impossible that Cole and Roe may have had a boat waiting, somewhere in the fog, when the five made their dash early yesterday.

RUFUS McCAIN
Escape Thwarted
—International News Sound Photo.

Against any such possibility, however, is the official belief that Cole and Roe drowned, plus the report of police and Coast Guard boats that cruised around the island early yesterday. No "strange" boats were near the island, they said.

Nevertheless, the search was extended throughout the day and into the early hours of this morning. A Coast Guard cutter cruised the Marin County waterfront past midnight, flashing its powerful searchlight upon all mooring docks. One blast of its whistle was answered by two blasts from Alcatraz, and the cutter headed back across the Bay toward San Francisco.

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Bennett Flies Here To See 'Rock' Saws

Alcatraz Due for Record Shakeup as Result Of 5 Felons Hacking Cell Bars

As quietly as inmates try to slip out, James V. Bennett, "head man" of Amer's federal prisons, apparently slipped silently into Alcatraz today.

Official government cars met a ferry today and an unidentified visitor whisked to Alcatraz via special launch, but neither Bennett onr Warden Jame Johnston was available to confirm his arrival.

Bennett was expected t rive by plane and Warden John-sto said earlier that he expected him "by noon."

Bennett's trip here was chiefly to see about the saws which "sprung" five felonus from their Alcatraz cell block and to head a thorough shaking down of the prison as the result of the latest escape try to end in violent failure."

3 VITAL QUESTIONS

With prison officials and G-men balked in a three day inch-by-inch search for the saws with which the slain Arthur ("Doc") Barker and four lesser prisoners cut their way out, the entire island faced a figurative inside-out turning, to reach the answer to these three questions:

How were the saws obtained and secreted and later disposed of after the convicts "made it" to the beach, where two were shot and all five captured Friday morning?

GUARD LAXITY DOUBTED

How could the severing of the bars of five separate cells, necessarily a painstaking task of possibly weeks, have been concealed from guards?

What drastic, long-range changes are needed on Alcatraz to insure against a repetition of the escape try, which came all too close to succeeding?

No action has been taken against any guard for laxity, prison officials said, as there was no evidence that any had failed to exercise the greatest care and vigilance.

SAN FRANCISCO CALL-BULLETIN

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"It was simply a case of being unable to be more than one place at the same time," Warden Johnston said.

CELL BREAKERS GRILLED

With Bennett's arrival from Washington the four survivors of the attempted break—three in solitary and one in the prison hospital—faced renewed grilling.

Bennett was expected to lead the questioning of Dale Stamphill, shot in both legs but reported improving in the prison hospital after being near death from loss of blood.

The other three in solitary confinement are Rufus McCain, bank robber and kidnaper; Henri Young, bank robber, and William Martin, Negro, postoffice robber. Previous questioning by prison officials revealed nothing to solve the riddle of the escape, it was reported.

OUTSIDE AID HUNTED

Possibility that the escape conspirators might have counted on outside aid in their escape was still being considered, but no evidence to support this theory has been uncovered, Warden Johnston said.

The body of Barker, former co-leader of the notorious Barker-Karpis gang, serving life for the $200,000 Bremer kidnaping, lay at the morgue here, awaiting claim from his father, George Barker of Joplin, Mo.

Barker, shot in the head and leg when he ignored guards' orders to halt at the water's edge, died in the prison hospital late Friday.

An inquest into his death will be set later in the week, Coroner T. B. W. Leland said, probably for Thursday.

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JAN 16 1939

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WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

JAN 24 1939

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Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

SAN FRANCISCO--A CORONER'S JURY TODAY RECOMMENDED THAT THE FEDERAL PRISON AT ALCATRAZ ISLAND IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY BE MOVED TO SOME OTHER LOCATION.

1/24 ON542P

ADD ALCATRAZ, SAN FRANCISCO

THE JURY DELIBERATED ON THE DEATH OF ARTHUR (DOC) BARKER, ONE-TIME GANGSTER, KILLED BY GUARDS WHEN HE ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE WITH FIVE OTHER CONVICTS FROM THE ISLAND. IT RETURNED A VERDICT THAT BARKER MET DEATH "AT THE HANDS OF GUARDS UNKNOWN."

