

Department of Justice

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Division of
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By order of the Attorney General

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See also Nos.

TLC:MLW:LAK

144-2-15

June 20, 1946

E. Burns Parker, Esquire
United States Attorney
Montgomery, Alabama

HOLLIE

Dear Mr. Parker:

Re: United States v. Dewey Columbus Bradley;
Violation Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

I have your letter of May 14, 1946, in which
you assign the reasons for declining prosecution in this
case.

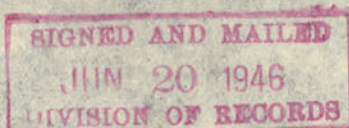
On the basis of the first reason set out in
your letter, we are closing the matter in our files.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

THERON L. CAUDLE
Assistant Attorney General

cc - Records
Chrono.



The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

June 20, 1946

Theron L. Caudle, Assistant Attorney General

TLC:MLW:LAK

Dewey Columbus Bradley
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

144-2-15

Reference is made to your memorandum of March 6, 1946, in the captioned matter, in which you asked if prosecutive action was contemplated against Bradley.

United States Attorney Parker at Montgomery, Alabama, reviewed the reports as requested and advised as follows:

"In view of the testimony set out in the reports, the fact that the State Court failed to find sufficient evidence to prosecute the case, and the fact that subject has been dismissed from service by the Police Department of Union Springs, Alabama, I think it advisable to decline prosecution, and am closing the file in my office."

In view of the foregoing position of Mr. Parker and in view of the fact that in each of the incidents investigated supposedly unbiased witnesses have stated that some sort of resistance or assault was offered by the victim to the officers at the time of the shooting, the matter is being closed and no further investigation will be desired.

cc - Records ✓
Chrono.



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

LOCK DRAWER 197

MONTGOMERY 1, ALABAMA

May 14th, 1946

IN REPLY REFER TO
STYLE OF CASE AND



RECEIVED
MAY 20 1946
CRIMINAL DIVISION

Hon. Theron L. Caudle,
Assistant Attorney General,
Department of Justice,
Washington 25, D. C.

Bradley

United States v. Dewey Columbus
Bailey. Violation Civil Rights
and Domestic Violence.
Dept. Ref: TLC:MLW:BC 144-2-15

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter dated April 12, 1946, in regard to the above-styled matter, I beg to inform you that I have read and considered the reports of investigation submitted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in this case.

In view of the testimony set out in the reports, the fact that the State Court failed to find sufficient evidence to prosecute the case, and the fact that subject has been dismissed from service by the Police Department of Union Springs, Alabama, I think it advisable to decline prosecution, and am closing the file in my office.

Yours very truly,

E. Burns Parker

E. Burns Parker,
United States Attorney.

EBP/ac

R. V. E.

RECORD

144-2-15
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MAY 17 1946
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM.-CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.

TLC:MLW:esw

144-2-15

May 10, 1946

Edward Burns Parker, Esquire
United States Attorney
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Parker:

Re: Dewey Columbus Bradley
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

Reference is made to my letter of April 12, 1946, in which I requested the benefit of your views with regard to the desirability of proceeding with prosecution in this matter by Grand Jury presentment or information.

I would appreciate your early reply in the premises.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General



THERON L. CAUDLE
Assistant Attorney General

CC: Records ✓
Chron.

TLC:MLW:BC

144-2-15

April 12, 1946.

B. P.

Edward Burns Parker, Esquire
United States Attorney
Montgomery, Alabama.

Dear Mr. Parker:

Re: Dewey Columbus Bradley
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

me
8
The Federal Bureau of Investigation has advised that copies of the reports of investigation in this matter have been furnished to you as I requested.

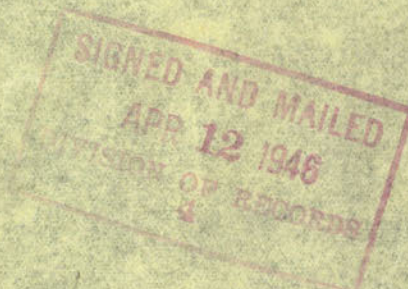
Please examine these reports and give me the benefit of your appraisal of the facts and views with regard to the desirability of proceeding with prosecution either by presentment before a grand jury or by filing an information under Section 52 of Title 18, U. S. C.

As you know, the Criminal Division will be glad to lend you any assistance you may desire in the presentment or trial of the matter as well as by way of research.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

THERON L. CAUDLE
Assistant Attorney General



CC Records ✓

Chron.

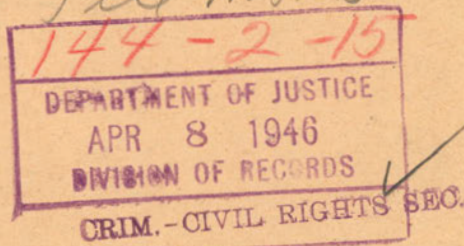
Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Attorney General T. L. Caudle

DATE: April 4, 1946

FROM : *John* John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of InvestigationSUBJECT: DEWEY COLUMBUS BRADLEY
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to your memorandum dated March 19, 1946. In accordance with your request, I have instructed our Birmingham Office to furnish copies of all pertinent reports in this case to the United States Attorney at Montgomery, Alabama.

A.L.S.
RECORDED

B. P.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

RECEIVED

MAR 8 - 1946

CRIMINAL DIVISION

TO : Assistant Attorney General T. L. Caudle DATE: March 6, 1946

JFK FROM : John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBJECT: DEWEY COLUMBUS BRADLEY
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to our previous correspondence entitled "Unknown Subjects; E. B. Thomas - Victim, Union Springs, Alabama; Civil Rights and Domestic Violence."

For your consideration, there are transmitted herewith copies of the following reports:

Report of Special Agent Henry A. Donahoo, dated February 12, 1946, at Birmingham Alabama

Report of Special Agent Robert S. Kelly, dated March 1, 1946, at Chicago, Illinois

Report of Special Agent William A. Flynn, Jr., dated March 4, 1946, at New York, New York.

I shall appreciate your advising me if any prosecutive action is contemplated against Bradley.

Attachments

RECORDED

MAR 7 1946

144-2-15

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MAR 7 1946 P.M.
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM.-CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.

Sullivan
MSW

3/19 -

Memo to JBS for
extra copies to be
sent to USA at
Mbgg.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BIRMINGHAM

FILE NO.

44-93 T

REPORT MADE AT Birmingham, Ala.	DATE WHEN MADE 2-12-46	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/3, 21, 28-31; 2/6/46	REPORT MADE BY HENRY A. DONAHOO
TITLE Changed: DENNEY COLUMBUS BRADLEY			CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Investigation, at request of Department, reflects subject, a former police officer at Union Springs, Ala., killed a negro, EDGAR B. THOMAS, while attempting to question him 10-13-45. Another negro, ALGER LEE GARRY, was wounded by subject in making arrest 11-3-45, and another negro, JESSIE HIGHTOWER, was killed by subject in making arrest 12-1-45. All shootings were at Union Springs, Ala. Subject dismissed from Police Department at Union Springs 12-4-45, for conduct unbecoming an officer, but city officials declined to explain the dismissal. Negro witnesses in each case state subject shot and killed THOMAS and HIGHTOWER and wounded GARRY without apparent cause, while white witnesses state the victims in each case made a motion as if to attack or disarm the subject. In statement submitted by his attorney subject stated that in each of the three shootings the victims attempted to attack or disarm him. Criminal record of subject requested of Bureau. Circuit Grand Jury, Union Springs, Ala., considered the THOMAS case 2-5-46 and returned a no-bill. HIGHTOWER shooting was investigated by the same Grand Jury 2-5-46 but failed to find sufficient evidence to issue a warrant for subject's arrest.

P.

REFERENCE:

Letters from Bureau dated 11-26-45 and 1-14-46, Bureau file No. 44-1324;
Report of S.A. ALVIN C. SCHLENKER, San Juan, P.R., 1-4-46.

DETAILS:

The title of this case is being marked changed to delete the caption UNKNOWN SUBJECT, E. B. THOMAS, Victim, and to show

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 3 Birmingham 1 New York		<div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 144-2-15 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE MAR 7 1946 P.M. DIVISION OF RECORDS CRIM.-CIVIL RIGHTS SEC. </div>

the correct name of subject as DEWEY COLUMBUS BRADLEY.

Investigation of this case is predicated upon a Bureau letter dated November 26, 1945, enclosing a memorandum from the Department dated November 7, 1945, in which it was stated that unknown police officers shot and killed a negro by the name of E. B. THOMAS at Union Springs, on October 13, 1945. It was stated that J. L. PINCKNEY, a negro preacher at Union Springs, was the informant, but that he had left Union Springs. A preliminary investigation was requested by the Department.

By letter dated January 14, 1946, the Bureau forwarded another memorandum from the Department dated December 18, 1945, in which it was stated that LOUIS E. BURNHAM, Organizational Secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress at Birmingham, Ala., had furnished additional information concerning the shooting of THOMAS. In addition to this information it was also related that the name of the police officer was D. C. BRADLEY, and that in addition to shooting THOMAS he had shot out the eye of a negro, ED DAY GARY, and had killed another negro by the name of JESSIE HIGHTOWER. These additional shootings were at Union Springs, Alabama, and an investigation was requested.

In view of the fact that this case involves three separate and distinct shootings by the subject, for the sake of clarity the shooting of each victim will be treated as a separate case within this report, and all the investigation pertaining to each individual incident will be listed under the name of the victim. In instances where a witness saw more than one shooting, separate signed statements were obtained.

EDGAR B. THOMAS
Killed Oct. 13, 1945

AT UNION SPRINGS, ALA.

The following investigation was performed by Special Agent
DULANY J. DUPUY:

CALLIE JORDAN, MURKEY JETT, MARY LEE WILLIAMS, CELIE ANN PERRY, and the Reverend R. O. JOHNSON, all negroes, stated that J. L. PINCKNEY, the original informant in this case, had left Union Springs immediately after the shooting of THOMAS, and stated that his present whereabouts was unknown to them, although they were very friendly with him while he resided at Union Springs.

The Rev. R. O. JOHNSON advised that T-1 was in the cafe when THOMAS was killed.

T-1 advised that PINCKNEY was not actually an eye witness to the THOMAS shooting, but that he had been in his own cafe next door at the time of the shooting. Informant stated that a short time prior to the shooting PINCKNEY had complained to the City Council about some racial matter and because of that, and his presence at the scene of the shooting, the Chief of Police had told him that he had better be out of town by sundown. T-1 related that Officers WHITTLE and BRADLEY had come into THOMAS's place about 8 A.M. Sunday morning, October, 13, 1945. WHITTLE proceeded to the rear of the restaurant and BRADLEY remained in front and both ordered THOMAS to get out of the cafe. THOMAS asked "what is this all about?" but was again ordered to get out. T-1 stated that BRADLEY commenced backing out of the restaurant and WHITTLE remained behind until THOMAS fell into place between them. T-1 stated that at this time WHITTLE was armed with a sawed off shotgun and BRADLEY only with side arms. He stated that THOMAS made no menacing gesture toward either officer, but as the three moved toward the front door, BRADLEY, without provocation, fired - hitting THOMAS in the face. He stated that THOMAS cried out and then BRADLEY fired again. THOMAS then ran to the back of the restaurant and BRADLEY fired three more shots. At that point he states that THOMAS cried "please don't kill me." BRADLEY then re-loaded his 38 and fired five more rounds into THOMAS and THOMAS fell. BRADLEY then walked out of the restaurant. T-1 states that he then heard THOMAS moan, after which BRADLEY came back into the restaurant, took WHITTLE's shotgun from him and fired two shots into Thomas's forehead. The restaurant was then locked up until Chief Gardner arrived. T-1 states that it was then that Chief of Police R. L. GARDNER, in company with Officer WHITTLE, told PINCKNEY to get out of town.

It is pointed out that the informant who furnished the above information stated he has been warned by several prominent white citizens, whom he refused to name, that he must never know or say anything about the killing of THOMAS. Informant has advised that if he is quoted or called upon to make any statement whatsoever he believes sincerely that he will be killed. He advised agent that if called upon to do so he would refuse to testify, and also stated that he would refuse to discuss the matter any further with anyone. At the same time informant refused to execute a signed statement.

It was ascertained that the Enforcement Division of the Alabama Highway Patrol had made an investigation at Union Springs concerning the killing of THOMAS. A check of the records at the Enforcement Division reflected that J. V. KITCHENS made a report, and the following is a summary of his report dated December 19, 1945:

HOLLIS EUGENE WHITTLE, Assistant Chief of the Police Department at Union Springs, stated he came to work on the morning of October 13, 1945, at which time D. C. BRADLEY told him that THOMAS had followed him up and down the streets of Union Springs the past night, and BRADLEY requested him, WHITTLE, to go with him to talk to THOMAS and see what he wanted and what he intended to do; that upon arriving at THOMAS's cafe, BRADLEY called THOMAS out on the sidewalk and asked him why he had been following him and if he was trying to kill him. THOMAS then made a lunge at BRADLEY and BRADLEY pushed him back and shot him. WHITTLE stated that he thought BRADLEY shot THOMAS three times on the sidewalk, but was not sure. WHITTLE stated that a negro woman sitting in the cafe when the shooting started ran out the back door and he did not know who she was.

Continuing, Mr. KITCHENS' report reflected that BRADLEY was interviewed and stated that after THOMAS followed him on October 12th, he went to Chief GARDNER stating that something had to be done about THOMAS, and Chief GARDNER sent WHITTLE and BRADLEY to talk to THOMAS. BRADLEY claimed that on arriving at THOMAS's cafe THOMAS was standing at the back door. He claimed he called to THOMAS to come out on the front but that THOMAS made a break behind the counter and ran his hand under the counter as if to get a weapon. At this point he stated he threw his pistol on THOMAS and told him to come out with nothing in his hands or he would kill him right there. BRADLEY stated that he continued to hold his pistol on THOMAS while he talked and that THOMAS did not say anything but lunged at him, trying to twist the pistol out of his hand. BRADLEY stated he started shooting THOMAS and did not know how many times he shot him; that THOMAS went back into his cafe and it was BRADLEY's opinion that he was going for his pistol or a rifle, and that he shot him once with a shotgun; that he reloaded his pistol and continued to shoot THOMAS and THOMAS went into the kitchen. As he started out BRADLEY shot him one time with the shotgun and THOMAS fell dead.

The Highway Patrol report further reflected that Mr. KITCHENS made an examination of THOMAS's body and found that there were considerable powder burns between the thumb and forefinger of THOMAS's left hand, which led Mr. KITCHENS to believe that the hand was on the end of the barrel when the gun was fired. Mr. KITCHENS counted nine bullet wounds entering from the front of the body, and he found a large wound in the top of the head.

Chief of Police R. L. GARDNER was contacted by Agent DUPUY and he advised that former police officer DEWEY BRADLEY was no longer employed by the Police Department, having been discharged on December 4, 1945, for conduct unbecoming an officer. He advised that around the first of October, 1945, he had received a report from an unrecalled source that EDGAR THOMAS

BH 44-93

was creating a disturbance and was "God-damning" the police. Chief GARDNER stated that he investigated at this time and found the door of the cafe barred from the inside and he proceeded to summon Sheriff W. P. PICKETT of Bullock County, and Officer BRADLEY. He stated that he and Sheriff PICKETT stayed at the front door and sent BRADLEY to the rear door of the restaurant, where BRADLEY effected an entrance from the rear and was then joined by himself (GARDNER) and Sheriff PICKETT. They found THOMAS and a negro woman in a booth drinking. THOMAS was ordered to get out of the booth but refused to do so and ordered the police officers out of his restaurant. GARDNER advised that he attempted to handcuff THOMAS, who resisted, and BRADLEY then struck him with his blackjack, and THOMAS was taken into custody on a charge of drunk and disorderly conduct, and he was subsequently released on bond.

