

Some Guys Never Learn

Some guys never learn and Sal Reale, a tall and handsome mobster with immaculately coiffed salt and pepper hair, was one of those type guys. An associate of the Gambino Organized Crime Family and mob boss John Gotti, Reale was indicted at Brooklyn's Eastern District of New York for extortion and pursuant to a "little information" was given a sentence of probation.

Although totally unaware of the arrangement, Gambino Family members, in particular "Capo" Anthony "Tony Lee" Guerrieri and his "crew" of soldiers, became suspicious when Reale uncharacteristically began "dropping around" and asking too many questions. So when a reliable informant advised Supervisory Special Agent Eddie Magnuson that the mob's suspicions had become "a kiss of death" and that Reale might be wacked, Eddie went to the United States Attorney's office.

"You're going to have to tell him that his life might be in danger," a concerned Assistant United States Attorney Diane Giacalone ordered.

On a hot July 25, 1986, Supervisory Special Agent Eddie Magnuson and Special Agent Ron Melvin knocked on the door of Reale's second floor Queens apartment. The door was opened by Reale's girlfriend, Roberta M., who unconvincingly stated that Sal was not home and that she did not know where he was. Pressing the issue, the agents advised that they were not there to arrest Sal but just wanted to convey an "important" message to him, a message that he could not afford to miss. After a brief moment of thought, Roberta M. asked the agents to wait outside while she tried to contact him. A few minutes later, the agents were summoned inside, Sal Reale would be there in ten minutes.

After identifying themselves to a curious Reale, Special Agent Melvin requested that Roberta M. be asked to leave the apartment so that they could converse in private. And when his girlfriend left to do a little shopping, a somewhat nervous Sal Reale asked why the two "drug Feds" were honoring him with

their presence. "Surely you guys got better things to do?" he sarcastically quipped.

But when Eddie advised that they were **ONLY** there to dutifully execute an order by the United States Attorney's Office and that they **ONLY** wanted to make him aware that certain members of the Gambino Organized Crime Family hierarchy believed that he was cooperating with the government and that his life might be in danger, Reale's pretentious cocky attitude had an immediate adjustment. "Do you think its serious?" a visibly upset Sal Reale asked.

NO SAL, DEA AGENTS ALWAYS DO THIS, Eddie laughed to himself.

Assuring Reale that the information was both serious and reliable, Eddie and Ron gave him their office telephone numbers and left. Reale never called.

Although Reale had avoided prison and successfully dodged a Mafia bullet, he was arrested in 1990 at a Texas-Mexico border crossing with almost four million dollars of "dope" money in the trunk of his car. The handsome but indocile mobster was sent to prison for ten years.

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