

DIRECTOR, FBI

5/20/60

LEGAT, BONN (105-1122)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORTED PLAN OF ASSASSINATION OF  
PRESIDENT EISENHOWER

Re Bonn letter 4/14/60.

On 5/16/60

stated that he [redacted] been informed that [redacted] had been sentenced to three months imprisonment for having written letters threatening the assassination of President Eisenhower and that as the time he was held for investigation was to be counted as part of his sentence served, he was to be released on 7/4/60.

On 5/18/60, the enclosed 51 pages of material concerning the police action against [redacted] were received from [redacted]. From this material it appears that [redacted] admitted writing the letters in question on a typewriter belonging to his brother-in-law, [redacted]. Although [redacted] at first claimed an Algerian had influenced him to write the letters, he later admitted that he had said this in order to avoid complete responsibility for his acts and confessed that he had no connections whatsoever with the FLN (Algerian Front de Liberation Nationale - Algerian Freedom Front). He claimed the sole reason for his actions was to obtain a pardon for CARYL CHESSMAN. According to [redacted] he expected to obtain money for his activity had CHESSMAN been pardoned. [redacted] stated that he had received the phonograph record concerning CHESSMAN from GEORGE DAVIS, CHESSMAN's defense counsel with whom he had corresponded. This is the recording which he later sent to the Rastatt newspaper "Badisches Tageblatt." [redacted] has a criminal record of twelve arrests from 1942 to 1959, including convictions for forgery and fraud.

The enclosed material in the German language has not been translated, as this is not considered necessary.

Any further information which may be received in this matter will be transmitted.

HUC

3 - Bureau (Enc. 51)

1 - Bonn

(4) HUC:tlc

NOT RECORDED

141 JUN 2 1960

6/9/80  
CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-2 Jap/Smt/ltc  
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2/2-1.3  
DATE OF REVIEW 6-9-90

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

64 JUN 23 1960

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 100-360000-316





El Paso, Texas

Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Malone  
Mr. McGowan  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Ingram  
Miss Gandy

Dear Gentlemen,

I write you this letter to tell you what I feel about you. I'm sure your satisfied about what you did to Chessman.

Now that they found the real man that you wanted Terranova you don't want him to have any evidence because then all the world would know that you are nothing then murderers.

Now I wonder what your going to do to the real man. Torture him like you did Chessman for 12 years. Or your going to let him go so nobody will know he was the real one.

You couldn't wait to find the real man. But you had to sentence Chessman to the gas chamber, did you?

I bet you have not sent no magazine or paper to Europe that says that you've found the real man. No wonder they call that judge "the hanging judge. I hope the death of Chessman will chase you to your funeral.

I hope Argosy reporters will keep their promise to Chessman & clear him for good.

/s/ [REDACTED]

P. S. And it was the governor's fault.

COPY - 1  
rm

67C  
Amish memorial  
Cherry Creek 10/10/66  
7/7/66  
8-11014

# CHESSMAN CASE SUSPECT NABBED

## Los Angeles Man Arrested In El Paso



RESEMBLANCE?—Is there a resemblance between Saverio Terranova, left, and Caryl Chessman, right? Picture shown of Terranova was taken from Los Angeles police files. When arrested here, Terranova wore a mustache.

El Paso Herald - Post  
El Paso, Texas  
June 25, 1960

ENCLOSURE 44-7760-62

SAC, Los Angeles

7-13-60

Director, FBI

STANLEY FRASER

FBI #44-143-311

PUBLICATION OF IDENTIFICATION RECORD

Argosy magazine for July, 1960, contains article prepared by William Read Woodfield and Milt Macklin regarding Caryl Chessman who was executed 5-2-60, in California.

Page 108 of this magazine, which is enclosed, carries reproduction of portion of FBI record of Fraser, who was said to transcribe court reporter's notes after Mason's death. Magazine's reproduction appears to be made from a Photostat of a copy of the record which was prepared 3-13-53, and from the checkmark appearing after the last entry was mailed to the Sheriff's Office, Los Angeles, California. The fingerprint jacket in the Bureau verified the fact that copy of record was prepared 3-13-53, and transmitted to the Sheriff's Office, Los Angeles, in response to fingerprint card submitted by that agency on 3-8-53.

Los Angeles contact Sheriff's Office, uncertain as to dissemination latter office has made of Fraser's record and their explanations for appearance of record in magazine. You should point out to them that the language appearing at the top of the FBI record states it is furnished "for official use only."

Submit results of your contact and Sheriff's Office explanations to Bureau, attention Identification Division, together with your recommendations for continuing FBI identification services to the Sheriff's Office.

Each are

63

WCA:rlm

(5)

JUL 18 1960

COMM-FBI

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Bishop  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holmes  
Miss Gandy

50 JUL 17 1960

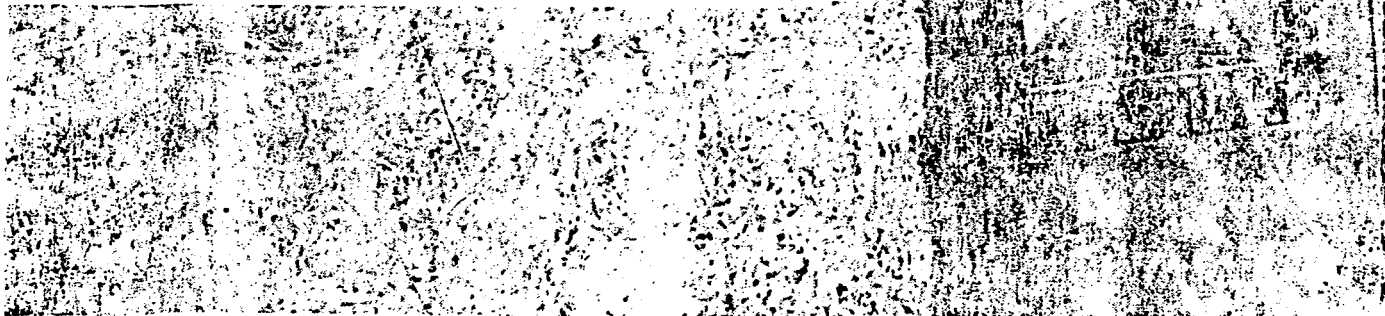
TELETYPE UNIT

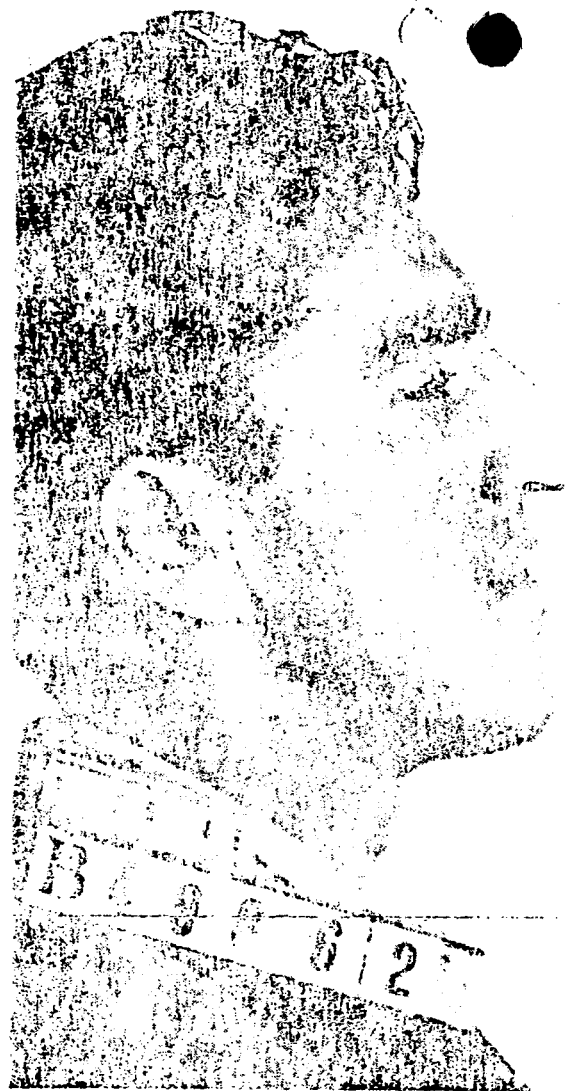
THE  
EVIDENCE  
THAT  
SHOULD  
HAVE  
SAVED  
CHESSMAN!

