

4-596 (5-31-56)

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

44  
1362

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-12-90 BY 8123 JCR

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

Transfer-Call 421



RECORDED

44-1362-1

SAC, Miami

March 13, 1946

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

SHERIFF OF GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

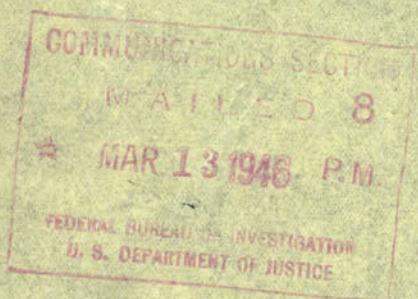
Leroy Bradswell - Victim

CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There is attached a copy of a self-explanatory memorandum from the Criminal Division dated March 1, 1946, requesting that a preliminary investigation be conducted in the above-captioned case.

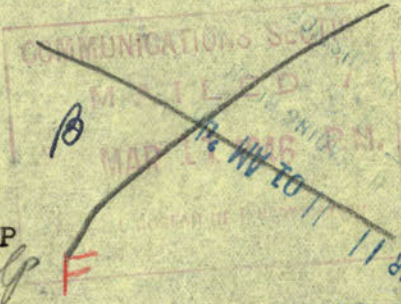
It is desired that a preliminary investigation be conducted immediately in accordance with the request of the Criminal Division and that a report be submitted without delay.

Enclosure



Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

ESB:LP



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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation      DATE: March 13, 1946.

FROM : Theron L. Caudle, Assistant Attorney General      TLC:FSR:BC

SUBJECT: Possible Violation of Section 52, Title 18,  
Depriving Citizen of Constitutional Right Under  
Color of Law; Accused, Sheriff of Gadsden  
County, Florida; Victim, Leroy Bradswell      144-18-0

Mr. Tolson.....  
Mr. Clegg.....  
Mr. Glavin.....  
Mr. Ladd.....  
Mr. Nichols.....  
Mr. Rosen.....  
Mr. Tracy.....  
Mr. Carson.....  
Mr. Egan.....  
Mr. Gurnea.....  
Mr. Harbo.....  
Mr. Hendon.....  
Mr. Pennington.....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....  
Mr. Nease.....  
Miss Gandy.....

The Department is in receipt of a letter dated February 4, 1946, from Mrs. Mary McCray Bradswell, by reference from the President, which reads as follows:

"Four weeks ago the officers of Gadsden Co. took my son, Leroy Bradswell (his nickname is T. S. Bradswell) away from home. I haven't seen or heard from him since. They gave me his dog tag, his army insurance papers, his billfold and all other papers or money he had in his possession. They had a letter written to a white lady with his name signed on it, but since then they have had the letter, along with some letters written to me from him, tested and they tell me he is not guilty. They tell me they took him to the Georgia line and turned him loose. I fear they have killed my child. Can't you please take some steps to help me find my child? He had been in the Army over 3 years. He served over sea for 2 years and had been home just 1-1/2 weeks. Please help me.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ Mary McCray Bradswell

It is believed that a possible violation of Section 52, Title 18, is involved, in depriving the victim of a constitutional right and it is requested that a preliminary investigation be made.

First, the victim's mother should be interviewed and a statement secured from her. Second, it should be ascertained from the records of the county courthouse as to whether or not a complaint has been filed and warrant issued for the arrest of the victim. Third, the officers responsible for the apprehension of the victim should be interviewed. Fourth, the victim was accused of writing a letter to a white girl and this is the basis of his apprehension. If the letter is available, it would be material to secure it or at least get a photostatic copy for comparison of handwriting.

Please furnish the United States Attorney with a copy of the investigation.

DEFERRED  
44-1362-1  
30 MAR 15 1946

cc Sae  
Miami  
3-13-46  
esb/gf



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI - Attention: Laboratory

DATE: April 25, 1946

FROM : SAC, MIAMI

SUBJECT: Re: SHERIFF OTHO EDWARDS, GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA  
DEPUTY SHERIFF EMORY MAPLES, GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA  
T. S. BRADSWELL wa. LEROY BRADSWELL - Victim  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

52272

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent James B. Hafley, dated April 25, 1946 at Miami in the above captioned matter. There are being submitted herewith the following exhibits pertaining to this case:

1. The original of a letter written in pencil addressed to "MR. SMOTHERS, Midway, Florida to Miss CORLEAN" bearing return address "T. S. BRADSWELL, Midway, Florida". This letter bears no stamp and did not pass through the mails.
2. The original of a letter in pencil addressed to "Miss ROSA M. KENON, P.O. Box 68, Midway, Florida," and return address "R. T. PARKER, 120 N. Division Street, Orlando, Florida." Instant letter is postmarked December 3, 1945 at Orlando, Florida and bears a three cent stamp on the envelope.
3. The original of a letter written in ink addressed to "Mrs. MARY BRADSWELL, P.O. Box 61, Midway, Florida," and return address "PFC LEROY BRADSWELL 34531699, 4229 Tr. Tn. (Illeg.) Co., APO 513 c/o PM, New York, N. Y." Instant letter is postmarked 7-12-45 by APO and bears a six cent Air Mail Stamp.

The exhibit identified as #1 above contains obscene material.

It is requested that the exhibits identified as #2 and #3 above be compared with the exhibit identified as #1 above for the purpose of determining from the handwriting if either the writer of #2 or #3 could have written the letter identified as #1.

Further, it is requested that the originals of these three letters be returned to the Miami Office upon completion of the Laboratory's examination.

ENCL 311

JBH:ckk  
44-56  
Encl 3

RECORDED

INDEXED

SE 37

36 MAY 2 1946

EX-27

INDEXED LAB. FILE

56 MAY 17 1946



REPORT  
of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 16, 1946

To: SAC, Miami

There follows the report of the FBI Laboratory on the examination of evidence received from your office on May 3, 1946.

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover, Director

Re: Sheriff Otho Edwards, Gadsden County, Florida  
Deputy Sheriff Emory Maples, Gadsden County, Florida  
T. S. Bradswell, with alias Leroy Bradswell - Victim  
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

YOUR FILE NO. 44-56  
FBI FILE NO. 44-1362 -2  
LAB. NO. D-52272 AD

Examination requested by: Miami

Reference: Letter dated April 25, 1946

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

RECORDED

EX-29

- Q1 One envelope bearing the pencilled handwritten address to "Mr. Smothers Mid Way Fla. to Miss Corlean" and the return address "T. S. Brad Wean Midway Fla.". This envelope bears no stamp or postmark. (Item I.)
- Q2 First page of accompanying two-page letter, handwritten in pencil, dated "Midway Fla Jan 6 1946", beginning "Miss Corlean Jest a Few line this....". (I.)
- Q3 Second page of accompanying letter, handwritten in pencil, beginning "all I want to no can I get...." and signed on the reverse side "T. S. Brad Wear". (Item I.)
- K1 One envelope bearing handwritten address to "Miss Rosa M. kenon Po Ex 68 Midway Fla.", the return address "R. T. Parker 120 N Division St Orlando Fla." and the postmark "Orlando Dec 3 2PM 1945 Fla." and an accompanying two-page letter, handwritten in pencil, dated "Dec 2 1945", beginning "hello Rosa Mae My little darling...." and ending on the second page ".... so keep Sweet With love RTPK". (Item 2)