The following investigation was conducted jointly by the writer and Special Agent DULANY J. DUPUY:

CHIEF of Police R. L. GARDNER was interviewed with reference to the shooting of THOMAS and he stated that he was not a witness to the shooting, and all he knew about the case was what BRADLEY told him, which was to the effect that BRADLEY and WHITTLE went to THOMAS's cafe on the morning of October 13th to question THOMAS as to why he had been following Officer BRADLEY at night, and BRADLEY related to him that THOMAS had attempted to disarm him, at which time BRADLEY shot him several times and killed him. Chief GARDNER advised that so far as he knew, there were only two eye witnesses to the shooting, namely Police Officer WHITTLE and a negro woman by the name of WILL OLA KENDRICK.

Chief GARDNER advised that he was willing to cooperate in any way with this investigation, but it was obvious that he was extremely reluctant to give any information whatsoever and he declined to make any signed statement. He was questioned as to the details concerning dismissal of subject BRADLEY on December 4, 1945, but he declined to furnish this information. He reluctantly stated, however, that BRADLEY was dismissed primarily because it was felt that he was a little too quick on the trigger. He declined to say whether he thought BRADLEY was justified in any of the three shootings. He did state, however, that after the shooting of THOMAS was reported to him he immediately placed BRADLEY in jail without formal charges, explaining that he arrested him for safe keeping. He did not explain why he thought it was necessary to hold Mr. BRADLEY for safe keeping.

Sheriff W. P. PICKETT, who was Acting Sheriff when THOMAS was killed, declined to make a signed statement but very reluctantly stated that

BH 44-93

he was out of town when THOMAS was shot and when he returned he learned that BRADLEY was in jail but he could not say who put him there. He stated that he then obtained a warrant for the arrest of BRADLEY; placed him under arrest at the jail, and then took him out of the jail and carried him before a Justice of the Peace where, by agreement with the County Solicitor, the subject waived a preliminary hearing and was released on a \$1,000 bond to await action of the State Grand Jury which convened February 4, 1946. Former Sheriff PICKETT advised that he made this arrest without investigation.

Mr. PICKETT stated that the following men had told him that THOMAS made remarks to them about Officer BRADLEY, after BRADLEY had allegedly hit THOMAS over the head with a blackjack about October 7, 1945: F. M. MOSELEY, C. L. GOLSON, C. A. MAY and C. N. NORTON.

Former Sheriff PICKETT stated that he was with Chief of Police GARDNER and Officer BRADLEY at the time of THOMAS's arrest for drunk and disorderly conduct at his cafe around the first part of October, 1945, and that at the time it was necessary for BRADLEY to subdue THOMAS with a blackjack because he was very drunk and became abusive.

Although former Sheriff PICKETT professed cooperation, it was obvious that he was very hostile and stated frankly that he thought the Federal Government had no business butting into this case inasmuch as he felt the State of Alabama and Bullock County were thoroughly capable of handling their own business.

A check of the Grand Jury Docket reflected that a warrant was signed by Sheriff W. P. PICKETT and was issued by a Justice of the Peace at Union Springs, Alabama on October 13, 1945, charging D. C. BRADLEY with manslaughter. The docket reflected that BRADLEY was released on a \$1,000 bond on the same date, and witnesses were listed as LEWIS GARDNER, H. E. WHITTLE, JIMMY YOUAMAN, INA SMITHSON.

LEE PADGETT, white, a sawmill operator residing at Union Springs, Alabama, executed the following signed statement:

"

Union Springs, Ala.
Jan. 29, 1946.

I, LEE PADGETT, age 29, willingly make this statement to H. A. DONAHOO and D. J. DUPUY, Special Agents of the F.B.I. I make it without force or threats or promise of reward.

BH 44-93

I don't recall the exact date but on a Saturday morning in October, 1945, I was working in my little welding shop by the Cities Service Station which is about 50 yards from the rear of E. T. THOMAS' restaurant. This was about 8:00 or 9:00 a.m. and I heard 3 or 4 shots from the direction of the THOMAS place. I don't know who fired them.

I ran around to the front of the THOMAS place and when I got to the front I saw policemen BRADLEY and WHITTLE outside the store. I asked BRADLEY what had happened and he said he couldn't talk. I don't recall which one it was, but one of the officers had a sawed-off shotgun.

BRADLEY then went into the Thomas restaurant and looking through the front glass I saw BRADLEY walk up to a door which separated the kitchen from the rest of the cafe. I heard BRADLEY say, "all right, you sons of bitches, come out of there." I didn't see anyone come out and didn't hear anyone answer and I saw BRADLEY shoot. I don't know whether he shot with a pistol or a shotgun.

BRADLEY then walked to the front door and said, 'If you want to see a dead son of a bitch come in and take a look.' I then went in the cafe and saw E. B. THOMAS on the floor with the top of his head blown off. This was in a little passageway between the main part of the cafe and the kitchen. BRADLEY did not go back with me.

Several days later I went back in the cafe to the place where I had seen THOMAS lying and specifically looked for bullet holes in the wall or floor but I couldn't find any. I just did this out of curiosity.

I read these pages of statement, 1 and one half pg., and they are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Signed) LEE PADGETT

Witness:

H. A. DONAHOO, Sp. Agt. F.B.I.
D. J. DUPUY, Sp. Agt. F.B.I."

Mr. PADGETT said there were other people around the THOMAS CAFE immediately before or after the shooting, but he could not recall who they were.

MRS. INA SMITHSON, white, proprietor of a lunch stand on Main

BH 44-93

Street, executed the following signed statement:

" Union Springs, Ala.
Jan. 29, 1946

I, INA SMITHSON, age 31, willingly make this statement to Special Agents D. J. DUPUY and H. A. DONAHOO of the F.B.I. I make it without force or threats or promise of reward, and I make it freely.

On a Friday night before EDGAR THOMAS was killed, I was at my sister's, Mrs. S. D. RENFROE, up over police headquarters. I came down to my car about 10:15 P.M. As I was getting in my car Mr. BRADLEY of the police force came out of the police station and we spoke and he accompanied me to the car. I got into the car.

When I got into the car I heard someone walk up back of it and it was a negro named EDGAR THOMAS. THOMAS did not say anything but when he saw Mr. BRADLEY he put his right hand back to his hip pocket. He looked at Mr. BRADLEY for a moment with his hand still on his hip pocket, and then walked south on Main street in the middle of the street.

After this Mr. BRADLEY made a statement to the effect that I had probably saved him because THOMAS had been following him every night for a week.

Mr. BRADLEY then asked me to drive him toward the bus station which was the direction THOMAS had gone. We drove to the bus station and saw THOMAS There. He talked to a white boy in a truck for a few minutes and then THOMAS and the boy drove the truck into the Gulf Filling Station across the street. I then took Mr. BRADLEY to the police station where he got out and I went home.

I was at home the next day when THOMAS was shot and I know nothing about the shooting except what I have heard.

I have read this statement of one and a fraction pages and it is true.

(Signed) INA SMITHSON

Witness:

H. A. DONAHOO, Sp. Agt., F.B.I.

D. J. DUPUY, Sp. Agt., FBI"

BH 44-93

Mrs. SMITHSON advised that she knew of no eye witnesses to this shooting.

Mr. J. E. YOUMANS, Proprietor of a radio shop several stores south of and across the street from the Thomas Cafe, gave the following signed statement:

" Union Springs, Ala.
Jan. 29, 1946.

I, J. E. YOUMANS, age 38, willingly make this statement to Special Agents D. J. DUPUY and H. A. DONAHOO of the F.B.I. I make it without force or threats or promise of reward.

I don't recall the exact date but about a week before E. B. THOMAS was killed, I was standing out on the sidewalk in front of my place and I looked over at Thomas' Cafe across the street and a few doors north of my radio shop on Main Street and I saw Officer BRADLEY bring THOMAS out of his cafe. I did not see any blood on THOMAS but he appeared to be drunk from the way he was walking. BRADLEY took THOMAS south on Main Street toward the county jail.

About 3 times during the following week while I was working in my shop at night I noticed THOMAS driving behind Mr. BRADLEY but I did not give it any thought.

About two days before THOMAS was killed Mr. BRADLEY told me that THOMAS had been following him at night and I told him I did not believe it. He then invited me to ride with him that night and I did ride around town with him two or three times. THOMAS, in a car followed us everywhere we went. BRADLEY told me that he had gotten information from some place that THOMAS was going to kill him the first chance he got.

I don't remember what date it was but on a Saturday morning between 7:00 and 8:00 I was in my shop and I saw Officer BRADLEY and WHITTLE going toward Thomas' Cafe. I then stepped out on the sidewalk and saw the two officers directly in front of Thomas' Cafe.

I heard BRADLEY say, "Edgar, come out, I am going to take you to jail." BRADLEY, who had a sawed-off shotgun in his hand, then turned around and faced the street and THOMAS made a grab from the rear at the

shotgun. BRADLEY then wheeled and ran back into the cafe after THOMAS. It appeared to me that THOMAS was headed for one of the counters and I saw BRADLEY shoot his pistol. I don't know how many, but several shots were fired. I don't know who fired all the shots.

I have read this one and one half pages and it is true to the best of my belief.

(Signed) J. E. YOUMANS

Witness:

H. A. DONAHOO, Sp. Agt., F.B.I.
D. J. DUPUY, Sp. Agt. F.B.I."

Mr. YOUMANS advised that he knew of no eye witnesses to the shooting.

WILL OLA KENDRICK, negress, General Delivery, stated that she was not in Thomas's Cafe when he was killed and she knew absolutely nothing about the shooting. She advised that she believes that a woman cook whose last name was Benjamin, was present.

LONNIE BELL BENJAMIN, a negro woman who lives in the south end of Union Springs, declined to sign a statement but stated orally that she was a cook for E. B. THOMAS at his cafe in Union Springs. She stated that on a Saturday in October, 1945, she came to work about 8 A.M. and went back to the kitchen and built a fire in the stove. About ten minutes after she got to the cafe she heard what she thought was a car back-firing and then she realized that someone was shooting in front of the cafe. She did not hear any words passed but became extremely frightened and ran out the back of the cafe without knowing who did the shooting or who was in front of the cafe. She then went around on Main Street and someone told her "the law had killed THOMAS." She stated that she was never present when THOMAS had any difficulty with the police and she did not know of any witnesses to the shooting.

Mr. C. L. GOLSON, a retired business man, advised that some time in October, 1945, E. B. THOMAS came to him and told him that Officer BRADLEY had beaten him with a stick when he had arrested him a few days before and he did not believe that such treatment was necessary. He related that THOMAS told him it looked like he would have to sell his business and move out of town to avoid trouble with Officer BRADLEY, but that he did not make any threats against the person of BRADLEY.

Mr. C. A. MAY, Mayor of Union Springs, was contacted and he stated that THOMAS came to him after he was arrested by BRADLEY in the early part of October, but Mr. MAY declined to reveal the nature of his conversation with THOMAS. He stated that he did not want to be uncooperative and he understood the FBI was on the case because they were ordered to make the investigation by officials in Washington, but he felt that for the good of the town he should not reveal what his conversation with THOMAS was, and for the same reason he declined to state why BRADLEY was dismissed from the police force.

Mr. C. N. NORTON, Cashier of the First National Bank, stated that THOMAS came to him after his arrest by BRADLEY and exhibited knots on his head which he stated were caused by the beating given him by Officer BRADLEY. He stated that THOMAS resented the beating but did not make any threats against the person of Mr. BRADLEY.

Mr. F. M. MOSELEY, President of the American Bank, advised that THOMAS told him about the arrest and the beating given him by BRADLEY, but that he did not make any threats against BRADLEY and did not say anything about believing he would have to leave town.

Mr. S. B. WILSON, white, an undertaker at Union Springs, stated he was requested to examine THOMAS's body immediately after he was killed. He stated that he did not make a written report and does not recall the date of his examination, but to the best of his recollection he found THOMAS slumped down on the floor of his cafe with the top of his head shot off, apparently with a shotgun, and he found five or six bullet holes in the area of his chest and abdomen, all of them being from the front. He stated that a negro undertaker by the name of ALEX ALLEN might be able to give more information about the condition of the body.

ALEX ALLEN, negro undertaker in Union Springs, was contacted and advised that he prepared THOMAS's body for burial. He stated that he removed the body from Thomas Cafe and noted that the top of the head was gone but he could not say whether it had been beaten off or shot off and that the brains were completely out and on the floor in the cafe. He stated that he made no written report of the condition of the body, but found the following wounds: One wound, appearing to be a pistol wound, in the web of the left hand; five wounds, apparently pistol bullet wounds, in the back. He explained, however, that he did not know the difference in a wound of entry and a wound of exit, and stated that the holes in the back could possibly be holes of exit. He stated that he found two wounds in the abdomen; one near the heart; one near the neck, and one in the chin. He stated that they all appeared to him to be from the same caliber gun.

AT RIVER FALLS, ALA.

HOLLIS E. WHITTLE, Chief of Police at River Falls, executed the following signed statement:

River Falls, Alabama
Jan. 30, 1946.

I, H. E. WHITTLE, age, 39 willingly make this statement to Special Agents D. J. DUPUY and H. A. DONAHOO of the F.B.I. I make it without force or threats or promise of reward, and I realize that what I say may be used against me.

I was formerly a police officer at Union Springs, Ala. but I resigned and left Union Springs about the middle of Nov. 1945. I worked on the day shift but sometime I worked at night.

I was not present at the arrest of E. B. THOMAS for being drunk in Union Springs in October, 1945, but D. C. BRADLEY, another policeman, told me about it, and he told me that he had to hit Thomas with a night stick.

Following the arrest of THOMAS for drunkenness, Mr. BRADLEY told me on a Tuesday night that THOMAS had been following him at night in a car and he asked me to ride with him for a couple of nights.

I rode with Mr. BRADLEY for two nights after that and I think it was Wednesday and Thursday nights. On the nights I rode the rounds over the town with Mr. BRADLEY in a car from about 6:00 to 10:30 P.M. While we were making the rounds I noticed that THOMAS followed us around the block about twice each night. He did not make any attempt to stop us or to wreck us or harm us in any way.

On the following Saturday morning I was in a barber shop getting a shave about 6:00 A.M. and BRADLEY came in and asked me to go with him to talk to EDGAR THOMAS to find out why he was following him. I agreed to go with him and we went by the police station where BRADLEY got a double barreled shotgun which was loaded. I did not ask him why he was getting the shotgun and he did not say why.

We then went up to Thomas' cafe about 6:20 a.m. and went to the front door. BRADLEY had the shotgun in his left hand and as we

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got to the front door BRADLEY drew his .38 pistol out of the holster. BRADLEY called through the open front door of the cafe and said, "Edgar, come to the door, I want to talk to you."

THOMAS was about half way back in the cafe and when BRADLEY called him he came to the front door and stepped about 3 feet on the sidewalk. BRADLEY had his pistol in his right hand down by his side, and the shotgun in his left hand.

When THOMAS got to BRADLEY, BRADLEY asked him what he kept following him for. THOMAS did not answer but made a grab for BRADLEY's pistol and BRADLEY shot him in the right hand with the pistol. BRADLEY then fired the pistol 5 more times, hitting THOMAS in the chest, I think.

THOMAS then turned and ran back into the cafe, and when he got about half way back in the cafe he wheeled around facing the front door, and BRADLEY shot him with one barrel of the shotgun.

I did not go into the store at all and I don't know how badly shop up THOMAS was.

So far as I know THOMAS did not have any weapon in his hand when he came to the door and so far as I know he did not make any move to obtain any weapon, except the effort he made to grab BRADLEY's gun.

I did not ever draw my gun at all during the entire affair.

Mr. BRADLEY did not go in the cafe right after the shooting and he and I stood on the outside of the door until the Chief of Police got there. The Chief got there about 30 minutes after the shooting. The Chief went into the cafe with Mr. D. B. WILSON, an undertaker, and stayed about 30 minutes and they then came out and padlocked the door.

