Daily Drama of train raid swoop Christm Carol Waif...

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By GORDON GREGOR

RACING driver Roy James—"The Weasel"—who was sought by the police after the Great Train Robbery for almost four months, was caught last night in a quiet London suburb.

His arrest came after Flying Squad men were given a tip-off about a secret hideout in St John's Wood. But before he was caught there

was a dramatic roof-top chase. Squads of detectives moved into the area and ringed Ryders-terrace, a small cul-de-sac off Blenheimterrace, St. John's Wood.

Four Flying Squad men walked up to the pink-painted front door of the white-walled mews house.

There was no answer to their loud knocking.

Then a skylight window was thrown open and The Weasel wriggled out and twisted himself upwards on to a flat roof.

The Flying Squad men clambered on to first floor balcony, smashed a French window and the chase began.

James, in his shirtsleeves, ran over four flat roofs with the detectives close behind. He leapt 15ft. into a gardenand into a trap.

The other Flying Squad men had ringed the area and there was no way out.

James was grabbed and brought back and would take it. The to the house. Shortly afterwards he was driven with several Flying Squad men to Cannon-row police station.

Later, heavily guarded, he was taken to Aylesbury, Bucks, police station. His head was covered by a coat. There he was charged with conspiracy and robbery. Mr. Keith Holloway, 27, an advertising

executive, and his 22-year-old wife Deidre, who live opposite the mews house hideout, watched the chase and the arrest.

Mr. Holloway said last night: We Then he moved in-with were watching television when we heard a friend, now believed to an enormous banging and hammering on be The Weasel. the door of No. 14

Glass

"We looked out and saw a lot of men asking if they would move in plain clothes smashing the glass in the their own car so that he windows.

His wife added: "I dialled 999, but then The Weasel, aged 27 and my husband told me that the men were now sporting a beard, is police so I put the phone down.

"The police told us to go in and close be arrested after the the door, but we watched through the Glasgow-London mail train window and saw a policeman climb on to was ambushed at Sears the balcony of No. 14 and break in. "At the same time a man came out of

the skylight in his shirt sleeves and began | He will appear at Linsrunning along the roof.

The second of th It was about the beginning of Septem- Inside were two men and

can who was living in the house, which was owned by a friend.

Last night Miss Steffan said: "This man looked at the place, said he liked it, details were arranged by an agent and I moved out and stayed next door with

The man signed a ninemonth lease with the agent at a rent of £18 a week.

Beard

Mr. Holloway said that one of the men owned a bottle green E-type Jaguar and often called on them could get in.

the twenty-first person to Crossing, Cheddington Bucks, on August 8.

lade, Bucks, court today. Ryders-terrace.

One of the men asked three were driven away to a continued, I walked



ROY JAMES

How The Weasel looked . . now he has a beard.

The Weasel's Jaguar moved. Mr. Holloway replied: No. It's all right."

The man then called his companions and the three About twenty minutes went to No. 14 and opened

men. One said "Come in-side. You're welcome."



'HE carol-singhad just begun.

The words of Hymn 329, Ancient and Modern, echoed round

the cathedral. Once in Royal David's

Stood a lowly cattle Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his

At that moment, the Reverend Alan Shaw. chaplain to the Bishop of Birmingham, who was conducting the service in Birmingham's St. Philip's Cathedral. paused. He heard the whimper of a child.

He looked up and saw his head verger, Mr. Reg Higman, walk into the aisle from the main entrance carrying a

Mr. Higman had found he baby (pictured above) on a rug just inside the main doors in the shadow of a towering, brightly-lit

Christmas tree. The baby—a boy of about twelve months was wrapped warmly against the cold.

He was wearing a white romper suit decorated with blue rabbits and two cardigans-one yellow, one red. Pinned to his romper suit was a heart - shaped locket. Inside it was a picture a cherub—a baby angel.

For a few moments. the carol service was interrupted. The congregation were asked if the baby belonged to any of them.

No one claimed the

child. The baby-still crying—was carried by the verger into the vestry and the police were called.

Last night, as nurses in a children's home in m the city tended the child, police appealed for news about him.

At the cathedral Mr. Higman, 52, said: "I thought at first that the member to a member

14-THE HIDEAWAY

the mews house, Arrowed is the skylight 14, Ryders-terrace, through which The Weasel, roof and a policeman jumped after him after the arrest a blue Ford the door with a latchkey. the hideout of in his shirts'eeves, tried to and we heard someone cry We've got Cortina was driven into Inside were Flying Squad grown a child reasel from the begin- make his escape. Below is

Gregor, Gordon. "CID Grab 'The Weasel' in Rooftop Chase." Daily Mirror, 11 Dec. 1963, p. [1]. Mirror Historical Archive, 1903-2000, link.gale.com/apps/doc/LHPMGY524605080/DSLAB?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DSLAB. Accessed 19 Sept. 2023.