THE JURY'S VERDICT ADDED THAT SAN FRANCISCO CITIZENS SHOULD "UNITE TO HAVE A MORE SUITABLE LOCATION UTILIZED FOR IMPRISONMENT OF THE TYPE OF DESPERADOES AT PRESENT ON ALCATRAZ."

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76-4173-A

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WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

JAN 21 1939

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Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

SAN FRANCISCO--DISTRICT ATTORNEY MATTHEW BRADY TODAY URGED ABANDONMENT OF ALCATRAZ AS A FEDERAL PRISON.

AROUSED BY LAST WEEK'S ATTEMPTED BREAK, BRADY RECOMMENDED THAT THE SAN FRANCISCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE START A DRIVE TO HAVE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TRANSFER ITS "DEVIL'S ISLAND" ELSEWHERE.

THE RECOMMENDATION WAS IN A LETTER TO MARSHALL DILL, NEW PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

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76-4175-A

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X-RAY EYES HUNT SAWS USED IN ALCATRAZ PRISON BREAK

SAN FRANCISCO NEWS

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JAN 14 1938

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OFFICIALS HERE AND IN EAST ARE WORRIED

Portable Scientific Devices Balked in Search for Convicts' Escape Tools

U.S. DIRECTOR ON WAY HERE

Bennett to Arrive Monday to Join Warden Johnston in Investigation

Portable "electric eyes" peered over every suspected inch of Alcatraz today as an alarmed Government sought the gaping hole that criminal cunning has knocked in The Rock's vaunted impregnability.

But after more than 24 hours of search, these and other scientific devices had not found the saws which five felons yesterday used to escape their cells.

One convict, notorious Arthur (Doc) Barker, died last night of wounds from guards' rifles when the men were found at the water's edge.

Dale Stamphill, Oklahoma lifer who was also wounded, still was in a serious condition but doctors gave him a good chance for life. The three others surrendered.

Officials Worried

"We have not found the saws, and nothing else has developed," said sleepy-voiced Warden James A. Johnston. He had been up most of the night, after being routed out at 4 a. m. the night before.

Behind his casual and uncommunicative comment lay deep worry among officialdom here and in Washington.

Prison Director Coming

Though the warden would not say so, yesterday's bloody break brought the most serious threat to the prison's security since it was established in 1933—that is why Director of Prisons James V. Bennett is coming here from Washington.

There have been other island escape attempts that were more spectacular without bringing Mr. Bennett here on the run. He will arrive Monday.

He and Warden Johnston want the answers to these questions:

From where came the saws, obviously numerous and of good quality to bite through specially treated steel?

How, in so brief a time, could five convicts in five separate cells saw through five separate doors and then through an outside corridor window? They are checked hourly.

And if they did it over a period of days, why did not routine inspections discover their work?

Why did not the magnetic detectors ("electric eyes") find the saws as they were brought into the main cell block?

If the saws were slipped in from a prison workshop, why did not the daily equipment count disclose their absence?

There were other questions, too, but these were enough to make the warden red-eyed from loss of sleep.

Portable Electric Eyes

The warden disclosed for the first time that the prison is equipped with portable electric eyes, now searching out every conceivable place that the saws might be hidden.

The magnetic detectors or electric eyes are stationed at several points in the main cellblock, and should disclose any metal object, no matter how small, that a convict might try to take into his cell with him, said the warden.

There was always the possibility, too, that the convicts threw them into the Bay.

He does not believe that the saws

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MORE ABOUT

ALCATRAZ

(Continued From Page 1)

came from off the island, Mr. Johnston said.

He would not venture an opinion as to whether the convicts had worked several nights sawing the bars.

"That's awfully hard to say," he explained. "I hesitate to conjecture."

Meanwhile Coroner T. B. W. Leland announced that an inquest would be held next week into the death of Barker.

Services for Barker

Barker's body was brought to the mainland last night and placed in the W. C. Lasswell mortuary. From there, unless Barker's aged father in Missouri claims the body, funeral services will be held next week.

