



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

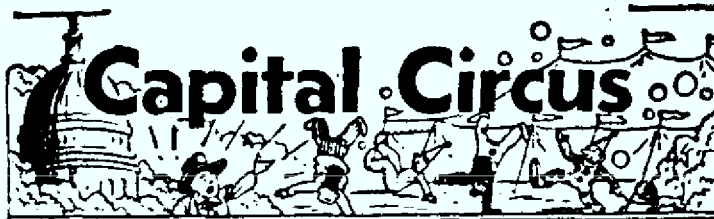
MELVIN H. PURVIS

FILE NUMBER:67-7489

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 McGuire ✓
 Parsons ✓
 Rosen ✓
 Tamm ✓
 Trotter ✓
 W.C. Sullivan ✓
 Tele. Room ✓
 Holloman ✓
 Gandy ✓

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By ROBERT THOMPSON

Washington, Dec. 4.—In an orderly, green-walled office looking down the cluttered east slope of Capitol Hill, a soft-spoken Southern gentleman ponders daily over mammoth legal volumes.

At first glance, he might be taken for a scholarly Dixie lawyer—which he is. He might also be identified as an astute Carolina businessman—which he is.

He would not by any stretch of imagination, however, fit the popular conception of the relentless lawman who tracked to death one of the country's most notorious gangsters—John Dillinger.

Yet, the gently drawling, slightly built Southerner in the Capitol Hill office is Melvin Purvis—hailed across the nation 25 years ago as "the man who got Dillinger."

It was Purvis who, as head of the Chicago office of the FBI, led a band of 26 federal agents and police officers on the night of July 22, 1934, to the North Side Chicago theatre where Dillinger's career as Public Enemy No. 1 came to a dramatic and bloody end.

For five hectic months, Purvis and his fellow FBI agents had chased the elusive and treacherous Dillinger back and forth across the Midwest. At one point, they cornered the gangster and his henchmen in the Little Bohemia lodge in Wisconsin, only to have him escape in a running gun battle.

Then, on that sultry July night, as Dillinger, his girl friend, Polly Hamilton, and a former bawdy house madam, Anna Sage, emerged from watching the gangster movie "Manhattan Melodrama," the gunman was shot to death.

Purvis often has been identified in print as the agent who fired the fatal shots, and Anna Sage, who fingered Dillinger out in the theatre crowd, has been written into history as "the Woman in Red."

Both claims, says Purvis, were concocted by imaginative reporters.

"The men who fired the shots that night," explains Purvis, "almost immediately agreed that no one would tell who killed Dillinger. I never have told, and I assume none of the others have. Most of us were young fellows. We had a feeling there was no great honor in taking part in killing a man."



Melvin Purvis
 "Slow justice is no justice"

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- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Evening Star _____
- New York Herald Tribune _____
- New York Journal-American _____
- New York Mirror _____
- New York Daily News 4
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- The Worker _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- Date _____

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The 'Woman in Red' Was Wearing Orange

As to the famous "Woman in Red," Purvis says she actually was wearing an orange skirt and he doesn't recall the color of her other clothes that fateful night.

Purvis, who at 31 was just one year younger than Dillinger, became a national hero when he ended the menace. Looking back on the incident today, he simply states: "I had a lot of help."

Purvis now is serving the federal government for the fourth time in his life.

He put in nine years with the FBI, before resigning in 1935. He served five years during World War II as a colonel in the Army judge advocate general's office. He was chief counsel for the Senate subcommittee on federal manpower policies in 1951-53, while the Korean conflict was blazing.

Purvis' current job is one that history could prove his most important.

Two and a half months ago, he left the quiet surroundings of Florence, S. C.—where he has a private law practice and owns a radio station—to become counsel for the Senate subcommittee on improvement of judicial machinery.

His Job: Break the Legal Logjam

His job is to blueprint a program that will revitalize America's judicial system to end the tremendous backlog of court cases, which now number 77,000 across the nation.

"We find the U. S. courts are in terrible condition," says Purvis. "Some have case backlogs of three or four years, and some even longer." The area of the nation most acutely affected is the Northeast—New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey—where thousands of cases have accumulated in individual courts.

The dire need for additional federal judges and for renovation of what Purvis terms our "archaic judicial system" can best be summed up, he explains, with the phrase: "Slow justice means no justice."

He now is making a coast-to-coast survey—aided by the courts, the legal profession and the bar associations—to determine what changes are needed.

He's Seeking a Solution That Will Stick

He pledges that he and the subcommittee, headed by his old friend Sen. Olin Johnston (D-S. C.) will "not be stampeded into patchwork remedies."

"The subcommittee should perform a service that would be lasting for many years to come," says Purvis. "We need this badly. When you see us 77,000 cases behind, you find that justice in this country—of which we've been boasting—is lagging. As the population grows, the burden on the courts will get even worse."

So far, Purvis has found no conclusive answers to the problem.

He will submit an interim report to the subcommittee by the end of January, but this probably will be just the beginning.

The dapper, gray-haired South Carolinian, now the father of three boys, says his crime-busting days are far behind him. Although he still quite often is pointed out in public as "the man who got Dillinger," Purvis says he would just as soon forget the incident.

"I don't even care to read about crime," says the hero of the 30s.

How does his current job size up against his determined pursuit of Dillinger?

"This is a challenge, but it's so different," says Purvis. "One job was to rid the country of a mad dog. This is not a mad dog, but it could be chaos if it is not done."



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
September 10, 1939

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

0
MR. MELVIN HORACE PURVIS

Mr. Purvis entered on duty in the Federal Bureau of Investigation on February 4, 1927, as a Special Agent, Grade CAF 8, \$2700 per annum. After a period of training, he performed investigative duties. Mr. Purvis submitted his voluntary resignation effective at the close of business August 5, 1935, at which time he was receiving salary of \$5800 per annum in Grade CAF 13.

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : THE DIRECTOR

DATE: September 8, 1959

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: MELVIN HORACE PURVIS
SPECIAL INQUIRY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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Senator James O. Eastland (D-Miss.), chairman, above committee, by letter dated 9/1/59, received in Special Inquiry Section 9/3/59, has requested an investigation of Mr. Purvis, an employee of the Subcommittee on Improvements in Judicial Machinery. Mr. Purvis is a former Bureau Agent who resigned in 1935.

Similar requests have been honored for several years by the Bureau, and it is pointed out that former Attorney General Herbert Brownell and the then Deputy Attorney General William P. Rogers, at a conference held on 6/14/54 in the Attorney General's office, authorized the Bureau to continue to undertake investigations of the members of the staffs of certain Congressional committees upon request of the chairman thereof. This agreement was confirmed by the Director's memorandum to the Attorney General on 7/2/54, a copy of which was sent to the then Deputy Attorney General Rogers. The Senate Committee on the Judiciary is one of these committees.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the attached airtel be transmitted to the field opening the requested investigation

2. That this memorandum be routed to the Administrative Division so that a resume concerning Mr. Purvis' former Bureau service can be prepared.

ENCLOSURE

Enclosure sent 9-4-59

1 - Administrative Division

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67-7489-378

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : THE DIRECTOR

DATE: October 15, 1959

FROM : A. ROSEN *Rw*

SUBJECT: MELVIN HORACE PURVIS
SPECIAL INQUIRY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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Reference is made to memorandum to the Director dated September 4, 1959, attached, recommending that an investigation be conducted of captioned person, a former Bureau Agent who resigned in 1935. Results of inquiries are summarized in the enclosed memorandum.

77-81452-2

Current inquiries reveal that Purvis worked for approximately two years as an attorney in San Francisco, California, after his resignation. Then he returned to his home town, Florence, South Carolina, where he founded and published a daily newspaper, "The Florence Evening Star," for approximately two years. In 1941 he joined with one Martin Schnibben as a partner in the ownership and operation of Radio Station WOLS. Shortly thereafter he entered the United States Army as a captain and served with the Judge Advocate General's Office as a colonel before he was released from active duty in April, 1945. He then returned to Florence, South Carolina, and bought out Schnibben, becoming sole owner of Radio Station WOLS, which station he holds at present. From 1951 to 1959 he served as chief counsel for the Subcommittee on Manpower Policies, Post Office and Civil Service Committee of the United States Senate. Since July 29, 1959, he has been serving as chief counsel for the Subcommittee on Improvements in Judicial Machinery, Committee on the Judiciary of the United States Senate.

7489-578

On August 17, 1949, Frederick March, the non-picture actor, testified before the Subcommittee of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities of the House of Representatives, seated at Los Angeles, California. He testified that he had met Melvin Purvis in San Francisco shortly after Purvis left the FBI. He said he and Purvis dined together and the discussion came around to the question of what line of work Purvis would go into. March recalled that he attempted to persuade Purvis to investigate the Tom Mooney case, pointing out that it was an example of a grave miscarriage of justice. Purvis said he was thinking of going with Universal Pictures and perhaps to star in a motion picture. He asked March what he thought he should ask for as a salary for such a job. March told him that with his standing he should receive between \$20,000 and \$25,000.

Enclosures

FVG:sev
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ENCLOSURE

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Memorandum for the Director
Re: MELVIN HORACE PURVIS

Purvis never did go into the motion-picture business, nor is there any evidence that he followed up March's suggestion or had any further connection with March. This was not mentioned in the enclosed summary memorandum because it does not appear to represent any questionable activity on the part of Purvis, appears to be nothing more than a passing incident, and since March's testimony has been made a matter of public record.

After Purvis returned to Florence, South Carolina, he married, on September 14, 1938, a "childhood sweetheart," Marie Rosann Willcox, who, 31 days previously had become divorced from her first husband, Archibald R. Taylor. Close associates at Florence, South Carolina, [REDACTED]

bb

[REDACTED]

For approximately thirteen years Mr. Purvis has suffered from arthritis in his neck and shoulders, apparently accompanied by extreme pain.

bb

[REDACTED]

Many persons interviewed mentioned that Purvis was responsible for the capture or killing of John Dillinger on July 22, 1934, at Chicago. They pointed out that Purvis had capitalized on this by public appearances, speeches and magazine articles, subsequent to his leaving the FBI in 1935. In order to set the record straight, therefore, a brief, factual account of that incident has been set forth in the enclosed summary memorandum stating that, although Purvis was at the scene, he did not fire on Dillinger, and that the over-all operation to apprehend Dillinger was under the direction of the late Inspector Samuel P. Cowley.

Memorandum for the Director
Re: MELVIN HORACE PURVIS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that a memorandum summarizing results of inquiries regarding Purvis be furnished to Senator James O. Eastland, Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary.

It is also recommended that, in view of the derogatory information developed concerning Purvis, a copy of the summary memorandum be furnished to the Deputy Attorney General.

[Handwritten initials] ✓
GH
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September 10, 1959

MR. MELVIN HORACE PURVIS

Mr. Purvis entered on duty in the Federal Bureau of Investigation on February 4, 1927, as a Special Agent, Grade CAF 8, \$2700 per annum. After a period of training, he performed investigative duties. Mr. Purvis submitted his voluntary resignation effective at the close of business August 8, 1935, at which time he was receiving salary of \$5800 per annum in Grade CAF 13.

Memorandum prepared for the Special Inquiry Section for transmittal to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.
Frank Gardner

adh (5)
67-7489

Subsequent to his separation, Purvis has received extensive publicity over the fact that he had been one of our participating agents at the time John Dillinger was shot and killed in a street led by former Inspector Crowley. His file is replete with such news clippings and also reflects Purvis capitalized extensively in respect to the Dillinger case. He also claimed credit for handling certain cases which had actually been handled by former Inspector Samuel Crowley. On 1-31-42, he entered the US Army. Lieutenant Colonel Karl Nash, who handled CID work in the European theater, advised the Bureau that he had numerous contacts with Purvis and former SA Leon Turrou and considered both incompetent, thoroughly despised, with "yellow streaks up their backs." Nash advised that Turrou had been refused a commission but one had been finagled by Purvis and he stated that Purvis owed Turrou \$11,000. The Director commented in connection with the above "Well, the truth will out."

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MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

Rambler

... Calls on
"Forgotten Man"

By GEORGE KENNEDY

The other day the Rambler had some difficulty in locating Melvin Purvis at the Capitol by telephone.

Mr. Purvis has just taken up his duties as majority counsel for a Senate subcommittee on "improving the judicial machinery."

That there was some difficulty in locating him was not surprising. The subcommittee is a new one and has just obtained office space on the top floor (the sixth) of the new Senate Office Building.