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

2 - Miami

1 - Laboratory

Page one

DKF/dab

MAILED 7

MAY 16 1946 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Continued next page



K2 One envelope, handwritten in ink, addressed to "Mrs. Mary Bradwell POBox 61 Midway, Fla.", bearing the return address "Pfc. Leroy Bradwell 34531699 4229th Im Steel Co APO513 5 PM New York, N.Y." and postmarked "U. S. Army Postal Service 1945 JUL 12 1 6 7 A.P.O." and an accompanying two-page letter, handwritten in ink, beginning "Dear Mother Just a few lines to let....", second page beginning "Cream I dont have any But maybe I can get...." and signed "....from your Son L. Bradwell". (Item 3)

Result of Examination:

It was concluded that the writer of the letter addressed to Miss Rosa M. Kenon, listed above as K1, wrote the questioned material in this case listed as Q1 through Q3.

The letter of submission asked only for handwriting comparisons. As it is customary in some cases of this kind to attempt to develop latent fingerprints, you are requested to advise whether this is desired. The evidence will be retained pending advice as to this.



ENCLOSURE

44-1362-3



MM FILE NO. 44-56

TITLE: T.S. BRADSWELL wa--VICTIM

OBSCENE

Copy of letter written in pencil addressed to  
"Mr. Smothers, Midway, Fla., Miss Corlean"  
and bearing the return address "T. S. Bradwear,  
Midway, Fla."

5 Copies to Bureau

OBSCENE



Midway Fla  
Jan 6 1946

Miss Cor lean

Jest a few line this From TS Brad Wear I am From over all and I Was  
going With a White girl over their and I want to No can I go With  
you and I want to No When can I get a date With When I dont give  
a god dam a bout Mr Smathers all I want to No can I get a date With  
you I like to go With White girls So Please give me a date With you and  
I No your Pussy is good and it Will be Better if I can get it one  
time So Make a Way For Me to get Sum of it one time Please I done  
give a god dam about Mr Smathers Write Midway Fla TS Brad Wear



Midway Fla  
Jan 6 1946

Miss Cor-lean

Jest a few line this From TS Brad Wear I am From over all and I Was going With a White girl over their and I want to No can I go With you and I want to No When can I get a date With When I dont give a god dam a bout Mr Snathers all I want to No can I get a date With you I like to go With White girls So Please give me a date With you and I No your Pussy is good and it Will be Better if I can get it one time So Make a Way For Me to get Sum of it one time Please I done give a god dam about Mr Snathers Write Midway Fla TS Brad Wear



Midway Fla  
Jan 6 1946

Miss Cor lean

Jest a few line this From TS Brad Wear I am From over all and I Was  
going With a White girl over their and I want to No can I go With  
you and I want to No When can I get a date With When I dont give  
a god dam a bout Mr Smathers all I want to No can I get a date With  
you I like to go With White girls So Please give me a date With you and  
I No your Pussy is good and it Will be Better if I can get it one  
time So Make a Way For Me to get Sum of it one time Please I done  
give a god dam about Mr Smathers Write Midway Fla TS Brad Wear



Midway Fla  
Jan 6 1946

Miss Cor lean

Jest a few line this From TS Brad Wear I am From over all and I Was  
going With a White girl over their and I want to No can I go With  
you and I want to No When can I get a date With When I dont give  
a god dam a bout Mr Snathers all I want to No can I get a date With  
you I like to go With White girls So Please give me a date With you and  
I No your Pussy is good and it Will be Better if I can get it one  
time So Make a Way For Me to get Sum of it one time Please I done  
give a god dam about Mr Snathers Write Midway Fla TS Brad Wear



Midway Fla  
Jan 6 1946

Miss Cor lean

Jest a few line this From TS Brad Wear I am From over all and I Was going With a White girl over their and I want to No can I go With you and I want to No When can I get a date With When I dont give a god dam a bout Mr Smathers all I want to No can I get a date With you I like to go With white girls So Please give me a date With you and I No your Pussay is good and it Will be Better if I can get it one time So Make a Way For Me to get Sum of it one time Please I done give a god dam about Mr Smathers Write Midway Fla TS Brad Wear



Midway Fla  
Jan 6 1946

Miss Cor lean

Jest a few line this From TS Brad Wear I am From over all and I Was  
going With a White girl over their and I want to No can I go With  
you and I want to No When can I get a date With When I dont give  
a god dam a bout Mr Snathers all I want to No can I get a date With  
you I like to go With white girls So Please give me a date With you and  
I No your Pussy is good and it Will be Better if I can get it one  
time So Make a Way For Me to get Sum of it one time Please I done  
give a god dam about Mr Snathers Write Midway Fla TS Brad Wear



Assistant Attorney General Theron L. Caudle  
Criminal Division  
44-1362-3  
Director, FBI

May 21, 1946

Sheriff OTHO EDWARDS, Gadsden County, Florida  
Deputy Sheriff EMORY MAPLES, Gadsden County, Florida  
T. S. Bradswell, with alias Leroy Bradswell - Victim  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to your memorandum dated March 1, 1946, entitled,  
"Sheriff of Gadsden County, Florida; Leroy Bradswell - Victim; Civil Rights and  
Domestic Violence."

In accordance with your request, a preliminary investigation has been  
conducted, and there is transmitted herewith a copy of the investigative report  
of Special Agent James B. Hafley, dated at Miami, Florida, April 25, 1946.

An additional report will be forwarded in the near future reflecting  
the results of the FBI Laboratory examination of the handwriting specimens of  
victim, T. S. Bradswell, and suspect, R. T. Parker.

Attachment

ESB:IGS

This image contains all the  
information on the document.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

56 JUN 13 1946

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MAY 22 1946

4 51 PM '46

MAY 21 1946

Handwritten signatures and initials, including "Eugene" and "J. Edgar Hoover".