The mortician, who has the Government contract for burying bodies of unclaimed prisoners, said "simple but respectful" services would be conducted.

Barker's death at 40 ended a criminal career that began when he was a boy in the lead and zinc mining country of the Ozark Hills. It wipes out all but one of the criminal Barker family—a brother in Leavenworth.

The other convicts in the escape attempt, Henry Young, 38, Rufus McCain, 36, and William Martin, 35, got the customary solitary treatment.

Sixth Fatal Attempt

Barker was the sixth man to die a violent death in efforts of felons to beat the Rock—sixth, that is, if the Government is right in its belief that Ralph Roe and Ted Cole drowned.

One of these six was a guard, Royal C. Cline, slain last spring by Rufus Franklin and James Lucas in the escape plot that brought death to Thomas Limerick. The other was Joe (Dutch) Bowers, mail robber, shot as he attempted to scale the fence.

This latest chapter of prison violence began in the year's densest fog shortly before 4 a. m. yesterday when the five crept from their cells in the main cell block. Down the corridor they crept, through a corridor window and down to the ground.

To Water's Edge

Eluding the guard watch in the fog, they ran and slid down to the island's Golden Gate side, scaled a high fence and scrambled down a short cliff to the water's edge.

It was there that guards, called from bed when the absence of the felons from their cells was discovered at 4 a. m., picked out the group in the fog. Young and McClain gave up without a struggle.

Rifles brought down Barker and Stamphill when they ran.

Martin was found separately, desperately attempting to fashion a driftwood raft.

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ALCATRAZ TENSION MOUNTS BECAUSE SAWS USED FOR ESCAPE ARE STILL MISSING

Blades Not Traced Beyond Corridor Where Convicts Cut Through Barred Windows; May Be Lost in Bay Waters

Tiny saw blades—to desperate convicts a treasure greater than gold, to prison keepers a threat as serious as guns—are suspended like swords over the heads of Alcatraz officialdom. So long as those saw blades are missing—and today Warden James A. Johnston was directing the fourth day of a minute but fruitless search—The Rock remains ripe for another prison break bloodier even, perhaps, than the one which Friday ended the life of notorious Arthur (Doc) Barker.

The Rock Tense

The Rock is tense and restless, gripped by the uncertainty of things to come. Guards move with a nervous alertness. Convicts are sullen and watchful.

Into this atmosphere, due sometime today, comes Director of Prisons James V. Bennett from Washington—his hurried trip indicates how important to the Department of Justice are those saws.

Where could they be?

Cut Through Bars

Five convicts used them last Thursday night to saw out of five separate cells in the main cellblock. The convicts took them from the cells into the corridor to saw through the barred corridor window. There the trace of them ends.

At Washington, Science Service suggested that the saws might be made by carboloy, the tungsten carbide and cobalt material which ranks next to diamond in hardness. Nonmetal, it would not be detected by the prison "electric eyes."

The convicts reached water's edge before they were caught. They could have thrown the blades into the Bay. But officials do not believe so.

To The Rock's desperate men those blades are priceless. They were left behind by the escaping felons for others who would wait another foggy night. That is what officials fear. And that is why an air of foreboding hangs over Alcatraz.

