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Dear Gary,

Lil told me of your call last night and that you were surprised to know that I was in the OSS. She said, more or less correctly, that she did not know what I did. The less is what she forgot. There were no secrecy oaths then, we understood that we were not to talk loosely--it was wartime-- and I just never talked about it for years. She has forgotten one of the things that ~~do~~^{did} not have to be secret that I haven't mentioned from time to time.

First, I was never a spook. I was an analyst. But because of the job Donovan had waiting for me while my security was being cleared was such a spectacular success it gave me a ^{sub} among those who knew, most at headquarters. I never saw the men I got off after their conviction on a frameup was upheld through all appeals. Never even spoke to them. But after that, I was used as a troubleshooter and as it turned out all those jobs were easy. I remember one was for the White House. And that was the very easiest, although it had been assigned to counterintelligence. It was only in the CIA that Angleton headed that. At the time in question he was fouling up in Italy and somehow getting a rep out of doing badly.

I ~~did~~ got some kind of decoration, was not so impressed with it and lost it in the decade it was given to me, the 40s.

The last thing I did as a soldier in the OSS, which rehired me as a civilian after a medical discharge, was ~~to~~ to draft a limited circulation, 13 copies, report on the secret history of the OSS. It was stoleⁿ and I next saw it in the movie starring Cagney, "OSS."

If you are interested, more later. Just so you won't get any wrong ideas, I was never a spook, the investigating I did was not spooking, and essentially much of what I did is research, only not the kind most people think of as research.

I'm not going to rush out and buy Harry's crap and I've too much to do to do anything ~~at~~ at all about it unless questioned. Then I'll defend myself. I still believe that the libel has been removed although I do not know, publishers do crazy things. Like publishing Harrys. I did not even pump Andy when he phoned. He told me that Harry is critical of me over my disbelief in ~~the~~ "arewell America and what he liked, as he said, most of all, is that in saying that I was in OSS Harry added "And we all know what that means." Really?

The first thing that came to mind when Andy said that is what I said, "Like Sterling Hayden ~~by Hayden?~~" He did spook, brilliantly, in Yugoslavia. I did mention Saarinen.

We then were literally in one big room. It had been an auditorium. A few famous artists, a few top Hollywood writers and one of the country's outstanding experts on books were also there with me then. That was a branch. It was not JHQ. I think that special job awaited me because of my earlier investigative reporting, most ^{ly} exposes of Nazi cartels, and because Donovan, a famous lawyer, knowing his lawyers had failed, wanted a nonlawyer to try.

Best,
Harry