

AT 44-671

This investigation is predicated upon information received by Special Agent DONALD G. MONTEGAR from LYDIA V. TALLEY, mother of victim, who resides at 3438 Fortner Street, East Point, Georgia, as is reflected in the following quoted signed statement, the original of which is being retained in the Atlanta file:

"Atlanta, Ga.  
4-27-55

"I, Lydia V. Talley, make this voluntary statement to Donald G. Montegar who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"In the later part of 1952 my son George Powell, Jr. was convicted in Fulton County Court, Atlanta, Ga. for the theft of a radio & sentenced to 18 months at the Gray Prison Camp, Gray, Ga. On or about June 1954, my son George Powell, Jr., escaped from the Gray Prison Camp & was sentenced to 7 to 9 years & was sent to the Buford Rock Quarry, Buford, Ga.

"I last saw my son on Sunday 4-24-55 on a visit to the Buford Rock Quarry at which time he showed me bruises on his head which he said were the result of a beating by a guard named Johnny Johnson with a black jack for my sons refusal to say Yes Sir to the guard. My son said he was beaten so hard his shoes came off & that the guard Johnny Johnson told him that he was going to kill him & say that he had tried to escape.

"My son weighed over 200 pounds when he entered Buford Rock Quarry in June or July, 1954 & when I saw him in December, 1954 he weighed about 140 or 150 pounds.

"I have read this statement consisting of two pages and it is true and correct.

"/s/ Lydia V. Talley



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"Witnessed:

"Donald G. Montegar, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Atlanta, Ga. 4-27-55."

Mrs. TALLEY appeared at the Atlanta Office and furnished the above quoted signed statement to Special Agent MONTEGAR, and she was accompanied by ELSIE WATKINS who stated that she was the aunt of victim and who furnished the following signed statement to Special Agent MONTEGAR, the original of which is being retained in the Atlanta file:

"Atlanta, Ga.  
4-27-55

"I, Elsie Watkins, make the following voluntary statement to Donald G. Montegar who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I am an aunt of George Powell, Jr. who is presently serving a sentence of 7 to 9 years at the Buford Rock Quarry, Buford, Ga.

"In November, 1954, I got a letter from an inmate of this prison by the name of Marvin Dillard, stating that he wanted to see me. When I went to the prison camp I posed as the aunt of Dillard so that the guards would let me see him. Dillard then told me that I better get a doctor to look at Powell, as he had been beaten unconscious by a guard by the name of Johnny Johnson about the first part of November, 1954. Dillard told me that Powell was beaten by Johnson with a rubber hose with a iron rod inside for no reason. I had two lawyers by the name of W. George Thomas and Joe Edwards go up to the prison camp to see Powell right after this and they told me that they had seen Powell in the "hole" & his head was swelled up due to bruises & that his stomach was jumping & jerking due to not eating for about 15 days. These lawyers also said that Powell's legs were swollen and couldn't hold his head up. Joe Edwards said that Powell told him that he had been beaten severely.