The Chief and BRADLEY and I then went to the County Jail where BRADLEY was locked in jail for safe keeping. I don't know why.

There was a negro woman sitting about middle way of the cafe when BRADLEY and I first got there but she disappeared. I don't know who she was or whether she saw the shooting or not.

I don't know of any witness to the shooting.

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I can't read too well but this statement was read to me and it is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. The statement consists of three and a half pages.

(Signed) H. E. WHITTLE

Witnessed:

H. A. DONAHOO, Sp. Agt., F.B.I.
D. J. DUPUY, Sp. Agt., F.B.I."

Inasmuch as subject BRADLEY had previously told Special Agent DUPUY that CALVIN HUGHES was a witness to this shooting, Mr. HUGHES was interviewed at River Falls, and stated that he was in Union Springs in October, 1945, working for the State Convict Department. One morning he was standing in front of the police station around 8 A.M. and he heard shots from the direction of the THOMAS CAFE, but he did not know who did the shooting or why. He later heard that Officer BRADLEY had killed EDGAR THOMAS.

Subject BRADLEY was interviewed by Special Agent DUPUY on January 15, 1946, and made the following oral statement: He stated that THOMAS had made numerous threats around Union Springs that he was going to kill BRADLEY. He stated that on the night of October 12, 1945, he noticed THOMAS following him about throughout the major part of the evening. He stated that he would stop on the sidewalk, turn, and THOMAS would be a short way behind him. While using the municipal automobile for routine trips around his beat he observed THOMAS carrying a Winchester on at least two occasions on the night of October 12. He stated that whenever he would turn and see THOMAS, THOMAS would turn and go away, only to return.

BRADLEY advised that on the morning of October 13, 1945, he decided to call on EDGAR B. THOMAS and ascertain the reasons for Thomas's questionable actions of the previous night. He proceeded to Thomas's restaurant and called to THOMAS to come outside. He stated that he intended to ask THOMAS why he had followed him about the previous night and why he had carried his Winchester rifle. He stated that as soon as THOMAS came out of the restaurant he made a dive for BRADLEY's gun. It is to be noted that BRADLEY claimed at that time to have been armed with a 38 revolver, a .45 revolver and a 16-gauge shotgun. BRADLEY stated that he shot THOMAS six times with the .38 revolver, twice with the .45 revolver, and twice with the shotgun. He stated that as he fired THOMAS continued to fight and he found it necessary to continue firing until such time as THOMAS could no longer fight him. BRADLEY stated that Officer WHITTLE and CALVIN M. HUGHES were both with him at that time. Both of these individuals reside in River Falls, Alabama. BRADLEY advised that about the first of December he shot

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and killed a second negro when in the course of an arrest the negro attacked him with a knife. BRADLEY stated that a Coroner's jury found it to be justifiable homicide.

Questioned as to the exact details of the shooting, BRADLEY stated that he had gone to THOMAS's place of business and had called him to come out. He stated that THOMAS came out but did not speak, but immediately made a lunge for BRADLEY's gun. BRADLEY pulled his .38 and began firing. He claims that THOMAS continued grappling with him. BRADLEY emptied his .38 into THOMAS and also fired two shots from his .45 caliber revolver. He said that THOMAS then ran back into the cafe behind a partition and BRADLEY called to him to come out, believing that he had gone for his rifle, when THOMAS emerged. BRADLEY states that he fired twice with a sawed-off shotgun and THOMAS fell.

ROBERT COPE, Attorney for BRADLEY, advised that THOMAS, after his release on bond, following his arrest on October 7, 1945, had paraded himself all over Union Springs exhibiting his injured head and wearing a bloody shirt. COPE stated that he and others had advised THOMAS to go home and wash up and forget the incident, but he is reported to have refused to do so and to have contacted the Mayor and other prominent citizens of Union Springs. COPE stated that he was also attorney for victim THOMAS and considered himself as THOMAS's friend; however, he advised that THOMAS had remained drunk practically the whole week between his arrest and demise. He stated that several negro clients of his advised him in confidence that they had heard THOMAS make threats against the life of BRADLEY. He declined to name these persons.

DEWEY COLUMBUS BRADLEY was interviewed by Special Agent DUPUY and the writer at Union Springs on January 31, 1946, at which time he stated that he would gladly give a signed statement but that his attorney, Mr. R. E. L. COPE of Union Springs, had advised him not to make any statement unless he were present.

Mr. R. E. L. COPE was contacted, at which time the odor of whiskey was noted on his breath, and he stated that he was in a peculiar position with reference to Mr. BRADLEY in that he was representing Mr. BRADLEY as City Attorney, and on the other hand if the Grand Jury at Union Springs returned an indictment against BRADLEY that it would then be his duty, as County Solicitor, to prosecute Mr. BRADLEY, which he would do to the best of his ability. He stated that he would not allow his client to make any statement to Agents, adding that he did not distrust the Agents, but he felt

sure that this case was instigated in Washington by Negro pressure groups. He thought that in all possibility these negro pressure groups might employ a special prosecutor to help prosecute Mr. BRADLEY and he did not want them to have any statement about which to question BRADLEY. He did, however, state that he would like to present Mr. BRADLEY's side of the case, and the following signed statement was turned over to agents by Mr. COPE:

"During the months of October, November, and December, I was a member of the police force of Union Springs, Alabama. On Sunday morning about the first week in October, I was called by the Chief of Police and Sheriff to make an arrest. At that time I was working as night policeman and had been in bed for a very short while. When I got up town, I was informed that EDGAR THOMAS had been having a row at his place of business with a woman that he was keeping. Further that you could hear him cussing up and down the main streets of Union Springs for two or three blocks. I went to his place of business with the Chief of Police, R. L. GARDNER and the Sheriff W. P. PICKETT. We found that the front door was locked and Mr. GARDNER and I left Mr. PICKETT at the front door and went to the back door and I managed to push it open. When I got into the cafe, EDGAR was sitting on one side in a booth and the woman was sitting at a table across from him about fifteen or twenty feet. I shook EDGAR and asked him what was the trouble and he said, "what in the hell is it to you?" and started rising up and as he did he reached for his pocket. I then hit him with my billy one time, put the handcuffs on him and carried him to jail. He was very definitely drunk at that time. I do not know but I am informed that he spent all day Sunday going over Union Springs and showing people where I had hit him. I was informed, either the following day or a day thereafter, by several different persons that EDGAR had said he would get his Winchester rifle and would kill me on sight. As a night officer, I used the police car and patrolled the City of Union Springs. I soon found that he was following me through the entire town. Naturally when I came into an isolated district with a car behind me and a man who had threatened to shoot me driving it, I had cause for alarm. In addition, he would follow me around all through the night while I was on duty. It is my opinion that he was drinking heavily during the entire week. I recall one special occasion that I was standing on the side of the car of Mrs. INA SMITHSON on the Friday preceding the Saturday that I shot him. This was about 7:30 or 8 o'clock at night. Mrs. SMITHSON told me to look out there was someone behind me and when I waelled around, Edgar was standing about ten feet behind me with his hands in his pockets. When I turned around he walked away and Mrs. SMITHSON suggested that I get in her car and ride down the street and see what he was

doing. This occurred in front of the City Hall and Mrs. SMITHSON is a sister-in-law of Mr. RENTROE, who is in charge at night of the fire department and who lives in the City Hall. That was the reason that she happened to be there. We got in the car and drove around the block to the bus station and as we passed I saw him under the cafe window of the bus station and he then turned and ran around the corner and hid behind some bales of cotton which were on the street. He followed me in his car all that night and the last time I saw him he had gone back behind the bales of cotton on the main street and his car was parked across on the other side. This was about four o'clock in the morning. The next morning about 8 o'clock I got in touch with Mr. WHITTLE, a member of the police force and told him that I wanted him to go with me to Edgar Thomas's place of business and talk to him. It was my intention to tell him that he would have to stop following me around and making threats. Mr. WHITTLE and I went to his place of business and I stood at the front door and called for him to come out. He walked behind the counter and I told him not to pick up anything, just to come on out and he came to the front door. I had with me an old gun which was completely worn out and could not be relied upon to fire. Because my gun was in such bad shape, I was also carrying a policeman's sawed off shot gun. When he came to the door he made a lunge for my pistol and I managed to avoid him and started shooting. I shot him a number of times but in the excitement I could not say just how many. He ran back in the store and went behind a partition and came out with something and when he did I shot him with the shot gun.

(Signed) D. C. BRADLEY

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 31st day of January, 1946

(Signed) R. E. L. COPE, Jr.
Notary Public. "

Mr. COPE attempted to get agents to say whether they were satisfied or dissatisfied with the statement, and asked agents if the statement was correct according to the results of the investigation. Agents declined either approve or disapprove the statement made by Mr. BRADLEY, and refused to state whether or not the statement was accurate according to the investigation.

Sheriff J. L. PICKETT was contacted by telephone on February 6, 1946, at which time he stated that the Circuit Grand Jury considered the case of manslaughter against subject BRADLEY for the shooting of THOMAS but returned a no bill on February 5, 1946.

ALGER LEE GARRY
Wounded Nov. 3, 1945

It will be noted that the Department reported that Ed Day Gary was the one who was wounded by subject BRADLEY. However, it was ascertained that the true name of the victim was ALGER LEE GARRY, who was at the U. S. Veterans Hospital at Tuskegee, Alabama.

The following investigation was performed by the writer and Special Agent DULANY J. DUPUY:

AT TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA

ALGER LEE GARRY, negro, was interviewed at the U. S. Veterans Hospital, and executed the following signed statement:

Tuskegee, Ala.
Jan. 28, 1946.

I, ALGER L. GARRY, age 24, willingly make this statement to Special Agents D. J. DUPUY and H. A. DONAHOO. I make it without force or threats or promise of reward.

I was discharged from the U. S. Army on Oct. 23, 1945, and returned to my home at Union Springs, Ala.

On November 3, 1945, about 11:00 A.M. I took my father, ED GARRY, to town and left him. I was not with him all day but saw him off and on during the afternoon in town. About 7:00 P.M. my uncle, CLAY MAYS, came to my car where I was parked and told me my father had been arrested. At this time my mother, WILLIE GARRY, who is my brother, and my brother-in-law, who is DANIEL SMITH, were in the car. I then got in my car, and all these people except my uncle drove around to the Cities Service Station and waited for my sister, LUDIE BELL SMITH. My sister came out of the movie near the car and about the same time two policemen came up to the car. Mr. BRADLEY, one of the policemen, said that I was the one who had tried to take his gun and had been raising all the sand, and asked me for the keys to my car. I told him that I had not been raising sand and that I had not tried to take his gun.

Mr. BRADLEY then told me to get out of the car and I got out. Just as I got out of the car Mr. BRADLEY hit me with his blackjack and about

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the same time he shot me with his pistol, striking me above my right eye. I walked around the car and he made the other people in the car get out, and he lined them up alongside the car.

The other policeman did not say anything and he did not do anything during this happening. I don't know what his name was.

After my people were lined up by the car I asked Mr. BRADLEY to take me to a hospital but he took me straight to jail. He did not tell me that I was under arrest. About 20 or 30 minutes later the city doctor, Dr. HAGER, came to the jail and dressed my eye.

After my eye was dressed, the Chief of Police came to the jail and I was released. ELLIOTT ALLEN, an undertaker in Union Springs, brought me to the Veterans Hospital at Tuskegee, where I have been ever since.

I want to say that I have never caused the police any trouble in Union Springs, and at the time Mr. BRADLEY told me to get out of the car I did not curse him or make any move for any weapon. I had no weapon on me at the time.

After this shooting I was never ordered to court in Union Springs or anywhere else for any trial. My father was not present at the time of the shooting.

I do not have any idea why Mr. BRADLEY accused me of raising sand or of trying to take his pistol. He had never spoken to me before this incident and I had never spoken to him before.

I have read this state to and fraction pages it true to the best of my belief.

(Signed) ALGER L. GARRY

Witnesses:

H. A. DONAHOO, Sp. Agt., F.B.I.
D. J. DUPUY, F.B.I., B'ham. Ala."

The clinical records at the U. S. Veterans Hospital reflected that ALGER LEE GARRY was admitted on November 3, 1945, for treatment of a gunshot wound over the right eye, and since that date the eye has been taken out

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at the hospital.

If the hospital records are desired a subpoena duces tecum should be directed to the Clinical Director, U. S. Veterans Hospital, Tuskegee, Alabama, requesting the clinical records concerning ALGER LEE GARRY.

AT UNION SPRINGS, ALA.

ED GARRY, negro, father of the victim, ALGER LEE GARRY, executed the following signed statement:

"

Tuskegee, Ala.
Jan. 28, 1946

I, ED GARRY, age 48, willingly make this statement to Special Agents D. J. DUPUY and H. A. DONAHOO of the F.B.I., and make it without force or threats or promise of reward.

I don't remember the date but on the first Saturday in November, 1945, I went to town with ALGER GARRY, my boy. I was separated from him in town. About 7:00 or 8:00 P.M. I was arrested by an officer for being drunk. This was in Union Springs.

The next thing I heard from my boy he was brought to the jail. He was bleeding in the face. He told me he was hurt pretty bad. I got out of jail the next morning and saw my wife and she told me that an officer had shot my boy ALGER.

I don't know anything about the shooting or what led up to it, except what I have been told.

I can't read very well but this statement was read to me by Mr. DONAHOO and it is true to the best of my belief.

(Signed) ED GARRY

WITNESSED:

H. A. DONAHOO, Sp. Agt., F.B.I.
D. J. DUPUY, Sp. Agt. F.B.I. B'ham, Ala."

GARRY stated that the only eye witnesses to the shooting as far as he knows were DAN SMITH, LUDIE BELL SMITH, WELBORN GARRY, SAM FITZPATRICK, HENRIETTA GARRY. He stated that he is not sure but he believed

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that LEE PADGETT was also a witness to the shooting.

ED GARRY admitted orally that he had been drinking considerably on the day in question and that his son ALGER LEE GARRY had also been drinking but was not drunk.

WILBORN GARRY, negro, who resides on the Maytag farm three miles north of Union Springs, made the following signed statement:

" Union Springs, Ala.
Jan. 28, 1946.

I, WILBORN GARRY, age 20, willingly make this statement to Special Agents H. A. DONAHOO and D. J. DUPUY of the F.B.I. I make it without force or threats or promise of reward.

I am a brother of ALGER GARRY's. On a Saturday the first part of November, 1945, I went to town with ALGER GARRY and my father and mother.

About 6:30 P.M. all of us were parked in front of Renfrow's market and ALGER was trying to get my daddy, ED GARRY, to get into the car because he had been drinking. My daddy refused to get in the car and about that time a police officer that I don't know, arrested my daddy and took him to jail.

When this happened we all drove to the picture show and parked at the Cities Service Station near the picture show. We were waiting for my sister, LUDIE BELL SMITH, to come out of the show. This was about 7:00 P.M.

My sister came out of the show and started toward the car, and that time Mr. BRADLEY and another policeman I didn't know, came up to the car. Mr. BRADLEY went around on the driver's side of the car and told ALGER, "you are the one that tried to take my gun." He also told ALGER to give him the car keys and get out.

ALGER then took the keys out of the car and started to get out of the car and Mr. BRADLEY hit him with a club and shot him about the same time. The only thing that ALGER said to Mr. BRADLEY was that he had not tried to get his gun. ALGER did not have a gun or a knife except a little

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pocket knife and he did not reach for this knife. ALGER did not curse Mr. BRADLEY.

After Mr. BRADLEY shot ALGER, he told us all to get out of the car and line up and we did. The other officer did not do anything or say anything except that when Mr. BRADLEY told us to line up he said, "yes all of you line up." After we lined up Mr. BRADLEY took ALGER to jail and a little later I got the keys to the car and took my folks home.