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **MIAMI, FLORIDA**

FILE NO. **44-56 (RD) ckk**

REPORT MADE AT <b>MIAMI, FLORIDA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4-25-46</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3-29-46 4/5, 9/12-46</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>JAMES B. HAFLEY</b>
TITLE <b>Sheriff OTHO EDWARDS, Gadsden County, Fla. Deputy Sheriff EMORY MAPLES, Gadsden County, Fla. T. S. BRADSWELL wa. LEROY BRADSWELL - VICTIM</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Miss COLLEEN SMOTHERS, white resident of Gadsden County, Fla., received obscene letter on 1-7-46 from person signing name "T. S. BRADSWELL, Midway, Fla.". Instant letter did not pass through U. S. Mails, but was deposited on porch of SMOTHER'S home, T. S. BRADSWELL is a young negro male recently discharged from U. S. Army who lives near SMOTHERS. Immediately following receipt of instant letter, facts were reported to Sheriff OTHO EDWARDS, Gadsden County, Fla. On same date Sheriff EDWARDS and Deputy Sheriff EMORY MAPLES proceeded to Victim BRADSWELL's home, escorted him to Liberty County, Fla., line and advised him not to return to Gadsden County, Fla., since white residents would be indignant over fact negro victim's name appeared on obscene letter written to white woman and racial violence might occur. No evidence developed indicating that victim was harmed by officers and apparently both were acting in good faith. EDWARDS had previously discussed matter with Circuit Judge HUGH TAYLOR, Gadsden County, Fla., and latter had agreed that this course of action would be logical way to handle manner. Victim BRADSWELL has not been heard from since 1-7-46 and his mother fears he may have met with foul play. Recent developments indicate letter was not actually written by victim BRADSWELL, but was probably written by another local negro named R. T. PARKER, who had

NO  
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STATISTICS

EX-108 (encl)  
336

DEFERRED RECORDING

HANDLED BY  
STOP DES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>J. E. Thorn</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">44-1362-3</div> <div style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">FBI</div> <div style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">MAY 24 1946</div> <div style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">RECEIVED</div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau (encl) 1 - USA, Pensacola (encl) 3 - Miami <i>1 cc Bureau with memo 5-21-46 ESB</i>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>336</b> </div>

**COPIES DESTROYED**

**R241 JAN 1 1962**



motive of desiring to see victim BRADSWELL in trouble. Original letter together with handwriting specimens of victim BRADSWELL and suspect PARKER obtained and forwarded to FBI Laboratory for handwriting comparison. Sheriff EDWARDS and Deputy Sheriff MAPLES have good reputation in county with regard to treatment of negroes. Information regarding racial conditions in Gadsden County, Fla., set forth.

-P-

REFERENCE: Bureau letter to Miami dated March 13, 1946 captioned "Sheriff of Gadsden County, Florida, LEROY BRADSWELL - Victim, CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE".

DETAILS: Reference Bureau letter enclosed a copy of memorandum from the Criminal Division dated March 1, 1946. Instant memorandum informed that the Department was in receipt of a letter dated February 4, 1946, from Mrs. MARY MCCRAY BRADSWELL by reference from the President, which reads as follows:

"Four weeks ago the officers of Gadsden County, took my son, LEROY BRADSWELL (his nickname is T. S. BRADSWELLO away from home. I haven't seen or heard from him since. They gave me his dog tag, his army insurance papers, his billfold and all other papers or money he had in his possession, They had a letter written to a white lady with his name signed on it, but since then they have had the letter, along with some letters written to me from him, tested and they tell me he is not guilty. They tell me they took him to the Georgia line and turned him loose. I fear they have killed my child. Can't you please take some steps to help me find my child? He had been in the Army over 3 years. He served over sea for 2 years and had been home just 1-1/2 weeks. Please help me.

Respectfully yours,

/s MARY MCCRAY BRADSWELL"

The Criminal Division's memorandum continued by stating it was believed that a possible violation of Section 52, Title 18, is involved in depriving the victim of a constitutional right and it was requested that a preliminary investigation be made.

The following suggestions were made: First, the victim's mother should be interviewed and a statement secured from her. Second, it should be ascertained from the records of the county courthouse as to whether or not a complaint has been filed and a warrant issued for the arrest of the victim. Third, the officers responsible for the apprehension of the victim



should be interviewed. Fourth, the victim was accused of writing a letter to a white girl and this is the basis of this apprehension. If the letter is available, it would be material to secure it or at least get a photostatic copy for comparison of handwriting.

It was also requested that a copy of the investigation report be furnished to the United States Attorney.

AT MIDWAY, GADSDEN, COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Reporting Agent and Special Agent Kyle M. McPhail, visited the home of MARY MCCRAY BRADSWELL on April 9, 1946. This home is located in a negro rural section, two miles west of Midway, Florida. It was learned from ROGINER HENDLEY, daughter of MARY MCCRAY BRADSWELL and a sister of victim T. S. BRADSWELL, that MARY MCCRAY BRADSWELL was out of town at the time and could not be located for an interview. ROGINER HENDLEY explained that her mother was presently doing some work on a plantation owned by a white man near Quincy, Florida. In the absence of MARY MCCRAY BRADSWELL, ROGINER HENDLEY was interviewed by Agent MCPHAIL and the writer concerning the facts in this case. She presented the following version.

During the night of January 7, 1946, Sheriff OTHO EDWARDS and Deputy Sheriff EMORY MAPLES, both of Gadsden County, Florida, came to the BRADSWELL home near Midway. Present at the home at this time were MARY MCCRAY BRADSWELL (victim's mother) T. S. BRADSWELL nicknamed LEROY BRADSWELL, victim, ROGINER HENDLEY, victim's sister, ARTHUR HENDLEY, victim's brother-in-law and LEVONIA BRADSWELL, victim's brother. Sheriff EDWARDS and Deputy Sheriff MAPLES inquired as to the identity of T. S. BRADSWELL. When he was pointed out among the group, EDWARDS notified him that he wanted to talk with him. T. S. BRADSWELL walked over to EDWARDS and MAPLES and these two officers immediately began a search of his person. They took all of his personal belongings out of his pockets and placed them on a mantel in the BRADSWELL home. They then placed handcuffs on T. S. BRADSWELL and instructed him to come along with them out to their car which was parked nearby. As they walked out of the house with him, MARY MCCRAY BRADSWELL became upset over the apparent plight of her son and said, "Mr. Sheriff, you can't just come in here, arrest my son without a warrant, take him away from here and then not tell me why you're taking him away or what he has done. Please tell me if he's been in any trouble and where you are taking him". Sheriff EDWARDS replied to her that Miss COLLEEN SMOTHERS, a white woman who resided nearby in Midway, Florida had on that date received an obscene letter and that T. S. BRADSWELL'S name had appeared on it. EDWARDS then proceeded to explain to her that although her son may not have written the letter, that since his name appeared on it, he, EDWARDS, was forced to take T. S. away to prevent any harm from coming to him. EDWARDS assured her that her son would not be harmed and that he was merely being taken to "the line"



with instructions that he should not return for his own good. The two officers then escorted victim BRADSWELL away in the sheriff's automobile.

ROGINER HENDLEY said that neither she, her mother, or any of her other relatives had seen or heard from victim since that night. She added that she remembered specifically that the officers had never said that victim was under arrest at the time of the apprehension.

Subsequently, ROGINER HENDLEY, her mother, and the other members of this family attempted to find out what kind of trouble victim could have had and what happened to him. They learned by inquiring among neighbors that Miss COLLEEN SMOTHERS had actually received an obscene letter bearing the name of T. S. BRADSWELL. This letter, addressed to Miss SMITHERS, had not been placed in the U. S. Mails, but had been deposited on January 7, 1946 on the porch of her home and had been found that day by her father. The latter immediately took the matter up with Sheriff EDWARDS.

