

Drug Search

Victim Sues in 'Mistake' Raid

Edwardsville, Ill.

An Edwardsville man filed a \$1.4 million suit yesterday, claiming Federal narcotics agents broke into his home, terrorized him and put him in jail for four days.

It was the third allegation of mistaken drug raids in southern Illinois.

In a related development, the government announced in Washington that it has suspended for 30 days without pay seven agents involved in the two mistaken raids in Collinsville, Ill., April 23.

RAID

In a suit filed in U.S. District Court in Springfield, John Meiners, 27, said agents from a federal unit in St. Louis allegedly broke into his farm home April 20, placed a gun to his head, handcuffed him and jailed him for four days. His suit said he was then released without charge.

Meiners said the agents had no warrant, ransacked his house and fired their weapons during the raid.

A spokesman for the Drug Enforcement Administration in Washington said the Justice Department was informed of the allegations in mid-May and forwarded the information to the U.S. district attorney in Springfield.

JURY

Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson said yesterday a grand jury which will convene in Alton July 20 will investigate, in addition to the two Collinsville raids, whether there were other such incidents.

The DEA spokesman said this will include the Meiners' complaint.

The spokesman said he was not aware of any other raids, but if there are other allegations they too will be subject to the grand jury investigation.

The two raids in Collinsville have resulted in a \$1 million damage suit against the government by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Giglotto and a \$100,000 suit by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Askew.

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