What was surprising was that none of the secretaries and telephone operators consulted seemed ever to have heard of Mr. Purvis.

He is the former FBI agent credited with doing in John Dillinger, America's "Public Enemy No. 1," near a movie house on Chicago's North Side 25 years ago in July.

Now 55 with hair graying at the temples but a trim figure (5-foot-9, 144 pounds), he was delighted to hear that he has become "the forgotten man."

"I hope you won't emphasize my lurid past," he said. "This job is a serious one."

During all his years in the FBI, Mr. Purvis does not seem to have lost his native South Carolina accent. At any rate, he has it now.

HE HAS BEEN practicing law in Florence, S. C., where he owns the radio station.

This is not the first time he has come to Washington on an important assignment. Eight years ago Senator Olin D. Johnston of South Carolina, who thinks he is one of the ablest men in his State, brought him here as counsel for a subcommittee studying civil service. Senator Johnston is chairman of Post Office and Civil Service and is a member of Judiciary.

Mr. Purvis produced a 14-volume report in more than two years of investigation, calling attention to the glaring inequities of reduction-in-force practices, lack of incentive programs, personal favoritism and veterans' preference. Then there came a change of administration, he went back to South Carolina and nothing much has been done about it.

Improving the judicial machinery is just as difficult. Last year Paul J. Cotter and a staff made a study for the Senate Appropriations Committee. They found that cases on the old system of assignment sometimes got three years behind and, with a new, improved system, sometimes got nine years behind.

"Appointment of more judges would be the easiest solution," Mr. Purvis said, "and probably the most unsatisfactory."

THEN WE FELL to talking about the old days when occurrences were more incredible than the Westerns of Zane Grey or TV. Mr. Purvis did not shoot Dillinger. He didn't shoot at all. He lit a cigar, a signal that this was the man. The agents moved in on Dillinger, who broke and ran down an alley, reaching for a gun he did not have. They cut him down.

We talked about the kidnapings, the Lindbergh case, the Urschel case, the Boettcher case, the shootings in the Kansas City station when gangsters tried to rescue a prisoner, Frank Nash. An FBI agent, three police officers and Nash were killed. Purvis was on the Ohio cornfield when Pretty Boy Floyd, one of the participants in the Kansas City affray, was killed by agents in a gun duel. But there again he didn't fire a shot.

"I started a train once," he said. "We had arrested Verne Sankey in Chicago for the kidnaping of Charles Boettcher II, a wealthy Denverite. We wanted to take him to Sioux City for trial. I made arrangements with the Milwaukee line people. I told them we wanted to put Sankey in the last car of the train, which was to be empty, to lock both doors and have him chained to a lower berth before the train started. We didn't want another Kansas City incident."

"Mr. Purvis," said the superintendent, "the train won't start until the engineer gets your signal."

"Everything went like clockwork. Sankey was chained and the doors were locked when I stepped off the rear platform and had the boyish thrill of signaling a train to start."

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- The Washington Daily News _____
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- New York Journal-American _____
- New York Mirror _____
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- The New York Times _____
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- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
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Dillinger Killer Gets Senate Post

By the Associated Press

Melvin H. Purvis, who aided in ending the career of John Dillinger, the gangster, was named yesterday as chief counsel of a new Senate Judiciary subcommittee.

Mr. Purvis, 55, an FBI agent in the early 1930s, led a group that cornered Dillinger in a Chicago theater. The hoodlum was shot to death trying to escape.

Announcement of Mr. Purvis' appointment was made by Senator Johnston, Democrat of South Carolina. Senator Johnston said the new subcommittee will conduct a survey of the Federal judiciary machinery to promote economy and efficiency.

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 The Washington Daily News _____
 The Evening Star H-2 (u.p.)
 New York Herald Tribune _____
 New York Journal-American _____
 New York Mirror _____
 New York Daily News _____
 New York Post _____
 The New York Times _____
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 The New Leader _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 Date 4-17-57



Killer John Dillinger (above) tried to shoot it out in final showdown.

Who Really Shot Dillinger?

On the 25th Anniversary of Our Most Notorious Gangster's Death, ex-FBI Agent Melvin Purvis Reveals the Story Never Before Divulged

MELVIN PURVIS, now a lawyer and radio station owner in Florence, S. D., was Chicago's top G-man 25 years ago, when the flash came through that alerted his office to the greatest police rendezvous in the annals of American crime. Recently, he has been technical advisor for CBS-TV in its documentary series on the lives of American criminals.



By MELVIN PURVIS

(As told to Jim Conn)

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 They all had used Cowley's picture!

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FIVE SHOTS rang out. Five shots caught him as he clawed for his pistol. That's how Dillinger died. One of the shots was mine.

Twenty-five years ago next Wednesday, shortly before 11 p. m. on the night of July 22, 1934, John Dillinger, America's most vicious criminal, was gunned to death in an alley next to the old Biograph movie house in Chicago by Federal and local agents led by me.

Even today, there are mysteries surrounding the death of Dillinger. Few people really know, for instance, the names of the officers who shot him. Of course, I know. I was there. Then there was the "woman in red," Mrs. Anna Sage, the bawdy-house madam who fingered Dillinger. What was her reason for turning stool pigeon?

Over the years, there have been more half-truths and pure fiction written about Dillinger's last hours than possibly about any other criminal.

This is how it really was:

By July of 1934, our agents were receiving reports that Dillinger was in the Chicago area. At that time, I was special agent in charge of the Chicago office of the Department of Justice's Division of Investigation, which was the forerunner of the FBI.

On July 21, Sgt. Martin Zarkovich of the E. Chicago (Ind.) police reported that he had a hot tip on Dillinger's whereabouts. The criminal and his girl friend, Polly Hamilton, were in the habit of making frequent visits to Anna Sage's apartment in E. Chicago. The informant: Mrs. Sage herself.

On the afternoon of July 22, a Sunday, I received word from Mrs. Sage that

Dillinger was planning to take her and Polly Hamilton to a movie that night. She didn't know, however, if they were going to the Marbro Theatre on the West Side, or the Biograph Theatre at 2344 N. Lincoln Ave. We made our plans for either theatre.

But it was to be the Biograph. The feature film: "Manhattan Melodrama," a gangster thriller starring Clark Gable, William Powell and Myrna Loy. Twenty-seven Federal and local agents, including myself and Zarkovich, were staked out near the theatre.

How were we to recognize Dillinger? We had never seen him face to face. We had his photograph, and Mrs. Sage was to wear a red dress. It was up to me to make the identification.

AROUND 8:30 p. m., I saw a man approach the marquee with two women, one of them the "woman in red." The man was coatless, he sported a small mustache, he wore gold-rimmed dark glasses, a straw hat, a white shirt. Having committed countless photos of Dillinger to memory, I took a long hard look. Yes, the man was Dillinger!

The deadly killer calmly purchased three tickets (admission price, 30 cents each) and entered the movie house with Mrs. Sage and Polly Hamilton.

We had originally planned to take Dillinger by surprise inside the theatre. The idea was to take a seat behind him, pin his arms and capture him without raising a fuss. But the closest seat I could get was three rows away. The movie was packed. We decided to take him on the way out.

So all of us waited, and waited. It was the longest two hours and four

minutes in my life. My knees kept hitting together the whole time and I had a double hitch in my stomach.

The movie was over at 10:34 p. m. Out came Dillinger, escorting the women. I waited under the marquee, for I had the responsibility of making the identification. When I was absolutely certain that the man was John Dillinger, I lighted a cigar. There I was nonchalantly puffing on a stogie as the gunman and his party strolled right in front of me and headed south on Lincoln Ave.

The cigar was the signal of identification. When I struck the match it signi-

—~~ified~~— that I took full responsibility, that the man under observation was Dillinger and that we should take him.

As Dillinger moved away, I gave a second signal. It was a wide sweep of the arm. Anyone who saw it would know that it meant: "Let's close in."

WE had previously arranged that the other agents would run if I ran, walk if I walked, etc. In that way we would all get to Dillinger at the same time. No one wanted to win that race and get to Dillinger first, and alone.

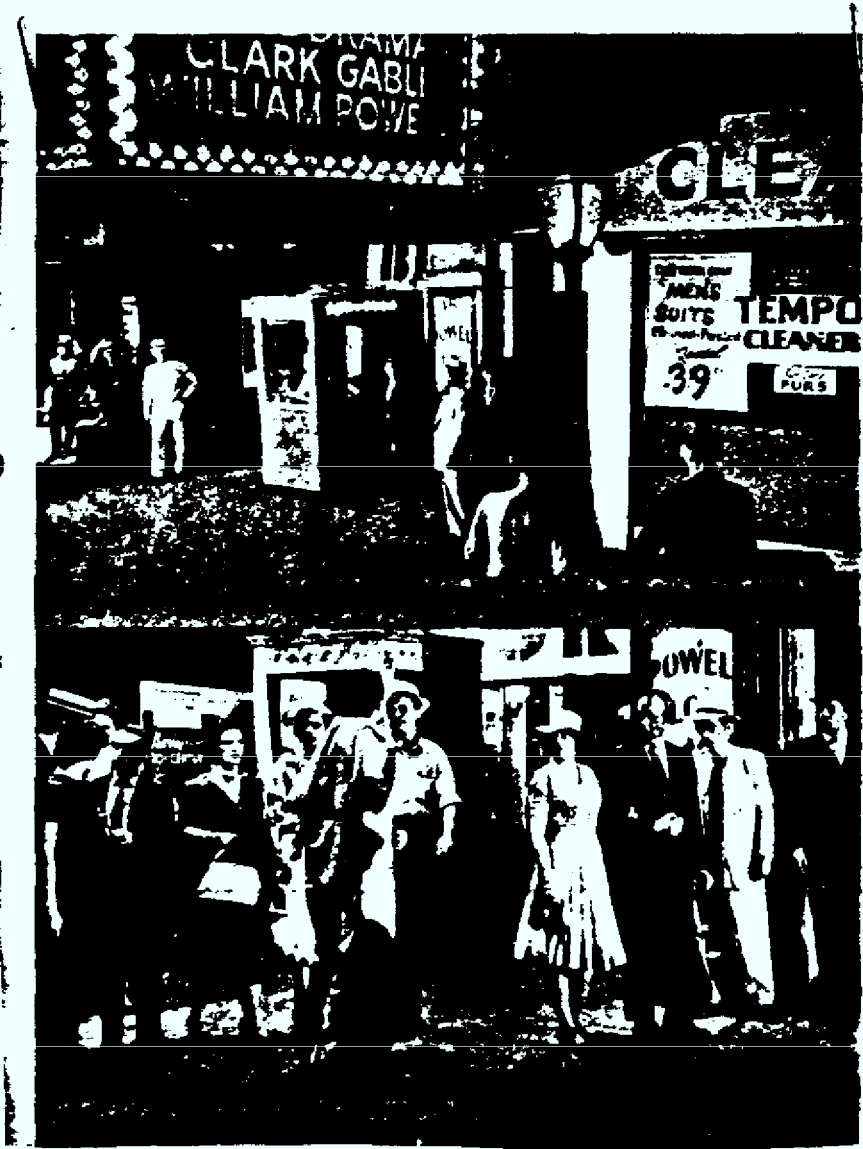
So I moved in from behind. Other agents sauntered out of a doorway. Another came up on Dillinger's right. The hunters moved in closer. Suddenly

an agent barked: "Stick 'em up Johnny. We have you surrounded."

Dillinger whirled, gave one hunted look about him, then made a dash for freedom down the alley, drawing his automatic pistol as he ran. Five shots rang out. Five shots caught him as he clawed for his pistol. That's how Dillinger died.

Who killed Dillinger? Officially, one knows. The men who were there and I was one of them—made a pact never to reveal who actually fired the shot that killed him. Now, a quarter of a century later, the pact is still binding.

I have been credited with capturing him. I have been credited with killing him. All I have ever said was that I led the group that captured Dillinger. That's what I stand on. After all, does it really matter that much who killed him?





once is dead, who fingered Dillinger, NYC



Mel Purvis (Steve Hill) hands over dead Dillinger

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR

DATE: 7/24/59

FROM : Clyde Tolson

SUBJECT:

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DeLoach	✓
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Trotter	✓
W.C. Sullivan	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Holloman	✓
Gandy	✓

Mr. L. B. Nichols advised me that he understands that former Special Agent Melvin Purvis will be brought to Washington soon by Senator Johnston to serve as Legal Counsel for the Senate Subcommittee inquiring into the functioning of Federal Courts. He stated that he understands Purvis is anxious to get one more year of Congressional service to qualify for Congressional retirement.