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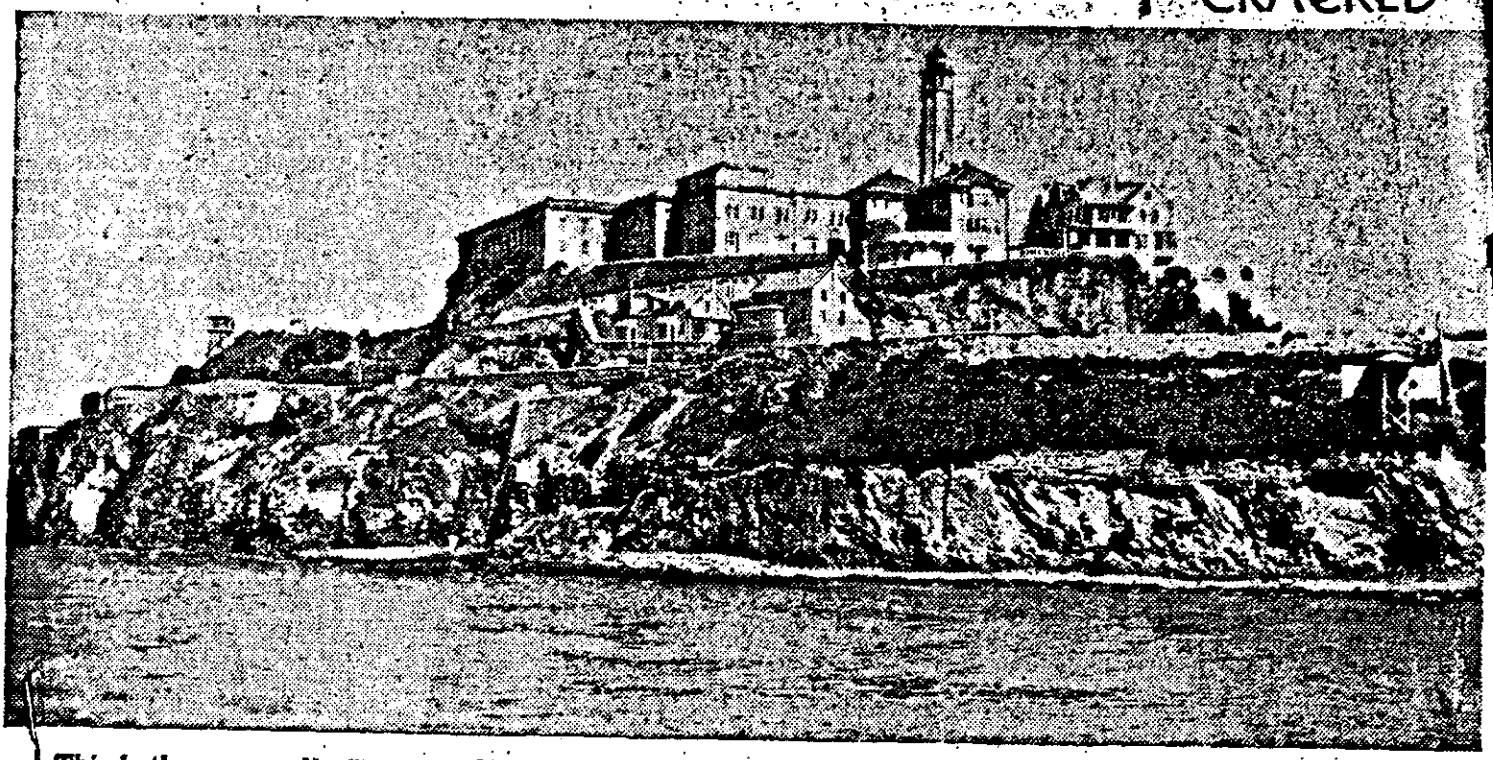
Inside Story of Break At Alcatraz Revealed

'THE ROCK' CRACKED



This is the supposedly "impregnable" Federal Prison at Alcatraz Island, in San Francisco Bay. However, two prisoners have actually escaped, and five others sawed their way to freedom last week. The five were captured before they could escape to the mainland—but not before two had been shot, one fatally. International News photo.

Saws Abound in Rock' Cells, Says Former Inmate

While prison authorities today sought the solution of how five men were able to saw their way out of their Alcatraz cells, P. F. Reed, former convict, declares that despite all precautions, dozens of saws are circulating among the prison colony.

This article, first of two by the author of "Murder on Alcatraz" who spent four years on the island, again "lifts the lid."

By P. F. REED.