ROGINER HENDLEY said that she was certain that victim had not written the letter for the following reasons: MAGGIE LOU THOMAS, colored, who lives nearby, recently advised her that on January 6, 1946, one R. T. PARKER, colored, who also lives in the same community, came to her MAGGIE LOU THOMAS, and asked her how to spell "Miss COLLEEN'S name". MAGGIE LOU asked PARKER why he wanted to know how to spell this white woman's name and PARKER explained that he was making application for a government job and needed names of three white persons as references. He told her that he already had the names of Mr. and Mrs. PINK FERRELL, white residents of Gadsden County, Florida and he intended to use Miss COLLEEN SMOTHERS also as a reference. MAGGIE LOU THOMAS then spelled the name out for him. He, PARKER, then wrote it down on a scrap of paper and departed. On the following day instant obscene letter was found on COLLEEN SMOTHER's porch by her father.

ROGINER HENDLEY explained that since her brother, victim, T. S. BRADSWELL, had returned from U. S. Army overseas, he, BRADSWELL and R. T. PARKER had been "Courting" the same negro girl in this community, one ROSA M. KENON. As a result of this courtship rivalry PARKER had become insanely jealous of BRADSWELL and had attempted to kill him on two different occasions. Once PARKER had shot at BRADSWELL in the dark of the night as BRADSWELL was returning from ROSA M. KENON's home. A few days later PARKER had attempted to run BRADSWELL down in a car as the latter was returning from ROSA M. KENON's home. On both occasions, BRADSWELL had commented to his family that R. T. PARKER was trying to kill him.



Victim's family had therefore concluded that PARKER had written instant obscene letter to Miss COLLEEN SMOTHERS and had signed the name of victim in order to cause trouble for the latter person. ROGINER HENDLEY explained that she and her mother, MARY MCCRAY BRADSWELL had recently made these facts known to the Sheriff EDWARDS whereupon EDWARDS obtained handwriting specimens of both victim BRADSWELL and suspect PARKER for comparison with the handwriting in the original obscene letter. EDWARDS obtained a letter written by victim to his mother while he was overseas on July 12, 1945. Likewise he obtained a letter written by PARKER to ROSA M. KENON on December 3, 1945. After comparing these letters with the original obscene letter address to Miss COLLEEN SMOTHERS, he, Sheriff EDWARDS indicated to MARY MCCRAY BRADSWELL and her family that victim T. S. BRADSWELL was not guilty of having written the letter. He also indicated however, that it would be a good idea for victim to remain away from Gadsden County until the whole thing "died down" since his name had appeared on the letter and it might cause trouble among the white and colored people.

In the meantime, on or about January 12, 1946 R. T. PARKER disappeared from his home near Midway, Florida and his whereabouts are unknown at the present time. This indicated that PARKER became afraid upon learning that he would probably be drawn into this matter and had fled the vicinity of Gadsden County. It was learned that PARKER has been known to visit Hastings, Florida and also 120 N. Division Street, Orlando Florida in the past. ROGINER HENDLEY was of the impression that PARKER is hiding out at one of these places until the case involving the obscene letter is concluded.

ROGINER HENDLEY stated that she and her mother had been in contact with all of their relatives in an effort to determine where victim BRADSWELL is at the present time, however, none of them have been able to ascertain his present whereabouts. It was her theory that victim might have become the victim of foul play at the hands of PARKER. However, she had no information to substantiate this theory other than the fact that PARKER hated victim and probably would not hesitate to kill him if he had the chance under the proper circumstances. She concluded by advising agents that her mother, MARY MCCRAY BRADSWELL, would be unable to furnish any further information than that previously furnished by her. She said that her mother could definitely confirm her testimony however.

Miss ORA HALE, Postmaster, advised that MARY MCCRAY BRADSWELL and her family had been patrons of the Midway, Florida Post office for a good many years and she knew of no derogatory information concerning this family. She described the whole family as a good, law-abiding citizens, and she could think of no ulterior motive that might be involved in the disappearance of victim BRADSWELL. She said that she felt certain that victim's whereabouts were unknown to MARY MCCRAY BRADSWELL and her family inasmuch as no mail had passed through her postoffice recently that might have originated from him. Further, she explained that several weeks ago victim received a government check, probably his mustering out



pay from the army, and when she told victim's mother that it had arrived, his mother explained that her son had disappeared and she had no idea as to where he was at the time. Accordingly, Miss HALE had returned the check to the Government pursuant to Post Office instructions.

When questioned as to her knowledge of the facts in this case, Miss HALE advised that she had been living in Gadsden County all her life and could not believe that Sheriff EDWARDS or his deputy would allow any harm to come to this victim. She cited numerous instances regarding isolated racial clashes in this county and said that Sheriff EDWARDS had always done his duty without showing preference to either race. Miss HALE had learned of the facts in this case by hearing white and colored people in the community talk about it and she was of the opinion that the officers had followed the correct line of action in order to avoid bloodshed. It was her opinion that victim BRADSWELL had decided to remain away from Gadsden County, for the present anyhow, in order to avoid any further trouble, although he may have been innocent of the accusations. Miss HALE said that she would contact the writer if she was able in the future to develop any pertinent information as to victim's present whereabouts.

At QUINCY, GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Sheriff OTHO EDWARDS stated that on January 7, 1946 he had received a call from Miss COLLEEN SMOTHER'S father at Midway, Florida. He proceeded to the SMOTHER'S residence where he found Mr. SMOTHERS in a very angry mood. The latter showed the Sheriff the obscene letter which he had found on the porch of his home and which was signed with T. S. BRADSWELL'S name. SMOTHERS advised the Sheriff that his first thought had been to kill BRADSWELL himself but after thinking the matter over had decided to call the Sheriff. EDWARDS obtained the original letter from SMOTHERS and returned to Quincy where he decided to talk the facts over with State Circuit Judge HUGH TAYLOR. In discussing it with TAYLOR, they remembered similar racial instances that have happened in this county in recent years and it was decided that the best logical course of action would be for the Sheriff to escort BRADSWELL to another county with instructions not to return. They felt that this would be for the negro's own good and would prevent a possible race riot. Therefore, EDWARDS explained that no complaint was filed in the county courthouse and on the same date, January 7, 1946, he and his deputy proceeded to BRADSWELL'S home and escorted him to the Liberty County, Florida line. His testimony as to victim's actual apprehension was substantially the same as that offered to Agents by victim's sister, ROGINER HENDLEY. He said that after leaving the BRADSWELL home with victim, he and his deputy had simply driven him to the Liberty County line where they had him get out of the car and walk away. EDWARDS assured the writer that neither he nor his deputy had harmed victim in any way although they had told him to stay out of Gadsden County for his own good. He emphasized that he did not know where victim was at the present time.



Deputy Sheriff EMORY MAPLES offered substantially the same information in this regard.