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✓

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Melvin Horace Purvis

LOCALITIES

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<i>Wisconsin</i>	<i>3</i>
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<i>South Carolina</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>North Africa</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>D.C.</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Ohio</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Germany</i>	<i>18</i>

CORRELATION SUMMARY

Main File No: 67-7489
(See Search Slip for other
main files)

Date: 12/30/59

Summary

Subject:

Date Searched: 9/8/59

Melvin Horace Purvis
One Purvis
Mel Purvis
M. H. Purvis

Melvin Purvis
Melvin H. Purvis
Melvyn Purvis

P. 13-24-03

Trenton, N.J., S.C.

Found As:

~~Melvin Horace Purvis~~
~~One Purvis~~
~~Mel Purvis~~
~~M. H. Purvis~~

~~Melvin Purvis~~
~~Melvin H. Purvis~~
~~Melvyn Purvis~~

Also Searched As: Horace Purvis
M. Horace Purvis

This is a summary of information obtained from a review of all "see" references to the subject in Bureau files under the names and aliases listed above. All references under the above names containing data identical with the subject have been included except those listed at the end of this summary as not having been reviewed, or those determined to contain the same information as the main file.

This summary is designed to furnish a synopsis of the information set out in each reference. In many cases the original serial will contain the information in much more detail.

THIS SUMMARY HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR USE AT THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT AND IS NOT SUITABLE FOR DISSEMINATION.

Analyst

Coordinator

Approved

Josephine M. Kelley

Theda W. Duncan

T. C. Haaser

JMK:br

REC
67-7489-7489-581
Full

JAN 6 1960

4/80

Handwritten notes:
A circled "1" and other illegible scribbles.

ABBREVIATIONS

Additional information.....Additional information appearing in this reference which pertains to Melvin Purvis will be found in the main file or elsewhere in this summary.

A letter from a Bureau Inspector dated 3/1/37, stated that while on a road trip at Madison, Wisconsin, Chief of Police Payne of Wisconsin Rapids, asked as to whether the resignation of Melvin Purvis had been due in any part to his drunkenness at Wisconsin Rapids during a convention two years ago.

62-48105-1
(17)✓

A Bureau memorandum dated 2/27/48 concerns an article on Walter Winchell (subject of 62-31615) which appeared in "Collier's" magazine on 2/28/48 and sets out the differences between the article and the material furnished by the Bureau.

The Bureau text stated that the Director received a telephone call while the article stated he received a telegram. The Bureau text stated it was from a SAC who was submitting his resignation, the article stated, "It was the resignation of his top deputy, Melvin Purvis."

62-31615-595
(15)✓

On 8/9/35, [REDACTED] Hollywood California in a letter to the Director expressed his desire to work with Melvin Purvis on a contemplated "G-Man picture" to be made by Metro Goldwyn Mayer studio. He also felt that if the Director "somehow would tip off Metro Goldwyn Mayer that I am suitable for such a job to collaborate with Mr. Purvis" he (Klein) felt the boost from the Director would help.

[REDACTED] enclosed a copy of the letter he had written that day to MGM, in which he quoted the "Hollywood Reporter" of 8/6/35. The quote stated that MGM was negotiating with Melvin Purvis to work on a G-man story that would end all G-men stories and that the Director would probably pass on the completed script before production started.

On 8/14/35 the above correspondence was acknowledged and [REDACTED] advised that the Director had not agreed to cooperate with MGM and that he had no knowledge of Purvis' plans in preparing a motion picture.

Director's notation.

80-7-299
(6)✓
SI 80-7-300
(6)✓

On 9/30/35, M. H. Purvis under subpoena in behalf of Mrs. Anna Sage called at the office of the US Attorney in Chicago to advise he would be out of the city until 10/9/35 and was served with a subpoena for that date. In a statement to the press, Purvis advised of the Bureau policy of protecting the identity of persons furnishing information but that since Mrs. Sage had made the fact known she had furnished information aiding in the apprehension of John Dillinger. Purvis stated how he felt concerning the deportation proceedings being brought against her.

62-29777-6467

(30)✓

By letter dated 10/10/35, to the Bureau, Mr. Walter A. Futter, President of Futter Studios discussed the motion picture, "The \$200,000 Snatch" and the use of members of some law enforcement agency to take the place of the representative of the Bureau, other than Melvin Purvis who was available to Mr. Futter.

7-1367-2972

(9)✓

SI 80-7-330

(21)✓

A letter dated 12/15/35 from Robert Newbern, inmate of the prison at Waupun, Wisconsin, complained that he was framed and sent to prison on the charge that he had robbed the Kraft Bank at Minominee, Wisc. He claimed his innocence and stated that in his series of articles to be written for the "Red Book" magazine, Melvin Purvis would name the man who robbed the bank.

87-36-29

(21)✓

The Central Office files of INS contain a copy of a complaint filed in Superior Court of Calif., in and for the City and County of San Francisco by Ivan Francis Cox as plaintiff. The exact date of filing is not set forth in the file.

An amendment to paragraph 35 of the complaint mentioned Arthur Kent as a person with whom Fredric March, movie actor, corresponded relative to communistic activities. The amendment also mentioned Melvin Purvis, "Ex-Dept. of Justice Man", as a correspondent of March. (p1471)

Additional information.

39-915-619 p.1764

(11) ✓

SI 61-7559-2078 (Additional
(13) ✓ Information)

SI 61-7559-2151

(13) ✓

In a memorandum to the Director dated 3/3/36, it was stated that the Bell Publishing Company, NYC, wanted to present the first medal award to be given each month to persons outstanding in law enforcement work, to the Director. Because of the possibility of setting an embarrassing precedent if the Director accepted, the invitation was declined. Mr. Peterson of the above mentioned Company, stated that the first award could be given to Melvin Purvis, but preferred to make the award to the Director. It was explained to Mr. Peterson that Purvis was a private citizen and could do almost anything he wanted to do in the way of accepting awards.

62-39245-5

Changed to

94-3-4-228

(16) ✓

b7C On 3/3/36, [REDACTED] was questioned by the Chicago Office. [REDACTED] admitted he had represented himself as being employed in investigative work for the government. [REDACTED] also stated he had advised several individuals that he was a "bosom friend" of Melvin Purvis.

47-10165-11

(11) ✓

The 5/13/36 and the 5/20/36 issues of "Prince Georges Post" published at College Park, Md., carried articles by Arley Ray Unger entitled "Brown Study." The articles concerned the Bureau and the Director and made several disparaging remarks about the publicity the Bureau had received and particularly condemned the activities of Melvin Purvis and others of similar ilk.

62-43511-2
(16)-

On 8/17/40, Frederick March, stage and screen actor, testified before the HCUA in Los Angeles, Calif., regarding his knowledge of CP activities.

Mr. March during testimony stated that he had been interested in the Tom Mooney case and had spoken, (date not given) to Melvyn Purvis about it. He further stated he had corresponded with Arthur Scott concerning the possibility of securing Purvis' aid in the Mooney case. Mr. March also advised that Purvis had asked his (March's) advice on making a motion picture at Universal and what he should receive as a salary for the picture.

Dies Committee Executive Hearings,
Volume #3 p. 1398
(37)-

b7D [REDACTED] furnished a letter dated 6/3/36 and postmarked at Glenada, Oregon, addressed to Arthur Scott, Herald Hotel, San Francisco, Calif. from Fredric March, Movie actor.

(continued on next page)

The letter stated, "The friend I contacted in S.F. after seeing you was Mr. Melvin Purvis - ex - Dept. of Justice man, of Dillinger fame. He is studying law in S.F. now and is connected with the Safeway Stores. He was interested, but must proceed most carefully, as you can understand.

" -----.

"Melvin Purvis, His address is: 301 Lombard St.
Exbrook 3700 and bus: - 815
Crocker 1st Nat. Bk. Bldg.,
Ex 3772"

39-915-649

(11)✓

SI 61-7559-1812

(13)

On 6/25/36, a Bureau Agent from the Los Angeles Field had lunch with Mr. Martin Mooney, employed by the United Artists Studio in Los Angeles, Calif.

In the conversation during and after the luncheon, Mr. Mooney stated he could not understand the activities and conduct of Melvin Purvis since he left the Bureau. Mr. Mooney felt that Purvis' activities had tended to cheapen him and Mr. Mooney advised that Purvis was to make, as well as probably write a series of cheap-type serials and take an active part in acting in the pictures himself.

62-35785-52

Changed to

94-4-4856

(16)✓

b7c [On 8/6/36, Miss Marjorie Mathis, reporter on the "Rochester Journal" was interviewed concerning her interview of [redacted] Miss Mathis stated that [redacted] was critical of the Bureau and its work and had stated that the Director was not the biggest or most capable man in the Bureau and that Melvin Purvis was really one of the aces of the Bureau.

47-9345-38

(11)✓

SI 47-9345-45

(11)✓

On 10/29/36, during a special tour of the Bureau, Mr. Harry Marder mentioned that he was connected with the newspaper, the "Boston Mirror" and that the paper was running the "Melvin Purvis serial". Mr. Marder gave the impression he did not regard Purvis' attempt to publicize himself very highly.

94-2-621

(22)✓

A Bureau memorandum dated 11/5/36 stated that on 11/2/36, Mr. Frank Waldrop had visited the Bureau and during the course of the conversation, articles written by Melvin Purvis came up. Mr. Waldrop advised that as he reads these articles upon publication, he feels in his own mind that they contain material he had prepared for a special series of stories. He specifically mentioned statistics on bank robberies which had appeared in one of Mr. Purvis' articles.

94-8-56-10

Changed to

94-8-66-10

(23)✓

b7c

On 11/15/36, [REDACTED] in a signed statement and in an interview at Eatonton, Georgia, stated he was a "Junior G-Man" working for Melvin Purvis of Chicago. He displayed the badge and credentials he had received from General Foods, Battle Creek, Mich.

47-12265-1

(11)✓

On 3/18/37, Mr. Clarence Morrill, chief of the State Division of Criminal Identification and Investigation, Calif., advised that he had learned that Colonel Henry Sanborn, publisher of the newspaper "American Citizen" had definitely made the statement that Melvin Purvis was an important cog in the CP in California and was actively engaged in communistic activities.

It was the opinion of the SAC at San Francisco that the story related by Sanborn was untrue and absurd.

61-7550-545

(13)✓

A letter dated 5/21/37, to the Bureau from Clarence Francis, President of General Foods Corporation, NYC, discussed the advertising campaign and in particular the advertisements in which Melvin Purvis was referred to as a "G-Man". Mr. Francis advised they were correcting the advertisement to read former "G-Man".

On 5/25/37, the Bureau acknowledged the above communication and suggested that it would be helpful if the General Foods Corporation could indicate that Mr. Purvis was no longer connected with the Bureau.

94-4-648-5

(22)✓

b7C [Mrs. John Purvis stated she was the wife of [redacted] whom she married under the name of John Purvis on 7/19/37. Mrs. Purvis advised that on one occasion [redacted] had told her he was a brother to Melvin Purvis, former G-Man.

31-45673-25

(10)✓

A letter dated 8/4/37, Howard Pate, R.F.D. #2, Branford, Connecticut, enclosed advertisements for Post Toasties. One of the advertisements announced Mel Purvis "G-Man" while the other advertisements announced Mr. Purvis as former "G-Man" as star performer in color-comic and newspaper ads.

On 8/18/37, the above correspondence was acknowledged and enclosed advertisements returned to Mr. Pate.

94-4-648-7

(Photostat of advertisements enclosed)

(36)✓

In a letter to the Bureau dated 6/24/38, from Emma Maynard Fichtelman, 1317 East 24th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, Mrs. Fichtelman advised that in June 1927 she had given information to the Department of Justice which led to the arrest of Roy and Ray DeAutremont. She then stated that the November 1937 issue of "Red Book Magazine" carried a story entitled, "Man Hunt" by Milton MacKaye who prepared and edited "Under Secret Order" by Melvin Purvis. She complained that the story gave her such publicity that she felt she was in danger and sought permission to carry her gun.