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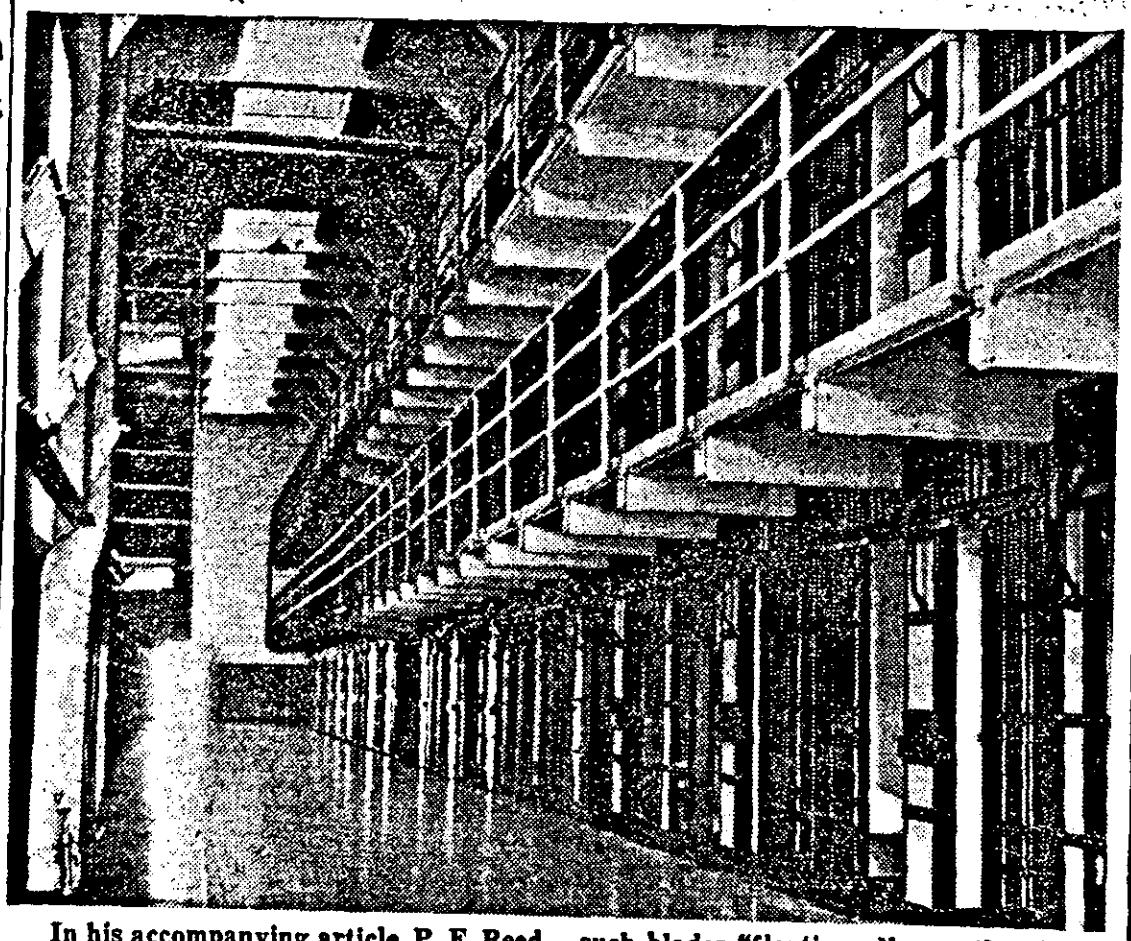
SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 16.—The "electric stool pigeons' you have heard so much about are a long ways from fool proof.

And Uncle Sam, who spent plenty of money to make the Rock 'briar proof," economized on hack saw blades.

That is the reason Arthur "Doc" Barker, one of the worst troublemakers and agitators they've ever had out on the Rock, is dead and the bars on five cell doors will have to be fixed.

Barker, "Casey" Young, Rufus McCain, Rale Stamphill and Bill Martin sawed their way out of their cells—or had the sawing done for them—with blades that have been floating around the shop for more than two years.



In his accompanying article, P. F. Reed declares that the steel bars, used in the cells, were not at all impervious to hacksaws—and also declares that there were such blades "floating all over the place." Here is one of the cell blocks—airy, light and clean, the most up-to-date prison in the world.

Guard Tells of Losing

ck Saw Blades

I was working in the butcher hop about June, 1936 when a hard-mechanic came in to fix a ompressor that broke down and ooded the joint.

He was a loud-mouthed, loose-pped screw. He told me that he'd t a package of new hack saw ades. He said the ones the vernment furnished him weren't good and he bought some of own. Then he lost them.