ARCOSY's reporting team gave  
Caryl Chessman his last chance  
to beat the gas chamber.

His dying wish was that ARCOSY  
use that evidence to clear him  
of the Red Light crimes

by William Read Woodfield and Milt Machlin





WHAT WERE THE "RED LIGHT" CRIMES? In the first weeks of 1935 Los Angeles was terrorized by a series of crimes in which a car equipped with a red spotlight, similar to those used on police cars, preyed on couples parked in lovers' lanes. The couples were relieved of cash and property, and in many cases the girl involved was molested. Descriptions of the bandit and his techniques varied, but most agreed that a red spotlight was used. Local papers called these "The Red Light Bandit Crimes." On January twenty-fourth, the day after the last of the Red Light complaints, Chessman, with his friend David Knoles, held up a clothing store. He was caught in a wild gunshot-punctuated chase not far from where some of the Red Light crimes had been committed. He had a bad record, a wise-guy attitude and was a known cop hater. The police decided they had their Red Light Bandit.

At 10:00:15 a.m., on May second, a handful of cyanide pellets plopped into their deadly acid bath and a smell of peach blossoms filled the small, green room. A minute later, Cary Chessman threw back his head in a final soundless chuckle and breathed the first of the fumes that were to put a stop, for the moment, to his twelve-year fight for justice in California's notorious Red Light Bandit case. Three minutes later, his head snapped in a final gasp. A spick of saliva oozed from his mouth, staining the white shirt worn by all death-cell victims. Eight minutes and fifteen seconds after the start of the gas generation,

William Lloyd Woodfield - Globe

Mug shot of Chessman (left) taken two days after arrest (note date above number) shows large, dark scab on head (see also full-face shot on facing page). Police medical report, below, same date, says: "No marks, scars or bruises, none claimed." Police, to date, give no explanation for apparent discrepancy.

Read Woodfield - Globe

LOS ANGELES COUNTY JAIL HOSPITAL

E. W. DISBAUGH, SHERIFF

NAME		NUMBER	TYPE
Chessman, Cary W.		49862	10-A-
RACE	AGE	CLASSIFICATION	CHARGE
W	26	L. A. P. D.	U. Par.
DATE	TIME	INITIAL	
5-26-35	11:15	High Power inspection, reveals no marks, scars or bruises, none claimed	
		W. G. Thornton	
		R. A. Beach	



was pronounced dead by San Francisco officials. As those last moments of life were passing, Augoss's investigation team was working desperately against the clock to save the execution long enough to before the work *proof* that Gary Chessman was innocent. That proof existed on May second, and evidence then in the hands of California authorities clear-called for a complete investigation of the highly suspicious background of this case. Governor Pat Brown, Attorney General Stanley Mosk and Cecil Loe, the governor's Clemency Secretary, announced that the Augoss evidence—evidence filed by Chessman's attorneys in the famous convict's last plea for clemency—was not enough to convince them that a further investigation should be launched to establish once and for all what the facts are behind this world-famous case. *Here, for the first time, are those facts.*

On April fifth, a little less than a month before Chessman's scheduled execution, the editors assigned Los Angeles writer William Read Woodfield to get Gary Chessman's last statement. We entered the case through open fields, like the rest of the world. The editors, publisher and writer approached the story with no preconceptions—except one, which was held by the public at large. We believed there was absolutely no shadow of Chessman's guilt. Hadn't the prosecutor, the governor and the California newspapers stated many times over that the evidence in the Chessman case was "overwhelming"?

One week after getting the assignment, Woodfield called and said that we would have to consider a rather different story. "For as far as I can tell, the case is innocent. I'm forwarding a preliminary report that you should consider now."

The report, even without the evidence unearthed in subsequent investigation, was so convincing that it was ordered to fly immediately to the coast to help in the further inquiry. (Continued on page 40)

Charles Bonney—Black Star



Evidence used in Chessman's last writ of habeas corpus is released to press by authors Muchlin (left) and Woodfield (center). In background is private investigator Bill Lohrman, Chessman's attorney, George F. Davis is at right. Sketch is of Terranova.

## The Evidence That Should Have Saved Chessman CONTINUED

William Read Woodfield—Globe



Chessman (left) named Terranova (right) as probable Red Light Bandit. Augoss identified man as Charles S. Terranova, an ex-con with long criminal record, and former jail-mate of Chessman. Terranova fit descriptions of bandit exactly, down to scar. Chessman didn't. Despite Terranova's long crime record, cops said they knew of no such man.

Under the pressure of a deadline—the like of which few reporters had ever faced, Woodfield was working night and day with Chessman's private investigator, William H. Linhart, and his attorneys, George T. Davis and Rosalie Asher, in a desperate attempt to unearth, after twelve years, new evidence of Chessman's innocence. An examination of the trial evidence would be enough to convince any jury that Chessman was not guilty of the two kidnapping-sex offenses for which he was sentenced to death. But the court does not re-hear a case on its merits once a jury has passed on it. The high courts were interested only in *new* evidence, which Woodfield was on the brink of unearthing when I arrived on the West Coast.

Biggest stumbling block to our investigation was Chessman himself. He had decided for reasons which have not yet become completely clear, that he would rather die than be known as a stool pigeon. He refused to help us discover who the real Red Light Bandit was, although it was obvious that he knew.

## THE MYTH

CARYL CHESSMAN was caught in a police trap shortly after commission of dozens of bestial sex crimes on women and girls in the Los Angeles area. When he was caught, all victims identified him positively and he admitted the crimes. He is also believed to have committed murder. He has never repented of these crimes, one of which sent a girl straight to a mental hospital, where she awaits only Chessman's death for a full recovery. He is an evil genius who, by a series of amazingly clever and involved legal gimmicks, has managed to take advantage of our court system to stay alive far longer than he had any right to. He is a depressed and confirmed sex maniac and deserved no better fate than the gas chamber.

This myth, distorted as it was, was lethal in its effect.

Almost to the day of Chessman's death, papers often referred to him as a murderer, rapist, or both. A few days after his execution, the New York Herald Tribune, in a two-column headline, still implied that he was a killer.

Working on pop pills and coffee, Linhart, Woodfield and I checked out lead after lead. The answer, which appeared two days after my arrival, was ironically contained right in the police records and trial testimony.

It had been a long time since anyone had seriously gone into the records of the original crimes. For the past seven years, Chessman's battles had been fought purely on legal grounds. The seven-year figure was to prove significant.

In the police records of Chessman's original grilling by the police at the time of his arrest, we found what we were looking for.

"The guy you want is Terranova," Chessman told the cops back in January of 1948. "He's been pulling the spotlight and sex jobs."

He went on to give a general description of the man: "He's about five feet ten inches tall, 180 pounds, and a fast talker," Chessman told them.

The cops at the time apparently weren't able to locate a body named Terranova

## THE FACTS

CHESSMAN was caught in a chase involving a clothing-store holdup, one day after the last of the Red Light crimes. Neither he nor his car answered descriptions then existing of the Red Light Bandit. In fact, until he was captured, it was assumed that there was more than one such bandit. Identifications were vague and in most cases made without benefit of a police lineup, usual in such procedures. The girl victim of the Red Light bandit did not go to Camarillo State Hospital until nearly two years after she was attacked. No psychiatrist has been willing to say her mental illness was caused by the attack.

Chessman had an I.Q. of about 130, far above average, but far below the genius level. His ability to keep his case in court so long had been largely due to admitted judicial error and the many serious gaps in proper conduct of the trial. All psychiatrists who have examined him declared he was "incapable" of committing the sex-crimes with which he was charged.

who could conceivably be the Red Light Bandit. No Terranova was questioned. No photo of Terranova was shown to the victims of the Red Light Bandit. Terranova was a ghost, a figment of Chessman's well-known, vivid imagination, apparently. The police questioned Chessman for three days before booking him. Reports indicate that he lost more than twelve pounds during that period. Finally, say the cops, he broke down and made some damaging admissions that convinced them they had the right man. Chessman claimed he was beaten, kicked in the groin, hit in the stomach, and otherwise persuaded to talk. Three witnesses who were in the county high-power tank with Chessman testified that he showed evidence of having been brutally worked over. The prosecution produced a number of witnesses who said they *didn't* see Chessman worked over. Certainly it was the kind of a beef made by every habitual criminal who has made damaging admissions to the police. Chessman named an L.A. police officer as the man who beat him, and offered to let the detective test his claim, and a whole defense case on the results. The offer was declined. Chessman was released, but had lost weight and had a bruise on his forehead. Chessman has since claimed that all the time he was in the tank he was being worked over by the cops. No one ever took him up on this.