48-380-256

(13)✓

b7C [During early 1938, [redacted] resided at the home of [redacted]. During an interview with [redacted] they stated that by numerous stories [redacted] had represented himself to be a "G-Man". When asked if he knew Melvin Purvis, he stated that he and Purvis were just like this, indicating with his fingers that they were very close friends.

47-14593-3

(12)✓

b7C [When [redacted] was apprehended by the Chicago Field Office on 3/8/38, he admitted writing and mailing extortion notes to three Chicago women. [redacted] age 14, had in his room at home, a pamphlet purported to have been prepared by Melvin Purvis, entitled, "Instructions for Solving Crimes and Apprehending Criminals."

9-3415-77

(10)✓

A news item captioned "Vox Pop" subtitled "Melvin H. Purvis Nominated For Gold Medal of Valor" was clipped from "Liberty" magazine on 3/19/38. The item, a letter from a Dr. W. L. Davidson nominated Purvis because of his "untiring zeal, valor, and courage in getting rid of archcriminals of the country."

61-7566-880X (clipping enclosed)

(2)✓

A Bureau report dated 3/31/38 at Newark, N.J. set out an interview with Warren T. Sparks, Superintendent of the Identification Bureau of the Sheriff's Office (address not legible). Mr. Sparks advised he had received an extortion letter and was under the impression that Melvin Purvis was still working for the Bureau doing under-cover work on the case.

9-2733-80

(10)✓

b7C [[REDACTED] was interviewed at the Elbert County Jail, Georgia, at which time he displayed a badge bearing the inscription "Secret Operator - Melvin Purvis - Law and Order Patrol". [REDACTED] advised of sending a box top to Purvis and subsequently receiving the badge and had then studied fingerprints, the instructions being given by Purvis by correspondence. He denied making representations that he was a Federal officer, but highly prized the badge and carried it with him.

Information taken from report dated 8/10/38.

47-14587-1
(12)

A memorandum to the Director dated 2/15/39, stated that if Melvin Purvis was appointed head of the South Carolina State Police force he probably would replace A. W. Bohlen who was in charge of the South Carolina Motor Vehicle Bureau. Mr. Bohlen requested statistical information from the Bureau for use in hearings where he was trying to prove that there was no need for the type of State Police organization which the Governor of the State and Purvis apparently desired to form.

62-45001-31
(17)

b6
b7C [A memorandum to the Director dated 3/30/39 regarding U.S. Attorney [REDACTED] indicated that Melvin Purvis had reported that the U.S. Attorney [REDACTED] was engaging in irregular activities in connection with calling witnesses who were never used, and that a witness racket existed in the [REDACTED]

62-52964-2
(17) ✓
SI 62-52964-8
(17) ✓
SI 62-53502-6
(17) ✓

A memorandum to the Director dated 5/13/39, stated that the Bureau had received a letter, no date given, under the signature of Richard H. Jacobson, publisher of the "Standard Opinion", Chicago, Ill. wherein it was stated that he assisted the Bureau at the request of Melvin Purvis when the Bureau needed money several years ago. Jacobson stated that his life had been threatened through the mail and that he had contacted the "Department" and that the matter had been referred to the Bureau.

9-4537-8

(10)✓

On 7/12/39, Mr. Fred H. Kury of Scripps Howard Newspapers visited the Bureau for the purpose of interesting the Bureau in the purchase or lease of telephoto apparatus. Mr. Kury advised he had visited the Bureau at the suggestion of Melvin Purvis who had just been sold United Press and telephoto service for the evening paper he was publishing at Florence, South Carolina.

62-32788-52

(15)✓

A Bureau memorandum dated 11/20/39 listed articles which appeared in the "Police Reporter", date not given. The article captioned, "Famous Ex-G-Man Praises Work of Police Officials" referred to Melvin H. Purvis, former Special Agent of the FBI. A short article written by Mr. Purvis and his photograph also accompanied the article.

94-8-76-31

(6)✓

b7c Robert E. McIlwaine, Clerk, Local Draft Board #1, advised that in late 1939 or early 1940 [redacted] had been employed as a writer for the Florence "Evening Star", Florence, South Carolina. This newspaper, was started by Melvin Purvis.

100-339880-3

(24)✓

b7c b7d [On 4/30/40, [redacted] film star (victim of 9-6119) forwarded to the Bureau a letter postmarked 4/26/40, Campbell, Ohio, addressed to [redacted] and signed [redacted]. The letter asked for money and contained the following quote:

(continued on next page)

b7c

"Please [redacted] do not break up my Uncle's home with the F.B.I. Agents. About Melvin Purvis I think that it was his duty in a way but he didn't have to brag about it. When I meet him I just want to talk with him unarmed."

9-6119-1
(10)✓

On 6/28/40, the SAC at the Savannah Office, while in Florence, South Carolina, met M. H. Purvis, publisher of the "Florence Evening Star". Mr. Purvis asked no direct questions regarding the Bureau, but inquired about the welfare of several Bureau executives. Purvis volunteered to cover any leads in his city for the Savannah Office.

66-3579-2209
(34)✓

By letter dated 9/18/40, Melvin Purvis communicated with the Bureau regarding an individual, then in Florence, South Carolina, suspected of "pro-Nazi" activities.

Mr. Purvis also expressed regrets that he had missed seeing the Director when he had called to see him two or three weeks previously.

On 10/16/40, the above communication was acknowledged and Mr. Purvis thanked for his courtesy and interest.

65-4832-26X1
(19)✓
SI 100-139278-1
(24)✓

On 10/18/40, The Office of Senator Hattie W. Carraway telephonically contacted the Bureau, asking for the address of Melvin Purvis. Mr. Purvis was editor of a newspaper at Florence, South Carolina.

Pencilled notation: Senator Carraway's office advised 10/18/40.

94-8-813-2
(not listed)

b7C
b7D Melvin Purvis made available a letter he had received from [redacted] dated 12/18/40, [redacted] which stated he had important information concerning a Nevada train wreck on 6/12/38 and the kidnapping and murder of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Gray of Denver, Colorado on 8/5/37.

7-3331-1X
(10)✓

b7C
b7D On 2/28/42, [redacted] advised that [redacted] General Gullion told him that General Gullion said there was no longer any need for the FBI except in a minor capacity, working under army supervision or in labor districts in the interior of the country, as the Navy and the Army were going to take over the coasts. [redacted] further told Vanderbilt that Melvin Purvis would soon emerge as head man in the War Department in charge of all investigation and that Purvis wanted no part of any man who has worked for you.

62-33783-254
(15)✓

A memorandum dated 3/11/42 stated that Captain Melvin Purvis was a member of the group centered around Major General Allen W. Gullion, Provost Marshal General of the U.S. Army. This group contemplated a Military dictatorship in the US and whose objective was "to put the Jews in their place" and to remove the "left-wing friends of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt" from public affairs. (No source stated).

100-94623-4
(24)✓

A Bureau memo dated 7/20/42 stated that on that date, Al Goldstein, the NY representative of the "St. Louis Post Dispatch", in a conversation with the Director, told the Director that there was a rumor that he (the Director) was backing Purvis in the Provost Marshal General's Office. The Director, of course, denied this. (No further explanation).

100-94623-9
(46)✓

In a letter to the Director, dated 3/27/59, Mr. Murray M. Grier, Post Office Box 1236, Gastonia, North Carolina, advised that he was a member of the first FBI training course given during World War Two at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. Mr. Grier highly praised the courtesies extended to him on 7/29/42 by Captain Melvin Purvis in connection with the serious illness and death of Mr. Grier's father. Mr. Grier asked for Purvis' address, title and birth date, and after praising articles written by the Director asked to be placed on the Bureau mailing list.

On 4/2/59, the Bureau acknowledged the above correspondence, placing Mr. Grier on the mailing list, and also advising him that the Bureau did not maintain current addresses of former employees.

33-1-35-574

(11) ✓

A Bureau memorandum dated 11/20/42 regarding the Counter Intelligence Corps, War Department discussed an article which appeared in the August 1942 issue of the American Legion magazine which belittled the Bureau and definitely indicated that the CIC was the real investigative agency in the country.

Mr. James O'Neil, Chairman of the Americanism Commission, American Legion and Chief of Police, Manchester, N.H. advised that while he could not prove it, he was very much of the opinion that Melvin Purvis was behind Thomas M. Johnson in writing the article. He stated that the Provost Marshal's Office was constantly trying to take over the work which was properly the Bureau's and cooperating police agencies.

62-70609-3

(17) ✓

On 10/20/42, the SAC at the Knoxville Office declined an invitation extended by Major Melvin Purvis to speak at the graduation exercises of the Provost Marshal Training Center, Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia on 10/23/42.

94-1-30651-1

(22) ✓

b7D A Bureau memorandum dated 10/31/42 regarding the School for Military Government stated that [redacted] had furnished information in answer to the Bureau inquiry concerning the purpose of the school, students and instructors at the school. There was no indication that Melvin Purvis had been at the school.

An addendum to the above memo, dated 11/1/42, set out the statement that it had been determined that Purvis had been at the school in the spring of 1942 but was believed to be in the office of the Provost Marshal at Washington, D.C., at that time.

100-139395-2
(24)✓

b1D
b7C On 6/17/43, [REDACTED] telephonically contacted the Bureau and advised that [REDACTED] had made some wild statements concerning the Director, stating that he (the Director) would soon be replaced by Melvin Purvis, who would take over the FBI and OSS.

62-101380-3
(19)✓
SI 62-101380-4.
(19)✓
SI 62-33783-369 (By letter
dated 6/18/43)
(15)✓

This reference is a Photostat of a news item clipped from the Paducah, Kentucky, "Sun-Democrat" for 7/22/43.

The article was extremely critical of the Director and commented upon "his treatment of Melvin Purvis," The article further stated that Purvis stood the haging as long as possible, then resigned and was of that date a key man in the office of the Provost Marshall.

62-29244-A
Sun Democrat 7/22/43
(14)✓

As of 10/12/43, Lt. Colonel Melvin Purvis was Executive Officer to the Provost Marshal, General Joseph V. Dillen of North Africa stationed at headquarters, North Africa. (Source not given)

62-19253-1016
(14)✓

On 12/4/44, a Bureau Agent attended a conference at the War Crimes Commission regarding possible adoption of the Bureau's filing system by that organization. It appeared that the above group (Commission) had visited the Office of Strategic Services on 12/1/44 and the Bureau Agent learned that Colonel Melvin Purvis had visited the OSS, and in all probability Purvis was the instigator of the visit, but at no time did any official of the Commission mention that Purvis was along.

The Bureau Agent noted that Colonel Purvis was always kept busy on some other matter whenever the Agent engaged in a conference or meeting with officials at the War Crimes Commission.

While at the OSS, John Langan of OSS took a punch card and punched on it Colonel Purvis' name and typed on it the information: "Colonel Melvin Purvis, the former G-man who shot John Dillinger." Langan told Purvis he might like to keep the cards as souvenir's and with that Purvis laughed as though he enjoyed the situation and placed the fifteen punch cards in his pocket.

62-76878-6
(18)✓

A news item captioned "Famous Former G-Man Is Major In Washington" was clipped from the "Carolina Sheriff and Police Review", 1945. The article stated that Melvin Purvis was a major in the Provost Marshal General's office in Washington. It also stated that Purvis had declined numerous offers to play a leading role in a movie depicting John Dillinger's bloody crime career.

62-66461-A
"Carolina Sheriff and Police Review",
1945
(17)✓

On 1/31/45, during the morning news broadcast at 7:30 over radio station WTOP, the news announcer mentioned the War Crimes Division in the War Department. He stated that Colonel Melvin Purvis was connected with the work.

62-76878-12
(18)✓

A news item captioned "Purvis Named By U.S. To Track Down Nazis Accused Of Atrocities" was clipped from the "Cincinnati Enquirer" on 2/8/45.

The article announced that Colonel Melvin Purvis had been attached to the Judge Advocate General of the War Department to direct the capture of Nazi culprits.

The article also mentioned Purvis' assignment at the Cincinnati and Chicago Offices of the Bureau, 1930 - 1934.

62-76878-A
"Cincinnati Enquirer" 2/8/45
(18) ✓
SI 62-76878-A
"Daily Express", London England,
12/11/44
(18) ✓

This reference is a news item clipped from the Night Report #1583 of Overseas News Agency, 8/18/45.

The clipping stated that Colonel Melvin Purvis would probably be named Chief American Investigator of War Crimes. Colonel Purvis had been quietly working on important war crime cases in Wiesbaden, Germany for several months.

