

# **McVeigh's Sister Laundered Proceeds of Bank Robbery**

## **ATF Surveillance Confirmed by Informant**

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By J. D. Cash

The sister of Oklahoma City bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh told authorities that her brother was part of a group that believed the government should be overthrown and that the propriety of robbing banks to finance that objective should be "evaluated in light of the need for action."

In a sworn statement, dated May 2, 1995, Jennifer McVeigh, then 21, said that she was given three (3) \$100 bills and asked that they be exchanged for "clean money" because, her brother said, the bills were from a recent bank robbery in which he and others had participated.

Jennifer McVeigh was picked up for questioning in Florida shortly after he brother and his ex-army buddy, Terry Nichols, were identified as suspect in the Oklahoma City bombing.

Jennifer McVeigh's sworn statement was made after FBI agents in Buffalo, N.Y., told her that her original affidavit of May 1 would need to be verified by a polygraph examiner.

After learning that one of the questions the examiner would pose referred to the completeness of her information concerning her brother's suspicious activities before the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma, she asked to make another affidavit.

In the May 2 affidavit, McVeigh's sister details the bombing defendant's associations with "others" — "others" who she claimed she could not identify, but who were involved in a recent bank robbery and other criminal acts.

Referring to a conversation with her brother in December 1994, at their recently deceased grandfather's New York residence, a portion of Ms. McVeigh's May 2, 1995, statement says:

"He (Timothy McVeigh) had been involved in a bank robbery but did not provide any further details concerning the robbery. He advised me that he had not actually participated in the robbery itself, but was somehow involved in the planning or setting up of this robbery. Although he did not identify the participants by name, he stated that "they" had committed the robbery. His purpose for relating this information to me was to request that I exchange some of my own money for what I recall to be approximately three (3) \$100 bills.

"He explained that this money was from the bank robbery and he wished to circulate this money through me. To the best of my recollection, I then gave my brother what I

recall to be approximately \$300 of my personal cash, in exchange for three \$100 bills, which I deposited within the next several days in an account at the Unit No. Federal Credit Union, Lockport, N.Y. "I observed at that time that my brother had on his person an undetermined quantity of \$100 bills, of which he provided me a small portion.

"It is my belief that this bank robbery had occurred within the recent past. I was not made aware of the details or if there were additional robberies involving my brother or any of his associates. I do recall that my brother remarked that the money he had in his possession represented his share of the bank robbery proceeds." Jennifer McVeigh's recollections to agents also included statements regarding a letter he brother sent her dated Dec. 24, 1993.

In that letter, Jennifer said her brother states, "Persons who rob banks may not be criminals at all. He implied Jews are running the country and a large degree of control is exercised by the Free Masons. Banks are the real thieves and the income tax is illegal."

McVeigh also told agents that a letter highly critical of the Waco raid — that they had recovered from her computer disk — was actually written by her brother and mailed to the American Legion in the fall of 1994.

As well, she said, her brother had' anonymously mailed a copy of that letter to an ATF office with a note accompanying it which said, "You Mother F 's are going to hang."

Timothy McVeigh's purported involvement with a group of bank robbers may find its way into a bank robbery trial currently going on in Columbus, Ohio. In the first of several anticipated bank robbery trials for self-styled revolutionary Peter K. "Commander Pedro" Langan, the government alleges that he led several others in planning and executing a number of heists. Currently Langan is standing trial for robberies of two Ohio banks in 1994.

Authorities say Langan's gang, dubbed the Aryan Republican Army (ARA), used the bank robbery proceeds to further their proclaimed goal of a race-based revolution in this country.

Very little of the estimated \$250,000 taken in the multi-state crime spree has yet been recovered.

Several members of the national media have been closely watching JLangan's trial — now entering its third week — searching for clues that might emerge which could link the Aryan Republican Army and the Oklahoma City bombing.

Thus far, only Langan, 38 and three others, Scott A. Stedeford, 28, Kevin McCarthy, 19, and the late Richard Guthrie, 38, have been arrested for their suspected roles in a string of 22 bank heists across seven Midwestern states. Scott Stedeford has already been tried and convicted for one of the robberies and still faces charges for several others.

McCarthy and Guthrie had earlier pled guilty to numerous robberies and entered into plea agreements to testify for the government.

Last July, only days after entering into a plea deal, Richard Guthrie was found hanged in his jail cell. Authorities contend it was suicide.

Suspicious links between McVeigh and Langan's group have recently come under scrutiny of the media as more and more details have surfaced involving the gang's associations with former residents of Elohim City — a white separatist enclave in far eastern Oklahoma.