It was on the question of these beatings that Angus turned up an interesting new point of evidence. It shows up clearly in the photographs accompanying this story. A police medical report, dated 1/28/48, two days after Chessman's arrest, reads: "High-power inspection reveals no marks, scars or bruise," it is claimed. It is signed by two police medical officers.

Yet, a police mug shot of Chessman taken the same day reveals a scar on his forehead as big as two postage stamps. Why was this not mentioned in the police medical examination? A later entry in the medical report, dated 5/13/48, says: "After call from Al Matthews (the public defender), subject was brought back for re-inspection. . . . subject claims scar on hair line and right thigh or groin. As I recall this man after talking to him this morning when first inspection occurred, the man was bragging of having nothing wrong with him, and of not being sick after being asked by the undersigned."

This addition to Chessman's record was written three months after his alleged beating. It is obviously an attempt to explain away the cut on Chessman's head which had shown up in all the photographs taken of Chessman at the time of his police booking.

Why did the police fail to make a record of that cut at the time of Chessman's examination?

Chessman's main enterprise in 1948, he has admitted, was sticking up and shaking down brothels and bookie joints, most of which were operating with police protection. This does much to explain his unpopularity with the law around L. A. at this time.

Shortly after Chessman's arrest, the police released to a sensational weekly newspaper the information that Chessman had attacked a girl named Joyce Peters. The

ties. It also listed a number of bestial sex crimes attributed to Chessman by police, and alleged he had confessed to all of them. No official record of these alleged offenses, either in the form of a complaint or a police report, has appeared.

But it was subsequently proved that Chessman was induced to give false testimony, that she was a prostitute, a long-time acquaintance of Chessman's and member of the police-dominated organized vice scene of the Los Angeles area. Chessman's accusations were never substantiated. After Peterson disappeared shortly after this incident and has never been seen again. It is our belief, and was of Chessman, that if she is still alive, she could do much to explain this puzzling fact.

Think it's unlikely that the L. A. cops would have acted like that? In a national magazine article only a few months ago, was brought out that the Los Angeles Police Department was at that time controlled by the California Crime Commission and police authorities throughout the country to be the most corrupt department in this country. (T) It was in 1948,

which during this period "with the complicity of the police." The cops were on the take all over town," the article states.

As to whether L. A. cops might have been capable of brutality at that time, the record, as cited in the same article, is that during this period, Los Angeles suffered one of the biggest police-brutality scandals in its history. Result? Parker conducted a probe (with lie detectors, normally one of his favorite devices). He turned the evidence over to the Police Board of Rights. Verdict: "Eight officers were indicted and four went to San Quentin or the county jail. Two others were dropped from the force, and another thirty-six were officially reprimanded."

So consider the possibility that Chessman's claims of police brutality were truthful, especially when looking at the evidence shown here, which California's Clemency Secretary Cecil Poole told the writers had never before been called to his attention. This is one of the pieces of new material the governor and his staff considered too unimportant to bother delaying an execution over.

The second piece of evidence, however,

was what set California back on its heels. Checking into the background of the mysterious Joe Terranova, of whom the police had no record, we found that Prosecutor J. Miller Leavy also had trouble believing that such a person as Terranova existed. There was no sign of him anywhere. "Joe" Terranova, Leavy said, was a "fiction," one of these pipe-dreams which always turned up in the alibis of habitual criminals. It was certainly true that Terranova was Chessman's principal alibi. It was Terranova's car he was caught in, Chessman claimed, and it was Terranova who had had possession of the car at the time of the capital crimes which took place in the days before Chessman's arrest on a clothing-store holdup rap. Terranova, if he turned up, might sew up the prosecution's case by proving he was elsewhere, or he wasn't the man—or he might be the real Red Light Bandit.

Checking a little further, we found that such a man as Terranova *did* exist. We found, in fact, a man named Charles Saverine Terranova, who fit the victim's descriptions of the Red Light Bandit to a T, right down to a scar over the right eye (as first described by the state's star witness, teenage Mary Alice Meza, who was the victim).

Name Caryl Chessman

George T. Davis

Page Two

Now the world is about to learn about those facts. For the first time people will have the truth about the Chessman case presented by a completely impartial source. They will be able to decide for themselves whether I am guilty or innocent. And what impresses me most is that Milt Machlin emphasized to me, even after all the time and money the Argosy people had spent in their investigation, they weren't interested in sensationalism or scoring a beat. They were and are interested in seeing justice done, in having the truth known. If I survive--and now certainly I have a fighting chance--it will be in large part through the efforts of this magazine and the human beings behind it. And even if I am executed, I know that you, with attorneys Rosalie Asher and Al Wirin, and the People at Argosy will continue to fight for my posthumous vindication. That is what I want, above all else, for I am satisfied it will help more than anything else to reveal the senseless futility and barbarism of the death penalty and the real and terrible dangers involved when citizens of a state demand vengeance above truth.

Sincerely,

*Caryl*

Caryl Chessman

cc to Miss Rosalie S. Asher

One of Chessman's last letters (page two), sent to authors: "ough Attorney George T. Davis, bequeaths to ARGOSY obligation to continue fight for vindication." Chessman expresses gratitude that ARGOSY evidence was given to defense.

ARGOSY

...who the police were unable to question, and of whom, at, they could find no record at all, but that very fine a record of ten felony convictions in the Los Angeles area, and served time in the L. A. County Jail, Eastern Industrial School for Boys, San Quentin, Folsom and Chino. Furthermore, most of these prison terms overlapped with Chessman's. You might say they were old bootmates. Further than that, Chessman's arrest record, if the police had examined it carefully, and his probation reports, would indicate that Terranova was listed as one of Chessman's known criminal associates.

Still the cops claim, to this day, that they were unconscious of the existence of Charles S. Terranova.

Checking Terranova out further, we find that during Chessman's trial, while J. Miller Gray, the prosecutor, was describing Terranova as a "fiction," Terranova was in the Los Angeles County Jail, no more than 10 feet from Chessman's cell, held on a total of twenty-two felony charges, including violation of the National Firearms Act, carrying a concealed weapon, kidnapping with intent to commit robbery, and kidnapping with bodily injury as a principal offense.

With this evidence in our hands, we called the cops to attention. If we told it all, it would be a last appeal in prison, we might be responsible for exposing evidence which would keep Chessman out of the gas chamber.

...flow to Los Angeles and consulted with Woodfield, who was still digging up material in that area. Linhart joined. We decided that in the interests of justice, the evidence should be handed over immediately to the governor's office. After a brief explanation to Hule Chernow, the governor's secretary, we were told that the governor was "definitely interested"; that if we would fly to San Francisco, we would be met by a representative of the governor and, that in the evening, another representative would take us from San Francisco to Sacramento, the State Capital.

This was a tight job. We got reservations at midnight for a midnight flight, and changed our plans with no one except Woodfield's wife, Gitta, and Bill Linhart. We were at the airport, precisely on time. Linhart was scheduled to stay in Los Angeles and continue the investigation, but was being closer and closer, we had to the real Red Light Bandit, and so it seemed to a lot of underworld connections actually cycling in with the criminal crime syndicate of the state. To our surprise, the information in the famous Barbara Graham case.

The Barbara Graham case, which is still being explored at this writing, was interesting because, by a odd coincidence, it was at the Barbara Graham trial was a late Superior Court Judge Charles W. Fricke, who was president of the Chessman Bar. Fricke, who was known throughout the state as a "hanging judge," had ended out three as many death sentences, and had more reversals of his death sentences by higher courts.

During Chief Justice Earl Warren's term

named Judge Meredith was sentenced to jail for kidnapping, in a gaudy, California-style trial. Warren, reviewing the case, gave Judge Meredith a complete pardon. His comment was: "This is the most flagrant case of railroadism in the history of California jurisprudence." The judge was Charles W. Fricke.

So we felt that indications that Chessman had been unjustly convicted were not to be brushed off lightly. We had other clues that we were getting close to something hot. Woodfield was informed by "friendly" advisors several times, as the investigation went on, that he was "getting into dangerous territory."

Bill Linhart, who had been investigating for Chessman for seven years, had been threatened with physical violence many times, as had his family. Now that we were getting close to the meat of the case, we were all getting jumpy.