62-76878-A
"Overseas News Agency" 8/18/45
(18) ✓

In connection with the investigation into the allegation that [redacted] had operated three separate swindles between 1941 and early 1947, [redacted] NY, was interviewed.

b7c [redacted] advised that in August or September, 1945, [redacted] asked [redacted] to loan him money to be used to make deposits on options on surplus government property as soon as it was released. [redacted] also advised [redacted] that he had a contact which would help him obtain the surplus property. [redacted] further advised he had been told by [redacted] that [redacted] contact in the Federal Government was Melvin Purvis.

87-6072-7 p.31
(21)

The news column captioned "Broadway" written by Danton Walker was clipped from the Washington Times-Herald of 9/16/45. The column stated that Colonel Melvin Purvis and Major Leon Turrau were in the Heidelberg, Germany area, supposedly checking rumors that Hitler was in hiding there.

94-4-3657-A

Washington Times Herald, 9/16/45
(23)✓

b7C [On 10/22/45 former Special Agent [redacted] made the acquaintance of [redacted] while on a train travelling between Chicago and NYC. [redacted] advised he had been in contact with [redacted] and advised the former Agent of their discussions of the Russian situation. When Mr. [redacted] identified himself as a Special Agent of the Bureau, [redacted] advised he was personally acquainted with Melvin Purvis, and further indicated he held a great deal of respect for the Bureau.

100-344642-1

(24)✓

SI 100-829-531

(24)✓

A Bureau memorandum dated 6/13/46, reflected that in a conversation between a Bureau Agent and Lt. Colonel Ted Mathewson, Counterintelligence, Tokyo, Japan, Mathewson inquired as to how the Bureau regarded former Agent Melvin Purvis, since it was felt that because Purvis was well known he might assist the Army as advisor on police matters in Japan. The Bureau Agent advised he had no information as to how the Bureau might regard Purvis.

67-409533-63

(20)✓

b7C [In late 1946 or early 1947, [redacted] Chicago who was attempting to obtain custody of his child from his wife, advised he had retained [redacted] as an investigator to assist him. He advised that [redacted] was at one time employed by the Bureau and that he was a very personal friend of Melvin Purvis.

47-36383-1

(13)✓

A Bureau memo dated 1/13/47 stated that Dean Bolling of Washington University had invited the SAC at St. Louis to introduce Melvin Purvis who was to speak in St. Louis, Mo. on "Tuesday evening" on the subject "Can we lessen crime in the United States?"

The SAC was advised to decline because of other commitments.

94-1-13268-28

(21)✓

b7c [redacted] while representing himself as a Secret Service Agent, obtained over \$5,000 from [redacted] of Fayette, Arkansas between March, 1944 and July, 1946. He has claimed that the Director and Melvin Purvis visited him over-night to discuss the labor situation.

Information taken from letter dated 2/3/47.

47-36045-24

(12)✓

b7c On 6/26/49, a person who identified himself as a friend of Melvin Purvis telephonically advised that a woman had arrived in Washington on 6/25/49 and had gone to 1740 Pennsylvania Ave. The anonymous complainant advised he was suspicious of the woman and thought she might be a friend of [redacted]

65-58365-787

(20)✓

This reference is a newspaper clipping from the "Panama American" of 3/8/50 captioned, "The Mail Box", which was forwarded to the Bureau by Daniel E. McGrath, US District Attorney at Ancon, Canal Zone. The article heads "Cry the FBI" is a letter to the newspaper, signed by Melvin Purvis, Jr. in which he lays the blame for Russia having the atomic bomb in the lap of the Bureau and then goes on to state no one dares criticize the Director.

On 4/13/50, the Bureau advised Mr. McGrath by mail that it did not know the identity of the writer, that former employee Melvin H. Purvis was last known to be operating a radio station at Florence, South Carolina, and did not have any information that he was in the Canal Zone.

94-8-702-15
(23)✓

In a letter to Mr. Nichols, dated 4/5/51, William F. Buckley, Jr. (subject of 94-42995) enclosed a short biographical sketch about his father and his activities in Mexico. Mr. Buckley also stated his father had recently made the acquaintance of Melvin Purvis who spoke very highly of Mr. Nichols. Mr. Purvis and Buckley, Sr., were lunching together on 4/7/51 prior to the annual steeple chase races. (Place not given).

94-42995-4
(23)✓

A letter dated 10/4/51 addressed to Mr. Melvin Purvis from Ralph Birby, c/o The Salvation Army, San Bernardino, Calif., was made available by Mr. Purvis on 10/26/51. The letter was very incoherent and rambled on about various subjects.

Bureau files showed Birby to be a mental case.

Marginal notation: "10/29/51 Mr. Purvis advised that previous reports indicated Birby is a mental case."

62-90149-6 (above letter enclosed)
(19) - (36)✓

By letter postmarked 10/28/51, Mr. C.E. Walters requested information regarding Melvin Purvis. Mr. Walters had attended school with a Melvin Purvis and believed the former Bureau Agent might be the same individual.

On 11/6/51, the above letter was acknowledge and suggested that Mr. Walters communicate with Purvis who had accepted a position with a Special Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, Washington, D.C.

62-0-50637
(13)✓

This reference is a memorandum dated 3/17/52 enclosing copies of information in answer to a questionnaire received from Melvin Purvis, Chief Counsel of the Senate Sub-Committee on Federal Manpower Policies, seeking information concerning organization and methods work.

62-83528-32
(1E)✓

On 3/28/52, the two sons of Melvin Purvis, with a friend came to the Bureau for a special tour. At the end of the tour they returned to the Senate Office Building to meet their fathers. Melvin Purvis, Jr. was very enthusiastic about guns and apparently he and his father have a joint collection of all types.

94-2-27585
(22)✓

b6 [redacted] former Bureau Agent, advised he had had a long talk with Melvin Purvis, who informed him that he was discouraged over the possibility of accomplishing anything in view of the set up of the Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee. Mr. Purvis indicated that it was a hopeless situation and that he, Purvis, would be glad to leave on 3/31/52, that he would leave sooner except he had promised to remain and get out a report.

It appeared that one Joseph Albert Keefer was the man behind the scenes directing the investigating staff of the Committee rather than Melvin Purvis.

62-83528-28
(18)✓

On 10/24/52, Roger Touhy (subject of 62-98259), through his attorney, filed a complaint for civil damages against the Director and additional individuals, including Melvin Purvis, to recover \$1,500,000 damages resulting from an alleged conspiracy to deprive Touhy of rights as guaranteed by the US Constitution and laws.

Information taken from memo to the Attorney General, 10/25/52.

62-98259- 5

(19)✓

On 2/18/54, the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, furnished a letter dated 2/5/54 from [REDACTED]

b6 [REDACTED] The lengthy letter makes reference to Bureau personnel and the "Brink Robbery" and the following of interest to this summary is quoted.

"You may check where Mr. Melvin Purvis, came across so much money in 1953. He paid \$350,000.00 deposit on the franchise on the new Television Station that is going through Jefferson Standard. Also paid City Councilman Stone, \$50,000.00 to drop his application in for the same station. I do know Mr. Purvis in 1950, 1951 and 1952 was hunting for money because some of his radio announcers at W.O.L.S. had to find other jobs because they were not making enough money to take care of their families. In 1953 Mr. Purvis and Chief Price, & Ken Corbit, became very good friends."

63-623-7

(Photostat of letter enclosed)

(19)✓

A Bureau memorandum dated 2/19/53 sets out contacts with the New York Office by the Columbia Broadcasting System in preparation for the television program "You Were There" to be broadcast on 2/22/53.

On 2/18/53 it was learned that the above program regarding the apprehension of John Dillinger was inspired by Melvin Purvis and because of Purvis' interest in the script, the CBS-TV technician was not given a detailed tour of the NY Office.

94-4-925-242

(22)✓

By letter dated 2/20/53, William Dozier, Executive Producer, Dramatic Programs on CBS Television, NYC, advised that the script on "The Capture of John Dillinger", which was used on the program "You Are There" was prepared in close consultation with Melvin Purvis.

On 2/27/53, the above correspondence was acknowledged and Mr. Dozier was advised that many realistic and honest facts had been ignored.

94-4-925-245
(22)✓

In early October 1955, the steering committee of the "Committee of 52" circulated a resolution calling for preservation of constitutional government and racial segregation. Examination of the resolution showed that Melvin Purvis of Florence, South Carolina, was a signer of the resolution. (Source not given)

105-42793-1
(Photostat of resolution enclosed)
(24)✓
SI 105-42793-3
(25)✓

On 10/16/56, Mr. David McLeod, Mayor of Florence, South Carolina, advised that he had discharged Julian A. Price as Chief of Police in Florence because he was inefficient, immoral and conducted a personal taxi business, the driver's of whom were known peddlers of whiskey after legal hours. McLeod stated his strongest opposition was Melvin Purvis, and that he had heard indirectly that Purvis had bitterly criticized McLeod and had indicated he would run for the Mayoralty in the next city election for the express purpose of defeating McLeod so that Price could be re-hired as Chief of Police.

62-75147-49-79 encl. p.65
(18)✓

b2
b7D

105-58429-8 p.8
(25)✓

A Los Angeles Office airtel dated 7/9/58 advised that Warner Brothers were concerned with securing releases dealing with the portrayal of individuals in the motion picture "The FBI Story" who were still living.

In regard to Melvin Purvis, he was not included in the script, nor was his name mentioned, however, he was present at three instances brought out in the story. The Los Angeles Office suggested that the Bureau furnish the Legal Department at Warner Brothers with Purvis' address.

62-104323-234
(not indexed)

A memorandum dated 7/11/58 to Mr. Tolson from Mr. Nease stated that the Los Angeles Office had been advised that the Bureau felt it unnecessary to make contact with Melvin Purvis in so far as obtaining a clearance was concerned.

62-104323-190
(19)✓

The following reference is a Tesur Log and therefore is not being abstracted:

Reference

Search Slip Page #

65-38696-616

(20)✓

REFERENCES NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SUMMARY

See the search slip filed behind file for other references on this subject which contain the same information (SI) that is set out in the main file. If the source or informant is different, it will be noted on the search slip.

Index

Melvin Lavace Turris 1
 Melvin H. Turris 2
 Melvin Turris 7
 M. H. Turris 26
 Mel Turris 36
 Melvorn Turris 37
 Melvin Turris last Toaster 38

Index

Melvin Turris Law and 39
 Index Patrol
 Melvin Turris Junior - Men 40
 Mel Turris 41

Melvin Lavace Turris

ALSO KNOWN AS: Melvin Turris

BIRTHDATE: 10/24/03 (verified)

BIRTHPLACE: Simmonsville, W. Va.

SPOUSE: Lysanne Wilcox Turris

RACE: White

LOCALITY: South Carolina

Wisc Ill. Calif. N.C. Ohio.