The original obscene letter was obtained from Sheriff EDWARDS. This letter is enclosed in a small white envelope and bears the return address "T. S. BRADSWELL, Midway, Florida". It is addressed "MR. SMOTHERS, Midway, Florida, to Miss CORLEAN". On the back of the envelope appears the writing "From T. S. BRADSWELL, a colored boy", and other illegible scrawling. The letter itself is written on lined tablet stationery, a copy of same attached herewith.

Also from Sheriff EDWARDS were obtained (1) a letter written in victim's handwriting to his mother, this letter dated July 12, 1945 and which was written while victim was overseas. (2) A letter dated December 3, 1945 written in R. T. PARKER'S handwriting to ROSA M. KENON.

By comparing exhibits (1) and (2) above, with the handwriting appearing in the original obscene letter, it appears from a layman's viewpoint that the original obscene letter was written by suspect R. T. PARKER, however, all three letters are being submitted to the FBI Laboratory under separate cover for handwriting comparisons in accordance with the suggestions made by the Criminal Division.

Sheriff EDWARDS admitted that in the light of recent developments it would appear that R. T. Parker was the writer of instant letter. He said that he learned of PARKER'S disappearance from the county six days after the appearance of the letter and his belief was that PARKER had gone to Hastings, Florida. EDWARDS indicated however that he felt that it would be best to drop the whole matter as it stands in view of the delicate racial situation in Gadsden County. He said that if he made any further active investigation to locate PARKER or BRADSWELL, that the whole matter would receive publicity throughout the state and that bloodshed would inevitably result.

It is to be noted that Sheriff EDWARDS has been Sheriff of Gadsden County, Florida for approximately 2½ years and during that time has enjoyed a good reputation in his community with regard to handling racial problems. There is no case on record in which he is alleged to have deprived any person, white or colored, of his constitutional rights. No complaints have been received about him involving any other unscrupulous practices. Sheriff EDWARDS is backed by the American Sumatra Tobacco Company, which company has vast holdings, interests and property in Gadsden County, Florida. Apparently the reason for this backing is due to the fact that the negro population of this county is approximately 55% and most of the negroes in this county are employed by the American Sumatra Tobacco Company, interests, either directly or indirectly. Since Sheriff EDWARDS has a reputation of dealing fairly with negroes by releasing them to their employers whenever they get into trouble and the circumstances of the arrests would warrant such action, he has been able to discharge the functions of his office in a manner harmonious to most Gadsden County residents.



MM 44-56

Approximately two years ago Sheriff EDWARDS was commended by the Governor of Florida for his actions in preventing mob violence in a case involving three negroes arrested for raping a white woman in Gadsden County. Details of this case are set forth in Miami Office file #26-6051, entitled "JAMES C. WILLIAMS, et al" NATIONAL MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT ACT. The Bureau is in possession of pertinent information concerning this case.

AT TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Confidential Informant T - 1 advised the writer that the facts in this case had been brought to the attention of Governor MILLARD F. CALDWELL. The information in the Governor's possession is in substance that which has previously been set forth in instant report. According to this Informant, Governor CALDWELL has been in communication with Sheriff EDWARDS over the matter and has instructed EDWARDS to ascertain victim's present whereabouts and also to determine if he has been harmed in any way. It was learned that Governor CALDWELL is "very much concerned" over the disappearance of this negro and is anxious to see that the matter receives no undue publicity. To date there has been no publicity whatsoever in the happening and CALDWELL feels that an open investigation would tend only to cause friction between the white and colored people in this section and possibly produce a race riot. Informant also mentioned the fact that Governor CALDWELL and the State of Florida as a whole have received considerable unfavorable publicity recently as an outgrowth of magazine editorials recently appearing in Time and Collier's Magazines. These editorials criticized CALDWELL and Sheriff LONNIE T. DAVIS for the alleged lynching of a negro in Madison County, Florida last year for the rape of a five year old white girl. (Miami Office File #44-53, entitled "Unknown Subjects - JESSIE JAMES PAYNE - Victim, CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE". The Bureau is in possession of pertinent information in this case).

Further, it was learned from this Informant that a negro man named HARRY T. MOORE of Mims, Florida who is a representative of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People, wrote a letter to Governor CALDWELL shortly after victim's disappearance and requested that a state investigation be conducted to determine what happened to this victim.



Descriptions of subject OTHO EDWARDS, EMORY MAPLES, victim T. S. BRADSWELL, and suspect R. T. PARKER are not being set out at the present time inasmuch as it is believed this information is unnecessary.

On April 12, 1946 MARY MCCRAY BRADSWELL, mother of the victim in this case was located by the writer in Tallahassee at which time she was interviewed. This woman appeared to be very sincere and offered the following signed statement:

"Tallahassee, Florida  
April 12, 1946

"I, MARY MCCRAY BRADSWELL, wish to make the following statement of my own free will to Mr. JAMES B. HAFLEY who is a Special Agent of the FBI. No threats, promises, or means of violence have been used against me to get me to make this statement, I understand that I do not have to make any statement, and also that anything I say may be used in a court of law at a later date.

"Last Christmas Eve night R.T. PARKER came to my house near Midway, Fla., and asked me if my son, T. S. BRADSWELL, wouldn't be home from the Army pretty soon. I told him that I was expecting him soon. R. T. then told me that I should tell him to stay away from a girl named ROSA MAE KENON who lived in the neighborhood. He said that this girl was going around with a white man, probably had bad blood, and it would cause trouble for T. S. to go around with her. Shortly after Christmas my son returned to Midway from overseas service. I told him what R. T. had said about the girl and T. S. said that he would not pay any attention to R. T. T. S. went to see this girl some after he got home and I think R. T. got jealous because he was trying to court the girl too. T. S. told me that R. T. had tried to kill him twice, once by running over him, and again by shooting at him. I told T. S. that I believed R. T. was just trying to scare him.

"On a Monday night, January 7, 1946 Sheriff EDWARDS and his Deputy, Mr. MAPLES came to my house about 11:00 o'clock and said they wanted to talk to T. S. BRADSWELL. T. S. stood up to talk to them and Mr. EDWARDS immediately searched him, took everything out of his pockets, and put it on a shelf. Mr. MAPLES then put a pair of handcuffs on my boy. They started to lead him out of the door and I asked Mr. EDWARDS why they were taking my child off like this without a warrant or anything. Mr. EDWARDS said that he had done some writing and that's all he would tell me. My son-in-law followed them out to the car and asked them more about it. They told him that my boy had done some writing to a white girl and that they were going to take him to the county line so that he wouldn't get hurt. My son-in-law is named ARTHUR HENDLEY.

"The next day I went into Quincy to see the Sheriff and find



and find out if I could make a bond for T. S. I thought that he might be in the county jail there, but the Sheriff told me that he and his deputy had "pitched T. S. off the bridge". He probably meant the Little River Bridges in Gadsden County. He later told me that they had taken T. S. to the County line and I believe he meant the Georgia line which is just above Quincy. I asked the Sheriff when I would see my boy and he said "it might be a month, it might be six months, and it might be that you will never see him again".

