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Performance
Gass

Criminals

Oct 7 '76 - 117 22 101

The man behind the CIA's Cuban operations tells how he almost became our man in Havana.

THE WAR THAT NEVER WAS

BRADLEY FARL AYERS
Captain, U.S. Army

The first inside account of how the CIA trained and led Cuban anti-Castro guerrilla fighters at hidden bases in Florida and the Bahamas. If you've ever wondered what went wrong in Cuba, you'll find this uncomproed account intriguing and embarrassing! \$8.95

BOBBS MERRILL

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OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	Mr. Dennis Bevel		DB
2	1-E-04 HQ		
3			
4	Director of Personnel (P.O.)	OCT 1976	J
5	5E-55HQ		
6			

ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE

Remarks:

Attached is the file on Bradley E. Ayers as you requested. Also note book ad I've added. Thanks. Can we hold this file at HQ for a time?

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO. DATE

OD/Personnel 5E-55HQ 6 Oct 76

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FORM NO. 237 Use previous editions 1-67

OUR WORDS FROM LARD Black English FROM HOUSE

specialized tastes. French-born writer currently living in Tunisia. He has delivered himself of a merry caper in MURDER AT THE FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR (Doubleday, \$8.95). And it is a caper that has a sharp cutting edge. Mon-

GOD & GAYS

Read why the Catholic Church should be leading the gay liberation movement, in the October issue of Christopher Street

The best gay magazine in America, now available on selected newsstands.

Also read about the Truckadero, the world famous troupe of male ballroom and "Lesbians & Books" on the most important lesbian activist in the U.S. Plus great reviews and cartoons.

All 3 articles have been reviewed ma

CIA Plotted to Blast Cuba Refinery

By Jack Anderson

The full, fantastic story of the Bay of Pigs has been buried for 10 years deep in the Central Intelligence Agency's fortresslike headquarters near Langley, Va.

All the world knows that CIA-trained Cuban exiles stormed ashore on a Cuban beachhead and were cut to pieces by Dictator Fidel Castro's militiamen 10 years ago today. But the CIA has concealed from the world how it continued to send assassination teams and commando squads against Castro.

Bit by bit, stories of these post-invasion sorties are leaking out. We have already revealed, for example, how the CIA used a swashbuckling underworld figure, John Roselli, to make six unsuccessful assassination attempts upon Castro.

The CIA assigned two trusted agents, Billy Harvey and "Big Jim" O'Connell, to direct the murder missions. On the first two tries, Roselli's assassins sought to slip poison pellets into Castro's food. The next four attempts were made by sniper teams equipped with highpowered Belgian rifles, explosives and two-way radios.

There were midnight power-boat dashes to secret landing spots on the Cuban coast and machine-gun exchanges in the dark of night with Cuban patrol boats. The last assas-

sination team actually reached a Havana rooftop within rifle range of Castro. But like the others, this squad also was caught and tortured.

Refinery Raid

Now we have learned of a CIA plot to blow up Cuba's most productive oil refinery. Painstaking preparations were made, and a commando team was given intensive training.

Using U-2 photos so detailed that they showed every bush, Maj. Edward Roderick, an Army engineer on loan to the CIA, constructed a mockup of the plant. He even figured out how mortars could be pre-aimed, then placed by commandos in a precise spot and fired on the run.

But he junked the idea because a human error of an inch or two could send a mortar shell into an inhabited area. Then the whole plan was junked after President Kennedy's assassination.

We have also learned that the CIA scattered \$20 bills around like green confetti to finance the clandestine anti-Castro operations. Bales of money were delivered to Cuban exile leaders, who gave no accounting of how they spent it.

Some were stashed by men since killed. Other thousands were buried in former pirate lairs in the Florida Keys. Still more thousands were strewn on the beaches of Cuba where would-be raiders left their bones.

Yet some of the raiders survived. One of them, a young ex-Army captain named Bradley Ayers, has emerged from under cover. He has given us access to his notes, documents and draft chapters of a book he is writing about his raids for the CIA.

"The Cuban experience," he told us, "has been a plague on the national conscience as it has been on mine. I think it's high time that at least part of the story be told."

CIA Assignment

A former paratrooper, pilot and demolitions expert, Captain Ayers was training rangers at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., when he received orders to report to the Army's Special Activities Group in Washington.

He was put through physical, psychiatric and lie detector examinations for a week, then he was hustled over to the CIA's Cuban section.

