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Audie Murphy Went On Raid, Customs Man Says

Audie Murphy, the much-decorated World War II veteran turned movie star, went with a Houston customs agent to arrest a man charged in a narcotics conspiracy, it was revealed Tuesday.

This unusual procedure followed in the arrest of Felix Stone Ramirez, a 22 year-old Latin American now being tried with 10 other defendants, was testified to by Customs Agent Clarence N. Durham Tuesday in U.S. District Judge Allen B. Hannay's court.

AGENT DURHAM answered with a curt "yes" or "no" to questions put to him by Defense Atty. Walter Conway.

Q) "Did Audie Murphy accompany you when you arrested Mr. Ramirez at his Dallas home?"

A) "Yes."

Q) "Do you usually take movie stars along with you to make your arrests?"

A) "No."

Q) "Has he been subpoenaed to testify in this trial?"

A) "Not to my knowledge."

THEN ASSISTANT U.S. Atty. James Dowd asked the federal agent:

"You weren't distracted by a movie star, were you?"

Agent Durham replied negatively.

Later during the 11th day of testimony in the trial of the 11 men charged with conspiracy to possess, sell and transport narcotics, a federal narcotics agent told of making a buy from one of them.

Narcotics Agent Leon Hernandez told of buying a 15-pound sack of marihuana and 10 papers of heroin through Defendant Willie Pena.

AGENT HERNANDEZ said that he used the alias of Billy Daniels Martinez in talking to Pena and later to a man known to him as Eddie.

The federal agent said that he was only allowed to talk to Eddie on the phone and that when he asked Pena why he could not meet him, he was given this answer by Pena:

"Eddie's an ex-cop, and he doesn't go around meeting everyone. He's particular about who he meets."

One of the defendants in the trial is Eddie Barrios, a 29 year-old former Houston policeman.

BUT AGENT Hernandez admitted under cross examination that he had never heard Barrios talk in person and could not identify the voice he had heard over the telephone.

A third federal agent, G. L. Lattimer, took the stand to testify that he had recently twice bought drinks from Pedro Torres, one of the two persons charged in the indictment who is still a fugitive.

Customs Agent Lattimer said that he had last seen Torres Saturday in a Nuevo Laredo bar where Torres worked as a bartender. But the agent said he was unable to make an arrest in Mexico.