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C.I.A. Trainees Use Burglary For Practice

NEW YORK, April 18 (Reuter) — Esquire magazine said today that Central Intelligence Agency (C.I.A.) trainees are sent out to break into American shops and factories, and some get caught.

In an article called "I Spy for the C.I.A." the anonymous author said trainee agents are instructed in lockpicking, alarm systems and burglary techniques.

Then, with burglars' kits supplied, they are told to break into selected factories or shops and take pictures of documents to simulate future cloak and dagger missions.

According the the article, the assignments are not prearranged with the police or owners of the burgled buildings.

Part of the training exercise involves trying to escape or talk one's way out if caught. Agents do not carry credentials and are not allowed to say that they work for the C.I.A.

With the one telephone call allowed a person taken into custody, the captured trainee telephones an agency contact and the C.I.A. gets in touch with officials at the top level of the police department.

The article said that in some cities, police chiefs object strongly to this kind of activity but in others the police cooperate by letting the agent go without much difficulty.

The author said his own particular target was a plumbing-supply house. He added: "I took a few pictures of various bills . . . the only problem was that I was scared to death all the time."

A spokesman for Esquire declined to give any further details as to the author of the article, but said the article was authentic.