He was questioned for three days by CIA officials who, finally satisfied, provided him with a cover story, phony documents and a ticket to Miami. He adopted the name Daniel B. Williams and was assigned to a CIA front called Paragon Air Service.

The CIA lodged Ayers and Roderick in a luxurious beach house in Key Biscayne. The two undercover Army men worked out of a CIA front—a columned building with the cover name of Zenith Technical Enterprises—on the south

campus of Miami University. Through its doors passed some of the nation's most secret operatives: the dapper John Roselli, rugged Bill Harvey, "Nip" Robertson and a huge New Mexican remembered only as "The Big Indian."

Ayers got the assignment of training a tough Cuban cadre in the swamps of the Everglades and the beaches of the Keys. He was supposed to teach them enough surf landing skill, underwater swimming, demolition, boat handling and simple survival for them to lead commandos into Cuba to blow up the multimillion-dollar refinery.

The story of their night landings in Cuba and the great oil refinery fizzle will be told in a future column.

Capitol Conversation

From the Horse's Mouth — We have already reported that Attorney General John Mitchell will resign from the Cabinet to run President Nixon's 1972 campaign, operating at first out of his former law office. Now insiders tell us the President is considering William Ruckelshaus, now the environment czar, as Mitchell's replacement. . . . During his appearance on the David Frost Show, Mitchell denied our report that Los Angeles Sheriff Peter Pitchess had been sound-ed out about taking J. Edgar Hoover's job. We got the story from a White House aide.

Telltale Traces of CIA Cache Found

By Jack Anderson

My associate Les Whitten has just returned from a treasure hunt for buried CIA cash in the Florida Keys where pirates once stashed Spanish gold.

He found one cache where thousands in molding \$20 bills had been buried. But someone had reached the secret site ahead of him. All Whitten found were six weathered, matted \$20 bills that apparently had been dropped about 200 yards away.

In an earlier column, we reported that the Central Intelligence Agency had delivered bales of \$20 bills to Cuban exile leaders to finance clandestine operations against Communist Cuba.

Assassination teams, sabotage squads and commando units were sent against Castro after the abortive Bays of Pigs invasion. These missions apparently were halted after President Kennedy's assassination. But the CIA continued to slip infiltration teams into Cuba to gather intelligence.

The CIA paid all expenses, apparently, in cash. Huge sums were turned over to exile leaders, who gave no accounting of how they spent it.

There were whispers that some money had disappeared into private bank accounts, that other thousands were bur-

ied in former pirate lairs in the Florida keys.

Secret CIA Site

One who perked up his ears over the whispers was Bradley Ayers, a former Army captain, who was on loan to the CIA in 1963-64 to train Cuban assault teams. One training site had been located on Upper Key Largo on land that the Monroe County tax assessor's office identified as belonging to the University of Miami.

The CIA also operated out of a front, called Zenith Technical Enterprises, on the university's south campus. Thus the respected university, wittingly or otherwise, provided the site for an extension course in infiltration and demollition.

Ayers learned enough from his former trainees to figure out where some of the CIA money might be hidden. He told us he discovered a half-buried suitcase full of molding, mutilated \$20 bills.

The suitcase was in a remote spot that he was confident wouldn't be discovered. He took out a dozen bills to make sure they weren't counterfeit. Banks redeemed all but two badly weathered \$20 bills.

Then Ayers' house was mysteriously broken into and records of his find were taken. Fearing the CIA or Cuban exiles were watching him, he dared not return to the cache.

However, he told us his story and showed us the bank records. We also checked out his veracity carefully. I sent Les Whitten to accompany him back to the keys to recover the CIA money. We notified the Treasury Department, in general terms, that all recovered CIA cash would be turned over to the Treasury.

Treasure Hunt

Whitten, Ayers and Ayers' wife flew to an air strip on Upper Key Largo. Using it as a base of operations, they reconnoitered the dark mangrove thickets, sluggish canals, treacherous swamps of sea grass and crocodile-infested creeks where Ayers had once trained Cuban commandos.

For two days, they cauged through the creeks in a stal-low-draft 18-foot skiff, startled occasionally by the barks of crocodiles. When they were convinced no one was following, they plunged through underbrush so thick they couldn't see four feet ahead.