At the airport ticket counter, a tall, heavy-set man in a blue serge suit asked if he could check "certain names" on the manifest of our flight. The clerk told the man that such information was available

man drifted off into the crowd. I had almost forgotten about him until the new arrival came over the loudspeaker. "Passengers on flight seven-ninety-four report to ticket counter, please."

At the ticket counter, a pair of grim-faced men told the crowd that the flight would be delayed.

"We have a report there may be a bomb aboard your plane."

A three-hour check by the FBI established that the bomb was a ruse, but it sure scared us. Woodfield decided it would be safest to split up. He and Linhart drove to San Francisco in Linhart's race-equipmented, private police car, with Linhart's .38 on the seat. I went by plane.

That afternoon, with no sleep at all for Woodfield, and little for myself, we were in the capitol building, reporting to Cecil Poole, through whom all information for the Governor on the Chessman case must be cleared.

Poole was disinclined to believe that anything new could be turned up at this late date. He looked skeptical as through our material stopped on a whole.

These shorthanded notes are the only record of what happened at the time. Court reporter Ernest R. Petry died before he could finish the story.

*[Handwritten notes and signatures on a document, including a circled number 310 and various illegible scribbles.]*

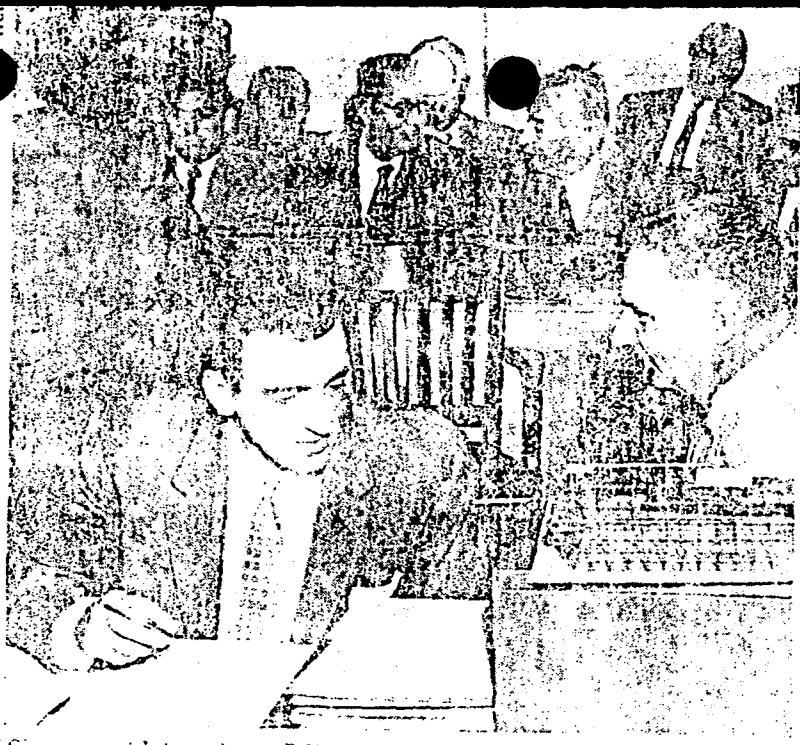
...ends on the stair behind him. He  
at no time. When I get to the medi-  
report and mug shot, he said: "I'll  
this is over. The connection between  
se pictures has never been pointed out  
me."

The identity of Terranova and disclosure  
his record also seemed to impress him.  
have brought me two new items. I'll go  
your material and let you know on  
only what I think."

At this point, it was nine days to Chess-  
man's death day. We had promised to  
keep our trip secret from the press. We  
... We continued the search for material  
clear Chessman. We conferred with  
Chessman and told him that whatever we  
did discover was at his disposal. Chess-  
man, after a look at what we had dug up,  
was deeply moved, and wrote to his at-  
torney, George Davis, the letter printed  
along with this story.

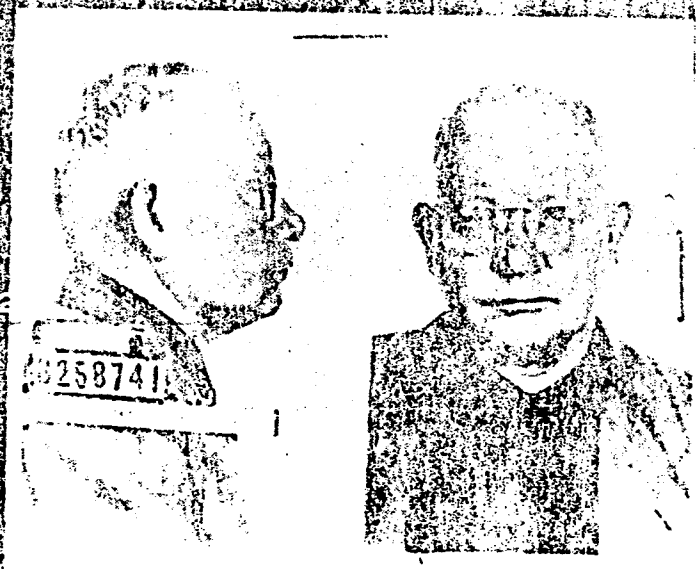
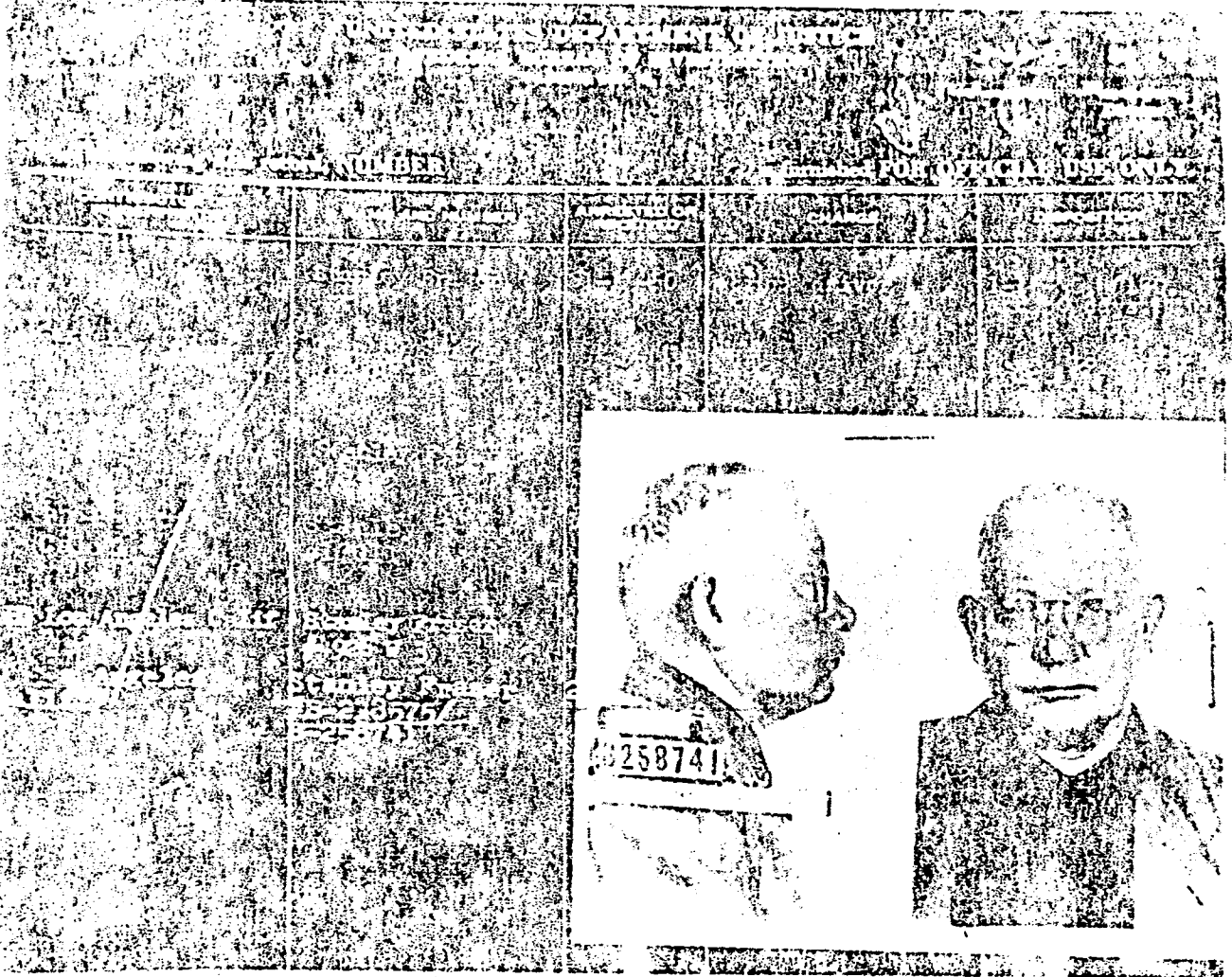
On Monday, Poole said he "didn't think  
much" of the material we had presented.  
"Doesn't change my mind," he com-  
mented. But he promised to hand the ma-  
terial over to the governor.

