
Department of Justice Surveillance Report of the Activities of Edward Lindgren, April 27-30, 1921.

by Dan E. Tatom

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Case number 202600-1775-18.

Report made at: Pittsburgh, Pa.

Date When Made: 5/4/21.

Period for Which Made: 4/27-30/21.

Report Made By: Dan E. Tatom.

Title and Character of Case: JOHN LANDY, alias
FLYNN.

Facts Developed:

AT PITTSBURGH and NEW YORK CITY.

Pursuant to instructions from Agent in Charge C.D. McKean, I proceeded to the Henry Hotel, City, for the purpose of learning who occupied Room 414, where this room was located, and all regarding its occupant that I could discreetly learn.

In reporting back to the office, I reported that Room 414 was on the 9th floor and was occupied by JOHN LANDY [Edward Lindgren], New York City. Subject had registered in the early forenoon on Saturday, April 23rd, 1921. I also learned and reported that subject had received or sent no phone calls or telegrams from the Hotel Henry, nor had he made any arrangements through the hotel porter for sleeping car accommodations or transportation from Pittsburgh.

Later, I was instructed by the Division Superintendent [Scully] and Agent in Charge [McKean] that subject would probably go to New York City on the night of the 27th and that I was expected to shadow him.

In the late afternoon, together with the Division Superintendent and the Agent in Charge, I stationed myself in the lobby of the Hotel Henry for the purpose of getting an accurate description of subject, also a spot on him. Around supper time, subject came

from his room and was shadowed by myself and other agents for a short distance and a good description secured by me.

LANDY, alias FLYNN [Lindgren] is 5'7" in height; light hair, growing thin on the top and around the edges; blue eyes; ruddy complexion; smooth shaven, lean face; and has a blue anchor tattooed on the back of his left hand. He is of stocky build and appears to be either Slavic or Irish. He wears a very dark suit with box-cut coat, black derby hat, and very small black shoes. He wears a stiff, turned-down collar and a four-in-hand tie of dark mixed material. He is a rapid walker. He has a turned-up nose and is about 38 years of age.

The Division Superintendent, myself, and other agents covered the Union Station until about 1:45 am; while the Agent in Charge covered the Henry Hotel, seeing subject go to his room about 1:30 am.

The following night and day, subject was kept under surveillance by several agents of this office.

In the afternoon, I accompanied Agent Lenon to the office of Captain Frazier of the Pennsylvania Railroad Police, where agent Lenon made arrangements to cover any baggage checked by subject. Other extensive precautions were taken by the Agent in Charge, which would make it practically impossible for subject to elude us.

I next saw subject in the late afternoon in the Pennsylvania Station. At this time he was dressed as before, except that he was wearing a three-quarter length Balmacaan topcoat of a greenish-gray mixed material. On this occasion, subject was shadowed by Agent in Charge McKean and Agent Morgan.

I saw subject no more until around 10:30 at night, when he entered the Union Station, accompanied by two other men. Here he purchased a ticket and sleeping car berth, secured his baggage from the check room, and after having a light lunch with his companions, he boarded the 11:10 pm train (Manhattan Limited #22) for New York City. He was occupying Lower 2 in Sleeper 57; I followed subject, occupying Lower 6 in the same car. I sat in the smoker of the Pullman for about an hour with subject and some other men, but no conversations were entered into.

I observed that subject's baggage consisted of a black, square-built case, which resembled a jewelry salesman's case; it was about 12 by 8 by 4. He also carried a mahogany colored, pebble-grained handbag of large dimensions. This bag had hand-turned seams and heavy frosted brass catches. To all appearances it was practically new and was, without a doubt, an expensive piece of luggage.

Subject arose before 7 o'clock in the morning and was fully dressed before we reached Philadelphia. Between Philadelphia and New York, I had a casual conversation with subject in the smoker of the Pullman, discussing generalities.

Approaching Newark, NJ, and later Manhattan Transfer, I kept a careful lookout for Special Agents of the New York Office, as I had been informed that I would be relieved by New York agents and I thought it very probable that the agents might approach the train at one of these points.

I arrived at Pennsylvania Station at 9:30 am (10:30 City Time), where, owing to the crowded conditions of the Station, I missed connections with the relieving agents. I had been ordered by Agent in Charge McKean to report to Agent in Charge O'Donnell as soon as possible after I arrived in New York, but I was prevented for a time from doing this as I was compelled to keep subject under surveillance.

I observed subject checked his baggage and then went to the washroom where he remained about 15 minutes. Together with the 15 minutes he spent in the washroom and about 10 minutes he spent in checking his bags, I would say that he remained in the Pennsylvania Station about 30 minutes, which would be 11 o'clock City Time.