Finally they came upon the bramble-cloaked site where Ayers said he had discovered the suitcase. The soil at the hiding place had been turned up and sifted for 10 yards in all directions. The underbrush and sea grass were trampled as if by many feet.

The suitcase full of currency was gone. Disappointed, they combed the area within a quarter mile. Whitten spotted a tattered \$20 bill. Ayers found two more, then Whitten

discovered a sheaf of three bills matted together with mud and grass.

The bills were near wraps of a road map, which Ayers said had been used as a wrapper for the suitcase bills. Treasury records show the bills were printed between April, 1960, and August, 1968. There is no way to prove this was part of the money which the CIA continued to provide anti-Castro exiles. But the stories that led to the cache came in part to Ayers from Cubans he helped train for the CIA.

Washington Whirl

Volunteer Army—President Nixon is leading the opposition to his own proposal for a volunteer Army—at least for the next two years. At a secret White House legislative conference, he warned GOP congressional leaders: "Some votes to end the draft may look popular temporarily. But in the long view, our recommendations (to extend the draft for two years) will prove to be right." White House aide Peter Flanigan explained to the leaders that "A short-fall of 100,000 men is expected" next year. He described the administration's plans to encourage volunteers by offering financial incentives, including a \$6,000 bonus to those who will re-enlist for combat duty. But he warned this "would mean cuts in other vital areas in the Defense Department."

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Jack Anderson
Jack Anderson

JFK Death Halted Cuban Oil Raid

THE SUPPRESSED STORY can now be told of how the Central Intelligence Agency organized a Cuban exile raid on Cuba's key oil refinery in 1963 but aborted it after the assassination of President Kennedy.

Insiders say the corporate oil giants, hoping eventually to recover their property in Cuba, brought quiet pressure to quash any raids upon refineries. Lyndon Johnson, who canceled the raid after succeeding Mr. Kennedy in the White House, was close to Texas oil interests.

We have learned the dramatic details from Bradley Ayers, a 36-year-old former Army captain, who was selected by the CIA to train Cuban exiles for infiltration and assault missions including the refinery raid in Matanzas province.

We have checked out Ayers' story with our own sources, who confirm he is correct about names, places and dates. From a group of pictures, Ayers also was able to pick out immediately a CIA undercover operative who we knew had been involved in the CIA raids against Cuba.

The rugged Ayers, a former Army ranger instructor, trained the refinery raiders. The recruiting for the mission had already been completed before he was assigned to the project. CIA officials took him by motor launch through swampy Everglades canals and across the open sea to secluded Florida Keys to meet the recruits.

Ayers and the CIA men selected Palo Alto Key, Upper Key Largo and Card Sound on the edge of the Everglades as training sites. "Most of the Cubans," said Ayers, "were bank clerks, busboys, waiters, musicians, laborers, men who had fled to the United States. Many had never fired a weapon. They were disorganized and undisciplined. I got the job of reorganizing the training program."

AYERS ran off simulated raids near Card Sound against a local Southern Bell microwave facility with a high security fence. Other nights, he shared black beans and rice, drank and smoked "pot" with his Cuban cadre.

The rag-tag recruits gradually became a fighting team. For firsthand experience, he secretly accompanied two infiltration groups on missions to Cuba.

"We went on a commercially rigged trawler, a 'cover' vessel," he said. "We ran blackout under a quarter moon, towing a V-20 launch, a high-powered fiberglass boat.

"We exchanged light signals with the partisans ashore in Pinar del Rio and launched two rubber boats. The team made contact with the partisans, and we picked up a wounded man who'd been a prisoner of Castro. But the Cuban partisans were careless with the lights.

"After we got the wounded man into a rubber boat, we were discovered by a Soviet-type patrol craft with spotlights. We covered our withdrawal with machineguns from the V-20 boat. Although we took casualties, we finally got back to the trawler. Our boats were pretty well shot up.

"On the way home, we saw a Cuban fishing craft flying a distress flag and found it had a load of refugees. We took them on board."

A second sortie to cache supplies for agents already in Cuba was less eventful. Finally, in September, 1963, Ayers was instructed by the CIA to make detailed training plans for the refinery raid.

He was given specific orders not to land on Cuba himself during the raid. But he was too emotionally involved with the Cubans' cause to stay out and wrote himself into the plans. "We were all on a live-for-today, tomorrow-we-die philosophy," he explained.