It was now one week to Chessman's  
execution. I went to San Quentin and  
conferred with Chessman and his attor-  
neys, Rosalee Asher and George T. Davis.



Chessman with investigator Bill Linhart (right). Linhart spent much of his own money in effort to clear client. Judge Fricke smiles in background (profile).

... of FBI agent record of Stanley Ervin, uncle-in-law of prosecutor Leary, who got the job of transcribing Perry notes at  
plea around 1960. Ervin admitted that when stuck for a phrase, he would add symbols to court record in his own handwriting.



APR 10 1961

and triggered Terranova, but he obviously also wanted the truth to come out. This touches on one of the most puzzling aspects of Chessman's character. He was a man who, apparently, was willing to die for his principles. Remember that he was given a chance to plead for clemency, provided he would admit his guilt. His answer, in his own somewhat romantic rhetoric, was "vindication or death." Chessman also admitted, it seems, to the code of the underworld as regards informers. To the last, while admitting we had come upon the truth, he reiterated that he had not been the one to give us the information. He wasn't.

But there are other sides to this question. We have information that Chessman was more interested in protecting certain innocent parties than in saving either his own reputation or his life.

Among these he was protecting is a seventeen-year-old daughter whose existence was a secret until his death. It is interesting that he began insisting that he had never named anybody—not even Terranova—in 1935 when Terranova was released after his seven-year jail term.)

In our case, it was decided that a writ of habeas corpus charging suppression of material evidence should be filed for Chessman's benefit. But before filing the writ, it was decided to turn the information over to the press in the hope that its publication would lead to further information. This was a painful decision for us—giving away our story to newspapers before publication date—but it was unavoidable in the name of responsible journalism.

Woodfield was seen by me and him three times at the Los Angeles office. Our news about him was the biggest thing in California. San Francisco and L. A. papers carried his name on the front page, and naming Ancosy and some naming us, such as "two adventure-magazine writers." But all were impressed by the revelation that we not only had identified Terranova for the first time, but were able to provide his number (California criminal identification file number), his FBI number and a copy of his criminal record.

The publicity idea worked, and new information began to filter in through anonymous phone calls and informers. One phone call from Los Angeles cast a cloud on our optimism. Woodfield's wife called to say that at six a.m. after we had left L. A. for the governor's office, she had had an anonymous phone call.

"Has Bill gone to the governor's yet?" the voice asked.

Gitta, still groggy, answered that he had. "Well, he better not turn the information over, if you don't want a face full of acid. He won't like looking at you after that."

That was all. It struck Bill badly, but he hung up well, reported that to us with friends, and told us to stick with it. We now had less than a week to go.

We kept digging. The governor sent word that our material did not change his mind. He was taking no action.

On Tuesday, I was called back to the New York office. I went to see Chessman to find out if he would release any information at all to help us.

"What you're doing is the right thing,"

"What difference can it make? Do you mean to say you'd rather die in the gas chamber than live with the reputation of a steel pigeon?"

"It may seem an anomaly to you," he said, "but that's the way I feel."

I mentioned a name he didn't know I knew and asked him if he were protecting anyone.

"Let's just forget about that part of it, shall we?" he said, seriously shaken.

I agreed. But I want it on the record that Chessman, when he died, was thinking of more than his own skin.

Next day, we started preparing the Ancosy writ—Chessman's last plea for justice. The material we got together for that writ convinced George T. Davis, Chessman's own attorney, for the first time, that he was innocent. Until he read this material, Davis had been fighting for his client strictly because he had been denied due process of law.

The prosecution's case, described by the prosecutor himself as "ironclad" and by the governor as "overwhelming" in its proof, rested on just five points:

1. "Positive identification" of Chessman by his victims.
2. "Positive" identification of his car.
3. A gun similar to the one used by the Red Light Bandit.
4. A flashlight similar to the one used by the Red Light Bandit.
5. His alleged admissions to the police.

Here's what we found at the heart of this "overwhelming" evidence.

**Positive identification of Caryl Chessman as the Red Light Bandit, questionable.**

Caryl Chessman was tried, convicted and sentenced to death for the following so-called "Red Light" crimes.

1. **Armed Robbery**—of Thomas Bartle 1/18/48, 4:35 a.m. \$15.
2. **Armed Robbery**—Floyd C. Bailew and Elaine Bushaw 1/18/48, 7:30 p.m. \$20.
3. **Armed Robbery**—of Jarnigan Lea. Armed robbery, kidnapping for the purpose of robbery with bodily injury (a capital offense) and violation of Penal Code Section 268A (forcing victim to oral copulation, thus constituting bodily injury in above charge.) Of Regina Johnson 1/19/48, 9:00 p.m.
4. **Armed Robbery**—Gerald Stone, 1/20/48, 12:10 a.m. \$2.
5. **Attempted Robbery**—Frank Hurlburt, kidnapping for the purpose of robbery with bodily injury (the second capital offense), violation of section 268A Penal Code and the attempted forcible rape of Mary Alice Meza—1/22/48, 1 a.m.

A jury of eleven women and one man found Caryl Chessman guilty on all counts. Presumably his identification as the Red Light Bandit was beyond a reasonable doubt. Let's look at the Ancosy evidence.

1. Thomas Bartle, in his complaint to the police—ten minutes after he was robbed by the Red Light Bandit, described the bandit as being "white, age thirty, height five feet six (actually he is six feet), weight 150 pounds, stocky build, 'tan complexion' and, added that the bandit had 'crooked teeth in (the) front.' Bartle's companion, Ancosy Plaskovitz, added, "I couldn't see him, but I heard him talk."

About one week later, two days after

Bandit, Chessman was described in a police teletype as follows:

"...white, six, five feet eleven, weight, 150 pounds, dark brown wavy hair, long narrow nose with bump on bridge of nose, brown eyes."

Although Bartle's description, given ten minutes following the robbery, fails to describe Caryl Chessman, Bartle, a month later at Chessman's preliminary hearing, positively identified Chessman as the Red Light Bandit. When Chessman, acting as his own attorney, asked Bartle if he could recognize any particular identifying feature that he might have mentioned to the police, in his original report, Bartle answered, "I told the officers that you had a protruding lower lip and I think you will find it in the report."

What Thomas Bartle, a dentist by profession, had reported was that the Red Light Bandit had *crooked front teeth*.

Caryl Chessman had remarkably straight teeth—as Dr. Bartle must have discovered when confronted by Chessman in court. Chessman's front teeth are, in fact, false.

2. Floyd C. Bailew and Elaine Bushaw made a police report at the time they were robbed, describing the bandit as being "white, six, five feet eleven, weight, 150 pounds, dark brown wavy hair, long narrow nose with bump on bridge of nose, brown eyes." Mr. Bailew's companion in the robbery, identified Chessman as the Red Light Bandit, but refused to identify Chessman's car. "That's the color," he testified, "but the (Red Light Bandit) car was not a first-passenger coupe. It was a sedan."

Bailew further testified that he recalled telling the police that the Red Light Bandit was "thirty, 160 pounds, and (had) a protruding under jaw." This is all Bailew recalled having told the police.

3. Jarnigan Lea, the companion of Regina Johnson, testified at the preliminary hearing in February of 1948 that he had described the Red Light Bandit to the police as being "between five feet eight and five feet ten (with a hat on), approximately 160 pounds, with *crooked teeth*, possibly stained."

Yet, three months later at Chessman's trial in May, with Chessman cross-examining, and while under oath Jarnigan Lea volunteered the following: "And I never told the police you had *crooked teeth*."

Furthermore, although Lea claims to have seen the "Red Light Bandit" without a mask, he admitted that, in reporting the crime to the police, he had not mentioned that the bandit had a prominent nose yet he positively identified Caryl Chessman as the Red Light Bandit in court. (Chessman's hawk-like nose is his most distinguishing feature.)