I forgot to say that SAM FITZPATRICK was also in the car with us, sitting in the back and Mr. BRADLEY and the other officer arrested him because they said he did not get out of the car quick enough.

If ALGER was drinking I did not know anything about it.

My mother was sitting right next to ALGER on the front seat and I was sitting next to my mother.

I have red this to page statement and it is ture to the best of my belief.

(Signed) WILBORN GARRY

Witnessed:

H. A. DONAHOO, Sp. Agt., F.B.I.
D. J. DUPUY, FBI, B'ham."

WILBORN GARRY stated that he had no knowledge of any eye witnesses, either white or colored, other than those listed as being in the GARRY car.

LUDIE BELL SMITH, negro, a resident of what is known as "The Bottoms" section of Union Springs, made the following statement:

" Union Springs, Ala.
Jan. 28, 1946.

I, LUDIE BELL SMITH, age 25, willingly make this statement to Special Agents D. J. DUPUY and H. A. DONAHOO of the F.B.I. I make it without threat or promise of reward.

I don't recall the exact date but about Nov. 1, 1945, I went to a picture show in Union Springs and I was supposed to meet my

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brother, ALGER GARRY, afterward. I came out of the show around 8:00 P.M. and started toward ALGER's car parked in the Cities Service Station near the show.

When I got to the car ALGER was standing by the car and told me that my daddy was in jail and he wanted to get him out. ALGER and me and WILBORN GARRY then got into the car with my mother and SAM FITZPATRIC, who were already in the car.

We started to drive out of the filling station and two policemen, one of them Mr. BRADLEY and I don't know who the other was, but both officers came up to the car and Mr. BRADLEY told ALGER to get out of the car. Mr. BRADLEY said that ALGER was the one who tried to take his gun.

ALGER started to get out of the car and just as he was getting out Mr. BRADLEY hit him with a club and shot him in the head. ALGER did not have a gun but he had a little pocket knife. He did not curse Mr. BRADLEY and he did not try to get his knife.

After ALGER was shot, Mr. BRADLEY told us all to get out of the car and we did. Mr. BRADLEY then arrested ALGER and SAM FITZPATRIC.

The Officer with Mr. BRADLEY did not have his gun out and he did not ever say anything.

ALGER had been drinking some beer but he was not drunk.

I have read this two page statement and it is true.

(Signed) LUDIA BELL SMITH

(Witness)

H. A. DONAHOO, Sp. Agt., F.B.I.
D. J. DUPUY, FBI B'ham

The SMITH woman stated that in addition to those in the GARRY car, she thought the following white people saw the shooting: LEE PADGETT, S. D. RENFROE, Mr. GREEN, of the Green Furniture Company, N. B. Bald of Union Springs, and C. W. HALL, Cities Service Station.

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Mr. VERRELL GREEN of the Green Furniture Company, stated that he knew nothing of instant shooting.

Mr. W. I. MILLER of Green Miller Furniture Company, which is located on Main Street a few doors from the scene of the shooting, stated that he did not see the shooting and that his partner, D. T. GREEN, has never resided in Union Springs, and that he was in his home in Eufaula on the day of the shooting.

Mr. S. D. RENFROE, white, Manager of the Pure Food Market, made the following statement:

"

Union Springs, Ala.
Jan. 28, 1946

I, S. D. RENFROE, willingly make this statement to H. A. DONAHOO and D. J. DUPUY, Special Agents of the F.B.I. I make it without threats or promise of reward.

I don't have the exact date, but about 8:30 P.M. on a Saturday night in the first part of Nov. 1945, I was standing in front of my market on Main Street when I saw a group of negroes in front of the market. The older negro, ED GARRY, appeared to be drunk and 2 young negroes were trying to put him in the car. ED GARRY did not want to get in the car and I called the police. Officer SMITH then arrested ED GARRY, who did not resist, and took him off.

After Officer SMITH and ED GARRY left, the young negro, who later got shot, got out of the car and walked up and down the street cursing and waving a pocket knife around. Among other things he said "No son-of-a B.. is going to take me anywhere I don't want to go." This young negro then got in the car with other negroes and backed out of the parking place and drove down the street very fast. I could hear the tires squealing. I then saw the car drive very fast into the Cities Service Station about a half block north of my store.

I know nothing about the shooting of ALGER GARRY, altho I heard the shot.

I have read this statement and it is true.

(Signed) S. D. RENFROE

WITNESS:

H. A. DONAHOO, Sp. Agt., F.B.I.
D. J. DUPUY, Sp. Agt., F.B.I."

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DANIEL SMITH, husband of LUDIE BELL SMITH, negro, and who works for the CHANCEY LUMBER COMPANY in Union Springs, made a statement as follows:

" Union Springs, Ala.
Jan. 28, 1946.

I, DANIEL SMITH, age 30, willingly make this statement to Special Agents D. J. DUPUY and H. A. DONAHOO of the F.B.I.

I don't recall the exact date but on a Saturday in November, 1945, I went to the picture show in Union Springs with my wife, LUDIE BELL SMITH. WILBORN GARRY, my wife's brother, came to the show and told us that they had arrested his daddy for being drunk.

LUDIE BELL and I then went to the car with WILBORN GARRY and we all got in the car with ALGER LEE GARRY, his mother, and SAM FITZPATRICK. The car was parked in a filling station near the show. This was about 7:30 P.M.

Just after we got in the car two policemen came up to the car. Mr. BRADLEY told ALGER that he was the one who had tried to take his (Bradley's) gun and told ALGER to get out of the car. I don't know who the other officer was. Mr. BRADLEY was a policeman.

ALGER then stepped out of the car and Mr. BRADLEY hit him with a club and shot him. Mr. BRADLEY then told us all to get out of the car and everybody got out but me.

ALGER did not curse Mr. BRADLEY or threaten him (Mr. Bradley) in any way. ALGER had been drinking some gin and some beer but he wasn't drunk.

The officer with Mr. BRADLEY did not say anything and he did not draw his gun.

After ALGER was shot the two officers took him to jail and this is all I know about it.

I can't read very well and this statement was read to me by Mr. DONAHOO, and it is true to the best of my belief.

(Signed) DANIEL SMITH

WITNESS

H. A. Donahoo, Sp. Agt., F.B.I.

D. J. DUPUY " " "

"

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DANIEL SMITH stated that he knew of no other witnesses to the shooting.

SAM FITZPATRICK, negro, R.F.D. 3, Union Springs, made the following statement:

"

Ft. Davis, Ala.
Jan. 28, 1946.

I, SAM FITZPATRICK, wish to make the following voluntary statement to D. J. DUPUY and H. A. DONAHOO, who have identified themselves as Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises of reward have been made to get me to make this statement.

On a Saturday night in the first part of November, 1945, I was in Union Springs. I met ALGER LEE GARRY and his father, ED GARRY, about 6 P.M. They had been drinking but were not drunk. I went down to the lower end of town by the ice plant with them. We three got a pint of gin and drank it there. We came back to where ALGER's car was parked in front of Mr. EICH's Store. ED GARRY wouldn't get in the car, and ALGER LEE tried to make him get in. A policeman came along and arrested ED GARRY. We got in the car with ALGER's mother and his brother, WILBORN. ALGER didn't do any loud cussing or raising any sand.

After we got in the car, ALGER LEE backed out of the parking place and drove up into the Cities Service Station near the show. While we were waiting for DAN and LUDIE BELL SMITH to come out of the show, two new police officers, whose names I don't know, came up to the car and asked ALGER LEE if he was drunk. He said, "no sir, I'm not drunk." The taller of the two officers told ALGER LEE to get out of the car and he started on out. The officer grabbed him as he was getting out and shot him above his right eye. He then pushed ALGER LEE against the car and everyone got out of the car. They then carried him to jail and me along with him. I was fined \$8.70 in the Mayor's Court the next day.

I have heard this two page statement read to me as I can't read or write and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

WITNESSED:

His
SAM ~~X~~ Mark FITZPATRICK

D. J. DUPUY, Sp. Agt., F.B.I.
H. A. DONAHOO, Sp. Agt. F.B.I."

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FITZPATRICK stated that to his knowledge there were no other witnesses to the shooting.

HENRIETTA GARRY, negro, mother of victim ALGER LEE GARRY, R.F.D. 3, Union Springs, Ala., executed the following statement:

" Union Springs, Ala.
Jan. 28, 1946.

I, HENRIETTA GARRY, age 42, willingly make this statement to Special Agents D. J. DUPUY and H. A. DONAHOO. It make it without force or threats or promise of reward.

The first Saturday in Nov. 1945, I went to Union Springs with my husband, ED GARRY, and my 2 sons, ALGER LEE GARRY and WILBORN GARRY. We got to town about 1:00 P.M. and separated when we got there.

About 6:00 or 7:00 P.M. I was in a cafe and WILBORN GARRY came and got me and said they were ready to go home. I went with WILBORN to get in our car which was parked in front of Mr. RENFROE's market. ED GARRY and ALGER GARRY and SAM FITZPATRICK were standing by the car and ALGER was trying to get my husband, ED GARRY, into the car. I could smell whiskey on the breath of ELGER and ED GARRY but they weren't drunk.

About this time Mr. SMITH, a policeman, came up and arrested my husband, ED GARRY, and took him to jail. ELGER LEE GARRY then got into the car with WILBORN GARRY and SAM FITZPATRICK and then we drove down to the Cities Service Filling Station near the picture show. We waited there for LUDIE BELL and DAN SMITH. LUDIE BELL and DAN SMITH came out of the picture show and got in the car.

At this time two policemen drove up. One of them was Mr. BRADLEY but I didn't know the other one. Mr. BRADLEY walked over to the car and told ALGER to give him the keys to the car. Mr. BRADLEY said, "you are the guy that's been raising the sand". ALGER denied that he had been raising any sand, and he started to get me out of the car. Just as ALGER was getting out Mr. BRADLEY hit him with a club and at the same time he shot him over his right eye with his pistol.

Mr. BRADLEY then told us all to get out of the car and line up and we did. Mr. BRADLEY and the other officer then took ALGER and SAM FITZPATRICK to jail.

I have read this statement of one and half pages, and

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it is true to the best of my belief.

(Signed) HENRIETTA GARRY

Witnessed:

H. A. DONAHOO, Sp. Agt., F.B.I.

D. J. DUPUY, Sp. Agt., F.B.I."

HENRIETTA GARRY stated that she believed that Mr. MILLER of Green-Miller Furniture Company, Mr. RENFROE, and Mr. LEE PADGETT were the only other witnesses to the shooting.

Mr. C. W. HALL, white, owner of the Cities Service Station on Main Street, stated that around November 1, 1945, on a Saturday night he closed his filling station around 8 or 8:30 P.M. and went to a barber shop about two blocks away. He came out of the barber shop a few minutes later and he heard the police gong. He then drove back down toward the station and he noticed a car parked in front of his office door in the driveway. Just as he drove up he heard a shot and saw ALGER GARRY stagger, and he saw Officers BRADLEY and WHITTLE. He did not actually see who fired the shot and stated that he did not know what led up to the shooting.

Mr. HALL stated that he knew of no witnesses to the shooting except Mr. LEE PADGETT.

Mr. LEE PADGETT, white, a sawmill operator at Union Springs, executed the following statement:

"

Union Springs, Ala.
Jan. 29, 1946

I, LEE PADGETT, age 29, willingly make this statement to Special Agents D. J. DUPUY and H. A. DONAHOO of the F.B.I. I make it without force or threats or promise of reward.

On a Saturday night sometime in November, 1945, I started to go to the picture show and I parked my car in the Cities Service Filling Station next door. This was around 8:00 or 8:30 P.M. and I noticed a carload of negroes sitting in a car right in front of the filling station office.

About this time Officers BRADLEY and WHITTLE drove up and

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BRADLEY walked up to the negroes car on the left side and WHITTLE walked up on the right side. BRADLEY told the negroes to get out and they were slow about getting out.

I was about 20 feet from the left side of the car and things happened so quick that I don't know exactly what happened. I did see the negro make a motion at Mr. BRADLEY and then BRADLEY shot him. This was the negro who was in the driver's seat. I can't say where the negro had a weapon or not and I honestly can't say that the motion the negro made at BRADLEY was to attack him.

I could not understand any of the conversation between BRADLEY and the negro with him either just before or just after the shooting.

I have read this statement and it is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Signed) LEE PADGETT

Witness:

H. A. DONAHOO, Sp. Agt., F.B.I.
D. J. DUPUY, Sp. Agt., F.B.I."

Chief of Police R. L. GARDNER was interviewed concerning this case and he stated that he knew nothing about the case except that Mr. BRADLEY told him that he had had to shoot the negro, who was very drunk, when the negro attempted to take his club away from him while he was arresting him for drunkenness. Chief GARDNER advised that he had conducted no investigation of this shooting and that he knew of no witnesses to the case.

Chief GARDNER appeared to be reluctant to give information in this case, as he did in the THOMAS case as previously described.

N. B. BALD, white, whose office is located in the Green Furniture Company, executed the following signed statement:

" Union Springs, Ala.
Jan. 30, 1946.

I, N. B. BALD, age 40, willingly make this statement to Special Agents D. J. DUPUY and H. A. DONAHOO of the F.B.I. I make it without force or threats or promise of reward.

I don't recall the exact date, but on a Saturday night in November, 1945, I was standing in front of Green-Miller Furniture Company on

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Main Street. I noticed a young negro and an old negro by a car parked in front of the store. The old one seemed to be drunk and the young one was trying to get him into the car. The night policeman, Mr. SMITH, came up and arrested the older negro and took him off.

After the officer and the older negro left, the young one pulled out a pocket knife and opened it and started walking around on the sidewalk, cursing and daring anyone to bother him. I don't recall anything specifically that he said, but he appeared to be fairly drunk, as he was staggering and I called the police.

When I came back from phoning the police the young negro and the car were gone and someone told me they had driven to the Cities Service Station and I saw the car parked in the station. About that time Mr. BRADLEY, a policeman, came up and asked where they were and I told him.

I followed Mr. BRADLEY up the street but stopped about 50 yards from the filling station. From that distance I couldn't hear anything that was said but I saw Mr. BRADLEY open the left front door of the car and the negro got out and I saw gunfire from Mr. BRADLEY toward the negro. I then saw Mr. BRADLEY take the man by the arm and lead him toward the back of the car.

I have read this statement of one and a fraction pages and it is true to the best of knowledge and belief.

(Signed) N. B. BALD

Witnessed:

1. H. A. Donahoo, Sp. Agt., F.B.I.
2. D. J. DUPUY, Sp. Agt., F.B.I."

Mr. BALD knew of no other eye witnesses.

AT RIVER FALLS, ALA.

HOLLIS E. WHITTLE, Chief of Police at River Falls, made the following signed statement:

"

River Falls, Ala.
Jan. 29, 1946

I. H. E. WHITTLE, age 39, willingly make this statement to

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Special Agents D. J. DUPUY and H. A. DONAHOO of the F.B.I. I make it without force or threats or promise of reward, and realize that what I say may be used against me.

I was formerly on the police force at Union Springs, Ala., but I resigned and left there about the middle of Nov. 1945.

I don't recall the exact date but on a Saturday night in the first part of Nov. 1945, I was on duty at Union Springs. Police Officer D. C. BRADLEY and I were at the jail about 8:00 or 8:30 P.M. and Mr. BRADLEY got a call from the police station to arrest a negro who was cussing and raising sand near the Purefood Market on Main Street.

We went to the Purefood Market and Mr. RENFROE, who runs the market, said the negro had left there in a car and had gone to the Cities Service Station about a half a block away.

BRADLEY and I then drove down to this filling station and we saw a carload of negroes parked in the station.

I walked up to the driver of the car and told him to get out but he did not do it. Mr. BRADLEY then walked up to the driver and opened the door of the car and told him to get out.

