

WED MAY 20 1964

Agents Act as Foreign Buyers; Two Arrested

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Of the Herald Staff

Clinton, May 19

A truckload of automatic weapons was seized, and two men arrested today by U. S. Treasury agents posing as arms buyers for a foreign power.

An incomplete inventory of the seized weapons included 100 Thompson submachine guns, four mortars, a .75 mm. recoilless rifle, a quantity of smaller weapons and plenty of ammunition.

Arrested after a high speed chase were Richard Lanchil, 37, of Collinsville, and Donald Sargis, 38, of Fairmount City. Authorities said Lanchil was

the same man who in 1961 was a regional leader of an anti-Communist group which called itself the Minutemen. The group used surplus weapons in carrying out guerrilla warfare maneuvers in preparation for a possible Communist invasion.

Reports said the agents of the Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit had posed as arms buyers for a foreign power. Cecil M. Wolfe of Elmhurst, chief investigator for the Chicago region, said his undercover agent was of Latin extraction, but refused further comment.

The agents said they paid \$17,000 in marked bills for the arms which they first testified to a recent date owned by Arthur Cooper, 55, miles east of Wapella.

The purchase was completed and the two men were allowed to drive away while radio messages were quickly made to 20 other agents stationed in the area.

The two men were chased in a chase through back country roads that reached speeds of 125 miles an hour. The pair were seized at an intersection when their car became surrounded by officers.

The two men were taken to Springfield tonight where Asst. U. S. Atty. Gen. Scroggins said they were charged in a federal complaint with possession of unregistered automatic weapons.

Scroggins said Treasury agents also raided Lanchil's home in Collinsville and seized submachine guns and a flame-thrower.

The arrests came after agents had worked for two to three months to set up the fake purchase after Lanchil contacted a man in Chicago to offer to sell him the arms cache.

That unidentified man, a government informant, told the Treasury agents of the offer. The agents would not elaborate further, and it is not known how Wapella was chosen as the site to transfer the weapons.

Wolfe said the seized weapons allegedly had been scrapped somewhere out West, and that Lanchil purchased them for \$100,000. He said the government informant had been working for the federal government since 1950.

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Engineers Talk Set

The Petroleum Engineers Club of Dallas will meet for its 1964-65 year at 8:30 p.m. at the club's weekly lunch at the Sheraton Hotel.

Mr. James with Don Jopling and Frank Elsh, founded the Exploration Society, Inc., a non-profit organization devoted to the study and interpretation of a large degree of petroleum.

"From the initial use of gravity interpretations of field data in 1928, the use of the gravity method has resulted in the discovery of numerous oil and gas fields. It is unquestionably one of the most important field tools that the industry has today."

Lanchil allegedly then had the weapons welded back together before the sale.

The sale came after two agents helped load the weapons aboard a rented truck in Collinsville today. They then drove to the Wapella farm where the transfer was made.

David Blain, a Denton County deputy sheriff, said local police did not act in the 2 p.m. arrest because they were not familiar with identification of the Treasury agents and may have exchanged status with them if shooting had become necessary.

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