W. Africa

REMARKS: ncm. 10/31/59

SUMMARY
(Correlation)

Searched
9/8/59

67-7489-
58

ALL REFERENCE SUMMARY

SEARCHED 9-8-59

LINA WHITSON

338

PURVIS, MELVIN HORACE

MP 67-7489

Purvis, Edwin Stone

all-

MF 67-7489

39 Ref
91.0157
[unclear]

Jervis, Melvin H.

bb MF 47-9856 Impersonated by [redacted] [unclear]
b7c

MF 62-33348

MF 47-7489

MF 80-84

DESTROY

✓ 161-7566-880X

✓ DT 1-50-610

✓ DT 617

✓ DT 663

✓ DESTROY DT 7-576-1921

✓ DESTROY DT 9370 to MF 67-7489-453

✓ DESTROY DT 7-756-281 to MF 67-7489 filed beneath serial 636

✓ DESTROY DT 7-1128-559

✓ DESTROY DT 1044

✓ DT 1054

✓ DT 62-17496-8 changed to 94-3-4-619 4-5-4-22

~~62-2734-120~~ No. in document per DE, 10/6/59

~~DESTROY~~

DE 62-1915-3078 (2 cds) per purge

~~DESTROY~~

DE 62-29734-47

✓

DE 62-29777-2840 per purge

✓

DE 3178 per purge

✓

DE 3292 per purge

~~DESTROY~~

DE 4410 per purge

~~DESTROY~~

DE 5132 (2 cds) per purge

~~DESTROY~~

DE 6863 per purge

✓

DE 62-30665-2 (2 cds) changed to
94-1-3511 per purge

~~DESTROY~~

DI 62 - 31463 - 3p. changed to per page
94-1-760

~~DESTROY~~

DI 62 - 33195 - 1

✓

DI 62 - 33477 - 7 changed to
94-8-263

✓

DI 62 - 33974 - 1 per page

~~DESTROY~~

DI 62 - 34250 - 571

~~DESTROY~~

DI 62 - 34480 - 1 changed to
94-1-2717 per page

~~DESTROY~~

DI 62 - 38021 - 6

✓

DI 60 - 7 - 274X

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 88-7-79

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 300 to 80-211

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 343 # MF 80-84-50

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 80-17-B-17

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 80-21-48

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 94-8-76-31

162 Refs

11-15-59

and

and

b7C MF 47-1856 - separated by [redacted]

Nov 1954

MF 47-12587

MF 47-21351

MF 47-25860

MF 47-34671

MF 52 - 66954

MF 63 - 73886

MF 10 - 74

AP 76 - 15903

~~DESTROY~~

2017

DI 7-3-13

~~DESTROY~~

DI 7-50-627

~~DESTROY~~

DI

628

~~DESTROY~~

DI 7-84-611

~~DESTROY~~

SI 7-576-2278

~~DESTROY~~

SI 2294

~~DESTROY~~

SI 6424/10

~~DESTROY~~

SI

9445 to MF 67-7489-452

~~DESTROY~~

SI

10562 (with serials) to MF 67-7489-470

~~DESTROY~~

SI 7-618-3

~~DESTROY~~

SI

4

~~DESTROY~~

SI 7-1128-2115 (inserts & attachments) to MF

67-7489-428

~~DESTROY~~

SI

2127 to MF 67-7489-432

~~DESTROY~~

SI 7-1367-2972

~~DESTROY~~

✓ 7-3331-1X

~~DESTROY~~

✓ 7-42-1

~~DESTROY~~

✓ 9-2733-80

~~DESTROY~~

✓ 9-3415-17

~~DESTROY~~

✓ 9-4537-3

~~DESTROY~~

✓ 9-6117-1

~~DESTROY~~

✓ 31-45673-25

~~DESTROY~~

✓ 533-1-11458 (to phone calls from Commissioner of the
Memphis Times) to MF 67-7489-499 (letter from Brown, Davis)

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 33-1-35-574

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 36-1704-140

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 37-915-619 p. 1764

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 649

~~DESTROY~~

✓ SI 47-9345-17 x to MF 67-7484-990

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 31

~~DESTROY~~

✓ SI 45 to 47-9345-38(11)

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 47-10165-11

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 47-12265-1

~~DESTROY~~

✓ ^{purge} DE 47-13487-2

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 47-14587-1

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 47-14593-3

~~DESTROY~~

✓ ^{purge} DE 47-14727-1

AR 47-15366-2

✓

^{purge} DE 47-18491-1

✓

^{purge} DE 47-26859-1

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 47-36045-24

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 47-30313-1

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 48-380-256

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 61-7550-545

~~DESTROY~~

✓ SI 61-7557-1812 + 39-915-647 (u)

~~DESTROY~~

✓ SI 2078 to 39-915-677 1766 (u)

~~DESTROY~~

✓ SI 2151 to 39-915-619 p1766 (u)

~~DESTROY~~

DE

2933X

~~DESTROY~~

✓ SI 61-7582 - 5 to MF 80-84-78

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 62-0-50637

~~DESTROY~~

SI 62-9778-103 to MF 67-7289-40

~~DESTROY~~

SI 62-19253-1016

~~DESTROY~~

SI 62-22444-1-873 (Pills) Lufkin, Texas, Mar 4
T.M.F. 7-7441

~~DESTROY~~

SI 62-27244-A Sun Democrat 7/23/43

~~DESTROY~~

SI 62-29777-4321 per purge

4312 Lufkin, Tex. 9/19

DE

5234 per purge

DE

6863 per purge

SI 62-29777-A Week. News 10/7/44

~~DESTROY~~ ✓ DE 62-3777-1-21X

~~DESTROY~~ ✓ SE 62-30032 - 2 changed to
94-3-4-575 to MF 81-94-53

~~DESTROY~~ ✓ SE 62-31615 - 74 to MF 80-64-69

~~DESTROY~~ ✓ I 595

~~DESTROY~~ ✓ DE 62-3-615 - 8 changed to
94-3-4-37

~~DESTROY~~ ✓ I 62-32778-52

~~DESTROY~~ ✓ I 62-33783-254

~~DESTROY~~ ✓ SE 367 (letter dated 6/18/42) to 62-10380-3(1)
(telephonic copy 4/17/42)

~~DESTROY~~ ✓ DE 62-35785-7 changed to
94-4-4856 per purzel

~~DESTROY~~

✓ SI 62 - 33175 - 5 - changed to
94-4-4856

~~DESTROY~~

62 - 36610 - 767 - System 1 - 66-2291-609

~~DESTROY~~

✓ SI 62 - 37245 - 5 - changed to
74-3-4-228

~~DESTROY~~

SI 62 - 40178 - 1 ^{MF} 67-7489-4471

~~DESTROY~~

SI 62 - 41130 - 2

~~DESTROY~~

SI 62 - 43307 - 1

~~DESTROY~~

✓ SI 62 - 43611 - 2

~~DESTROY~~

SI 62 - 44698 - 2 To MF 67-7489 filed after work 487

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 62-45001-31

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 62-48105-1

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 62-52964-2

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 62-52964-2(17)

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 62-53502-6 to 62-52964-2(17)

~~DESTROY~~

SI 62-66461-5 to 67-7-10-1-1-544

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 62-66461-7 (Carolina Sheriff & Police
Review 1945)

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 62-70609-3

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 65-70477-49-77 Ep 65

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 65-70478-6

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 12

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 65-76878-A Daily Express 12/11/44
to "Cincinnati Enquirer" 2/3/45 (18)

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I Cincinnati Enquirer 2/4/45

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I Bureau News Agency 8/12/45

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 67-13528-28

~~DESTROY~~

SI

(indicated notation)
29/10 MF 67-7499 - memo dated 3/6/52 filed

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I copy serial 557

32

~~DESTROY~~

SI 67-90149-4

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 65-10147-6

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 63-98259-5

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 62-101380-3

~~DESTROY~~

✓ SE

4 to 62-101380-3(4)

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 62-104323-190

I 63-0-1140

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 63-623-7

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 65-4832-26X1

61

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 65-32674-316 *Index log*

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 65-58305-797

DI 67-7297-A-37 *unclassified*

~~DESTROY~~

SI 67-201217-152 *to MF 67-7489 before serial 557*

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 67-407533-63

~~DESTROY~~

✓ DI 79-3240-1

~~DESTROY~~

single
DI 80-1-93

~~DESTROY~~

DI 80-2-402

2

~~DESTROY~~

✓ 100-7-338 + MF 80-84-47

~~DESTROY~~

✓ 100-7-338 + MF 80-84-47

~~DESTROY~~

✓ 100-21-64

~~DESTROY~~

✓ 100-30-29

~~DESTROY~~

✓ 100-318-338 per-purged

~~DESTROY~~

✓ 100-6072-7p. 31

~~DESTROY~~

✓ 100-1-13268-28

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 94-1-30651-1

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 94-2-621

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 27585

~~DESTROY~~

DI 94-3-4-61-27

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 94-4-648-5

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 94-4-925-242

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 245

~~DESTROY~~

DI 94-4-925-A NY Journal Am. 6/2/5,
per purgel

~~DESTROY~~

DI 94-4-2695-18 per purgel

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 94-4-3657-4 Wash Times News 9/18/65

~~DESTROY~~

SI 94-4-4617-8 X per journal

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 94-8-56-10 changed to
94-8-66-10

Do NOT
~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 94-8-702-15. Panel by two independent ^{and 10/65}

~~DESTROY~~

✓ ^{letter to locate Cd - 1-8-60}
SI 94-8-813-0 (cl. of letters "News & Courier")

~~DESTROY~~

7/1/64) to MF 67-7489-529
✓ I 1 to MF 67-7489-529

~~DESTROY~~

✓ SI 94-8-1003-106 to MF 67-7489 filed before 11/1/64

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 94-42995-4

1/10/65

~~DESTROY~~

✓ SI 100-677-531 + 10-54462-1(24)

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 100-74623-4

~~DESTROY~~

✓ SI 100-137278-1 + 15-4102-2621(12)

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 100-139395-2

~~DESTROY~~

SI 100-507173-1

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 100-339880-3

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 100-344642-1

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 105-42793-1

~~SECRET~~ ✓ - 551 - 42773 - 35 NS-42773-1(4)

~~DESTROY~~ ✓ I105 - 58429 - 1 p. 8

78 Refs
9/18/59
L. Hood

Miss, [unclear]

MF47-9856 ^{b7c} [redacted] 11-19-4

MF47-34319

MF62-30019

MF62-33348

MF80-84

9/5/36

~~DESTROY~~

DI 7-3-8

~~DESTROY~~

DI 7-22-21

~~DI~~

DI 7-50-609

~~DI~~

DI 7-86-387

~~DI~~

DI 7-576-47

~~DI~~

DI 1977

~~DESTROY~~

DI 52-5569-364

~~DESTROY~~

DI 12-12849-146 changed to per purge
94-1-15294

~~DESTROY~~

DI 62-17151-822 changed to

33-1-822

~~DESTROY~~

DI 886 changed to

33-1-886

~~DESTROY~~

DI 62-20437-14 changed to

94-1-728

DI 62-21105-754 per purge

DI 62-22723-31 changed to

94-3-4-36

DI 62-23190-136 per purge

~~DESTROY~~

DI

451 per purge

~~DESTROY~~

DI 62-25137-6 per purge

~~DESTROY~~

DI 62-27722-4

~~DESTROY~~

DI 62-28153-1

~~DESTROY~~

DI

2

✓

DI 62-26774-1

✓

DI 63-28915-3691

✓

DI 62-27777-3324 purged

✓

DI

3381

✓

DI

3383

~~DESTROY~~

DI

3358

~~DESTROY~~
200

DI

3460 purged

~~DESTROY~~

✓ 62-29777-6467

~~DESTROY~~

DE

688 (per page)

~~DESTROY~~

✓ DE 62-29777-1-71

~~DESTROY~~

DE

21X

~~DESTROY~~

DE

24 per page

✓

DE 62-30399-71

✓

DE

72

✓

DE 62-30535-1

✓

DE 62-31529-2

~~DESTROY~~

DI 62-31851-1 changed to
94-1-589 per purged

~~DESTROY~~

DI 62-32066-1 per purged

~~DESTROY~~

DI 62-32442-1 changed to
94-1-7731

~~DESTROY~~

DI 62-32512-1 changed to per purged
94-1-7161

~~DESTROY~~

DI 2 changed to per purged
94-1-7161

~~DESTROY~~

DI 3 changed to per purged
94-1-7161

~~DESTROY~~

DI 62-32638-1 per purged

~~DESTROY~~

DI 62-32896-1 changed to per purged
94-1-2885

~~DESTROY~~

DE 62 - 33179 - 1

~~DESTROY~~

✓ DE 62 - 35556 - 1 changed to

94-1-2111

✓ DE

2 changed to

94-1-2111

✓ DE

3 changed to

94-1-2111

~~DESTROY~~

✓ DE 62 - 36910 - 1 changed to

47-9345

~~DESTROY~~

✓ DE 62 - 37021 - 1 per group

~~DESTROY~~

✓ DE 66 - 02 - 411

✓ DE

446

✓ DE

452

~~DESTROY~~

DE 66-53-100

~~DESTROY~~

112 Destroyed per 66-818-3661

~~DESTROY~~

DE

115

~~DESTROY~~

DE

117

~~DESTROY~~

66-19-1419 Destroyed per 66-3286-608

~~DESTROY~~

1425 Destroyed per 66-3286-608

~~DESTROY~~

66-32-2026 Destroyed per 66-3286-608

~~DESTROY~~

66-34-2844 Destroyed per 66-3286-608

~~DESTROY~~

2846 Destroyed per 66-3286-608

~~DESTROY~~

66-1794-114 changed to alphabetical
Destroyed per Personnel

~~DESTROY~~

DI 66-2160-161

~~DESTROY~~

DI 66-2120-497

~~DESTROY~~

✓ DI 66-3579-2209

~~DI~~

DI 80-2-143

~~DI~~

DI 80-7-265

~~DI~~

DI 338 to MF 80-84-47

~~DESTROY~~

DI 80-21-66

~~DESTROY~~

DI 67

~~DI~~

DI 71

~~DESTROY~~

2011
DI 70-13-2 character

74-8-131

~~DESTROY~~

DI 70-88-63

at the

Purvis, Mel

~~DESTROY~~

✓ 94-4-648-7

Purvis, Mel

~~DESTROY~~

✓ 62-9449-6 (Not added to file by inst. personnel)

Boris, Melvyn

~~DESTROY~~

W. L. Room, Ex. Hearing, Vol # 3 P. 1398

9-21-39 - Nov. 1940

~~DESTROY~~

62-29777-33984 7

1 Ref

9/14/59

2000

Jurassic, Melvin Post Counties Idaho

~~DESTROY~~

62-36610-928 destroy by per-66-3286-608

2 Refs

9/14/59

at foot.