The other negroes started getting out on the other side of the car, and I walked around to the other side of the car. About that time Mr. BRADLEY told me to come back around to the driver's side and I did. By that time the driver of the car was getting out.

The driver, who was a young negro, grabbed at Mr. Bradley's night stick and got hold of it and Mr. BRADLEY snatched it out of his hand. The negro grabbed it again and BRADLEY snatched it back again.

The negro snatched the stick again and BRADLEY jerked it back and about that time BRADLEY pulled his pistol out and shot the negro, hitting him in the right eye.

Mr. BRADLEY and I then took the man who had been shot, and two other negroes who were in the car, to jail. I don't know any of their names, but they were all drunk.

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When BRADLEY and I went to answer this call we did not have any reason to believe that the negro was armed and we did not know what kind of "sand" he had been raising. We searched the man who was shot and found a small pocket knife on him, but no other weapons were found on him.

Mr. RENFROE later told me that the negro had been cursing and waving his pocket knife around in front of his store which is why he called the police, but I didn't know that at the time we went to arrest him.

I can't read too well but this statement of two and a half pages were read to me by Mr. DONAHOO and it is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Signed) H. E. WHITTLE

Witness:

H. A. DONAHOO, Sp. Agt., F.B.I.
D. J. DUPUY, Sp. Agt., F.B.I. "

AT UNION SPRINGS, ALA.

The following signed statement was submitted to Agents by Mr. R. E. L. COPE, Attorney for subject BRADLEY, under the same circumstances as previously described in the THOMAS shooting:

"During the months of October, November and December I was a member of the police force of Union Springs, Alabama. On Saturday during the first week of November, 1945, I had a call about a disturbance in front of the Pure Food Market. This was about 7:30 or 8 o'clock at night. In the company of police officer, Whittle, I proceeded to make an investigation. I was informed upon my arrival that ED GARY and his son, ALGE LEE GARY had been drunk up and down the streets and creating quite a disturbance. They were in the company of Ed's wife and two or three other women that I do not know and they informed me that the women had been trying to get them off the street for some time in order to avoid any trouble. There was no question but that Ed and Alge Lee were both blind, drunk. I arrested Ed and carried him to the County Jail. I had no difficulty, whatsoever, with him, in fact he was so drunk that he was beyond the point where he could raise a difficulty. When I came back up the street, I was informed that Alge Lee Gary was walking up and down the streets cursing and saying that there was not any son of a bitch,

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police or no police, who could take him to jail. I could hear him cursing and raising a disturbance as I came back up the street. As we approached, they got in a car and drove into Hall's Filling Station which is about one-half block from the place of the original disturbance and which is next to the Lillfred Theatre. I walked up to the car that he was in and told him to come and go with me and that he was under arrest. When I did, he jumped out of the car and pulled my billy from me and raised it back to strike. He was cursing me and threatening me at the time. I pulled away from him about four feet and drew my gun and shot him one time. I then carried him to jail and obtained a doctor for him and then saw that he was sent to the hospital.

During the entire time from the beginning of the disturbance, the women who were with him were pleading that they were both drunk and that they should get in the car and go home and not get into trouble.

(Signed) D. C. BRADLEY

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this the 31st day of January, 1946.

(Signed) R. E. L. COPE, Jr.
Notary Public. "

It will be noted that Mr. BRADLEY is now employed as a mechanic at the State Highway Garage at Union Springs.

Sheriff J. L. PICKETT advised that it was not anticipated that the Circuit Grand Jury meeting at Union Springs on February 4, 1946 would consider this case, inasmuch as no warrant had been sworn out and it was not a homicide.

Chief of Police GARDNER advised that ALGER GARRY was placed in jail by Officer BRADLEY on a charge of drunk and disorderly conduct, and that this charge is still pending against GARRY. He stated that the charge had not been pressed due to the fact that GARRY has been in the hospital since his arrest, but it is anticipated that GARRY will be brought to trial on these charges when he returns to Union Springs from the U. S. Veterans Hospital at Tuskegee.

JESSIE HIGHTOWER
Killed Dec. 1, 1945

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent DULANY J. DUPUY and the writer:

Chief of Police R. L. GARDNER was contacted and stated that he was not a witness to this shooting and all he knows about it is what BRADLEY told him, which was to the effect that he had received information that a negro, later identified as JESSIE HIGHTOWER, was fighting with his wife on Main Street in Union Springs and when he, BRADLEY, went to arrest him the negro drew a butcher knife and BRADLEY was forced to shoot him. As in the shootings of THOMAS and GARRY, Chief GARDNER appeared to be extremely unwilling to give any information.

Sheriff J. L. PICKETT stated that he returned from the Army in November, 1945, and assumed the duties of Sheriff which had been held by his father, W. P. PICKETT. He stated that he had received information to the effect that Police Officer D. C. BRADLEY had shot and killed a negro by the name of JESSIE HIGHTOWER in front of the Green-Miller Furniture Company on Main Street, about 5:30 P.M. He stated that in accordance with his duties he investigated the case and according to witnesses he interviewed, subject BRADLEY tried to arrest the HIGHTOWER negro who was fighting with his wife on the main streets of the town, and the witnesses stated to Sheriff PICKETT that he turned and pulled a long-bladed knife on Mr. BRADLEY. The Sheriff stated that witnesses told him that HIGHTOWER had this long-bladed knife in his right hand and that he grabbed BRADLEY's stick with his left hand, and that BRADLEY drew his gun out of his holster with his left hand from his left side, and shot HIGHTOWER. The Sheriff stated that in view of the statements made by the witnesses, he concluded that BRADLEY acted in self defense and he did not swear out a warrant for his arrest.

Sheriff PICKETT stated that as far as he could tell, the following were the only witnesses to the shooting, and that his investigation consisted of obtaining oral statements from these witnesses:

HARLUS MATHIS; Mrs. INA SMITHSON, and the wife of HIGHTOWER, whose first name he could not remember.

The Sheriff advised that this shooting would be investigated by the Grand Jury convening at Union Springs on February 4, 1946, inasmuch as the Grand Jury is charged with the investigation of all homicides.

W. I. MILLER, white, Proprietor of the Green Miller Furniture Company, executed the following signed statement:

" Union Springs, Ala.
Jan. 29, 1946

I, W. I. MILLER, age 40, willingly make this statement to Special Agents D. J. DUPUY and H. A. DONAHOO, of the F.B.I., I make it without force or threats or promise of reward.

About December 1, 1945, I was in my furniture store on Main Street and heard a gun shot. This was about 5:30 P.M. I looked out the front door and saw a negro I later recognized as JESSIE HIGHTOWER, stagger and fall on the sidewalk.

I then walked out to the front of the store and saw HIGHTOWER lying on the sidewalk and Policeman BRADLEY was standing over him.

A minute or two later Dr. GOMEZ, a negro doctor, came up and pronounced the Hightower man dead. BRADLEY asked the doctor, "Where did I hit him" and the doctor replied that he was shot through the heart.

I did not see a knife in Hightower's hand, but I noticed a butcher knife about 8 inches long, without any handles, lying about 4 feet from Hightower.

I don't know what led to the shooting and this is all I know about the case.

I have read the above statement, and it is true to the best of my belief.

(Signed) W. I. MILLER

Witness:

H. A. DONAHOO, Sp. Agt., F.B.I.
D. J. DUPUY, Sp. Agt., F.B.I."

Mr. MILLER stated that he knows of no other witnesses to the shooting.

ADA HIGHTOWER, negress, R.F.D. 3, who resides on the Maytag Place, and who is the wife of victim JESSIE HIGHTOWER, made the following statement:

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"

Union Springs, Ala.
Jan. 29, 1946

I, ADA HIGHTOWER, age 24, willingly make this statement to Special Agent D. J. DUPUY and H. A. DONAHOO of the F.B.I. I make it without force or threats or promise of reward.

On the first Saturday in December, 1945, my husband, JESSIE HIGHTOWER, my mother, MARY POSEY and I were in front of Miller Green Furniture Co. in Union Springs. This was about 5:00 P.M.

JESSIE had been drinking some wine and he had an open wine bottle in his hand. He began talking loud to me talking about how he loved me. He always talked loud when he was drinking. I tried to get him to be quiet. JESSIE and I were not fighting and we did not even touch each other.

About this time, a policeman I did not know came up and said, "Give me that knife." JESSIE did not make a move or say anything, and the policeman hit him on the head several times with a blackjack.

JESSIE then reached for a silver table knife with no handle on it which he had in his right hip pocket. When JESSIE pulled the knife out the policeman hit him on the right wrist with his blackjack and knocked the knife down on the ground. After this the policeman kept hitting him on the head with his blackjack and JESSIE said, "don't hit me any more, there's the damned knife on the ground." The policeman said "you damned son of a bitch, don't cuss at me." The policeman then pulled his pistol out and shot JESSIE through the heart.

In just a minute Dr. GOMEZ came up and looked at JESSIE and examined him and said he was dead.

So far as I know JESSIE had never been in trouble with the officers at Union Springs.

I was not with JESSIE the whole afternoon and I don't know whether he had had the knife out before or not. I don't know why he was carrying this knife.

I have read this statement of one and a half pages and it is true.

(Signed) ADA HIGHTOWER

Witness:

H. A. DONAHOO, Sp. Agt., F.B.I.
D. J. DUPUY, Sp. Agt., F.B.I."

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She stated she did not know the names of any other witnesses.

MARY POSEY, negress, R.F.D. 3, Made the following statement:

" Union Springs, Ala.
Jan. 29, 1946.

I, MARY POSEY, age 63, willingly make this statement to Special Agents D. J. DUPUY and H. A. DONAHOO, F.B.I. I make it without threats or force or promise of reward.

On Dec. 1, 1945, I was in Union Springs in front of Miller-Green Furniture Co. About sundown my daughter ADA and her husband, JESSIE HIGHTOWER, walked up to about where I was. I called ADA and she came over to me and JESSIE stood off at a little distance, waiting for ADA.

About that time a policeman I didn't know walked up to JESSIE. I didn't hear JESSIE or the officer say anything but before I knew it the officer was beating JESSIE over the head with a police club. I asked ADA what he was beating JESSIE for and she said she didn't know.

While the officer was beating him JESSIE pulled out what looked to be like a butcher knife, from inside his coat, and threw it on the ground. He did not try to cut the officer with it. The officer then pulled out his pistol and shot him and JESSIE whirled and fell face down.

When this happened I jumped up and ran into Mr. Eich's store and that's all I know about the case.

I have read this statement and it is true.

(Signed) MARY POSEY

Witness:

H. A. DONAHOO, Sp. Agt., F.B.I.
D. J. DUPUY, Sp. Agt., F.B.I.

The POSEY woman stated that she believed that a negro by the name of JOHNNIE COLLINS saw the shooting. It should be noted that MARY POSEY was reluctant to give any statement at all and advised that she would not be at all willing to appear in court in this connection.

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JOHNNY COLLINS, negro, R.F.D. 3, was contacted and admitted that he saw the shooting of JESSIE HIGHTOWER, but stated that he did not want to get mixed up in the case and he declined to discuss it.

Mrs. INA SMITHSON, white, proprietor of a hamburger stand on Main Street, executed the following statement:

" Union Springs, Ala.
Jan. 29, 1946.

I, INA SMITHSON, age 31, willingly make this statement to Special Agents D. J. DUPUY and H. A. DONAHOO of the F.B.I. I make it without force or threats or promise of reward.

I don't recall the exact date but sometime late on a Saturday afternoon in 1945, I was standing in my hamburger stand on Main Street and I heard police officer BRADLEY say, "nigger, gimme that knife." I then looked up and saw Mr. BRADLEY and a negro I did not know, standing in front of my place. They were about 20 feet from me and I noticed that the negro had a butcher knife, without a handle, in right hand.

Mr. BRADLEY told the negro again to give him the knife but the negro cursed and said he would not give him the knife. Mr. BRADLEY then hit the man with his blackjack over the head and told him again to give him the knife. The negro cursed again and Mr. BRADLEY went to hit him again and the negro caught the blackjack in his left hand and made a pass at Mr. BRADLEY with the knife.

Mr. BRADLEY then drew his pistol with his left hand and shot the negro, who fell face down on the sidewalk. This is all I know about the case.

I read this statement and it is true.

(Signed) INA SMITHSON

Witness:

H. A. DONAHOO, Sp. Agt., F.B.I.
D. J. DUPUY, F.B.I., B'ham."

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Mrs. SMITHSON stated that to her knowledge HARLUS MATHIS was the only other eye witness to the shooting.

Mr. J. E. YOUMANS, white, proprietor of a radio shop on Main Street, across from the Green-Miller Furniture Company, made the following statement:

" Union Springs, Ala.
Jan. 29, 1946

I, J. E. YOUMANS, age 38, willingly make this statement to Special Agents D. J. DUPUY and H. A. DONAHOO of the F.B.I. I make it without force or threats or promise of reward.

I don't recall the exact date but late in the afternoon sometime around Dec. 1, 1945, I was standing in the door of my shop looking across the street and I saw Officer BRADLEY across the street walking north. A minute or two later I saw him in the act of what appeared to be an attempt to arrest a negro. The negro had a long knife in his right hand. I saw the negro hit at Mr. BRADLEY with the knife and Mr. BRADLEY hit the negro with a police club. The next thing I know the negro grabbed the club with his left hand. He still had the knife in his right hand. I then heard a shot and the negro fell. This was directly in front of Green-Miller Furniture Company.

After I saw the negro fall I walked over to where he was lying and noted a long butcher knife with no handle on the ground, about 18 inches from the body of the negro.

I have read this statement and it is there to the best of my belief.

(Signed) J. E. YOUMANS

Witness:

H. A. DONAHOO, Sp. Agt. F.B.I.
D. J. DUPUY, Sp. Agt., F.B.I."

Mr. YOUMANS was unable to furnish the names of any other witnesses.

Mr. HARLUS MATHIS, white, Postoffice Box 302, made the following statement:

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"

Union Springs, Ala.
Jan. 29, 1946.

I, HARLUS MATHIS, age 21, willingly make this statement to Special Agents D. J. DUPUY of the F.B.I. I make it without force or threats or promise of reward.

I don't remember the date, but on a Saturday in the first part of December, 1945, I was standing in front of the Purefood Market on Main Street. This was about 4:30 P.M. I looked up and saw Mr. BRADLEY, a policeman, coming up the street and he appeared to be in a hurry.

There was a negro I didn't know, standing in front of Green-Miller Furniture Co., next door to the Purefood Market and Mr. BRADLEY walked up to this negro. Mr. BRADLEY told the negro to give him the knife he had down the street and the negro denied that he had a knife. Mr. BRADLEY asked him again for the knife and the negro again said he did not have a knife.

Mr. BRADLEY then began to beat the negro over the head with his night stick. He asked the negro for the knife again.

The negro then pulled his coat aside and pulled a butcher knife out of his inside coat pocket and made an attempt to cut Mr. BRADLEY with it and at the same time he was trying, with his left hand, to ward off the blows from the stick. Mr. BRADLEY then drew his pistol and shot the negro with it. I don't know which hand he used.

A few minutes later a negro doctor by the name of GOMEZ came up and examined the negro who had been shot and said he was dead.

I have read this statement of one and a fraction pages and it is true to the best of my belief.

(Signed) HARLUS MATHIS

Witness:

H. A. DONAHOO, Sp. Agt., F.B.I.
D. J. DUPUY, Sp. Agt., F.B.I."

Mr. MATHIS did not know of any other witnesses to this shooting.

