

Witness Calls 2 of 'Camden 28' 'Old Actors' in Antiwar Protests

NYTimes By DONALD JANSON APR 12 1973
Special to The New York Times

CAMDEN, N. J., April 11 — Two of the "Camden 28" were "old actors" who had participated in antiwar acts of civil disobedience before raiding draft files here, Robert W. Hardy testified under Government cross-examination today.

The Camden 28, a group of antiwar activists from the East and Midwest, are charged with breaking into the Federal building here in 1971 and destroying draft records. Seventeen of the 28 are on trial in a Federal district courtroom two floors below the office they admit raiding.

Most were arrested at or near the scene of the raid by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents acting on information supplied to them by Mr. Hardy, an informant who testified yesterday that he not only had sat in on plotting sessions with the group for two months before the raid, but also had provided the leadership, expertise and burglary tools needed to break in.

F. B. I. Role Cited

He said that the F.B.I. had perverted the informer role he had agreed to play and made him an "agent provocateur" to create the crime after the defendants had decided they could not carry it out by themselves.

Today, John J. Barry, assistant United States Attorney from Newark, attacked this testimony by eliciting from the informant that the information that John Peter Grady, a sociologist from the Bronx, and John Swinlish of Washington, former chairman of the Catholic Peace Fellowship, were "old actors."

The term was used in pre-

raid charts prepared by the Camden 28 and meant, Mr. Hardy testified, people who had participated in previous acts of civil disobedience or raids on draft boards.

Mr. Hardy said that he himself lacked previous experience of this kind.

The kind of expertise he provided, he said yesterday, was instruction in how to use burglary tools he obtained for the 28 with funds provided by the F.B.I. Mr. Hardy is a Camden contractor who works regularly with tools.

Marine Training Noted

He also taught the group how to carry out preraid surveillance of the Federal building, he said. In response to a question from Mr. Barry about his expertise in this, he said that he had learned surveillance techniques in the Marine Corps.

The Government contends Mr. Grady, long active in antiwar and civil rights activities, was the Camden 28 ringleader. Asked if this was true, Mr. Hardy said that the 47-year-old New Yorker was "more of a father image to the group than leader."

Mr. Hardy said that he himself had played the leadership role, even though two F.B.I. agents had told him not to.

"There were a couple of people that tended to do all the work," he said.

"Who?" Mr. Barry asked. "Cookie and myself. There weren't many real real workers."

"Cookie" is Kathleen Ridolfi, a 23-year-old Philadelphian who is one of the defendants.