But on the day of the final rehearsal, President Kennedy was killed, and the CIA ordered Ayers to shut down the operation. "I was in a sort of trauma," said the swashbuckling instructor. "I made trips to Washington to plead the cause of the freedom fighters with the minor officials I knew. But I just got disappointed and angry."

Finally in October, 1964, Ayers resigned from active duty with a long statement of principle to his CIA and Army superiors. "As a soldier, I had been taught I shouldn't question political or diplomatic action," he wrote. "But as a free-thinking American citizen, I couldn't subordinate my duty. My country was no longer playing to win, and my faith in the goals to which I dedicated my life was shaken."

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INVITEE APPROVAL

DATE : 6 July 1964
YOUR
REFERENCE: 23826 (USA)
CASE NO. : 366035
TO : Chief, MEMD
ATTN :
SUBJECT : AYERS, Bradley E.

1. This is to inform you that clearance is granted to invite Subject to Headquarters for interviews.
2. This is not a clearance for Subject's access to classified material or information.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF SECURITY:

W. A. Osborne
W. A. Osborne
Chief, Personnel Security Division
ms

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SECURITY APPROVAL

DATE : 10 August 1964

YOUR
REFERENCE: 23826 DDP/WH/SA (USA)

CASE NO. : 366085

TO : Director of Personnel

ATTN : MMPD

SUBJECT : AYERS, Bradley Earl

1. This is to inform you that Subject has been approved for the appointment specified in your request under the provisions of Headquarters Regulations 10-3 and 20-5 including access to classified information through TOP SECRET as required in the performance of duties.
2. Unless arrangements are made within 60 days for entrance on duty within 120 days, this approval becomes invalid.
3. As part of the entrance on duty processing:

A personal interview in the Office of Security must be arranged.

A personal interview is not necessary.

Please advise Chief, Clearance Branch, extension 5620 when Subject enters on duty.

4.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF SECURITY:

W. R. Osborne
W. R. Osborne
Chief, Personnel Security Division

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FINAL CLEARANCE RECORD		OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER	
		<input type="checkbox"/> FINANCE DIVISION	<input type="checkbox"/> FISCAL DIVISION
EMPLOYEE SERIAL NO. 366085	NAME OF EMPLOYEE (Last, First, Middle) AYERS, BRADLEY EARL	OFFICE OF ASSIGNMENT DDP/SAS	
REASON FOR CLEARANCE		OTHER (Specify): Separation - rtn to parents	
<input type="checkbox"/> RESIGNATION <input type="checkbox"/> EXTENDED LEAVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify):			
VERIFICATION OR CERTIFICATION OF OFFICIALS			
I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE REVIEWED THE RECORDS OF THIS COMPONENT AND, EXCEPT AS INDICATED, THE EMPLOYEE NAMED IS CLEARED OR HAS SATISFACTORILY DISCHARGED HIS OBLIGATION TO THIS COMPONENT.			
INSURANCE BRANCH, OP	ROOM NUMBER & BLDG.	CLEARED BY	
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CENTRAL PROCESSING BRANCH, OP	1D-70 Hqs	Ann De Board / gfc	
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LIBRARY, OCR (Language & Main)			
CREDIT UNION, OP	1J-33, Hqs	Marlene Huber / gfc	
REGISTRAR, OTR			
1ST FISCAL DIVISION	GH-4408 Hqs	W/B.F. - Cathie King	
FINANCE DIVISION	343 225 South	D. S. ...	
LAST OFFICE OF SECURITY	4E-50 Hqs	George O'Rourke (telecom)	
Transportation	2313 Qtrs Eye	John Dillon / gfc	
x Exit Interview	1337 R & S		
COMMENTS (Data pertaining to any exceptions to above clearances, etc.)			
CENTRAL COVER STAFF 1304 Hq, 6A H. Review			
CERTIFICATION AND FORWARDING ADDRESS OF SEPARATING EMPLOYEE			
FORWARDING ADDRESS	NUMBER, STREET, CITY, ZONE, STATE 1020 N Owen St, Stillwater, Minnesota		
CHECK MAILING ADDRESS (If other than above)	NUMBER, STREET, CITY, ZONE, STATE		
I CERTIFY THAT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL GOVERNMENT PROPERTY ISSUED TO ME HAS BEEN RETURNED OR HAS BEEN PROPERLY ACCOUNTED FOR AND THAT I AM NOT INDEBTED TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WHATSOEVER AS A RESULT OF MY CONNECTION WITH THE AGENCY.			
DATE	SIGNATURE OF EMPLOYEE		
CERTIFICATION (This form is invalid without authorized signature)			
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE LISTED COMPONENT OFFICIALS AND THOSE LISTED ON FORM 214 (or their designees) HAVE GIVEN POSITIVE VERIFICATION OR CERTIFICATION THAT THE SEPARATING EMPLOYEE HAS DISCHARGED HIS OBLIGATIONS TO THE COMPONENT, RETURNED OR ACCOUNTED FOR ANY FUNDS OR PROPERTY WHICH HAS BEEN ISSUED TO HIM, OR SATISFACTORILY ARRANGED FOR SETTLEMENT OF ANY INDEBTEDNESS TO THE AGENCY.			
DATE	SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER OF OFFICE OF OFFICE	TITLE	
14 Dec 64	GEORGE J. MCERILE, Major, Inf	DC, Army, Navy & Marine Corps Br, MPD	