"Several weeks later on Sheriff Edwards told me that they had investigated the letter-writing a little more and had found out that T. S. was not guilty. They said that R. T. Parker was guilty because of his handwriting and the fact he left town after this thing happened. The Sheriff also talked to Maggie Lou Thomas at Midway because on the day before this letter was received at Mr. Smother's house, R. T. Parker had gone to Maggie Lou and asked her how to spell Miss Colleen Smothers' name. This lady's name was on the letter that had my son's name on it.

"I am certain that my son, T. S. Bradwell, did not have anything to do with the writing of that letter, that he is innocent of any crime, and that he was arrested by the Sheriff and his Deputy without a warrant. These officers never did tell T. S. that he was under arrest when they carried him away and I have not seen him since that night. I fear that some harm has come to my child, either from the officers or from R. T. Parker. He did not have any money, identification papers, or anything when they took him away therefore I know that he could not have gone anywhere and made a living. I have taken every step that I know to find my son but have been unsuccessful.

"This one page statement was typed by Mr. Hafley as I told him what to write. It is true and correct in every detail.

Witness: James B. Hafley  
Special Agent FBI  
Miami, Fla."

i have red this page

/s/ Mary Bradwell

ENCLOSURES- to Bureau  
5 copies of obscene letter  
addressed to "Mr. Smothers,  
Midway, Florida, Miss Corlean."



MM 44-56

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE MIAMI FIELD DIVISION

At Miami, Florida

Will report the results of the FBI Laboratory's examination of the handwriting specimens of victim T. S. BRADSWELL and suspect R. T. PARKER in order to determine the actual writer of the obscene letter.

PENDING



MM 44-56

IDENTITY OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

T - 1 ED ~~STRAUGHN~~, who is Confidential Executive Secretary to Governor MILLARD CALDWELL, Tallahassee, Florida. Information obtained from this Informant was taken directly from the files of the Governor's Office at Tallahassee, Florida. STRAUGHN has requested that his identity be kept confidential as being an informant in this case.



L-17  
~~6~~  
~~12~~

RECORDED

44-1362 - 4

June 7, 1946

SAC, Miami

Re: Sheriff Otho Edwards, Gadsden County, Florida  
Deputy Sheriff Emory Waples, Gadsden County, Florida  
T. S. Bradswell, with alias Leroy Bradswell - Victim  
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence  
Your file #44-56

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Laboratory Report #D-52272 AD dated May 16, 1946, in connection with the above-entitled matter, a copy of which was forwarded to your office.

There are being transmitted herewith the following specimens, appropriate copies of the same having been made for the completion of the Bureau's files.

Q1 through Q3, K1 and K2

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enclosure

REGISTERED MAIL

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
CAA:EG

JUN 7 1946 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

56 JUN 24 1946

259

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S/11/4  
RTN



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR

DATE: May 29, 1946

FROM : SAC, MIAMI

SUBJECT: SHERIFF OTHO EDWARDS, GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA  
 DUPTY SHERIFF EMORY MAPLES, GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA  
 T. S. BRADWELL, was LEROY BRADWELL - VICTIM  
 CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
 Bureau File 44-1362

ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

~~DEFERRED RECORDING~~

Reference is made to FBI laboratory report to this office under date of May 16, 1946 in connection with the above named matter.

It is noted that the Laboratory examiner concluded that the writer of the letter addressed "Miss ROSA M. KENON" was also the writer of the questioned material in this case. It is not believed necessary to attempt to develop latent fingerprints in this case since the handwriting examination will undoubtedly serve the purpose for this investigation. Furthermore, the questioned letter in this case has been handled by numerous persons before it was turned over to an Agent from this office and numerous prints would therefore have to be eliminated.

Consequently, it is requested that all of the material submitted by this office to the FBI laboratory in this matter be returned in order that it may be turned over to Sheriff OTHO EDWARDS, Gadsden County, Florida.

JBH:nrm  
 44-56

Form let. ret. evid.  
 6/7/46  
 CAC

RECORDED

SE 25

44-1362  
 29 JUN 1946  
 JWB



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

MIAMI, FLORIDA

FILE NO. 44-56 ckk

REPORT MADE AT <b>MIAMI, FLORIDA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>6-14-46</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>5-27, 29, 30-46</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>JAMES B. HAFLEY</b>
TITLE <b>SHERIFF OTHO EDWARDS, Gadsden County, Florida</b> <b>Deputy Sheriff EMORY MAPLES, Gadsden County, Florida</b> <b>LEROY BRADWELL was. T. S. BRADWELL, T.S. BRADSWELL</b> <b>LEROY BRADSWELL</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</b>
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Handwriting examination by FBI Laboratory reveals that obscene letter in instant case was written by <u>R. T. PARKER</u>, a Midway, Fla., negro youth who apparently desired to see victim LEROY BRADWELL in trouble. Latter person is still missing and no clue available as to present whereabouts. Appropriate stop notice placed in files of FBI Identification Division.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-C-</p> <p>REFERENCE: Bureau file #44-1362 Report of SA JAMES B. HAFLEY dated 4-25-46 at Miami.</p> <p>DETAILS: The title in instant case is being marked "CHANGED" to reflect the true name of Victim as being LEROY BRADWELL and to also set forth the additional alias of T. S. BRADWELL.</p> <p>By cover letter dated April 25, 1946, appropriate original specimens of the handwriting of Victim LEROY BRADWELL and suspect R. T. PARKER were forwarded to the FBI Laboratory together with the original obscene letter in this case. The Laboratory was requested to compare the handwriting of BRADWELL and also PARKER with the handwriting in instant letter in order to determine if either of these individuals had written the letter.</p> <p>The FBI Laboratory replied in a letter dated May 16, 1946 that it had been concluded that the writer of the letter was R. T. PARKER.</p>			
<p>COPIES DESTROYED R241 JAN 11 1962</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>J. E. Harrison</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>44-1362-5</b> <b>RECORDED &amp; INDEXED</b> <b>EX-50</b>	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT <b>3 Bureau</b> <b>1 USA, Pensacola</b> <b>3 Miami</b>			



As set forth in reference report, PARKER is a Midway Florida negro youth who apparently had desired to see Victim LEROY BRADWELL in trouble. Sheriff OTHO EDWARDS has recently advised reporting agent that PARKER departed from Midway right after Victim's disappearance and he, EDWARDS, did not know where PARKER was at the present time. He indicated by his remarks that instant case was inactive as far as his office was concerned and probably would be considered closed, due to the potentialities of racial strife.

AT TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Victim's mother, MARY MC CRAY BRADWELL, appeared personally at the Tallahassee Resident Agency on May 27, 1946, at which time she was again interviewed by the writer and questioned as to any further pertinent information she may have received regarding the whereabouts of her son, LEROY BRADWELL. She said that her niece, LEILA WILLIAMS, 1686 W. 2nd Street, Jacksonville, Florida, had recently written her, MARY MC CRAY BRADWELL, and had told the latter not to worry about LEROY that he was probably unharmed, but was unable to advise her. LEILA also told MARY that she felt LEROY was in jail in Miami, Florida, although she did not elaborate on this theory.