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Mr. FRANK CARLISLE, white, who has a general merchandise store on Main Street about half a block from where JESSIE HIGHTOWER was shot, declined to execute a signed statement, but stated orally that in the middle of the afternoon around December 1, 1945, he noticed JESSIE HIGHTOWER with a woman he later learned was his wife, in front of the store. He heard HIGHTOWER tell the woman to come on, which she refused to do, and HIGHTOWER grabbed her and pulled her to him. The woman broke loose and HIGHTOWER pulled a butcher knife which had no handle on it out of the inside of his coat and slashed at the woman with but missed her.

Mr. CARLISLE then ordered HIGHTOWER and his wife from in front of his store and he reported the matter to Police Officer BRADLEY. He stated that this is the last he knew of the incident until someone advised him that JESSIE HIGHTOWER was killed by Officer BRADLEY.

The following signed statement was furnished to Agents by Mr. R. E. L. COPE, Attorney for BRADLEY, and was furnished under the same circumstances as were the statements in the THOMAS and GARRY shootings:

" During the months of October, November and December I was a member of the police force of Union Springs, Alabama. On the first day of December, which was Saturday, I was at the front door of the City Hall Office and I received a call from Frank Carlisle. His place of business is diagonally across from the City Hall and I immediately rushed over. He told me that a man by the name of JESSIE HIGHTOWER had been in front of his store and was causing trouble with his wife; that Jessie had a butcher knife and had been trying to cut his wife and that he had run him out. I walked up the street about 75 or 100 feet and overtook Jessie and when I did, I told him to give me that big knife that he was trying to cut that woman with, up the street. He said, "All right, God damn it, I'll give it to you," and ran his hand in his coat pocket and came out cutting. The only reason that I was not cut was that I raised my billy and it still shows the place where it was cut. He grabbed my billy with his left hand and was cutting at me with his right and I pulled off and shot him one time.

(Signed:) D. C. BRADLEY

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 31st day of January, 1946.

(Signed) R.E.L. COPE, Jr.

Notary Public

"

BH 44-93

Sheriff J. L. PICKETT was contacted by telephone on February 6, 1946, and advised that the Grand Jury had investigated this case at its term beginning February 4, 1946, but had failed to find sufficient evidence to justify the arrest of subject BRADLEY.

All of the above signed statements are being retained in the files of the Birmingham Field Division.

The following description of the subject was obtained by Special Agent DUPUY by observation and questioning:

Name:	DENEY COLUMBUS BRADLEY
Born:	10-11-03, Brewton, Ala.
Race:	White
Height:	5' 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Weight:	180 lbs.
Build:	Heavy
Eyes:	Brown
Glasses:	Wears glasses
Hair:	Brown
Complexion:	Ruddy
Marital status:	Widower
Occupation:	Employed as mechanic, State Highway Department Garage, Union Springs, Ala.

CLOSED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

FILE NO. **44-54**

REPORT MADE AT Chicago, Illinois	DATE WHEN MADE 3-1-46	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2-27; 3-1-46	REPORT MADE BY ROBERT S. KELLY RSK:FB
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS E. B. THOMAS, Victim Union Springs, Alabama			CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

REV. JAMES L. PINCKNEY in signed statement admits seeing Union Springs, Alabama Police shoot and kill E. B. THOMAS in THOMAS' store on the morning of October 13, 1945, in Union Springs, Alabama.

R.U.C.

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent WILLIAM A. FLYNN, JR., New York dated 12-18-45;
 report of Special Agent WILLIAM A. FLYNN, JR., New York dated 2-13-46;
 teletype from New York to Chicago dated 2-26-46.

DETAILS:

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

REV. JAMES L. PINCKNEY was located through reference teletype. He is residing at 4959 S. Wabash Avenue, Chicago. REV. PINCKNEY advised that he had witnessed the shooting and resultant death of victim E. B. THOMAS by the Assistant Chief of Police and the Night Policeman of the Union Springs, Alabama Police Department.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 3 Birmingham - enc. (1 USA) 3 Chicago		<div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> 44-2-15 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE MAR 7 1946 P.M. DIVISION OF RECORDS CRIM.-CIVIL RIGHTS SEC. </div>	

REV. PINCKNEY gave the following signed statement as his description of the incident:

"March 1, 1946

"I, James L. Pinckney, make the following statement to Robert S. Kelly and George P. Byrne who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation I make this statement voluntarily and no force, threats, or rewards or promises were used to obtain it.

"I had lived in Union Springs, Alabama, about two and one half years. I was the proprietor of Ella Lee Pinckney's Place located on North Prairie in Union Springs. My place was located right next door to E. B. Thomas' Cafe.

"On the morning of October 13, 1945, between 8 and 8:30 I was standing in front of my cafe. I had just left my barber shop which is about 3 doors south of my cafe after seeing the Assistant Chief of Police come out of Police headquarters with the night policeman. The Assistant Chief of Police was carrying a double barreled shot gun, and the night policeman was carrying a blue steel revolver in his hand. When I saw them pass my barber shop, I then walked down in front of my cafe which is next to E. B. Thomas' place. The officers were walking in the direction of my cafe, so I went down there to see if anything was wrong. When the police officers passed my cafe, I stopped in such a position that I could see clearly into E. B. Thomas' place which is right next door to my cafe. I saw the night policeman, who was carrying the revolver, step just inside E. B. Thomas' door. The Assistant Chief of Police was standing on the sidewalk in front of E. B. Thomas' place moving the shot gun around looking up and down the street. I heard the Assistant Chief who held the shot gun outside the store say 'Don't a damn nigger come down this street.'

"From where I was standing, I could see through the glass window of Thomas' place that Thomas was behind the meat box which is an ice box a little more than waist high. This meat box is also used as a counter. The double doors of Thomas' place were wide open so that I could hear through the open door. I could see all that was going on through the large glass window at the front of the store.

"The night policeman who was just inside the door of Thomas' place, pointed the revolver at E. B. Thomas and sharply called him by name. E. B. Thomas had been bending over behind the counter as though he was getting a piece of meat out of the box. He didn't act as though he knew anyone was coming through the front door untill he heard his name called by the night policeman. E. B. Thomas then straightened up and saw the night policeman pointing the gun right at his face. The night policeman motioned with the gun to E. B. Thomas to come out and at the same time said 'You son of a bitch, you talk too damn much; we're going to kill you this morning.' At this point, the night policeman fired his revolver at E. B. Thomas and I heard Thomas say as he staggered backward with one hand up in front of his face, in a struggling voice 'Oh my God, what are you shooting me for.' Then the night policeman fired a second shot which wheeled E. B. Thomas around and as he was falling, the night policeman fired a third shot at his back. I saw Thomas fall on the floor face up. I could see Thomas from where I was standing because he had staggered out from behind the meat box which I have already described. The night policeman then stepped up over E. B. Thomas with the revolver about 4 feet from where Thomas lay and fired about 3 more shots at him as he lay on the floor. The night policeman then stepped back towards the door, and as he was re-loading his gun, I heard him say 'We're going to run this damn town. I'll kill every black son of a bitch on the street.' He then stepped back over Thomas and fired 5 or 6 shots at him. Then he took his gun by the barrel and struck him several times on his forehead with the butt of the gun.

"About 25 or 30 minutes later, the Chief of Police, with the Assistant Chief, came in my cafe. I was standing in back of the counter by the cash register. When they entered, the Assistant Chief put his hand on his gun and the Chief walked up to me with his club gripped in his hand and said to me 'Preacher, what time is it?' I replied 'I don't know sir.' He then said to me 'Let me tell you one damn thing, take advantage of this daylight and get out of town - do you get that? You know too damn much. You're one of these damn smart niggers. We don't want no nigger like you in this town.' I said 'Yes sir.' The Chief of Police then walked towards the door and then turned shortly to me and said, with his finger pointed in my face 'Let me tell you another damn thing. When you walk out of this door, you better not stop and talk to any city councilmen about what we are saying to you. You see what happened to that son of a bitch next door. The same damn thing will happen to you.' I left town immediately.

Chicago File 44-54

"I have read the above statement consisting of 6 pages and it is true and correct. I am willing to testify to it if necessary.

(S) J. L. PINCKNEY

Robert S. Kelly, Special Agent, F.B.I., Chicago
George P. Byrne, Special Agent, F.B.I., Chicago "

It is to be noted that Rev. PINCKNEY requested that if at all possible his name should be kept strictly confidential. He further requested that he not be asked to return to Union Springs, Alabama to testify in this case, stating that he was afraid some violent harm would result if he should return there. He did advise, however, that he was willing to testify in this case in Montgomery or Birmingham. Rev. PINCKNEY requested information as to whether the Federal Bureau of Investigation would supply him with a guard should he be called upon to testify, and he was advised that this Bureau could not act as a guard for him.

ENCLOSURE: To the BIRMINGHAM OFFICE -

Signed statement dated March 1, 1946, of James L. Pinckney.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BIRMINGHAM

FILE NO.

44-82

DMH

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 3/4/46	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/26, 27/46.	REPORT MADE BY WILLIAM A. FLYNN, JR.
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; E. B. THOMAS - VICTIM, Union Springs, Alabama			CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

J. L. PINCKNEY is living at 4959 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. He originally reported this incident to the NAACP Attorney LORING B. MOORE at 425 East 46 Street, Chicago, Illinois. A copy of his statement was obtained from the New York office of the NAACP.

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Bureau file 44-1324.
Report of Special Agent William A. Flynn, Jr., New York, 2/13/46.
Teletype from New York to Chicago, 2/26/46.
Bureau letter to Birmingham and New York, 2/13/46

DETAILS:

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK,

The photostat of the newspaper clipping enclosed in the referenced letter from the Bureau to Birmingham and New York was exhibited to Assistant Special Counsel ROBERT CARTER at the office of the NAACP, 20 West 40 Street, New York City. He again instituted a search of their files and was successful in locating the file on this incident. He advised that the matter was originally reported to their attorney in Chicago, LORING B. MOORE at 425 East 40 Street, Chicago, Illinois by J. L. PINCKNEY, and that a copy of

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
<p style="text-align: center;">COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right; margin-right: 10px;"> 5 - Bureau 3 - Birmingham 2 - Chicago 2 - New York </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-left: 10px;"> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red; text-align: center;">144-2-15</div> <div style="text-align: center; color: purple;"> DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE MAR 7 1946 P.M. DIVISION OF RECORDS CRM - CIVIL RIGHTS SEC. </div> </div> </div>		

NY 44-52

the statement had been forwarded to him. He stated that PINCKNEY was living at 4959 South Wabash Avenue, and he suggested that he be interviewed through their attorney in Chicago. The copy of the statement supplied by Mr. CARTER will be incorporated substantially herein because of its brevity:

"Rev. Pinckney was pastor of the Lily Hill Baptist Church at Brundidge, Alabama and the St. John's Baptist Church at Ft. David, Alabama for several years, as well as the owner of a cafe and barbership at Union Springs, Alabama where he has resided for more than thirty years.

"On October 7, 1945 E. B. THOMAS, owner of a cafe and market in Union Springs was arrested and accused of disorderly conduct (swearing in his store). He was taken into custody and remained for about two hours, and somehow was released.

"Mr. Thomas went to the mayor's office and had a talk with the mayor and some of the councilmen. The decision of the Mayor and some of the Councilmen, after they had heard Mr. Thomas' story that those two police officers who arrested him, be discharged from duty. Mr. Thomas had a splendid record as a worthwhile citizen, having operated his business in that spot for more than 30 years. He was well respected by all.

"Somehow, the councilmen who did not agree with the Mayor and other Councilmen, Mr. Thomas learned, was coming for him. On the 13th of October, two policeman, one with a sawed off shot gun and the other one (wearing glasses) had a 38. They entered Mr. Thomas' store about 8 or 8:30 A.M., while he was looking for something in his ice box. They said, 'We have come to get you.' Mr. Thomas replied, 'What in the name of the Lord are you going to get me for?' The officer with the glasses started shooting, the officer with the sawed off shot gun was acting to keep Negroes away, a kind of watchman. After the officer had emptied his 38 he refilled and shot six times after he had fallen dead.

"Rev. Pickney operates his business two doors from Mr. Thomas. When he saw the two police officers, he went to his business next door which is one door from Mr. Thomas. He is the only eye witness to the murder.

"The Chief of Police came to him a few hours later and asked him if he knew the time. He replied that he did not know the time. Then the Chief of Police said to him, that he had better leave and leave at

NY 44-82

at once, otherwise he would get just what Mr. Thomas got. He said, Yes Sir. He left without his hat and left his wife weeping. He went into the woods and managed to get to Montgomery, Alabama and on to Chicago.

"Reverent J. L. Horace, Minister of Monumental Baptist Church and President of the Baptist State Convention of Ill. has pledged his congregation and members of the Baptist State Convention of Ill. to get behind the NAACP and would support it 100 % in fighting this case. "

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA**

FILE NO. **44-93 han**



REPORT MADE AT BIRMINGHAM	DATE WHEN MADE 3-20-46	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2-25; 3-8-46	REPORT MADE BY HENRY A. DONAHOO
TITLE DENEY COLUMBUS BRADLEY			CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">Criminal record of subject, FBI #2672029, set out.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-0-</p> <p>REFERENCE:</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">Report of Special Agent HENRY A. DONAHOO dated February 12, 1946 at Birmingham, Alabama.</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">Report of Special Agent ROBERT S. KELLY dated March 1, 1946 at Chicago, Illinois.</p> <p>DETAILS:</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">The following criminal record concerning DENEY COLUMBUS BRADLEY was received from the Bureau on February 4, 1946, under FBI #2672029:</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">DENEY C. BRADLEY, #31149, received State Convict Dept. Montgomery, Ala., 9-28-34, charge, Vic. Prob. Law, disposition, 13-19 mos.</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">DENEY COLUMBUS BRADLEY, #16471, 30, Mobile, Ala., applicant or Boilermaker Helper, 1-17-42.</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">DENEY C. BRADLEY, #082-09050, U. S. Coast Guard, Mobile, Ala., applicant for Id. card, 7-24-42.</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">DENEY COLUMBUS BRADLEY, #51-GUS, 303, War Dept., Police, 11-30-42.</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
<p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <p>5 - Bureau</p> <p>3 - Birmingham</p> <p style="text-align: right;">B. P.</p>		<div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0;">144-2-15</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">APR 8 1946</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">DIVISION OF RECORDS</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">CRIM.-CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.</p> </div>	

HH 44-93

DEWEY C. BRADLEY, #60564, arrested SO, Brewton, Ala.,
2-22-44, P.D., disposition, paid.

On February 25, 1946 Special Agent DULANY J. DUPUY ascer-
tained from BRADLEY that the above criminal record pertained to him.

The interview with Reverend JAMES L. PINCKNEY set forth in
the report of Special Agent ROBERT S. KELLY, Chicago, Illinois, dated
March 1, 1946, covers the only undeveloped lead left in this case and
the case is, therefore, being closed.

- C L O S E D -

TLC:MLW:LAK

144-2-15

May 6, 1946

Miss Lydia A. Hunt
Wyoming, Pennsylvania

~~HOLIE~~

Dear Miss Hunt:

This acknowledges the recent letter from you and Irving O. Hunt with regard to Dewey Bradley, a former police officer of Union Springs, Alabama.

mgw
I am glad to advise you that the incidents you referred to are now being given proper consideration by this Department.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

THELSON L. CAUDLE
Assistant Attorney General



cc - Records
Chrono.

RECEIVED

MAY 1 - 1946

144-2-15
DEPT. OF JUSTICE
WYOMING MAY 1 1946
PENNSYLVANIA

April 27 - 46

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
B. P. CRIM. - CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.



Dear Mr. Clark:

We feel that the Dept. of Justice should act to enforce the Federal Civil Rights Law and not allow sheriffs and police officers who are guilty of lynching and murdering negroes to go unpunished. Is such a criminal as Deputy Bradley, police officer of Union Springs, Alabama, not to be prosecuted?

144-2-15

We look to you to save the
faith of the American people in
democracy or who else can?

Sincerely yours

Lydell C. Hunt
Irving C. Hunt.

