

# AGENTS OF JUSTICE WHO 'GOT' DILLINGER

## They Belong to a Small Army of Federal Men Highly Trained for Their Jobs

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WASHINGTON.

**T**HE dramatic trapping and killing of John Dillinger by Federal agents picketing a Chicago movie theatre not only emphasized the warning given by Attorney General Cummings that the government means business in its war on crime but again has focussed interest on the Division of Investigation of the Department of Justice.

Less than 500 special agents constitute this division, but it is the army on which the Federal Government is relying for victory in its war on kidnapers, bank robbers, racketeers, desperate outlaws of the roving type and predatory criminals of the Dillinger type. The record of this force during the past year, and especially the past six months, has encouraged the Attorney General to believe that his new war on crime will be won and won decisively.

### Rigid Examination.

The special agents of the division belong to a hand-picked organization. So carefully are they selected that it is commonly said in Washington that it is more difficult to gain membership in the ranks of this small army than in any other branch of Federal employment. J. Edgar Hoover, who, as Director of the Bureau of Investigation, commands the force, has very definite notions about the qualifications a crime investigator should have. Among them are honesty, capacity for hard work, common sense and imagination. Applicants must pass a rigid personality test and have a creditable personal history.

The average age of the agents is 35.31 years. Some of them, especially those operating in the Southwest, are former ranchers, Texas Rangers, cowboys and Indian experts. Among the agents in the Pacific Northwest are former lumbermen, cattlemen, railroad workers and miners. In other parts of the country, as well as in the West, there are agents who have had experience in almost every kind of vocation.

### Lawyers and Accountants.

To become a special agent one must have been a lawyer, an accountant or an experienced investigator. More than 82 per cent of the division's investigative personnel, which now totals 491, have had legal training or were expert accountants before entering the division. Three hundred and forty-four of the investigators have university degrees, 116 of them have two degrees, 11 have three degrees and three have four degrees.

The present personnel numbers one or more men who are proficient in one or several of seventy different lines of work and eighteen different sports. Seventy-four were engaged in law-enforcement work before entering the service, while thirty-seven had army, navy or marine training. Nineteen are experienced farmers, twenty-one are expert horsemen. Two agents are former customs inspectors, one a former examiner, another a former member of the consular service. Eleven have been immigration inspectors, one has been a naturalization service investigator and two are Indian experts. An agent familiar with Indian dialects solved an important murder mystery on

an Indian reservation several years ago. Another agent made good use of his knowledge as a mechanic in tracing sabotage by a riveter who worked beside him on a dirigible.

There are as yet no airplanes owned by the division, but its force of field agents includes half a dozen aviators and a parachute jumper. Forty-one special agents have taught subjects in colleges and high schools, including economics, law, English, botany, mathematics, physics, chemistry, history and language. There are twenty-six expert musicians, including one orchestra leader and twelve men with professional experience. There are also four radio broadcasters, two radio announcers and one radio operator.

### Boxers and Wrestlers.

Fifty of Director Hoover's agents can speak one or more foreign languages, and the force includes former State troopers, sheriffs, chiefs of police, detective bureau chiefs and plain detectives. Thirty have had banking experience, others have been wrestlers, boxers, baseball or football players, twenty-five are expert swimmers and four have been life guards.

Agents receive special training in the use of firearms and possess modern weapons. Each agent is armed with the latest type of revolver or automatic pistol. Besides, field offices throughout the United States maintain special equipment for the use of the division's investigative personnel as occasion may arise. The equipment includes Colt monitor automatic rifles, automatic shotguns (riot guns), high-powered rifles, machine guns, gas riot guns, gas grenades, protective shields, bullet-proof vests, powerful searchlights and flares.

All members of the investigative personnel receive monthly training in the use of all this equipment. Four hundred and seventy-four out of the total of 491 agents are now qualified in the use of the pistol, 449 have received instruction in the use of the army rifle, 455 know how to use the automatic shotgun, 450 have had experience with the

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