According to published reports, Langan's group was modeled after another band of revolutionaries called the "Order" that, over a decade ago, used proceeds from various armored car heists to advance their goal of a white-led insurrection against the federal establishment. In a video tape obtained by the McCurtain Gazette, Peter Langan appears in disguise while he explains to potential recruits that the goal of the ARA is the overthrow of the federal government and the subsequent execution of all Jews and deportation of all non-whites from the United States.

In the tape, made only a few months before the Oklahoma City bombing, Langan says, "Federal buildings may have to be bombed and civilian loss of life is regrettable but expected."

Thus far, authorities have revealed little that ties McVeigh to the ARA, but the Gazette has now learned that an ATF paid informant has linked McVeigh and his exarmy buddy, Michael Fortier to Elohim City and several members of the alleged bank robbery scheme.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, the confidential informant said that the Tulsa office of the ATF was conducting surveillance and collecting data on residents of Elohim City — prior to and after the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building.

During this period, the ATF confidential informant recalled visits by McVeigh and Fortier to the compound along with regular visits by Langan, Guthrie, Stedeford and McCarthy.

As well, the informant reported that conversations and video tapes of some members of the ARA were passed along to the informant's "handler," Special Agent Angela Finley of the Tulsa ATF office. In one such episode, the informant recalled for the Gazette that Agent Finley helped the informant set up recording equipment so certain subjects could be filmed handling explosives.

That tape, the informant told the Gazette, was turned over to Agent Finley after members of the ARA had dinner at the informant's house.

Clearly depicted on that tape the informant says is Elohim City's security advisor, German national Andreas Karl Strassmeir painting hand grenades with two members of the ARA.

Gazette readers may recall that Strassmeir is the mysterious figure whom residents of Elohim City say Timothy McVeigh telephoned in the days before the Oklahoma City bombing.

While Strassmeir's North Carolina attorney, Kirk Lyons, denies any substantial associations between McVeigh and Strassmeir, the confidential source says that statement is entirely untrue and that McVeigh was well-known to Strassmeir and his circle of friends.

The informant also said that Strassmeir's discussions involving the bombing of a federal building were passed along to Agent Finley in the fall of 1994. However, according to Lyons, Strassmeir was never officially questioned as a suspect by the authorities during the several months he remained in this country after the bombing.

As reported by the Gazette, Strassmeir is believed to have also been at ATF "mole" at Elohim City.

This is a charge both Strassmeir and his attorney have steadfastly denied, in spite of : evidence obtained by attorneys for Timothy McVeigh, which indicate that Strassmeir applied for various jobs with U.S. law enforcement agencies after beginning to visit this country in 1988.

Strassmeir, 37, a former German military officer with training in intelligence work, abruptly departed the U.S. last January and currently resides at his father's home in Berlin.

Strassmeir's father, Guenther, served over 20 years in the West German parliament and is a close confidant of current German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl. At the time of Guenther Strassmeir's retirement, he was serving as Secretary of State to Berlin and was considered one of the key architects of the reunification of the divided Germanies.

Attorneys for McVeigh have been seeking information from prosecutors about the younger Strassmeir's alleged ties to international terrorism and various federal agencies where he sought employment. Andreas Strassmeir and his former Elohim City roommate, Michael Brescia, have been named along with Timothy McVeigh and Michael Fortier in a wrongful death civil suit by bombing victim Edye Smith of Oklahoma City. Smith lost her only two children, Chase, 3, and Colton, 2, in the April 19, 1995 attack on the federal building.

Although Brescia was reportedly served by attorneys for Smith with the multimillion dollar suit, the defendant did not respond within the statutory period and has apparently decided to default on the action rather than appear and defend himself.

Also, the Los Angeles Times reported Jan. 15 that Brescia's attorneys confirm that the 26-year-old neo-Nazi has received a letter from the Philadelphia U.S. Attorney's office

acknowledging that he is the target of a wide-ranging probe involving various criminal acts.

Reported in the Columbus Dispatch and the McCurtain Daily Gazette, Brescia was alluded to by Kevin McCarthy in earlier court testimony as a participant in the Aug 30, 1995, robbery of a bank in Madison, Wis.

According to the ATF's confidential informant at Elohim Gity, Michael Brescia was a close associate of McCarthy and other members of the ARA.

The Rev. Robert Millar, the spiritual leader at Elohim City, said Brescia, Stedeford and McCarthy performed in the compound's band, The Iron Cross, and later formed a group in Philadelphia, called Cyanide.