

A GLANCE TO THE PAST

Frank Scinta passed along the following letter he recently sent to NCIS Director Brant:

April 1, 1998
Mr. David L. Brant
Director
U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service
Washington Navy Yard, Bldg. 111
901 M. Street SE
Washington, DC 20388-5000

Dear Mr. Brant

When Blair Gluba and I visited you on March 13, 1998, it brought back a lot of memories to me when we passed through the 11th Street Gate at the Naval Gun Factory.

It was July 15, 1948, 50 years ago that I passed through that same gate on my way to the Naval Investigative Service office, then known as the Intelligence Office, Potomac River Naval Command (IO-PRNC). It was my first day on the job as "Civilian Contract Agent." The office was located on the ground floor of the Administrative Building. (No Air Conditioning). We shared space with other officers of the Base Command.

I don't recall the name of the DIO at that office, but names of two of the Officers Cdr. Fred Barthelmess and Lt. Cdr. William Daniels. Names of the agents—Pete Causey, Jack Daugherty, Ray Davis, Ted Fason, Ed Lyons, George Muslin and yours truly. Clerical staff Rose Ann Dubler, Mrs. May and Warren Poe. Poe was later appointed agent.

Each Agent has a desk and shared one file cabinet and one Typewriter. First Agent in the morning laid claim to the use of the typewriter. We typed our own reports. We each carried an average between 50-75 cases consisting of Background and Criminal investigations. Most of mine were Criminal cases which I preferred and many these were Sex Offense later referred as Category 6J investigations.

We had one car assigned (No Air Conditioning) to the office. It was a 1946 Ford, the Admiral's Car which we inherited from the Shore Patrol. The car was used by Agent Muslin who did not own a car and when he totaled it was forced to buy an old Terraplane (No Air Conditioning) it had a motor. We received 5¢ a mile for mileage when we used our own car. The Office provided street car

tokens (No Air Conditioning), which was the best way to go down into the business district. Parking was just as bad then as it is today. The only difference is it took longer.

The words comp-time and overtime were words used strictly for conversation. In fact, I lost a lot on annual leave that I could not take and could not carry over each year.

We had no private interview room. Most of the routine interviews were conducted at our desks. On certain cases where privacy was a must, an officer would volunteer the use of his office. We had a wire recorder which was below the quality of the recording toys of today's children. Also no radios in cars.

Our salary ranged between \$3,500.00 and \$4,500.00, depending on your bargaining ability at the time of your pre-employment interview. I thought that I had hit the limit when I settled for 3,800.00 only to find out that the other agents had made better deals. This was the name of the game and we all learned to live with it. (The Civilian Contract Agent status was changed in 1956 to the Civil Service GS rating system.)

In March 1954 I was transferred to Headquarters and assumed the duties of review and control of the Sex Offense Investigations. The reports of these investigations were filed in my office apart from the main NIS files. In 1956 this position was titled Head, Special Criminal Investigation Division, a position I held for 13 years. In February 1967 I assumed the duties of Head, Personnel Security Investigation Division. My salary as GS14 was 15,629.00, which is about the same as a GS 1 or 2 today.

On February 10, 1968 I retired from NIS, but before closing the books I would like to pass on a few pieces of information that may be of value to those who follow me.

To the best of my recollection Headquarters ONI, during WW2, was located at the Main Navy Building, Constitution Ave. This building no longer exists. When I was assigned to Headquarters in 1954 it was located in Pentagon and then moved to Court House Road in Arlington, VA and occupied a building which was formerly a Federal Record Center. The next location was a Temporary WW2 building located next to the Lincoln Memorial and was named Curry Hall. This location in my estimation should go down as the worst location that ONI/NIS ever occupied. The floors were buckled and grass was growing through some parts of the first floor and in my office, on certain cold days, I wore a top coat and used an electric heater.

As an agent I never attended any of the training schools on ONI/NIS but I did lecture on Sex Offense Investigations at all of them. I did attend the following courses:

1. Narcotics Seminar
U.S. Treasury Department
Washington, DC May 1951
2. Arson Investigators' Training Course
Lafayette, IN May 1952
3. Armed Forces Institute of Pathology
(Forensic Sciences Symposium)
Washington, DC May 1961
4. Law Enforcement Officers Training Seminar
Marine Corps Schools
Quantico, VA May 1965
5. Maryland State Police Training School
Pikesville, MD Jan.–Apr. 1943
I was a Trooper Jan '43–Jul. '46

After I retired from NIS I was employed as Investigator with the Office of Enforcement Fraud Prevention, Air Transport Association, Washington, DC. I was employed from April 1, 1969 and retired as Senior Investi-

gator on June 15, 1981. This was a very interesting job. It involved major fraud investigations of stolen airline tickets and required constant travel back and forth across the country.

I started this letter with the intent to thank you and to let you know how much I enjoyed my visit with you and the other members of your staff, particularly Victor, and also to thank you for the Medallion and the cap.

I am looking forward to whatever we can do to recognize those who have weathered the past 50 years to accomplish this unique period of life.

Thanks Again
S. Frank Scinta

P.S. I now enjoy an Air Conditioned House, Automobile and Public Transportation

I just passed 83 in Feb., so I am entitled to make a few two finger mistakes—typing.

Copy : Mr. Brian McKee, Mr. Blair Gluba