Even more disturbing is the information to be found in a Los Angeles County Sheriff's office report 7-2637, dated January 27, 1948, but never introduced in evidence at either preliminary hearing or trial.

This document reporting the identification of Caryl Chessman as David H. Knowles (Chessman's partner who was arrested with him) by Mr. Lea and Mrs. Johnson contains the following:

"Suspects (plural) pulled up behind (Mr. Lea's) car and then approached on foot and asked for identification. . . ."



about twelve hours after being arrested, verified Mr. Lea's statement that there was more than one person involved in the Red Light Bandit crime. A policewoman's report read: "While suspect was taking her to Mr. Lea's car, she (Mrs. Johnson) said she heard him (the Red Light Bandit) say, 'Okay, Ed' (to someone in the car)." The report continues, "She stated that when she was in his (the bandit's), she felt that there was one in the back seat crouching down, and thought she felt someone moving there once or twice."

In spite of these statements, which indicate that two men were involved in the light crime, this possibility was never mentioned by the police, Mr. Lea or Johnson. Only Caryl Chessman was put to trial. Yet nowhere does Chessman mention that there might have been two Red Light bandits. If Chessman actually was the Red Light Bandit, would he have known that there were two involved and wouldn't he have said so at his trial? He didn't, and he did not know that Mr. Lea and Johnson had identified two Red Light bandits. Sheriff's report Z-2637 was not put into evidence and therefore Chessman had no way of knowing its contents prior to his defense.

The police reports of Jarnigan and Regina Johnson not made available to Chessman twelve years ago at the time of his trial when he was asked to identify the man who robbed him, are now being made available. Why?

There is a partial confirmation of the fact that there were two Red Light bandits in the testimony of Floyd C. Stone. He read: "They came up to my car. But hereafter in his testimony he says 'they'."

In trying to clear up this question, the police complaint of Mr. Lea and Johnson from the office of Chief of Police and was closed. Prior to request, Ancosy was served in a letter from the office of the "in order to Ancosy, I am going to suggest to you on the Police information on the Police Department." In this letter, the police made the police informed Ancosy that the police regarded the Chessman case as "and was not discuss it or answer questions about it."

Days later, on April 7, 1960, Ancosy Chessman's attorney, George T. Davis, requested these documents from the D.A. Office. A Chessman's attorney immediately went to see Davis and, according to Davis, was told that he was not to go through the Attorney's office and even if he did, he was not to give them to Chessman or to a court order, and will result in going under through the courts.

In the meantime, to make a full disclosure to the police, Chessman's attorney, George T. Davis, told her that she saw the Red Light Bandit and she and her companion are only two of the victims to make a claim.

The police report, made within an hour of the robbery, should contain a full and accurate description of Caryl Chessman if he was the Red Light Bandit.

In attempting to discover what Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Lea told the police immediately following the crime, Ancosy examined a police bulletin issued at 7:37 p.m. on January 23, 1948, and found information that a comparison with descriptions by the other victims must have been made by either Mrs. Johnson or Mr. Lea. The bandit's car was described as having, "four inches beneath each front headlight, a circle parking light." A police photo of Chessman's car shows no such parking light. Also, "on body in rear above license holder, there is a plain chrome bar with Four in center of bar." The police photo shows no such bar or insignia on Chessman's car. The bulletin also reports "possible radio, which receives police calls with switch underneath dash." No such radio was found in Chessman's car.

Yet Regina Johnson and Jarnigan Lea positively identified this same car as the car belonging to the Red Light Bandit.

Mrs. Johnson admitted at the preliminary hearing that when she had been summoned to the police station to identify Chessman as the Red Light Bandit, it was her companion, Mr. Lea, and not she, who had first pointed Chessman out as her attacker. She testified that Mr. Lea, pointing at Chessman, said, "There is the man who held us up." She also testified that there was no police officer present at the time, but she failed to mention that she and Mr. Lea had been in the car when they were attacked.

At the preliminary hearing, when asked if he could identify Chessman as the man who robbed him, Stone testified: "Well, due to the fact that he wore a handkerchief over his face, I can't be certain." The preliminary-hearing judge ruled that this identification was not positive enough to warrant an indictment on this charge, and suggested the prosecution produce additional identification.

Somehow, without producing any additional identification, Caryl Chessman was indicted, tried and convicted on this charge, during the same trial that he was convicted and sentenced to death.

5. The first and perhaps most important, identification of Chessman as the Red Light Bandit was made by Mary Alice Meza and her companion, Frank Hurlburt.

Mr. Hurlburt, asked at the preliminary hearing if he got a good look at the Red Light Bandit, testified: "No, it was dark and he had a handkerchief over his face."

Before analyzing Miss Meza's testimony, it should be stated that she, more than any other victim of the Red Light Bandit, has been the cause of tremendous anti-Chessman feeling among the police, the prosecution, the newspapers and the general public.

Miss Meza, seventeen at the time of being attacked, was committed to Camarillo State Hospital as a mental patient twenty months after her attack. She has been there ever since.

It has been the contention of Miss Meza's mother that Mary's "bragging" was a direct result of being attacked by

Chessman. Mary's mother was convinced that her daughter would get well when Chessman was executed, although no psychiatrist has agreed with this contention.

In addition, a storm of controversy has centered on Mary's mental condition prior to her being attacked by the Red Light Bandit, some psychiatrists claiming that the girl was mentally ill at the time, others claiming she was not. Rational or irrational, it was Mary Meza's testimony that helped to convict Caryl Chessman and he went to the gas chamber on that testimony. Let us examine a police broadcast issued at 5:24 a.m., on the morning of January 22, 1948. Made up from Mary's description of the Red Light Bandit, it describes her attacker as "thirty-five years of age, five feet ten, medium build, swarthy complexion, clean-shaven, very slight accent," and "driving a 1946 Ford sedan, dark, with red spotlight on right side of vehicle."

Miss Meza testified that she couldn't describe her attacker in more detail because "he was masked all the time." However, she was in the car belonging to the Red Light Bandit for more than two hours, and a comparison of her original statement to the police with photographs of Chessman's car proves contradictory, even though she positively identified Chessman's car as the car she was in. Chessman's car was light-colored, not dark, a coupe, not a sedan, and the spotlight was permanently on the left side, not the right.

At the preliminary hearing, when asked to identify Chessman as the man who robbed her, Mary Meza testified: "Well, due to the fact that he wore a handkerchief over his face, I can't be certain."

The Court: A four-door or a two-door?

A: It was a club coupe.

When asked by the Court if she had observed a spotlight, Mary replied, "I wasn't very observant, I didn't see any spotlight."

Even graver doubts as to the validity of Mary Meza's identification of Chessman's car as being the same car in which she was held captive occurs on examination of the testimony wherein she describes two circular, illuminated lights on the dashboard of the car in which she had been attacked. In response to the question, "I will show you Exhibit Twenty-six and ask you if this is a fair representation of the instrument panel you saw" Mary Meza testified: "Yes, that looks similar to it. Yes, I would say that would be it." The exhibit showed the dash of Chessman's car as it was photographed by the police. This is the dash that Mary Alice Meza swore she saw in the Red Light Bandit's car.

Yet we have in hand photostated receipts proving that the speedometer in Caryl Chessman's car—the same car that Mary Meza had positively identified as belonging to the Red Light Bandit—had been removed from his car the day before the crime and was not returned until after the crime had been committed.

This statement is supported by testimony of the mechanic involved. If Mary Meza had seen a speedometer in the car in which she was attacked, then she could not have been in Caryl Chessman's car, as she has claimed she was.

Miss Meza's testimony reveals another doubt as to Chessman's identity as the bandit. She claimed

man. She further admitted that although she is about five feet four, the bandit was "just a little taller" than she. When asked if the bandit would have been tall, as is Chessman, she answered no.

Also at the preliminary hearing, Mary acknowledged that in her original description of the bandit to the police, she had stated that the Red Light Bandit had a scar over his right eyebrow.

Caryl Chessman has no such scar. Charles S. Termonia has.

In spite of these contradictions, Caryl Chessman was found guilty on all counts of the Red Light crimes and died in the gas chamber on May second.