The loss was never reported beise he was afraid of what would ppen if the warden found out out it. And he never located m. They've been circulating r since. There's a hundred ces around the cell-house, parlarly in the kitchen basement, re they could have been ted.

des Can Be Hidden

les of Shoes

ould be a simple matter to blades into the cell block he kitchen. How? Simply by plastering them to the recessed botton of the slop cans which frequently pass from the kitchen into the cell block. Even sandwiches have been brought in that way.

Any of the kitchen help or the cell-house runners who have access to the cell block after 8:30 in the morning could have carried the blades in. The kitchen help are allowed to wear belts and it would be easy for them to slip the top of their pants, stick in a couple of blades and cinch their belts up tight.

When they go through the door, they get only a rough fan. For that matter, the blades could have been carried in inside their shoe soles, slit the seam of a sewn shoe sole and slip a blade into the leather—as simple as that.

The blades could have been carried indefinitely without serious danger. In the first place there isn't a mechanical stool pigeon between the kitchen and the cell block. But even if there had been, it would have been safe enough.

I had bet Alley T. Anderson one time that he couldn't carry metal through one of them and he won the bet. He carried a half-inch steel bar about a foot long through the gadget and it didn't let out a chirp. Another time a mechanic packed a crescent wrench through two steel pigeons. He made two trips and the machine didn't turn a whisker.

Finds Bars of Own Cell Sawed Quarter Way

As for the cell and window bars being impregnable to hack saw blades—that's a lot of baloney. I have been able to vouch for that ever since I drew my first cell assignment. I was parked in the center block and after a short residence discovered one of the bars sawed through a quarter of the way. I squawked for a cell change pronto. I had no desire to be present when the thing was discovered.

Another sample that didn't get any publicity showed up in the hospital late in 1937. Somebody sawed their way through a window bar in the hospital. It was prepared for six months before they hauled in a welding outfit and fixed it up. Then it wasn't discovered. An old con, whom I understand was later transferred to Springfield, put the finger on it. They never did explain where those hack saw blades came from, but they were floating all over the joint.

Believes Guards Slept During Bar Sawing

When the stir went up over there, they talked a lot about how the bars would resist any hack saw blades. If that's the case, why are they so worried about saw blades getting loose?

The blades and the bars would have been a mark for any con in the place. But the real question is how they got the bars sawed without being seen or heard by the cell block guards.

I can figure only one answer to that. The screws went to sleep.

There are always two of them on duty on the catwalks at the ends of the cell block, day and night, one at each end. At night there's a floor guard who's sup-

Continued on Page 6, Column 1.

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posed to make the rounds of the tiers every half hour. Besides these, there's a lieutenant who's in and out all night long.

During the day two guards are on the floor, and there is always one on each catwalk. All of them, unless they fall asleep or just don't want to see, have a full view of the block from end to end. The walls are as bare as a pool table and as light as day in both ends and down the side corridors.

Guard on Catwalk Snores in Afternoon

I've seen a guard on the catwalk dead to the world. I came out of the kitchen at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and you could hear him snoring all over the block. He's a big Swede and used to be a lumberjack. There he sat with his feet propped up on the bars on the cellhouse side. Any con could have stepped up on a desk below the catwalk and snatched the gun. I stopped and watched him for a minute. He snored right on, with his mouth open a foot, through all the noise of the cons walking down the tiers on their way to take a bath.

Another time, 25 or 30 cons in the kitchen saw a screw in the tower snoring away. They could look through the kitchen window and see him with his head tilted back next to the telephone so he could hear the bell if it rang.

That happened so many times later the kitchen help used to kid him. He'd say he was being fed so good he was getting so fat he couldn't help it. He weighed 140 when he came in on the bum and weighed 235 when he left. Incidentally, he was the same guy who lost the blades.

Cons in Break Had to Pass Locked Wire Gate

To get from their cells to the window they went through, those five cons had to pass down a long corridor, turn a corner within 2 feet of the catwalk screw and then go through a locked wire gate.

You tell me how they got a key to that gate and maybe I'll tell you how they did it without being seen or heard when it's so quiet a cough sounds like a cannon shot.

