CID GRAB THE WEESEL IN ROOFTOP CHASE

Drama of train raid swoop

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 Blenheim-terrace, 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 sign of their kind knocking.

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

Balcony

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

James in his undergarments ran over four flat roofs with the detectives close behind. He leapt off the flat roof into a flat window and into a trap.

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

James was thrown through a window and out of the house. Shortly afterwards he was driven from several Flying Squad men's cars to Clapham, where the police were stationed.

Later, heavily bandaged, he was taken to Aylesbury, Bucks, police station. He was charged with conspiracy and robbery.

Mr. Keith Holloway, 37, an advertising executive, and his 27-year-old wife Beverley, who live opposite the mews house, had watched the chase and the arrest.

Mr. Holloway said last night: "We were watching television when we heard a commotion starting and hammering on the door of No. 14."

Glass

We looked out and saw a lot of men in plain clothes smashing the glass in the window.

His wife added: "I called 999, but there was no answer so I phoned the police when I saw his car round the corner.

"The police told us to go in and close the door, but we watched through the window and saw a policeman climb on to 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 running along the roof. He disappeared over the edge of the roof and a policeman jumped after him and we heard someone cry. We've got a lot of explaining to do."

It was about the beginning of September when a tall, dark, handsome man called to see No. 14.

"He met Miss Anne Steffan, an American girl who was living in the house. She said he would take her to a friend."

Meanwhile The Weasel, aged 27 and now spotted a barge, is the Glasgow-London mail train which was involved in the raid on the Piccadilly-Chesterbridge Line.

He will appear at Lincoln, Bucks, court today. About twenty minutes after the attack a black Ford Cortina was driven into Ryders-terrace.

Inside were two men and an attractive blonde.

One of the men asked Mr. Holloway if he wanted a tip-off.

ROY JAMES

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

The Weasel's Jag wanted.

Mr. Holloway replied: "No. It's all right."

The man then asked his companion and the three went to No. 14 and opened the door with a lantern.

Inside were Flying Squad men. One said: "Come in. It's very quiet."

A few minutes later the three were driven away to Cumnor police station.

Appeal

No one claimed the child.

The baby—still crying—was carried into the vestibule and the door was locked.

Last night, as nurses and doctors - sang hymns in the city, the child was held in the webinar for news about him.

At the cathedral, Mr. Bigman, 55, said: "I thought as died that the baby was taken from a child in the congregation, or a member of the congregation, and the child was left in a church.

I thought for a moment, I walked around to investigate."