

K. 944

17 May 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Report of Meeting with ACSI Concerning
Mr. Fredis LAUNAGS

1. At approximately 1000 hours this date, the writer met with [] Operations Branch, ACSI, to answer a previous inquiry by [] concerning the cover and documentation being used by Mr. Launags. Prior to any discussion, [] indicated that his "front office" was concerned with this subject but that he knew none of the details other than the fact that they wanted to know the individual's cover and documentation. The writer then explained that subject had nominal Department of the Army civilian employee cover in a bona fide Army unit assigned to this Agency for cover purposes. The writer further indicated that the subject had no Department of the Army documentation for this cover; however, he did have a DD Form 489, Department of Defense Non-Combatant's Certificate of Identity, which the recent use thereof had probably been brought to the attention of the Army. The writer then gave, generally, the following explanation for subject having this particular documentation in his possession:

An operating element of the Agency had approached a representative of the writer's Branch requesting immediate documentation for Launags for use on a mission which would bring him in contact with an individual of foreign extraction. It was the opinion of the operating element that the individual who was to be contacted would expect Launags to have official documentation in his possession and, when shown, would accept subject's bona fides. The representative of the writer's Branch, a young administrative assistant, GS-7 level, knew that the Agency had no Department of the Army documentation to give the individual and was under the impression that proper Department of the Army documentation could not be obtained from ACSI. Notwithstanding, he was convinced that some documentation, as near consistent with the individual's cover as possible, WAS NEEDED and accordingly issued the DD Form 489. Upon issuance of this card, Launags was instructed that it was to be used only to show the individual he was to contact; under no circumstances would it be shown to any American officials; it was not to leave his possession; and he was to return it immediately after completing his mission. This latter, of course, subject failed to do.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE: METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

On the night of 5 April 1957, Launags had established a meeting with an individual of foreign extraction who is of interest to this Agency. Launags used an alias in making arrangements for this meeting and met with the individual in his home using the alias. Launags met unexpectedly with a family situation which appeared to be getting out of control and in an effort to stabilize the situation he produced the DD Form 489 still in his possession and showed it to the person being contacted. In showing this card he carefully concealed his true name in the manner in which he held it. The individual being contacted apparently had previously contacted the Philadelphia police for at this time police arrived at the house and apprehended Launags and together with the individual being contacted was taken to the local precinct. At the precinct Launags refused every effort of the uniformed police and detectives to see this DD Form 489 card and finally explained his presence in the area as working for the Department of the Army and gave the appropriate unit and superior's name. The police then contacted the local CIC agent who arrived on the scene and privately talked with Launags. At this time Launags presented the card to the CIC agent and advised him that he had refused to show the card to the police because his instructions were that he was to show the card to no one. Shortly after this, subject was released by the police.

2. The writer emphasized the fact to [] that subject had been issued the DD Form 489 card for one specific use in the latter part of 1956 and that subject, although he had not returned the card, had no intentions of using the card in making the contact on the night of 5 April 1957. The fact that subject refused to display the card to the police was emphasized repeatedly to explain to [] that Launags, in a moment of excitement, produced this card for the sole benefit of the individual being contacted on that night.

3. [] appeared satisfied with the explanation and jokingly bet the young admin assistant had had a good chewing out. [] stated that we would probably hear no more about it but in any event he would let me know what his "front office" had said about our explanation.

4. At 1300 hours [] called and stated that his "front office" was satisfied with the explanation but that [] would probably contact [] further stated that Headquarters Second Army had forwarded the CIC agent's report to the Pentagon which now required an answer by G-2. [] stated that now that they had the information there would be no problem in answering Second Army's inquiry.

[]

CC: C/GCB
CC: C/PI OPS