Surin, Maria New + Sister Catal

DESTROY

DE 62-0-9374 changed to
62-52599-4

DESTROY

MF 80-84-72

1 Ref

9/14/59

L. Hood

Jervis, Melvin Junior & Mrs

~~DESTROY~~

62-36610-681 Destroyed per 66-3286-608

51 Refs

1/14/59

R. Hood

Jervis, Inc

AR 7 - 1745

of ~~15-16~~ elements per investigation 12/7/59

AR 6 - 356

AR 47 - 23605 (3 cds)

AR 52 - 50714

~~DESTROY~~

66-2182 Destroyed per DI, 9/30/59.

NR 100-805

~~100-560~~ Card made incorrectly, corrected per
Com. 9/22/59.

~~DESTROY~~

DE 7-86-618

~~DESTROY~~

DE 7-576-3005

NR 7-1100-2311

NR 7-4061-8

~~DESTROY~~

DE 26-43560-6X

NR 32 - 23584 - 208

NR 44 - 33 - 39 (N. L. L. L.)

NR 44 - 2611 - 26

NR 47 - 19371 - 215 (N. L. L. L.)

NR 52 - 58555 - 1

NR 61 - 7587 - 206

~~DESTROY~~

NR 62 - 29777 - 6490 per purge

NR 62 - 57489 - 16

NR 65-57487-24 (United Purchase of Bonds, 1940)

NR 65-30092-62 (State Dept. employ)

NR 100 (State Dept. employ)

NR 65-30150-91 (State Dept. employ)

NR 65-31284-47

NR 65-38696-1436 (State Dept. Employees) 1946

NR 65-38189-747 (intelligence references)

NR 65-43379-393

NR 65-45397-278 (State Dept 1943)

NR 312 (State Dept 1943)

NR 958 (State Dept 1944)

NR 65-46578-3 (John Lewis)

NR 65-47281-3 (Espionage contact)

NR 12 (Espionage contact)

NR 66-1631-10-166

DESTROY

66-2208-40 change to alphabetical
Destroyed per personnel

NR 66-3020-1004 E p. 50 pt. II

~~DESTROY~~

DE 66 - 4760 - 29

NR 100 - 55226 - 927 (transcript Encl)

DE

1338 (transcript)

DE 100 - 64700 - 615 Ep. 948

DE

1215 E.p. 5189

NR 100 - 23138 - 1

~~DESTROY~~

✓ I 100 - 94623 - 9

NR 100 - 98893 - 36

NR 100-138713-214 (P. 100)

NR 100-156379-2

NR 100-308860-1

NR 100-345526-16

NR 105-0-3238 (P. 100)

Purvis, M. H. Grace

Grace

N.R. no ref.

N.R. no ref.



MELVIN PURVIS

TO BE CHIEF COUNSEL

Purvis, Recalled to DC, Well-Versed in Clue Hunt

By VIRGINIA RAVENEL
Special To The State

FLORENCE — Senator Olin D. Johnston's recent appointment of Melvin Purvis as chief counsel for the Senate Subcommittee on improvement of judicial machinery recalled to Washington a man well versed in the art of seeking and finding clues.

This Florence attorney and former FBI agent will probably discover his fourth job with the Federal Government less exciting than his first when he was in hot pursuit of notorious gangsters during the 1930's.

The answer to his present problem, however, may prove as elusive as were Dillinger and his associates with whom he played hide-and-seek for months through the old "crime corridor" of the Midwest.

Purvis does not underestimate the difficulty of his task, but believes that "slow justice is no justice" and is striving to work out a plan whereby the court records may be cleared of the backlog of 77,000 untried cases.

This is just the beginning, however, for his assignment includes devising some method to avoid recurrence of the situation. In this effort he is asking and receiving the advice and cooperation of many of America's great

Knowing Melvin Purvis, it's a pretty safe bet he'll think of some way to cut that many miles of red tape in recommending remedial methods in Federal court procedure.

Mrs. Purvis is the former Miss Rosanne Willcox, daughter of the late P. A. Willcox of Florence, who served as general counsel for the Atlantic Coast Line for approximately 15 years. Their three sons are Melvin III, a student at the University at Columbia, Alston, who goes to high school in Florence, and Christopher, aged 9.

Washington as chief counsel of the War Crimes office. Purvis served a year in the Army. He was called to Germany to make a survey of the War Crimes setup under the direction of Gen. Luchas Clay.

Returning to Washington in 1946, Purvis received his discharge from the Army less than thirty minutes before a cablegram was received at the Pentagon from McArthur's headquarters asking that he be sent to Japan.

Uncle Sam had relinquished his hold by this time, however, and Melvin came home.

Private practice and ownership of Radio Station WOLS in Florence kept him busy — but in 1951 — back to the Nation's Capitol — this time as chief counsel for the subcommittee on Federal manpower policies.

His findings on ways to avoid waste in government expenditures saved, and are saving, millions of dollars.

His early life in his native town of Timmonsville was quiet and held no inkling of the events which were to emblazon his name in headlines all over the nation.

Upon graduation from the University of South Carolina in 1925, he entered the law firm of Willcox and Hardee, of Florence, (now Willcox, Hardee, Houck and Palmer) as an associate, but at the end of two years went to Dallas as an agent for the organization now known as the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

During the next five years, Purvis worked in various sections of the United States. In 1932 he was sent to Illinois as head of the FBI office in Chicago, in the midst of the area with such men as John Dillinger, Baby Face Nelson and Roger Touhy had established their infamous empire.

The story of Purvis and his stay in the "Windy City" is now history. On the night of July 22, 1934, he led 26 men to a Chicago theater and cornered Dillinger who was shot to death.

No one in the group ever told who actually fired the shot, but Melvin became a national figure overnight, for he had toppled from his throne the man known as "Public Enemy No. 1"

"I wish I could forget the whole horrible affair," says Purvis, but this seems unlikely. A generation has been born and attained maturity since then, but the former FBI agent is still known as "The man who got Dillinger."

In 1934, Purvis retired from the FBI, heeded Grevelly's advice to young men, and went West. He passed the California Bar examination and practiced law in San Francisco for two years. He returned to South Carolina in 1937, but was recalled to service as a captain in 1941.

country was pretty much a man who enjoyed being in the thick of things and it might be said with a great deal of truth that Melvin Purvis did some maneuvering to get to North Africa. Military records will show that Col. Purvis did outstanding work in the field of military intelligence in the North Africa and Italian invasions.

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Mohr _____
- Mr. Parsons _____
- Mr. Belmont _____
- Mr. Callahan _____
- Mr. DeLoach _____
- Mr. Malone _____
- Mr. McGuire _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tamm _____
- Mr. Trotter _____
- Mr. W.C. Sullivan _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Mr. Ingram _____
- Miss Gandy _____

The State
Columbia, S.C.

S.L. LATIMER,
JR., Editor

Date: 7/4/60

SAVANNAH
DIVISION

56

Melvin Purvis, John Dillinger Captor, Given New U. S. Task

By VIRGINIA RAVENEL

FLORENCE (Special) — Sen. Olin D. Johnston's recent appointment of Melvin Purvis as chief counsel for the Senate subcommittee on improvement of judicial machinery recalled to Washington a man well versed in the art of seeking and finding clues.

This Florence attorney and former FBI agent will probably discover his fourth job with the federal government less exciting than his first, when he was in hot pursuit of notorious gangsters during the 1930's. The answer to his present problem, however, may prove as elusive as were Dillinger and his associates with whom he played hide-and-seek for months throughout the old "crime corridor" of the Midwest.

Purvis does not underestimate the difficulty of his task, but believes that "slow justice is no justice" and is striving to work out a plan whereby the court dockets may be cleared of the backlog of 77,000 untried cases.

This is just the beginning, however, for his assignment includes devising some method to avoid a recurrence of the situation. In this effort he is asking and receiving the advice and cooperation of many of America's great legal minds.

Purvis' early life in his native town of Timmonsville was quiet and held no inkling of the events which were to emblazon his name in headlines all over the nation.

Upon graduation from the University of South Carolina in 1925, he entered the law firm of Willcox & Hardee of Florence (now Willcox, Hardee, Houck and Palmer) as an associate, but at the end of two years went to Dallas as an agent for the organization now known as the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

During the next five years Purvis worked in various sections of the United States. In 1932 he was sent to Illinois as head of the FBI office in Chicago, in the midst of the area where such men as John Dillinger, Baby Face Nelson and Roger Touhy had established their rambunctious empire. The story of Purvis and his stay in the Windy City is now history.

On the night of July 22, 1934, he led 28 men to a Chicago theater and cornered Dillinger, who was shot to death.

No one in the group ever held the actually fired the shot, but Purvis became a national figure



(Staff Photo By Thompson.)

FLORENCE ATTORNEY WORKS ON PROBLEMS PROBLEMS

Former FBI Agent On Special Assignment

"I wish I could forget the whole horrible affair," says Purvis, but this seems unlikely. A generation has been born and attained maturity since then, but the former FBI agent is still known as "the man who got Dillinger."

In 1935 Purvis heeded from the FBI, headed Grady's advice to young Purvis and went West. He practiced law in San Francisco for two years.

He returned to South Carolina in 1938, but was called into service as a captain in the reserve in 1941.

Like in Army camps in this country was pretty dull for a man who enjoyed being in the thick of things and it might be said with a great deal of truth that Melvin Purvis did some maneuvering to get to North Africa. Military records will show that Col. Purvis did outstanding work in the field of military intelligence in the North African and Italian campaigns.

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Mrs. Purvis is the former Rosanne Willcox, daughter of late P. A. Willcox of Florence who served as general manager of the Atlantic Coast Line for approximately 25 years. Three sons are Melvin, Jr., a student at the University of Columbia, Alton, who is attending school in Florence, and another son, S.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Boardman
- Mr. Parsons
- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Malone
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Trotter
- Mr. W.C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Ingram
- Miss Gandy

Handwritten signatures and initials:
 W.V.
 R.G.
 Davidson
 Capponough

THE NEWS & COURIER
Charleston, S. C.

Dated 1/16/60

THOMAS R. WARING
EDITOR
SAVANNAH DIVISION

56

Handwritten mark: 3/10

Former FBI Man Purvis Kills Himself

FLORENCE, S. C., Feb. 29 (AP) — Mild-mannered Melvin Purvis, whose FBI teams shot down John Dillinger and Pretty Boy Floyd in bloody gangster cleanups of the 1930s, died by his own hand today.

Purvis, 56, who had left the FBI in 1935 to follow careers in law and broadcasting, shot himself with a .45 caliber automatic pistol in his home here. His physician said he had been depressed and in poor health recently.

Coroner William T. Eaddy said a self-inflicted shot through the jaw brought death shortly before noon in the upstairs hallway of his home. His wife ran from the garden when a shot rang out and found the body.

Fame Through Dillinger

Twenty-five years ago, Purvis, a law graduate of the University of South Carolina, headed a picked team of FBI agents as agent-in-charge of the Federal Bureau's Chicago office.

It was the Dillinger shooting that brought Purvis national headlines. Dillinger, called "the most brazen outlaw since Jesse James," walked out of a Chicago movie house the night of July 22, 1934, and into a fusillade of shots from G-men when he started to run.

Dillinger had been sought across the country for at least 13 murders and bank robberies netting \$500,000.

On Oct. 22, 1934, Purvis' men cornered Pretty Boy Floyd. The slick-haired desperado met death in a cornfield north of East Liverpool, Ohio.