Although it's strictly against the rules, some of the guards over there have been known to drink. But they wouldn't all be drunk at once. They could have been asleep. I'm certain no Federal employe could be fixed, although one free man was canned for bringing money into the cons along late in 1935.

There was a heavy fog Friday morning when the boys went out the window. That gives the outside crew an out, even though the cons had to parade through an oscillating searchlight as bright as a navy battleship's. They also had to dodge a prowl car which patrols the island all night with a couple of guards in it.

Prisoners Had to Pass Under Guard Towers

The way they came out they missed the wire fence, but they must have passed across a broad patch of lawn in the glare of the light and almost under one of the main guard towers—within 100 feet of where Joe Bowers was killed in 1937 trying to climb the incinerator fence.

The way the thing worked makes it obvious that it was planned for months in advance. The circumstances make it impossible for the break to have been one undertaken on the spur of the moment.

Barker unquestionably was the leader of the gang because he was the only one who had any guts and a little sense mixed with it. There's also the fact that there have been five attempts to escape Alcatraz, and he was cut in on all of them but two.

The second trick, when Ralph and Ted Cole went out the mat shop window and disappeared, he was kept in the cell house. There were five others besides Barker supposed to go that time. Three out of the five were in the shop when Roe and Cole pushed out the window they'd had fixed for weeks, climbed to the ground, twisted the lock off the gate and disappeared, headed for the Golden Gate.

Roe and Cole Believed Drowned in Escape

The D. J.'s claim Roe and Cole drowned trying to swim the Gate, but 80 per cent of the cons believe they're free and going strong.

Anyway, they gave Barker and the rest the double-cross because they didn't even tell the three who were in the mat shop that they were on their way. They just scrammed. The other two lost their guts and watched them until they were off Little Alcatraz, a rock jutting out of the water 50 feet from the island proper.

Barker missed again when they

Barker's Alcatraz Death Predicted by P. F. Reed

Doc Barker's fate was in the cards.

Two months ago, in the New York Journal and American, P. F. Reed, Alcatraz ex-convict, hinted of trouble to come:

"He (Barker) has been in more trouble than anyone on the Rock..."

The Doc's trouble-making ended in death following an ill-fated bolt for freedom.

P. F. Reed tells all about it today—and will tell more in tomorrow's instalment of this gripping "inside" story.

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found the phoney bar in the hospital. So did four others. They couldn't all get sick at the same time and that's why the stage was set for so long without any action.

Again, last May 23, Barker was left in the lurch when Limerick, Lucas and Franklin killed Cline and climbed up to the roof of the model shop building. Limerick was knocked off and Franklin was crippled in the deal.

Barker would probably have got his then if he'd been in the position to be there.

Barker Let Out Only On Special Occasions

But that was after the Cole and Roe beef and Barker was laid in and wasn't let out except on special occasions. These were when an army transport would come in and they'd need extra men in the laundry. The rest of the cons were logical candidates for the caper.

"Casey" Young was nothing but a loud-mouthed kid, with a lot of gab and no guts. But he had a record as a trouble-maker. He also had a reputation—or thought he had—that he had to keep up in there. The only thing that pushed him into this was his reputation, not guts.

Stamphill Once Tried to Flee Reform School

Rufus McCain was an ex-convict gun guard at Tucker Farm, Arkansas. He wasn't very well thought of on the Rock. He was the one who carried in the shiv on the Cline beef and attempted to cut another con's throat.

The popular opinion was that he was in on the Cline deal and that it turned out to be a little too rough for him. So he had to pull something to get himself locked up and safely out of the way. That way they couldn't say he was yellow.

Stamphill is nothing but a punk kid, too. With the time he's got —life—he naturally thinks he's tough and he's trying to convince everybody else. He's had three or four fights and lost every one of them. His hottest performan was an attempt to escape from a Oklahoma reform school.

I don't remember Martin, al- though I might if I had a pictur of him.

With a line-up like that, it nat urally becomes a question why th officials didn't take more precau tions to make sure they wouldn figure a new angle for checkin of the Rock.