### On the Chessman "Admissions"

Chessman had long protested vigorously that Judge Fricke permitted the police to testify to "admissions" that he is alleged to have made to the police about crimes that he was never charged with. While this is a fine legal point, it is nonetheless a fact that police officers testified from the witness stand that Chessman had admitted to them that he had committed at least six Red Light crimes which he had never been charged with and which the police made no effort to prove were ever committed.

When Chessman requested the police records of these crimes he was refused. His attorney, George T. Davis, and Amosy have then refused permission to verify whether or not these crimes were ever committed. Yet the jury that found Chessman guilty and sentenced him to death was undoubtedly influenced in its verdict, at least to some extent, by these so-called "admissions." In our possession is a photograph of the notes made by Police Officer Carlos Torres as Chessman allegedly confessed to six or seven Red Light crimes.

These notes are the bulk of the prosecution's case against Chessman. When the jury returned to the gas chamber to execute him, these notes were undoubtedly read to them.

Each case consists of statements by witnesses that an Army-type .45, found near the car in which Chessman was arrested, was "similar" to the kind of gun the bandit used. Not one single witness was able to identify the gun any more positively than this. The same applies to a penlight-type flashlight which all witnesses said was "similar" to the bandit's. Again, only the fact that the type was the same was ever claimed by ever the most determined of witnesses or prosecutors.

It is interesting to note that not a shred of affirmative evidence was produced at this trial. The car in which the two women were attacked was examined carefully. No fingerprint, either of the victims or of Chessman, was ever produced. No shred of red cellophane, red plastic or a red lens of any sort was found anywhere in, near or in the general area of the car. Despite the fact that both victims were said to be menstruating at the time of the sex offenses, no trace of blood was ever discovered in the car. In fact, it was not until six days after the car was impounded that two detectives mysteriously located in it two hairs which a defense expert could only say were "similar" to the hair of one of the victims.

In discussing this case, we have purposely not gone into the amazing confusion involved in the conduct of the trial and the subsequent settling of the transcript. A transcript, to most people is just a technical legal record, but to a man trying to prove he was given an unjust trial, it's the only record on which he can base his claim. The fact that this record was prepared by a dying man whose notes were once shrouded to the best experts in his state, that they were finally transcribed by a Stanley Egan, who was convicted more than a dozen times of drunkenness, including several times during the period he was preparing this transcript, and that the "official" notes on which the trial records were based have been added to and augmented

negligible in view of the shocking inadequacy of the trial itself.

Asking yourself how the jury of eleven men and one woman could have reached the verdict they did, keep in mind that against a prosecutor characterized by the court as "over-zealous," and a known hanging judge, was pitted the legal knowledge of boy hoodlum Caryl Whittier Chessman, who, contrary to popular opinion, was no genius, but only a more-than-ordinarily bright man.

Keep in mind, too, that Chessman was asked to defend himself against seventeen charges at once. And bear in mind that when he asked for a daily transcript of the proceedings, so he could refresh his mind as to what had happened the day before, it was denied him, although Judge Fricke later admitted that he had never before denied such a transcript in a capital case.

Chessman himself later repeated the old legal cliché: "The man who defends himself has a fool for a client."

Now ask yourself these questions:

Why, in a charge not involving murder, was the state of California so anxious that Chessman should have his day in the gas chamber—even though many thousands have been given reprieves?

Why, with only days to go, did the authorities wait until the Friday before the execution before sending out an investigator to check out the Amosy evidence. Granting that they didn't think much of it, wasn't it worth a few man hours of labor to check evidence which might save a man's life—which bears vitally on the man's principal alibi in a capital offense?

For the information of those who may leave the answers to these questions, Amosy is a long alien with its investigation. Our team has stayed it straight with the authorities, and has put information in your hands before acting.

The investigation continues. We will keep our promise to Caryl Chessman to find the truth.

## TRAVEL TODAY: MASSACHUSETTS *Continued from page 42*

There is much to be said about Boston, but people have said some completely true things, too. Oliver Wendell Holmes, whom we mentioned earlier, considered Boston as the city that "opened and kept open the turnpikes that lead straight to free thought, free speech and free deeds." (Speaking of turnpikes reminds us that you can now drive all the way from Chicago to Boston without pausing for more than a few stop lights. As for the rest of Mr. Holmes' comment, it has been said that although Boston is still the land of the free, it is no longer the home of the brave who have departed for Milwaukee and a respectable position in the National Guard.)

We would also like to tell you what Ted Williams has said about the city, but the World War Veterans Society may be listening and Boston readers might be deprived of a month's Amosy.

As never people say about Boston, they keep coming in droves and many are surprised to find that it is a lively place and that Bostonians make excellent hosts.

Accommodations are of a high order and there are dozens of fine restaurants. Locke-

Ober's on Winter Place is considered to be one of the very best places to eat in America, although our personal preference is for the Ritz Carlton. The Parker House (where the rolls of the same name were introduced) is worthy of its reputation and Jimmy's Harbor Side, on the pier, is the place for sea food. For good German cooking, it's Jacob Wirth's; Greek, the Athens-Olympia; Syrian—grape leave, and all-the Nile. At Durgin Park's, in the market district, no one has yet been able to finish the enormous servings. Dinty Moore's, where the Friday special is cheese blintzes, is a hangout for newspaper people. Ye Olde Union House (sea-food specialties) has been a restaurant since 1826; before that it was a draper's shop where Louis-Philippe, who later became King of France, lived on the top floor and earned his living by teaching French.

For after-lark entertainment, there is Blinstrub's Village, a cavernous bistro, incongruously situated next to the police station in downtown Boston. Blinstrub's seats 2,000 diners and dishes up lively entertainment as well as good food—at reasonable prices. There are three legitimate

cheaters in Boston where you will see plays destined for Broadway or oblivion, and several small "art" theaters. There is much for cool cats and long-hairs alike—Storyville for jazz, the Boston Symphony for the classics in winter, and the famous "Pops" concerts under the stars on the grassy banks of the Esplanade for ten weeks during the summer. The Boston Arts Festival on the Common exhibits modern art and presents opera and ballet all for free. Shakespearean plays are presented in an enormous tent on a slope above the Charles River, and you can take a boat almost to the door.

The best way we've found to get on friendly terms with Boston is to stroll through the Common (once a cow pasture and later a training ground for Revolutionary troops) and the Public Garden, and go to Beacon Hill to look at the fine old houses with lavender window panes. If you have the family along, a ride in the Swan Boats is a must.

Another "don't-miss" is Mrs. Jack Gardner's palace where you should be convinced that even old-time Boston was all stuffed shirts and straight-laced manners.



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 7/26/60

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (32-447)

ATTENTION: IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

SUBJECT: STANLEY FRASER  
FBI #4146-311  
PUBLICATION OF IDENTIFICATION RECORD

On July 22, 1960, SA [REDACTED] interviewed [REDACTED] Technical

Services, Los Angeles Sheriff's Office, regarding captioned matter.

[REDACTED] advised that he was positive that the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office did not give this identification record to Argosy magazine or its representative, however, he would check the record and advise forthwith. On same date, [REDACTED] advised that he had investigated this matter and ascertained that on November 24, 1957, all of the records of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office were subpoenaed into Superior Court of Los Angeles County pertaining to the CHESSMAN case. This included the record of STANLEY FRASER. CHESSMAN was attacking the record and trying to show that STANLEY FRASER was a drunkard and not capable of transcribing the records in question. Heretofore original and photostatic copies of STANLEY FRASER's Identification Record prepared by the Bureau were submitted to the Los Angeles County Superior Court as legally required.

The original copies of all the records, including the record of STANLEY FRASER, were returned to the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office; however, the photostatic copies of the records were kept by the court. For about one year and a half the Superior Court lost control of the records in question because these records, now exhibits in the CARYL CHESSMAN case, were going through channels to the U. S. Supreme Court and no longer under the control of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office or the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, and thus available to attorneys. Even now, the court record of CARYL CHESSMAN case including the record of STANLEY FRASER therein is open to the public as a public record and copies may be purchased by responsible people,

3 - Bureau  
1 - Los Angeles

REC-31

AUG 9 1960

EX 104

WMA:tgr  
(4)

LA 32-427

from the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Clerk of Court.

The above explanation by [REDACTED] indicates that the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office was acting in good faith as required by law in this matter. Hence, it is recommended that FBI identification services to the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office be continued. b7c

*No further action*  
*W. J. [unclear]*

[REDACTED] 67C  
Saugus, Massachusetts

March 20, 1961

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Please send me any information of Cyril Chesler  
who died in the gas chamber in California last year. My  
information is for a sociology paper. I've read some of his  
books but they don't give me any of his background or  
the crimes. I would appreciate any information  
that you can send me. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

65

March 30, 1961

REC-31

[REDACTED]  
Saugus, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Rogers:

Your letter dated March 20, 1961, has been received.