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(When Filled In)

DLB: 22 DEC 64

NOTIFICATION OF PERSONNEL ACTION										
1. SERIAL NUMBER		2. NAME (LAST-FIRST-MIDDLE)								
366085		AYERS BRADLEY E								
3. NATURE OF PERSONNEL ACTION				4. EFFECTIVE DATE		5. CATEGORY OF EMPLOYMENT				
SEPARATION RETURN TO PARENT SERVICE				12 15 64		MILITARY				
6. FUNDS		V TO V		V TO CF		7. COST CENTER NO. CHARGEABLE		8. CSC OR OTHER LEGAL AUTHORITY		
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REQUEST FOR PERSONNEL ACTION						DATE PREPARED	
1. SERIAL NUMBER						17 DEC 64	
2. NAME (Last-First-Middle)							
366000						ATKINS, BRADLEY E	
3. NATURE OF PERSONNEL ACTION				4. EFFECTIVE DATE REQUESTED		5. CATEGORY OF EMPLOYMENT	
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						915 2184	
9. ORGANIZATIONAL DESIGNATIONS				10. LOCATION OF OFFICIAL STATION			
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18A. SIGNATURE OF REQUESTING OFFICIAL				DATE SIGNED		18B. SIGNATURE OF CAREER SERVICE APPROVING OFFICER	
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						EOD DATA	
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						0 - WAIVER 1 - YES	
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						45. POSITION CONTROL CERTIFICATION	
12-21-64 JSC				from SAS		46. D.P. APPROVAL	
						EUGENE J. FIELD	
						CODE	
						ARMOR	
						DATE APPROVED	
						17 DEC 64	

SECRET
(WHEN FILLED IN)

REPORT OF SEPARATION			DATE
			31 December 1964
			SERVICE DESIGNATION
			US Army
1. NAME (LAST-FIRST-MIDDLE) AYERS, BRACLEY EARL O 78 210	2. DATE OF BIRTH N/A	3. JOB TITLE Instructor (Prcht)	4. GRADE Captain
5. OFFICE	6. DIVISION	7. BRANCH	
8. LONGEVITY COMPUTATION DATE DD/P Date of Assignment to CIA 1 July 1964	9. DATE OF RESIGNATION SAS 15 December 1964	10. SEPARATION CATEGORY Miami, Florida	
11. DATE OF EXIT INTERVIEW 9 December 1964	12. NAME OF EXIT INTERVIEWER Lt Col Santangelo		
13. REMARKS			
<p align="center">Military Specialty - Prcht Instructor (71542)</p> <p align="center">Reason for Leaving - Return to Parent Service</p> <p align="center">Captain Ayers stated that his military specialty was fully utilized, his grade was consistent with his job and his relations with co-workers were good. Subject also stated that he felt his assignment required an active duty military person.</p>			
14. <input type="checkbox"/> IS <input type="checkbox"/> IS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR RE-EMPLOYMENT		16. <input type="checkbox"/> IS <input type="checkbox"/> IS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR RE-EMPLOYMENT	
SIGNATURE OF SUPERVISOR		<p align="center">P. A. SANTANGELO Lt Colonel, Inf, USA</p>	
15. <input type="checkbox"/> IS <input type="checkbox"/> IS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR RE-EMPLOYMENT			
SIGNATURE OF PLACEMENT OFFICER		SIGNATURE OF PERSONNEL RELATIONS OFFICER	

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