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THE LOW-LEVEL GUARD

The 'Security Violation' Was a Secret to CIA

By TOM KELLY

Samuel Graham, colored, has been a bottom level Government guard for 20 years.

For 13 years he has been barred from promotion—by his own hand. To be precise, by a memo he wrote on July 27, 1950.

SEMI-OFFICIAL

The memo refers to a "security violation" and it has caused Mr. Graham to be listed, over the years, as a sort of semi-official violator of security.

It has prevented him from being transferred to the CIA, where his rating would be higher, and, possibly, from being made a sergeant. Sergeants and all CIA personnel must have security clearance.

It develops, however, that from the official point of view no security violation occurred. And it also develops that Mr. Graham was the only guard even questioned in an incident the two others were equally involved.

The incident was this:

On a Friday in July, 1950 Mr. Graham, a guard with the Armory Group, was assigned to relieve a regular guard at Temporary Building Y for one day.

Tempo Y was part of the Central Intelligence Agency and guards were required to check the building each shift

for evidence of security violations.

MISSED

Mr. Graham worked from 4 p. m. to midnight. On Monday he was informed by his superior, Capt. S. B. Simmons, that some "restricted material" had been left out on a desk over the week-end, and that he had missed it in his security check. "I want you to write me a little memo telling me why you missed it," Capt. Simmons said.

Mr. Graham wrote the memo, explaining that he had been interrupted many times in his security check by persons wanting to enter or leave the building and that, being a substitute, he was not familiar with the regular CIA routine.

He turned in the memo—and that's the last he heard of the incident for a long, long time.

On two later occasions he applied for permanent transfer to the CIA, a move that would automatically gain him a promotion. His application was turned down both times when security clearance was denied him.

In 1961 Mr. Graham learned, for the first time, that the "security violation" memo he had written in 1950 was still in his "Guard File."

ONLY ONE

Thru the officers of the General Services Administra-

tion he learned that he was the only guard who'd been required to write a memo, the two others, a white man and a Negro were also on

duty in Tempo Y when the "restricted material" was exposed.

He learned that the CIA itself has no record of any such "security violation."

Civil Service regulations require that formal charges be made in all "security violations" and that copies of the charges be placed, not in the "guard file" but in the GSA personnel file. No charges were ever made.

Mr. Graham recently succeeded in getting the memo removed from his personnel file. He hopes that one of these days now he'll get promoted to sergeant.