MARY MC CRAY BRADWELL advised that victim's Army Serial Number had been 34531699. Two recent photos of Subject in his Army uniform were also obtained from this woman and they are being retained in the Miami Office file relating to this matter for possible future reference. No further information having a bearing on the facts of instant case could be obtained from victim's mother, however, she was requested to advise the Miami Office or the writer if any further pertinent information did come to her attention concerning the disappearance of her son.

AT MIAMI, FLORIDA

Special Agent E. J. LEAHY of this office checked the records of the Dade County Jail from January 7, 1946 to the present time in an effort to determine if victim LEROY BRADWELL could have been incarcerated there as alleged by LEILA WILLIAMS, however, this phase of the investigation resulted negatively.

AT JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

In order to determine the reason for LEILA WILLIAMS belief that victim had been in jail at Miami, the following investigation was conducted by SA JOHN RILEY SMITH of this office:



LEILA WILLIAMS, 1686 West 2nd Street, advised that she had not written her aunt, MARY BRADWELL, mother of victim, in which she advised her the victim was in jail at Miami, Florida. She wrote that perhaps the victim was being held in some jail in Florida and that the Sheriff would not tell her where he was being held. MARY BRADWELL had written to her, and asked what she could do to locate the victim. LEILA stated that about 10 years ago another cousin, MANEY MC CRAY, had been taken to the Lake City Jail and that the Sheriff would not tell his mother where he was being held. She went to several jails in the vicinity before she found him at Lake City. She stated that this cousin had not been prosecuted, but had been escorted to the county line and told not to come back to Gadsden County. She advised that MARY had gone to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, where she was presently residing.

LEILA WILLIAMS stated that she had not heard anything from the victim and that none of his relatives in Jacksonville had heard from him. She and her husband who had just returned from the Army, went to Midway, Florida on January 10, 1946 to see the victim and the family at which time they were told how the victim had been taken by the sheriff. She advised that her mother, MARIE RAMBERT, 1215 West Beaver, her brother, THOMAS MC CRAY, Church Street, and a cousin L. G. MC CULLOUGH, 214 Chelsea Street, knew about the case and had not been contacted by the victim since his return from the army. She expressed full cooperation in the location of the victim and will notify this office in the event they hear from him.

She advised that about six weeks ago, R. T. PARKER, who is reported to have written instant letter, came through Jacksonville and stopped at the house of L. G. McCULLOUGH. He told this cousin he was going back to Midway and would stay only a few days. He said he was going to Savannah, Georgia from Midway. She does not know how or where he can be located. She stated that he did not know these people were relatives of the victim and left shortly after he learned they were cousins.

She advised that the victim had relatives at Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and Miami. She does not know the addresses of these people, but stated that the victim's mother wrote to them and could give their addresses. She stated that the victim had visited and worked with the relatives at Fort Lauderdale.

It is to be noted that LEILA WILLIAMS advised that victim has relatives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and has visited them on occasions. When victim's mother was interviewed by the writer on May 27, 1946, she also stated that victim had relatives in Fort



MM 44-56

Lauderdale, but she further explained that she had recently been in contact with all of these relatives and had established beyond a doubt that victim had not visited any of these relatives since his disappearance. Therefore it is felt that no further check at Fort Lauderdale is necessary at this time.

By separate letter the Bureau is being advised of victim's name and army serial number in order that an appropriate stop notice may be placed against his arrest. Meanwhile, instant case is being placed in a Closed status, subject to reopening in the event further pertinent information is received, which would warrant such action.

~~-CLOSED-~~



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Assistant Attorney General T. L. Caudle  
Criminal Division  
Director, FBI

June 19, 1946

RECORDED  
EX-59  
FD  
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X  
44-1362-6  
SHERIFF OTHO EDWARDS, Gadsden County, Florida;  
Deputy Sheriff EMORY MAPLES, Gadsden County, Florida  
LEROY BRADWELL, was, VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to our previous correspondence regarding the  
above-captioned matter, your file reference 144-18-42. For your further  
consideration there is transmitted herewith a copy of the report of  
Special Agent James B. Hafley dated June 14, 1946, at Miami, Florida.

I shall appreciate your advising me if any further action by this  
Bureau is desired.

Enclosure

ESB:aop  
44-1362

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

78 JUL 12 1946

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 1  
JUN 22 1946 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUN 19 6 11 PM '46

Handwritten signatures and initials: "D. H. H.", "J. H. H.", "E. H. H."



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: June 12, 1946

FROM : Theron L. Caudle, Assistant Attorney General

TLC:FSR:LAK

144-18-42

TLC

SUBJECT: Sheriff Otho Edwards, Gadsden County, Florida;  
Deputy Sheriff Emory Maples, Gadsden County, Florida;  
T. S. Bradswell, with alias Leroy Bradswell - Victim -  
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

Reference is made to your memorandum of May 21, 1946, enclosing a copy of the report of Special Agent James B. Hafley, dated at Miami, Florida, April 25, 1946, in which it is stated that an FBI Laboratory examination of handwriting specimens of victim T. S. Bradswell and suspect R. T. Parker is being made.

It will be appreciated if you will expedite this matter.

Blakeslee  
DEFERRED RECORDING

301  
RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

EX - 59

144-1362-6  
FBI  
29 JUN 27 1946

528B

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. [unclear]

ack  
6-19-46  
ESB  
art



SAC, Miami

July 2, 1946

Director, FBI

RECORDED

44-1362-7  
SHERIFF OTHO EDWARDS, et al  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
Your file #44-56

Reference is made to the communication from your office dated June 14, 1946, in which it was requested that a stop notice be placed in the files of the Identification Division against the arrest of Leroy Bradwell, with aliases, the victim in the above-entitled case.

You are advised that a thorough search has been made through the name files of the Identification Division, and it has not been possible to locate a fingerprint card for this subject with Army serial #34531699.

A check of the files of the War Department has been made and it was determined that this subject was discharged February 28, 1946, and that his home address was Box 61, Midway, Florida.

A three by five wanted notice card containing the name, aliases, and Army serial number of this subject has been placed in the name files of the Identification Division, and your office will be advised in case any information concerning this individual is received in the future.

44-1362

RKS:wet

RKS-

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 15

JUL 3 1946 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

107  
1501



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: June 14, 1946

FROM : SAC, MIAMI, *Florida* Attention: IDENTIFICATION DIVISIONSUBJECT: RE: SHERIFF OTHO EDWARDS, et al  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
Bureau File 44-1362

Reference is made to the closing report of Special Agent JAMES B. HAFLEY, of this office, which report is dated June 14, 1946, at Miami in the above captioned matter.

It is requested that an appropriate stop notice be placed in the files of the Identification Division against the arrest of victim LEROY BRADWELL with aliases T. S. BRADWELL, T.S. BRADSWELL, and LEROY BRADSWELL. He is a negro male, however, no further description data regarding him is available at the present time other than the fact that his army serial number is 34531699.