The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

March 19, 1946.

Theron L. Caudle, Assistant Attorney General

TLC:MLW:BC

Dewey Columbus Bradley
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

144-2-15

B. P.

Reference is made to your memorandum of March 6, 1946, in this matter.

Ad. S.
Ad. S.

It would be appreciated if you would either supply the United States Attorney at Montgomery with copies of all reports submitted in this matter and so advise me, or furnish the Department with copies to be forwarded to him.

The determination as to whether or not prosecution will be undertaken will be made in the near future.

At this time, no further investigation is desired.

HOLLIE

CC Records ✓

Chron.



RECEIVED
MAR 6 - 1946
CRIMINAL DIVISION

March 1, 1946



Attorney General Tom Clark
Dept of Justice
Washington, D.C.

HOLLIE



RECORD

Honorable Sir:

7 days

I have become aware of the murder of negro citizens by police officers, such as the case of Edgar Thomas who was shot & killed in his store by officer Dewey Bradley in Union Springs Ala. on Oct 7, 1945, because he was overheard discussing race problems. Subsequently Bradley shot and killed two other negroes whom he was arresting for minor offenses.

We urge you to exercise your right to intervene and prosecute these officers responsible for such atrocities in a democratic country.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Sylvia G. Hachman
128 Fort Washington Ave.

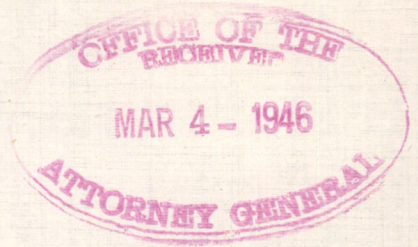
M.G. 32

RECEIVED

MAR 6 - 1946

March 1, 1946

CRIMINAL DIVISION
Attorney General Tom Clark
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.



Honorable Sir:

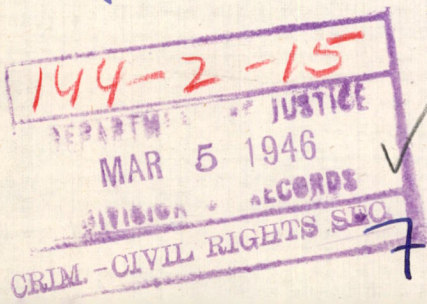
I have recently learned of the murder of negro citizens by police officers, as in the case of Edgar Thomas, shot & killed by Officer Dewey Bradley in his own store on October 7, 1945, when he was overheard discussing race problems. In addition, Officer Bradley shot & killed two other negroes whom he was arresting for minor offenses.

We urge you to exercise your right to prosecute all officers responsible for atrocities not in keeping with our democratic principles of government.

Sincerely,

Sarah Hallock
210 West 17th St

File 805 NYC



RECORDED
Edm

March 1 1946

Attorney General Tom Clark
Washington, D.C.

RECEIVED

MAR 6 - 1946

MAR 4 - 1946

CRIMINAL DIVISION

OFFICE OF THE
RECORDS

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Honorable Sir:

I am writing to ex-
press my deep concern at the
increasing number of incidents
of violent police handling of
Negroes throughout the country. The
incident of Officer Bradley of Union-
springs Alabama who has killed
3 negroes and is still in his job.
Although this incident and others like
it may take place in a given locality
the effects of it go beyond state lines
and are creating a crucial situation
which in turn gives rise to
other incidents.

I would like to express
my belief that it is the respos-
ibility of the Federal govern-

144-2-15
MAR 5 1946
RECORDS
JURISTICE
CRIM - CIVIL RIGHTS

File
563

March 1, 1946

Attorney General Tom Clark
Department of Justice
Washington, DC.

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MAR 6 - 1946

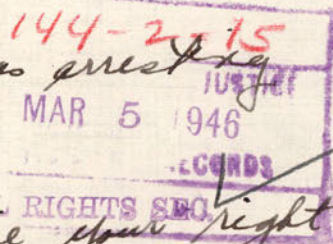
Honorable Sir:

CRIMINAL DIVISION



I have become aware of the murder of
Negro citizens by police officers, such as the
case of Edgar Thomas who was shot and
killed in his store by Officer Dewey Bradley
in Union Springs, Ala. on Oct. 7, 1945, because
he was overheard discussing race problems.

Subsequently, Bradley shot and killed
two other Negroes whom he was arresting
for minor offenses.



We urge you to exercise your right
to intervene and prosecute these officers
responsible for such atrocities in a democratic
country.

Sincerely yours
Ruth Kaplan
50 E. 19th St.
Brooklyn, N. Y.

March 1/1946

Attorney General Tom Clark
Washington — D.C.



Hon. Sir.

I am writing to express my deep concern at the increasing number of incidents of violent police handling of negroes throughout the country. In particular, Police Officer Bradley of Union Springs — Alabama, has killed 3 negroes & is still active on his job — Two of these negroes were being arrested for very minor offenses.

I urge you strongly to exercise your right to intervene & prosecute this officer & others responsible for atrocities in a democratic country —

Telegraph

Respectfully

(Mrs) Jean Lesser

64-12-99 St.

Forest Hills. N.Y.



RECORDED
E.M.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Attorney General T. L. Caudle
FROM : John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
E. B. Thomas - Victim
Union Springs, Alabama
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

RECEIVED
MAR 4 - 1946
CRIMINAL DIVISION
DATE: February 27, 1946

For your further information in the above-captioned case, there is transmitted herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent William A. Flynn, Jr., dated February 13, 1946, at New York, New York.

Investigation in this case is continuing and additional reports will be made available to you as they are received.

Enclosure

A.L.S.

File M L W

144 - 2 - 15
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MAR 1 1946
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM.-CIVIL RIGHTS SEC. ✓

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BERMINGHAM

NY

FILE NO.

44-82

PMG

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 2/13/46	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/8, 11, 12/46	REPORT MADE BY WILLIAM A. FLYNN, JR.
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; R. B. THOMAS - VICTIM, Union Springs, Alabama			CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</p> <p style="margin-left: 100px;">The NAACP was recontacted with negative results as to any information regarding the above named victim or the subjects involved in the crime. J. L. PINCKNEY may be in Chicago.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- RUC -</p> <p>REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent in Charge ALVIN C. SCHLENKER, 1/4/46, San Juan.</p> <p>DETAILS: In the referenced report, mention is made that further information is to be had at the offices of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in New York City regarding the location of J. L. PINCKNEY and the background of the shooting of the above named victim.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">At the offices of the NAACP, Mrs. ALVA SPERRY, Assistant Special Counsel, advised that EDWARD R. DUDLEY, who formerly was an Assistant Special Counsel of the NAACP, had written them from the Virgin Islands advising that the FBI had inquired of him regarding the location of J. L. PINCKNEY, or any information which he might have regarding the victim and the unknown subjects. She stated that they had rechecked their files, and they had no further information, other than the mere statement by the file clerk that she thought Mr. DUDLEY had at one time told her that J. L.</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		
DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES			
<p style="text-align: center;">COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <p>5- Bureau 3- Birmingham 2- Chicago (Enc.) 2- New York</p>			

NY 44-82

PINCHNEY was in Chicago, or had gone to Chicago after reporting the matter to him.

ENCLOSURE FOR CHICAGO: 1 copy of the report of Special Agent WILLIAM A. FLYNN, JR., 12/18/45, New York.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

McDOUGALD & MAIS
COUNSELORS AT LAW

CORNELIUS McDOUGALD, JR.
WILFRED N. MAIS, JR.

RECEIVED

FEB 26 1946

CRIMINAL DIVISION

2309 SEVENTH AVENUE
(AT 135TH STREET)
NEW YORK 30

AUDUBON 3-4206

OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
FEB 25 1946

February 21, 1946

Attorney General Tom Clark
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

144-2-15
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEB 25 1946
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM.-CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.

B. P.
P. J. W.
RECORD

Dear Sir:

I respectfully demand that immediate
action be taken by your Department in the
horrible murders committed in Union Springs, Ala.
by Officer Dewey Bradley of innocent negro people.
Respectfully,
Cornelius McDougald

The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

January 31, 1946

Theron L. Caudle, Assistant Attorney General

TLC:TLS:esw
144-2-15

E.B. Thomas, victim
Dewey Bradley, subject
Union Springs, Alabama
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

RECEIVED
J.L.S.

In further reference to my memorandum of January 22, 1946, concerning the above investigation, I am attaching herewith a newspaper clipping purportedly taken from the Daily World, Atlanta, Georgia, for such assistance as it may be to you in conducting this inquiry.

HOLLIE

4
Enclosure No. 375755



CC: Records ✓
Chron.

The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

January 22, 1946

Theron L. Caudle, Assistant Attorney General

TLC:TLS:esw

144-2-15

W. W. C.

Unknown Subjects

E. B. Thomas, Victim

Union Springs, Alabama

Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

REC-10

Thank you for your memorandum of January 14, 1946, transmitting copies of the investigative reports of Special Agents William A. Flynn, Jr., and Alvin C. Schlenker in this matter.

I will appreciate your continued efforts to locate J. L. Pinckney and obtain his version of the circumstances surrounding the shooting of E.B. Thomas. I have no further information at this writing as to the whereabouts of Pinckney.

HOLLIE

8
CC: Records✓
Chron.



Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Attorney General T. L. Caudle
Criminal Division

FROM : John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
E. B. Thomas, Victim
Union Springs, Alabama
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

DATE: January 14, 1946

RECEIVED

JAN 15 1946

CRIMINAL DIVISION

Reference is made to your memoranda dated November 7, 1945 and January 5, 1946, regarding the above captioned matter.

For your information there are transmitted herewith copies of the following investigative reports:

Report of Special Agent William A. Flynn, Jr., dated at New York, December 18, 1945, in the captioned case.

Report of Special Agent Alvin C. Schlenker, dated at San Juan, Puerto Rico, January 4, 1946, in the captioned case.

Investigation is being conducted at Union Springs, Alabama, in accordance with your request, and the results of the investigation will be made available to you as soon as received.

Attachments

A.L.S.

144-2-15-A.L.S.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JAN 15

DIVISION OF RECORDS

CRIM.-CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.

File

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BIRMINGHAM

NY FILE NO. 44-82 00

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 12/18/45	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/5, 6, 11/45	REPORT MADE BY WILLIAM A. FLYNN, JR.
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECT; E. B. Thomas, Victim, Union Springs, Alabama			CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <p>No record was found at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. of either J. L. PINGNEY or E. B. THOMAS. EDWARD B. DUNLAP, former Assistant Special Counsel of the NAACP, is now in the Virgin Islands on the staff of the Commissioner of the Virgin Islands.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- R U C -</p> <p>REFERENCE: Bureau letter to Birmingham, 11/26/45</p> <p>DETAILS: <u>At New York, New York:</u></p> <p>For the benefit of the San Juan Field Division this report is predicated upon a request transmitted from the Bureau in the reference letter, from Assistant Attorney General THOMPSON L. CAUDLE, to ascertain the whereabouts of one J. L. PINGNEY, a preacher, formerly of Union Springs, Alabama. MR. CAUDLE advised in his letter to the Bureau that he had received information from J. L. PINGNEY, a Negro preacher, to the effect that a certain unknown police officer shot and killed a negro named E. B. THOMAS, in Union Springs, Alabama, on October 13, 1945. It was alleged that a "sawed-off" shot gun was used and that one of the officers "emptied his .38 pistol and shot six times" after the victim had fallen dead.</p> <p>It appears that the victim had become involved in some controversy with the City authorities at Union Springs, Alabama, on October 7, 1945, and that the shooting by the policeman followed this affair. It further appears that the only eye witness to the incident is the Negro Preacher PINGNEY who has left the vicinity of</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <div style="text-align: right;">DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES</div>	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 3 San Juan 2 Birmingham 2 New York		<div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 144-2-15 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE JAN 15 1946 DIVISION OF RECORDS CRIM. CIVIL RIGHTS SEC. </div>	

NY 44-82

Union Springs, Alabama. MR. CLAUDE was of the opinion that EDWARD R. DUDLEY, former Assistant Special Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., at New York City, would be able to furnish information as to the present whereabouts of WINSTON.

At the office of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., 20 West 40th Street, New York City, it was learned that MR. DUDLEY is now on the staff of the Commissioner of the Virgin Islands, stationed in the Virgin Islands, and was succeeded by MR. ROBERT CARTER who was unable to furnish any information regarding the above mentioned incident. There was no record in the files of the NAACP of this shooting.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BIRMINGHAM**

SJ. FILE NO. **44-2**

REPORT MADE AT SAN JUAN, P. R.	DATE WHEN MADE 1-4-46	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12-27-45	REPORT MADE BY SAC ALVIN C. SCHLENKER fo
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS E. B. THOMAS, Victim Union Springs, Alabama			CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: **EDWARD R. DUDLEY**, former Assistant Special Counsel of the NAACP, has no personal knowledge of the case. Believes correspondence pertaining to instant matter should be on file at NAACP offices, New York City.

- R U C -

REFERENCE: Report of **WILLIAM A. FLYNN, JR.** dated 12-18-45, New York.

DETAILS: At Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands:

EDWARD R. DUDLEY, Legal Aide to the Governor of the Virgin Islands, stated that he had no personal knowledge of the case involving the alleged murder of **E. B. THOMAS**. **DUDLEY** stated that he had a vague recollection of the matter and believed that the incident had been called to the attention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People by correspondence, presumably by **J. L. PINCKNEY**. **DUDLEY** stated that he had not had any personal contact with **PINCKNEY** and added that he did not know the man. In many instances, **DUDLEY** stated, cases were referred to the NAACP by anonymous correspondents or persons using fictitious names. In some instances the incidents were verified or investigated by NAACP national representatives but that to his recollection there was no such representative in or near Union Springs and no further inquiry had been made in the incident involving **E. B. THOMAS**.

DUDLEY suggested that a further search of the files of the NAACP in New York would disclose whatever information that organization might have. He stated that the office has recently moved and that probably the resulting confusion was responsible for failure to locate anything in that office. The

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT ⑤ Bureau 3 Birmingham 2 New York 2 San Juan		<div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> 144-2-15 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE JAN 15 1946 DIVISION OF RECORDS CRIM - CIVIL RIGHTS SEC </div>

SJ File 44-2

1-4-46

matter should be indexed under the name E. B. THOMAS in the section of the files dealing with "Crimes". DUDLEY suggested that Miss BRANCH, Head File Clerk, would be able to find the correspondence on file if a more thorough search was made.

R U C

TLC:TLS:esw

144-2-15

January 5, 1946

L. M.
M. J. LORD
RECORD

Mr. Louis E. Burnham
Organizational Secretary
Southern Negro Youth Congress
526-28 Masonic Temple Building
Birmingham 3, Alabama

Dear Mr. Burnham:

This acknowledges your letters of December 21 and December 27, 1945, with reference to the killing of Edgar Thomas and Jesse Hytower by a city policeman of Union Springs, Alabama, and also the shouting of Ed Day Gary by the same peace officer.

I am glad to advise you that this matter is now having my attention and appropriate inquiry is now under way to determine if there has been a violation of the Federal Civil Rights Statutes in the circumstances of each incident. I request, however, that you give no publicity to this information as it might jeopardize the investigation now in progress.

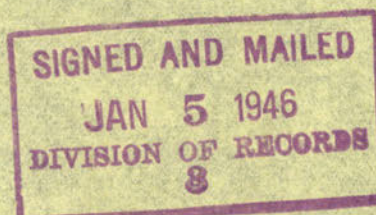
Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

8
THERON L. CAUDLE
Assistant Attorney General

HOLLIE

CC: Records
Chron.