Although I would like to be of service, the FBI has no material available for distribution on the person you mentioned. Enclosed is a booklet about the FBI which you may find of interest.

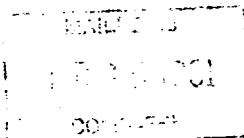
Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enclosure  
The Story of the FBI

DCL:cjk

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
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Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



APR 4 1961  
MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

(3)

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS

210 MADISON AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

42 • GREAT • RUSSELL • STREET • LONDON • W.C.1 • ENGLAND

EDITORIAL DEPT.

April 11, 1961

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director, Federal Bureau  
of Investigation  
United States Department  
of Justice Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am pleased to be sending you herewith an advance copy  
of what I think is going to be one of 1961's important  
books. Anthony's Ninth Life is a meticulously researched,  
careful study of the Chessman case, and its implications and  
conclusions take it far beyond the confines of the case  
and the personality of Chessman himself.

I hope you will read it, and I hope you will let us hear  
your reactions.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted signature block]

67C

REC-9

66

enc.

EX-105

1961

9

1-11-61

April 20, 1961

EX-103

REC-9

44-7760-66

b7c

[REDACTED]  
J. P. Putnam's Sons  
110 Madison Avenue  
New York 16, New York

Dear Mr. Israel:

Your letter of April 11, 1961, with which  
you forwarded a copy of "Ninth Life" was received in  
Mr. Hoover's absence from the city. You can be sure  
that he will appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending the  
book to him.

Sincerely yours,

Helen W. Gandy  
Secretary

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record identifiable with [REDACTED] nor of  
"Ninth Life." The book has not been reviewed in detail, however, it is  
apparent from the dust jacket and cursory review of its contents it represents  
an effort to cast doubt on the guilt of Caryl Chessman. As an indication of  
the theme of the book, the authors speculate on the final page as to who should  
be held responsible for Chessman's death. They stated that agencies of law  
enforcement "motivated by personal pride, emotional bias, lack of integrity...  
merit the largest share of guilt: for deliberately concealing evidence and  
obstructing the fair operation of justice through 12 years." Concerning the author,  
the Los Angeles Division advised on 6-27-60 that Milton Machlin and William  
Woodfield were very interested in having [REDACTED] former Bureau  
fugitive, confessed to being the "Redlight Bandit," and thereby upset Chessman.  
(continued next page)

56 MAY 11 1961

b7c

NOTE: (continued)

conviction. This information was furnished to Los Angeles by [REDACTED] 67C  
sister. In view of the nature of this book, it is believed appropriate to  
acknowledge it with an in-absence letter.

AFH:par (4)

# The Chessman Cause-Celebre Lives On

**NINTH LIFE.** By Milton Machlin and William Read Woodfield (G. P. Putnam's Sons; \$4.95.)

Caryle Chessman spent nearly 12 years in San Quentin's death row before his execution for kidnaping for the purpose of robbing with bodily harm on May 2, 1960. His own writings, beginning with the best selling "Cell 2455 Death Row" his spectacular fight for life, his multiple journeys through the courts, the celebrities attracted to his defense and the world-wide reaction all contributed to making the Chessman case a cause-celebre.

This book was initiated when Mr. Woodfield—a freelance writer in search of a story—approached Chessman shortly before his ninth execution date and proposed a full confession for posthumous publication. Outraged, Chessman protested his innocence and Mr. Woodfield agreed to follow the leads Chessman gave him until he caught Chessman in a lie. Mr. Machlin, an editor of Argosy Magazine, joined him in the investigation.

The authors claim impartiality and make noble strivings in that direction. But indignation in this emotion-charged cause frequently overcomes the objectivity and the account consequently loses impact.

## Not the Man?

Their search for evidence leads them to these conclusions: They have uncovered enough "suppressed evidence" to lend some credence to Chessman's story that he was not the "Red Light Bandit." A fellow convict, whom they name, might be the man. Even if Chessman were the bandit, the acts for which he was tried were not committed—that is, they were less serious than would warrant the death penalty. And even if the evidence weren't questionable, the conduct of the trial was. This involves the

trial judges' refusal to give Chessman daily transcripts; the judges' insistence that Chessman remain at the counsel table while questioning witnesses, and, more importantly, the use of a prosecutor's relative with a record of alcoholism to transcribe the trial testimony from the shorthand notes of the court reporter who died between trial and sentencing.

In placing responsibility for Chessman's execution, the authors acknowledge that Chessman himself bears a large part of the burden for insisting on directing his own defense—at first ineptly and later arrogantly. They also blame the press, the Governor and the public.

## A Giant Conspiracy?

"In the long run, however," they contend, "it is probably the agencies of law enforcement—motivated by personal pride, emotional bias, or, perhaps, lack of integrity—which merit the largest share of the guilt; for deliberately concealing evidence, for obstructing the fair operation of justice through 12 years."

The impressionable would conclude from the authors' frequently intemperate account that police, prosecutors and the State and Federal judiciary were all engaged in a giant conspiracy against one possibly innocent man. But Chessman's case went to the Supreme Court at least half a dozen times on one argument or another.

It is possible that the merits of the case got lost in a tangle of legal technicalities. It is possible that the matter of the disputed transcript could have been resolved more readily by a new trial than endless arguments about the correctness of the original transcript. These questions, however, are better answered by those learned in the law and a great deal more objective than the authors of "Ninth Life."

—MIRIAM OTTENBERG

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Mirror \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

MAY 1 1961



## Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 5-13-61

FROM : M. Jones

SUBJECT: THE "NINTH LIFE"  
BOOK ABOUT CARYL CHESSMAN  
BY MILTON MACHLIN AND WILLIAM READ WOODFIELD  
G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS PUBLISHER

BACKGROUND:

The "Evening Star" of 5-14-61 contained a review of the captioned book by Miriam Ottenberg. This review stated that the authors attempted an impartial and objective review but noted that their indignation in this emotionally charged cause frequently overcame their objectivity and resulted in the loss of impact of the book.

In connection with this review the Director inquired "What do we know of Machlin and Woodfield? H."

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7c

Machlin is also known to the Bureau as the Editor of "Argosy" who has attempted to create a controversy with the Bureau in connection with our investigation of Gordon Woodbury Marine deserter investigation. He asked for our comments on this case in June, 1960, and we told him that a draft of an article he submitted was simply a rehash of false allegations previously published by the deserter's father, George Woodbury. Machlin wanted the Bureau to write an article refuting the inaccuracies about deserter Woodbury which we refused to do. Despite the fact that he was told of the inaccuracies of the article, "Argosy" did write a brief story about the Woodbury case in the January, 1961, issue of "Argosy."

JMK:par  
(7)

REC- 65

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MAY 26 1961  
CRIME RECORDS

Jones to DeLoach Memo  
RE: The "Ninth Life"

You will recall that Gordon Woodbury is a Marine deserter [REDACTED] b7C

The only information in our files relating to Woodfield is in connection with his collaboration with Machlin on a story about Chessman for the "Argosy" magazine. In June, 1960, the FBI located a fugitive, [REDACTED] in El Paso, Texas. Woodfield contacted the fugitives' family in an attempt to persuade them to get the fugitive to confess to being the "Red Light Bandit" rather than Chessman. He pointed out that [REDACTED] could not be prosecuted because the statute of limitations had expired and if he didn't confess the Los Angeles Police Department would beat him up and make him attempt to escape at which time he would be shot. The fugitives' family advised our Los Angeles Office of this information and also reported that Machlin had told Woodfield that he was flying from New York to El Paso to obtain counsel for [REDACTED]. Woodfield and Machlin were attempting to promote publicity for their story on Chessman, which, of course, would give interest to the book they later wrote about him. [REDACTED] b7C

A copy of "Ninth Life" was sent to the Director by [REDACTED] of C. P. Putnam's Sons on 4-11-61. At this time the book was briefly reviewed and it was determined that its purpose was to cast doubt on the guilt of Chessman. Receipt of the book was acknowledged by in-absence letter of 4-26-61. (44-7760-66)

RECOMMENDATION:

For the Director's information in response to his inquiry concerning what we know about the authors Machlin and Woodfield.

WJ V JH