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Sen. Judiciary Committee
 In recent years, the slight, graying Purvis divided his time between business and the law. His unmarked offices at the Florence studios of Radio Station WOLS, of which he was president, were crowded with mementoes of his FBI career, which began in 1927. Framed pictures of J. Edgar Hoover and crime-busting associates dotted the walls beside rifles and other firearms.
 His office said he had been in Washington three weeks ago to help prepare recommendations for the improvement of Federal justice administration for the Senate Judiciary Committee.
 While in Washington he came down with the flu and suffered an arm injury, a family physician said.
 Purvis, born Oct. 24, 1903, at nearby Timmonsville, S. C., is survived by his wife and three grown sons. He was an Army officer in World War II and investigated evidence against accused German and Japanese war criminals following the surrender.



United Press International

Suicide

Former FBI agent Melvin Purvis, who led the track-down of desperado John Dillinger and Pretty Boy Floyd in the 1930s, shot himself today.

- Tolson
- Belmont
- Callahan
- DeLoach
- Malone
- McGuire
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Trotter
- W.C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Ingram
- Gandy

V

File

- A-3
- The Washington Post and Times Herald
 - The Washington Daily News
 - The Evening Star
 - New York Herald Tribune
 - New York Journal-American
 - New York Mirror
 - New York Daily News
 - New York Post
 - The New York Times
 - The Worker
 - The New Leader
 - The Wall Street Journal
 - Date

MAR 1 1960

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
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- McGuire _____
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Purvis Ends Own Life; In on Dillinger Killing

FLORENCE, S. C., Feb. 29 (AP)—Melvin Purvis, one of the FBI team which shot gunman John Dillinger in the 1930s, was found dead at his home today of a self-inflicted pistol shot.

Mr. Purvis, president of the Florence Broadcasting Co., operating WOLS in Florence, had been home ill with what had been diagnosed as flu for the last week and a half.

His office said he came down with the flu in Washington three weeks ago. He had been there, his office said, in connection with work as chief counsel of the United States Senate Judiciary Committee on Recommendations for Improvement in the Administrations of Federal Justice.

Coroner William T. Eaddy ruled it was a self-inflicted wound under the jaw.

Found by Wife

Mr. Purvis, 56, was found dead in the landing of an upstairs hall in his home by his wife. Mrs. Rosanne Purvis said she was in the yard when a shot sounded.

The Purvis' physician, Dr. Walter Meade, said Mr. Purvis had been depressed and in bad health recently.

Mr. Purvis was appointed last August as chief counsel of the Senate Judiciary subcommittee by Senator Johnston, Democrat of South Carolina, a longtime personal friend and admirer.

The Senator's office said Senator Johnston was "grieved and upset" after hearing the news of Mr. Purvis' death.

Mr. Purvis stayed at a hotel while working here as the subcommittee counsel. Under a special arrangement he returned frequently to Florence.

14-Volume Report

This was his second tour of duty here as a counsel for a subcommittee.

Nine years ago he served as counsel for a subcommittee



MELVIN PURVIS
A 1946 Photo

studying civil service. Mr. Purvis produced a 14-volume report in more than two years of investigation, calling attention to the glaring inequities of reduction-in-force practices, lack of incentive programs, personal favoritism and veterans' preference.

However, Mr. Purvis was best known for his work as an FBI agent.

In an interview last August with a reporter for The Star, Mr. Purvis explained that he did not shoot Dillinger.

He said he lit a cigar when Dillinger walked out of a Chicago movie house as a signal that this was the man.

Slain by Other Agents

Other agents then closed in and shot the desperado after he apparently reached for a gun.

Mr. Purvis, who at that time was chief of the FBI's Chicago bureau, also played a major role in the capture of "Pretty Boy" Floyd and the roundup of the notorious Touhy gang.

Mr. Purvis resigned from the FBI in 1935 to enter private business. During World War II, he served as a colonel in the

Army's Corps of Military Police

Hollywood made a movie featuring Mr. Purvis and his feats with the FBI. A recent television show also portrayed Mr. Purvis' role in connection with the capture of Dillinger.

Mr. Purvis was in the thick of many hazardous skirmishes which J. Edgar Hoover's FBI men had with gangland in the Midwest. He demonstrated repeatedly he was without fear in the face of underworld bullets. He won commendation time after time for his achievements.

While serving as the FBI agent in charge at Chicago, Mr. Purvis also supervised the capture of Verne Sankey and Gordon Alcorn, kidnapers of Charles Boettcher, 2d, and many other desperate criminals.

- The Washington Post and Times Herald _____
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Evening Star **A-1 FINAL** _____
- New York Herald Tribune _____
- New York Journal-American _____
- New York Mirror _____
- New York Daily News _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- The Worker _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- Date _____

FEB 27 1960

42

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

[Handwritten initials]

Parsons	_____
Belmont	_____
Mohr	_____
DeLoach	_____
Malone	_____
McGuire	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Trotter	_____
W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Ingram	_____
Gandy	_____

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: February 29, 1960

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

O'Connell

CR Davidson
Carlyle

SUBJECT: FORMER SAC MELVIN PURVIS

For your information, we have been deluged with calls from the local newspapers and wire services for information concerning the suicide of Melvin Purvis. TODAY.

We have confined our remarks to the fact that Purvis came into the Bureau on February 4, 1927, and resigned August 5, 1935, while Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago Office.

The "Star" and United Press International (UPI) have asked if the Director had any comment, and they were advised that he was not readily available to comment at this time.

Donovan of UPI asked if Purvis was in charge of the raid that killed Dillinger, and Kemper told him no, that Inspector Cowley was in charge of this raid.

Right. ✓

RECOMMENDATION:

Files will be checked and a letter prepared to Mrs. Purvis if deemed advisable.

1 - Mr. Jones

[Handwritten notes and signatures]

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[Signature]

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(3)

We should
"no comment"
all inquiries.

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WBS

- Mr. Tolson ✓
- Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
- Mr. Parsons ✓
- Mr. Belmont ✓
- Mr. D. L. ✓
- Mr. Malone ✓
- Mr. McGuire ✓
- Mr. Rosen ✓
- Mr. Tamm ✓
- Mr. Trotter ✓
- Mr. W.C. Sullivan ✓
- Room

MELVIN PURVIS HEADED G-MAN SQUAD

Dillinger's 'Killer' Ends Life



—Capital Press International telephoto.
MELVIN PURVIS

FLORENCE, S. C., Feb. 29 (UPI)—Melvin Purvis, famed as the G-man who hunted down John Dillinger and Pretty Boy Floyd, arch-criminals of the 1930s, killed himself with a pistol today in a hallway of his home.

The quiet, unassuming Purvis led the squad of Federal agents, known then as G-men, that shot down Dillinger on a Chicago street 25 years ago. He later directed the Midwest G-men in their pursuit of Floyd which also ended in that bank robber-slayer's death in a gun battle.

Purvis was acclaimed as the man who "killed" Dillinger, although this was never proved.

Purvis, 46, an attorney and radio station executive, shot himself with a .45 caliber Colt automatic pistol. His wife found his body.

Coroner William Eaddy ruled the death a suicide and said no inquest would be held. Purvis was ill, despondent and depressed, a spokesman said. Survivors include his wife and three sons.

file

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER
DATE MAR 1 1960
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EDITOR Herbert Woodard
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

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PERB...

Purvis was agent in charge of the FBI squad which tracked down and killed the infamous Dillinger in front of the old Biograph movie house in Chicago the night of July 22, 1934.

Dillinger, the nation's Public Enemy No. 1, died in a hail of FBI bullets. The G-men, under Purvis' direction, opened fire when Dillinger tried to draw his gun. Purvis had directed the search for the desperado since Dillinger's daring escape from the Crown Point, Ind., jail March 3, 1934.

The tip that led the G-men to Dillinger came from a woman informer who became known as the "Lady in Red" who accompanied the disguised Dillinger and a girl friend to the theater.

It was never disclosed who actually killed Dillinger, but the fame that went with "getting Dillinger dead or alive" went to Purvis, a slightly-built, 127-pound, five-foot-seven-inch South Carolinian who was FBI agent-in-charge of Chicago during the heyday of gangsterism that Dillinger typified.

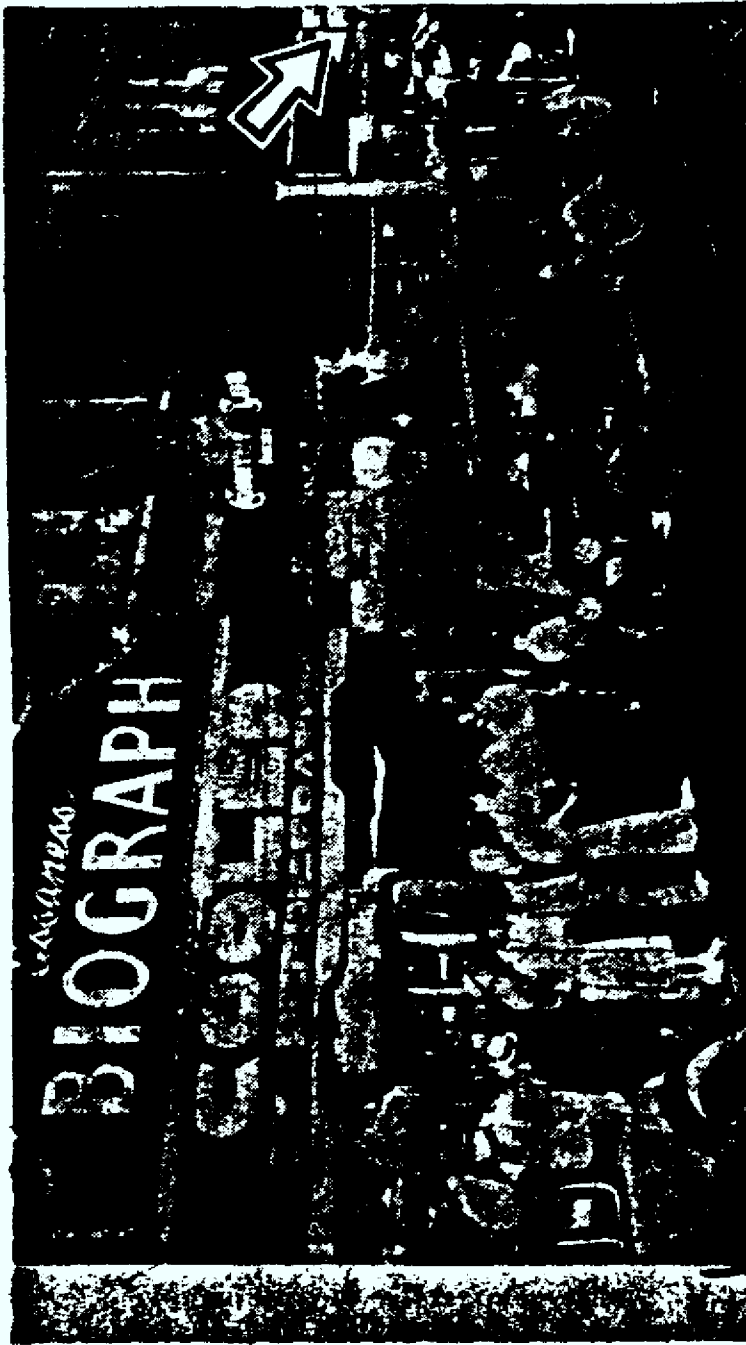
Purvis always tried to disclaim credit and described it as "just an incident."

Purvis became agent in charge in Chicago in 1932 and he and his agents captured or killed such criminals as bank robbery and killer Fredy Boy Floyd, kidnaper Vern Sankey and members of the mob of the late Roger Touhy who kidnaped John (Jake the Barber) Factor.

Born at Timmonsville, S. C., Purvis was a 1925 graduate of the University of South Carolina law school. After leaving the FBI, he went into law practice in Washington, D. C., and later published an afternoon newspaper here for a time. He served in Africa, France and Germany in World War II and rose to the rank of full colonel.

He owned radio station WOLS in Florence.

Purvis' application to the FBI for employment as an agent was almost turned down until J. Edgar Hoover's eye caught a notation on his recommendation from the University of South Carolina law school which cited Purvis as having unswerving devotion to duty.



—Associated Press Photo
OUTSIDE THIS CHICAGO THEATER ON JULY 23/1934, THE LONG CHASE ENDED IN DEATH.
Dillinger refused to surrender, ran as far as all day (arrow) before FBI bullet downed him.