The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

January 5, 1946

Theron L. Caudle, Assistant Attorney General

TLC:TLS:esw
144-2-15

Unknown Police Officers, subjects
Union Springs, Alabama
E. B. Thomas, victim
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

NY

RECORD

I forwarded a request for a preliminary investigation in the above captioned matter under date of November 7, 1945. Since that time Mr. Louis E. Burnham, Organizational Secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, Masonic Temple Building, Birmingham, Alabama, has furnished me with additional information in regard to this incident as well as to other similar incidents in which the same peace officer participated.

For your assistance in conducting this investigation I am enclosing copy of a report filed with the Southern Negro Youth Congress by Kenneth C. Kennedy. You will note that this report gives the name of Dewey Bradley as the police officer who allegedly killed the victim.

In addition to conducting a preliminary investigation as to the circumstances surrounding the killing of E.B. Thomas, please also make a similar inquiry to determine the circumstances under which Ed Day Gary was shot in the eye and the manner in which Jesse Hytower was killed by the same subject. The statement I am attaching reflects such details as I have to date as to the time and place at which these incidents occurred.

Enclosure No. 375758

CC: Records ✓
Chron.



SOUTHERN NEGRO YOUTH CONGRESS

526-28 MASONIC TEMPLE BUILDING

PHONE 3-2448

BIRMINGHAM 3, ALABAMA

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ROSE MAE CATCHINGS

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*KENNETH C. KENNEDY
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DR. JAMES SHEPARD
ARTHUR D. SHORES
FORRESTER B. WASHINGTON

*In the Armed Forces

Dec. 27, 1945

ESTHER V. COOPER
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

LOUIS E. BURNHAM
ORGANIZATIONAL SECRETARY

MAENETTA STEELE
TREASURER

Attorney General Tom Clark
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a report of an alarming situation in Union Springs, Alabama. Since a police officer is involved in each case, we believe that the Department of Justice has the responsibility of bringing this man to justice and protecting the lives of Negro citizens still in the town.

Please let us hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

Louis E. Burnham

Louis E. Burnham
Organizational Secretary

LEB:dc



SOUTHERN NEGRO YOUTH CONGRESS

526-28 MASONIC TEMPLE BUILDING

PHONE 3-2448

BIRMINGHAM 3, ALABAMA

Dec. 21, 1945

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ROSE MAE CATCHINGS

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*EDGAR HOLT
*KENNETH C. KENNEDY
BARBARA OLDWINE
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ARTHUR D. SHORES
FORRESTER B. WASHINGTON

*In the Armed Forces

Mr. Theron Caudle
Civil Liberties Division
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Caudle:

On October 18, 1945 the Union Springs Herald of Union Springs, Alabama carried a story of the murder of Edgar Thomas, Negro businessman by city policeman Dewey Bradley. Since that time a Negro veteran, Ed Day Gary has been shot in the eye and another Negro, Jesse Hytower has been killed by the same policeman.

On December 18, Kenneth C. Kennedy a staff member of the Southern Negro Youth Congress went to Union Springs to make an investigation of these cases. A report of his investigation is enclosed.

In light of the fact that a police officer was involved in each of these murders, we believe that this is a clear situation in which the Department of Justice is bound to investigate and take action. The City of Union Springs must be held responsible for these conditions. No longer can we risk our wartime gains by jeopardizing the full freedom of any part of our citizenry.

Sincerely yours,

Louis E. Burnham
Louis E. Burnham
Organizational Secretary

LEB:dc



REPORT FROM UNION SPRINGS ---Kenneth C. Kennedy 12-18-45

About 40 miles south of Montgomery lies a little town called Union Springs, Alabama. The population of the city is about 3,000. Of these 2,000 are Negroes and 1,000 are white. The main street of Union Springs is thickly populated with white and Negro businesses. In general there is little segregation between the white and Negro community in the town proper. However, the greatest number of Negroes do not live in the town proper but in the back-woods of this black belt area where they either farm for themselves or sharecrop. The town of Union Springs has been a convenient center for these Negroes to come on Saturdays to do the week's shopping and to get the latest news and gossip. In recent years the relationship between the two races has been what may be termed as good.

Around 1900, John L. Thomas, a prosperous Negro resident and property owner of Union Springs was arrested and run out of town because he had bought up large parcels of land which he sub-divided and sold to Negro tenants. Thomas is now 85 and living in Chicago.

Shortly before V-J Day the City of Union Springs felt it necessary to implement their police force. Dewey Bradley and another man, both of whom lived in Covington County were employed. Since the employment of Bradley in the police department, terror for the Negro people has raged.

Bradley's first victim was Edgar Thomas, 65, son of John L. Thomas mentioned above. On October 7, Thomas who ^{was} ~~ix~~ a well-to-do business man and property owner, was in his store with a friend. He had not opened his store for business that morning and he was discussing the race problem with his companion. In the Middle of the conversation, Dewey Bradley appeared at the

door and demanded to be let in. Before Thomas could answer he proceeded to the rear of the store and broke in. Then he beat Thomas unmercifully and arrested him on a charge of disorderly conduct. According to Bradley, Thomas then made threats on his life. On Saturday morning, October 13, Bradley returned to the store with another policeman and shot Thomas in cold blood using two pistols and a sawed off shot gun.

Rev. J.L. Pinkney, a Negro business man next door to Thomas and a witness to the shooting was ordered to leave town before sundown. Pinkney is now in Chicago. Bradley's companion officer also left town immediately. Other witnesses refuse to allow their names to be used or to discuss the matter because of warnings and threats made by Bradley.

A few weeks later, Ed Day Gary, a Negro veteran was attempting to take his father, who had been drinking home. An officer seeing the incident arrested the old man and told Gary to come back the following morning for his father. Gary was followed to his parked car in the next block by Bradley, who ordered him to get out of the car. As Gary turned to obey he was shot in the eye. Gary is now at Tuskegee Veterans Hospital.

The last of Bradley's known victims was Jesse Hytower. Hytower worked for the Seaboard Airlines and lived on a plantation in Moultry, Alabama.

Word reached Bradley that Hytower was fighting with his wife and had a knife. Bradley came over and demanded the knife which was surrendered without argument. He then proceeded to beat Hytower and finally shot him through the heart. To this incident there were hundreds of witnesses.

Bradley is still free although he has been relieved of his duties as police officer.

Rae Walven
66 W. 69th St
ny. 23 ny



MAIL
EARLY
FOR
CHRISTMAS



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

RECEIVED
DEC 27 1945
MAIL DIVISION

Atty-Gen. Clark
Dept. of Justice
Wash D.C.

44-2-15
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DEC 27 '945
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM.-CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.

File 700

44-2-15

66 W. 69th St.,
N.Y. 23 N.Y.
Dec. 24, 1945

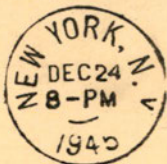
Att. Gen. Clark
Dept. of Justice
Wash. D. C.

Dear Att. Gen. Clark:

I urge the immediate
prosecution of the white
police officer Dewey
Bradley for the murder
of the two negroes
Sauri in Alabama.

Respectfully,
Rae Dalven

I. Schneider
381 Central Park W
NYC



MADISON
STATION



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Atty-Gen. Clark
Dept. of Justice
Washington DC

DEC 26 1945

ATTORNEY GENERAL

RECEIVED

Dec. 24, 1945.

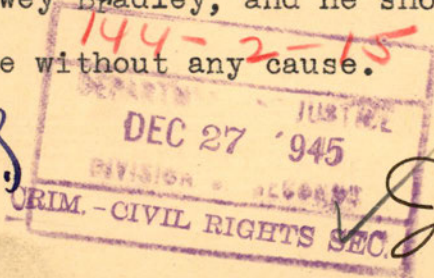
DEC 27 1945

Dear Mr. Clark:

I urge you to bring the murderer of 2 Negroes
in Union Springs, Alabama, to justice. His name
is Dewey Bradley, and he shot these innocent
people without any cause.

Respectfully,

File
88



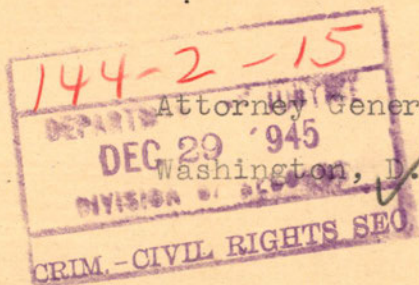
John Schneider

RECEIVED

DEC 29 1945

CRIMINAL DIVISION

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Attorney General Thomas Clark

Washington, D. C.

Feb 88

Marne, Michigan, 12-26, 45.

Dear Mr. Clark:

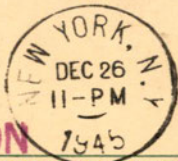
Our department of Justice should mean what it says--justice to the Negro people as well as to the White. Surely you can see that a murderer like Dewey Bradley is brought to justice--not merely "suspended from the force". Our returning veterans with darker skin should not meet fresh indignities from the Klan. You will have every fair minded citizen with you in efforts to see that all citizens of whatever race or color, are truly protected by our government.

Yours respectfully,

Mabel E. Hackett

RECEIVED

DEC 29 1945



MADISON SQUARE



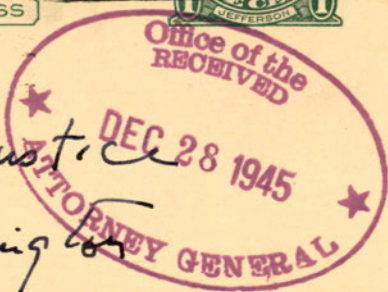
CRIMINAL DIVISION

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

T. J. D. D. Atty Gen. Clark



*Dept. of Justice
Washington
D.C.*



L.M.

Please investigate
in the case of
Dewey Bradley
who committed
murder in
Alabama.

J. Chores
66 Irving Pl.
New York City,

RECEIVED

DEC 29 1945

CRIMINAL DIVISION

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



144-2-15

Atty. Genl. Tom Clark

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Washington, D. C.

CRIM.-CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.

File

W 9

Marne, Mich., Dec. 27.

Dear Sir:

I write to protest the murders of negroes by police officer Bradley of Union Springs, Ala. The whole nation should rise in protest against wanton murder of colored people, and the fact that such murderers are never adequately punished.

You have the power to do something about such atrocities.

Yours very truly,

Geo. N. Burch

TLC:TLS:esw

144-2-15

November 7, 1945

Edward R. Dudley, Esq.
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational
Fund, Inc.
20 West 40th Street
New York 18, New York

Dear Mr. Dudley:

This acknowledges your letter of November 2, 1945, enclosing a copy of a statement made by Reverend J. L. Pinckney with reference to the shooting of E. B. Thomas at Union Springs, Alabama, by unnamed police officers.

The circumstances related by the informant appear to warrant an investigation, and I am causing one to be made. I request, however, that no publicity be given to this information inasmuch as it might jeopardize or make more difficult the investigation. Appropriate action will be taken upon receipt of the results of the investigation.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

THERON L. CAUDLE
Assistant Attorney General

CC: Records ✓
Chron.



The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

November 7, 1945

Theron L. Caudle, Assistant Attorney General

TLC:TLS:esw
144-2 15

Unknown Police Officers, subjects
Union Springs, Alabama
E. B. Thomas, victim
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

RECORDS

I am in receipt of information from J. L. Pinckney, a Negro preacher, to the effect that certain unknown police officers shot and killed a Negro named E. B. Thomas at Union Springs, Alabama, on October 13, 1945. It is alleged that a "sawed-off" shot gun was used and that one of the officers "emptied his 38 pistol and shot six times" after the victim had fallen dead.

It appears that the victim had become involved in some controversy with the city authorities at Union Springs, Alabama, on October 7 and that the shooting by the policeman followed this affair. It further appears that the only eye witness to the incident is the Negro preacher named Pinckney who has left this vicinity. I believe that Edward R. Dudley, Assistant Special Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., of 20 West 40th Street, New York City, can furnish you with information as to the present whereabouts of Pinckney.

Please conduct a preliminary investigation of this incident and determine if the facts as furnished can be substantiated. It will be of special interest to ascertain if the policemen in question were undertaking an arrest at the time of the alleged shooting.

8
CC: Records ✓
Chron.



N. A. A. C. P. LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND. INC.

20 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

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LONGACRE 3-6890



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ROY WILKINS
THURGOOD MARSHALL
ROBERT L. CARTER
EDWARD R. DUDLEY
MILTON R. KONVITZ (on leave)

Secretary
Assistant Secretary
Special Counsel
Assistant Special Counsel

November 2, 1945



Hon. Tom C. Clark
Attorney General
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Clark:

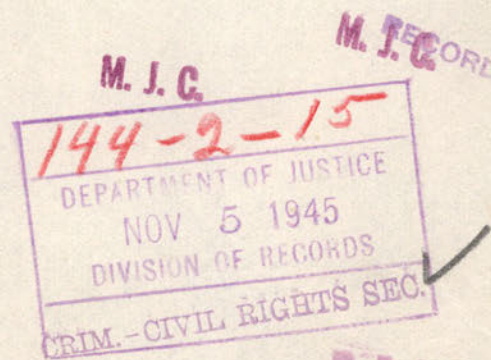
Enclosed is copy of statement received from Reverend J. L. Pinckney reporting the killing of a Negro businessman at Union Springs, Alabama, by police officers without cause.

If the facts are correct as related to us by Reverend Pinckney, then there has been a serious violation of federal law, and we respectfully request you to order an investigation of this crime, to be followed by prosecution of the guilty parties.

Very truly yours,

Edward R. Dudley
Assistant Special Counsel

ERD:GS
uopwa-19-CIO
Enc. ✓



E. W. C.

NEW

October 30, 1945

STATEMENT OF REVEREND J.L. PINCKNEY
4959 Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

Reverend J. L. Horace and Reverend Pinckney reported the following to the Chicago branch on October 29, 1945:

Rev. Pinckney was pastor of the Lily Hill Baptist Church at Brundidge, Alabama and the St. Johns Baptist Church at Ft. David, Alabama for several years. He is the owner of a cafe and barbershop at Union Springs, Alabama, P.O. Box 369. He has resided at Union Springs, Alabama for more than 30 years.

On October 7, 1945, E. B. Thomas, owner of a cafe and market in Union Springs, Alabama, was arrested, accused of disorderly conduct (Swearing in his store). He was taken into custody and remained for about two hours, and somehow, was released.

Mr. Thomas went to the mayor's office and had a talk with the Mayor and some of the councilmen. The decision of the Mayor and some of the Councilmen, after they had heard Mr. Thomas' story that those two police officers who arrested him, be discharged from duty. Mr. Thomas had a splendid record as a worthwhile citizen, having operated his business in that spot for more than 30 years. He was well respected by all.

Somehow, the councilmen who did not agree with the Mayor and other Councilmen, Mr. Thomas learned, was coming for him. On the 13th of October, two policeman, one with a sawded off shot gun and the other one (wearing glasses) had a 38. They entered Mr. Thomas' store about 8 or 8:30 A.M., while he was looking for something in his ice box. They said, "We have come to get you." Mr. Thomas replied, "What in the name of the Lord are you going to get me for?" The officer with the glasses started shooting, the officer with the sawded off shot gun was acting to keep Negroes away, a kinder of watchman. After the officer had emptied his 38 he re-filled and shot six times after he had fallen dead.

Rev. Pickney operates his business two doors from Mr. Thomas. When he saw the two police officers, he went to his business next door which is one door from Mr. Thomas. He is the only eye witness to the murder.

The Chief of Police came to him a few hours later and asked him if he knew the time. He replied that he did not know the time. Then The Chief of Police said to him, that he had better leave and leave at once, otherwise he would get just what Mr. Thomas got. He said, Yer sir. He left without his hat and left his wife weeping. He went into the woods and managed to get to Montgomery, Alabama and on to Chicago.

Reverend J. L. Horace, Minister of Monumental Baptist Church and President of the Baptist State Convention of Ill. has pledged his congregation and members of the Baptist State Convention of Ill. to get behind the NAACP and would support it 100% in fighting this case.

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