After all, the Cline case show the cons they had nothing to lo by attempting to break, espe cially those doing life. It looke like the worst they could get wa a bullet or another life sentence And, after all, what's one life sentence more or less.

(Another of the series of stories about Alcatraz, by P. T. Reed, author of "Murder on Alcatraz," will appear in the New York ournal and American tomorrow.)

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Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Hire Six 'Mourners' to Bury 'Doc' Barker

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 18.—(AP)—Arthur ("Doc") Barker, notorious midwestern murderer and kidnaper, was buried yesterday while prison officials tried to unravel the mystery of how he led an attempted break from "impregnable" Alcatraz. Six dry-eyed men, all paid for their presence, stood beside the grave as Barker was buried.

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Escapes, Mutinies on Alcatraz Recounted

The recent history of eerie Alcatraz, the rock-like, somber home of big shots of crimeland, has been punctuated many times by spectacular breaks, mutinies and riots since it became a federal prison.

Not the least among these upheavals was the one in 1939 when Arthur ("Doc") Barker was killed, ~~another was shot and~~ three other luckless badmen were recaptured after a wild gun battle.

With Doc Baker was Dale Stamphill, 27, who was serving life for kidnaping. He was shot, but later recovered.

Rufus McGain, 36, 99-year termer for bank robbery and kidnaping; Henry Young, 28, doing twenty years for bank robbery, and William Martin, 25, Negro, gave up without a struggle when Barker fell victim of guardsmen's guns.

But this break was short-lived. It lasted just long enough for the five to saw five bars from their windows and make a run for it.

TWO ESCAPE

Another sensational break, one that has never been solved, came in December of 1937, two years before the Doc Barker break, when Ralph Roe, 29 year old robber, and Theodore Cole, 23, one of the Oklahoma badlands boys, made a successful crash from the prison and vanished in the fog-shrouded bay, never to be heard from again.

Whether they made good their getaway has always been problematical, for their disappearance was complete—their bodies were never recovered.

Cole and Roe had steeled themselves for the bitterly cold waters of the bay by taking increasingly longer cold showers in the Rock's bathhouse for days before they turned up missing.

PHANTOM BOAT SOUGHT

A "phantom boat" was sought for years in connection with the break, authorities believing confederates of the desperadoes might have assisted them after they had cleared the fogbound island by swimming.

Less sensational and more quietly conceived and executed attempts to break from the Rock have been listed down through the years since the U. S. government took over Alcatraz for its Number One stronghold for the former Number One badmen of the country.

100 IN MUTINY

But there have been repeated flare ups and riots, stabbings and killings. January 21, 1936, found 100 prisoners in a wild mutiny. Participants were put on bread and water and were jammed into solitary.

April 27, of the same year, Joe ("Dutch") Bowers, Butte County postoffice robber, was shot and killed by a guard as he made a run for it from the prisoners' line.

CAPONE STABBED

June 23, 1936, found the most famous prisoner of all, Al Capone, the "Scarface" of old Chicago gangdom, stabbed and seriously wounded by James C. Lucas, a bank robber. Lucas blamed Capone for not joining in the mutiny in April.

Warden James A. Johnston was slugged by Burton Phillips, Kansas kidnaper, during a six-day sit-down strike in September of 1937. The warden, a strong man, had gone into the prison dining-room to talk to the prisoners, when Phillips stepped up and broke the warden's jaw.

Edward Wutke, 36 year old murderer, slashed his wrists and throat with a stolen razor November 13, 1937, and died before he could be taken to the infirmary.

Alcatraz prisoners, from time to time, have attempted to slug their guards or to make a sprint for freedom as they were taken to and from federal court in San Francisco.

GIRL MAKES SWIM

Anastasia Scott, 17 year old high school swimmer, negotiated the swim in 1937, after Cole and Roe got away.

Before Alcatraz became Uncle Sam's "toughest" prison, it was an Army prison. In 1901, W. W. Vaughan, an incarcerated soldier, escaped and swam to the mainland.

In 1912, Thomas Franey and Michael Mullin made their way to shore on an improvised raft, swimming part of the way. And in 1918, four soldiers escaped by swimming while their fellow prisoners were eating Thanksgiving dinner.

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