While he was in the washroom I phoned Agent in Charge O'Donnell from a booth, this booth being

located where I could keep my eye on subject. Subject did not stop for breakfast as he had eaten on the diner and leaving the station, he proceeded north on Seventh Avenue to West 41st Street, where he turned west and without any hesitancy or loss in time in looking for numbers, he entered 226 West 41st Street. This was about 11:20 am (Daylight Time). No. 226 West 41st Street is an old gray brick dwelling house, which has been turned into a business establishment. It is occupied by an advertising firm and printing establishment, the Economy Silversmith and Plating Company, and the John Brunton Studios.

After subject had been in here for about 10 minutes and it appeared as though he would not emerge, I again phoned Agent in Charge O'Donnell, who had me talk with Agent Scully; I would say this was around 11:30 am. Both O'Donnell and Scully told me that the agents who were to meet me had phoned in and that they would relieve me within a very short time. About 20 minutes after this, I was met by Agent Anderson and a few minutes later by Agents Al Weitsman and Loren. We were later joined by a Police Detective from the Bomb Squad.

The three agents, above named, the Police Detective, and myself remained on the job for possibly a half hour, Agent Anderson making two trips inside the building at 226 West 41st Street. We were later joined by Police Detective Kelly of the Bomb Squad and as it was 2 o'clock and subject had not emerged from the building, the idea was advanced by someone that perhaps he had gotten out of the building without being seen.

I then gave the description of the two bags carried by subject to Police Detective Kelly and Agent Anderson, who proceeded to the check room at the Pennsylvania Station in an effort to locate these bags.

The other Police Detective, Agents Weitsman, Loren, and myself continued to cover the address at 226 West 41st Street. At 2:10 pm subject emerged with another man and walked east on West 41st Street as far as Seventh Avenue, where the other man left him. Subject was carrying a number of envelopes in his hand and after leaving the other man he proceeded east on West 41st Street to Broadway and turned south on Broadway, where in a mailbox at the west-north corner of West 38th Street and Broadway he deposited the envelopes in his hand in the mailbox at 2:20 pm.

He continued south on Broadway to a mailbox in front of the Herald Building on West 35th Street, between Broadway and Sixth Avenue, where he drew from his pocket ten other large envelopes and dropped them in the mailbox at 2:30 pm.

Agent Loren had dropped off to cover the mailbox at West 38th and Broadway and I dropped off at the box at West 35th to cover this mailbox. Carrier #1216 opened the box and I had him tie a string around the ten envelopes deposited by subject. It was easy to identify these envelopes as they were large plain ones, bearing a six cent yellow stamp and a two cent red stamp. I had been close enough to subject to observe these stamps.

The carrier informed me that these letters would be deposited in the mail at the main Post Office within 30 minutes and I secured a taxicab and hurried to the main Post Office, where I interviewed Postmaster Patten, Chief Auditor Mayer, Superintendent of Carriers Harris, Post Office Inspector Stephenson, and Chief Post Office Inspector Cochran and was successful in securing the bunch of letters which the carrier had tied up and getting the names to whom they were addressed.

I then requested the Chief Post Office Inspector to order this mail held in his safe for as long a time as possible and then communicated with Agent Scully, informing him that the Chief Post Office Inspector would hold this mail and would deliver it to the Department of Justice if a search warrant was secured. Agent Scully had me come to the Bureau Offices with

the list of the letters being held at my request and at the Bureau Offices I turned the names of the persons to whom these letters were addressed over to Agent Scully, who had Agent John Haas prepare a search warrant for the seizure of the mail.

Below appear the names of the persons to whom the above referred to mail was addressed:—

M.R. Serratti, R 1 r Avanti, Rome, Italy.

Ernest Christiansen, Eeglade 16, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Radnicki List, Novi Lad, Yugoslavia.

La Femtle, Rue Necker, Geneva, Switzerland.

A. Arvanitis, Rue Euripied 14, Athens, Greece.

Leipziger Volkszeitung, Tanchauersti, 19/21, Leipzig, Germany.

Berner Tagwacht, Kapellenstr. 6, Berne, Switzerland.

Miss Cecelia John, 54 Cochrane Street, Brighton, Victoria, Australia.

Framtidens Folk, Vitus Huset, Lidingo Villastad, Switzerland.

El Comunista, Augustin 1, 2, Izquierda, Zaragoza, Spain.

Following instructions, I left New York City at 8:30 pm, arriving in Pittsburgh the following morning at 7:50 pm.

Case closed at Pittsburgh unless otherwise instructed.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Second Edition, March 2006 — Corrects misspelling of Agent's surname.

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