In the event this person is located by arrest, it is requested that the Miami Office be immediately notified by teletype.

JBH:ckk  
44-56

RECORDED

44-1362-7  
F B I  
19 JUL 9 1946

EX-20

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ack-72-46  
RKS:vet  
rec'd at 6/19 3:30 PM  
out at 6/19 4:20 PM

5880  
ONE  
OT-R/KS



EXPEDITE

Surname	First	Middle	Date and Place of Birth	
Aliases				
34531699		Jewell		6/25
Army Serial Number		Submitted by		Date
INFORMATION DESIRED FROM ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE				
Check by				
Bradenell Leroy				
Surname	First	Middle	Army Serial Number	
Aliases (List other names used)				
Present Assignment				
Date	Rating	Organization	Station	Address
Complete Name only information necessary				
Enlisted	or Local Board			
Inducted	Date	Place	Number	Order No. City State
(Check One)				
Description				
Date and Place of Birth	Race	Height	Weight	Eyes Hair
Complexion	Scars, Marks or Tattoos	Marital Status	Social Security No.	
Citizenship	FBI Number	Former Occupation, Employer and Address		
Bob Midway, Fla				
Last Home Address	Previous Military Service	Any 201 file (Yes No)		
Next of Kin				
Name	Relationship	Street	City	State
Name	Relationship	Street	City	State
Beneficiaries				
	Relationship	Street	City	State
	Relationship	Street	City	State
If deserter at present or for an extended period in the past please give following information				
Date	Rating	Organization	Station	Date & Place of Surrender
Court martial		Sentence		
If records at St. Louis give date record sent there				
Remarks				
Discharged 28 Feb 46 44-1362-7				



RECORDED

SAC, Miami

February 7, 1947

Director, FBI

SHERIFF OTHO EDWARDS, Gadsden County, Florida;  
DEPUTY SHERIFF EMORY NAPLES, Gadsden County, Florida;  
LEROY BRADWELL, with aliases T. S. Bradwell, T. S.  
Bradswell, Leroy Bradswell - VICTIM:  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to your letter dated January 17, 1947, advising that State Attorney Orrion C. Parker is conducting an investigation of this case and has requested that the information developed by the Bureau's investigation be made available to him.

The Bureau has no objection to your furnishing to Mr. Parker a summary of the information in your file on this case.

The Department has advised that the use of this information by the state authorities will not materially jeopardize any future Federal prosecution which might result.

This image contains all the information on the document.

2-6  
2-15  
2-30

RECEIVED READING  
FEB 7 5 18 PM '47

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 15  
★ FEB 10 1947 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ESB:TD

61 FEB 25 1947



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: February 4, 1947

FROM : Theron L. Caudle, Assistant Attorney General

TLC: TLS: LAK

144-18-42

TLC

SUBJECT: Sheriff Otho Edwards, Gadsden County, Florida;  
Deputy Sheriff Emory Naples, Gadsden County, Florida;  
Leroy Bradwell, with aliases T. S. Bradwell, T. S.  
Bradswell, Leroy Bradswell - Victim:  
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

*Strickland*

I have your memorandum of January 30, 1947, asking to be advised if we have any objection to the Bureau reports in the above-captioned matter being made available to State Attorney Orrion C. Parker who has been ordered by the Governor of Florida to make an investigation in the matter.

*Blair*

If the Bureau sees no objection to making the results of your investigation available to Mr. Parker, no objection is entertained by me. I do not believe the use of this information by the State authorities would materially jeopardize any future Federal prosecution that might result.

*man*  
2/7/47  
50

RECORDED  
EX-5  
FEB 8 1947  
44-1362-  
FEB 12 1947  
8

*BBB*



Assistant Attorney General T. L. Caudle  
Criminal Division

January 30, 1947

Director - FBI

RECORDED

44-1362-9  
SHERIFF OTHO EDWARDS, Gadsden County, Florida;  
DEPUTY SHERIFF EMORY NAPLES, Gadsden County, Florida;  
LEROY BRADSWELL, with aliases T. S. Bradwell, T. S.  
Bradswell, Leroy Bradswell - VICTIM:  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to our previous correspondence in the above captioned case, your file reference #144-18-42.

Information has been received by our Miami Office from State Attorney Orrion C. Parker, Tallahassee, Florida, that he has been ordered to make a complete investigation of this case at the request of Governor Millard Caldwell. Mr. Parker requested that the information in the files of our Miami Office concerning this matter be made available to him.

I shall appreciate your advising me if you have any objection to the requested information developed in the course of this Bureau's investigation being made available to Mr. Parker. It will be appreciated if you will let me have your opinion in this regard as soon as possible so that our Miami Office may be appropriately advised.

cul  
2-4  
2-15  
2-3

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

ESB:MIP:TD

68 FEB 24 1947

RECEIVED  
MAILED  
JAN 31 1947 P.M.

RECEIVED READING ROOM  
F B I  
U S DEPT OF JUSTICE  
JAN 30 4 28 PM '47

Carroll  
Jaw  
EAB



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: January 17, 1947

FROM : SAC, Miami

SUBJECT: SHERIFF OTHO EDWARDS, Gadsden County, Florida  
DEPUTY SHERIFF EMORY NAPLES, Gadsden County, Florida  
LEROY BRADSWELL, with aliases T. S. Bradwell, T. S.  
Bradswell, Leroy Bradswell - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
(BUREAU FILE 44-1362)

Special Agent JAMES B. HAFLEY, who is presently assigned to the Mobile Field Office, has advised that State Attorney ORRION C. PARKER, Tallahassee, Florida, contacted him and advised he had been ordered to make a complete investigation in this case at the request of Governor MILLARD C. CALDWELL. PARKER requested that he be allowed to examine the original obscene letter in this case, as well as all the other exhibits and investigative reports.

The Bureau is requested to advise whether or not this material may be furnished to Mr. PARKER.

cc - SAC, Mobile

LNC:mep  
44-56HANDLED BY  
STOP DESK85  
SE 26

RECORDED

44-1362-9  
F B I  
32 FEB 12 1947

EX - 5

memo to Cawlee  
1/29/47  
ESB

Delt



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : R. T. HARBO *RTH mh*

FROM : D. J. Parsons

DATE: Oct. 4, 1949

*Eff* SUBJECT:

SHERIFF OTHO EDWARDS, GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA.  
 DEPUTY SHERIFF EMORY MAPLES, GADSDEN COUNTY, FLA.  
 T. S. BRADSWELL, ~~X~~ wa LEROY BRADSWELL - VICTIM  
 CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

44-1362

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

There is attached the file which has been maintained in the Laboratory in connection with the above captioned matter. It is desired that this file be maintained as an enclosure behind the main file in the Records Section.

Attachment

ENCLOSURE BEHIND FILE

*44-1362*  
 NOT RECORDED

12 OCT 5 1949

ENCLOSURE

71 OCT 11 1949