

The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

July 28, 1947

T. Vincent Quinn, Assistant Attorney General

TVQ:FGF:LAK

144-54-9

W. N. Carter, Chief of Police,  
Norlina, North Carolina;  
Bottom, Policeman,  
Warrenton, North Carolina - subjects;  
Henry G. Andrews - victim;  
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

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E. R.

Charles Williamson, Negro attorney of Henderson, North Carolina and a Reverend Burchett, Ridgeway, North Carolina, today conferred with attorneys in the Criminal Division concerning the death of Henry G. Andrews, 24 year-old Negro, on June 7, 1947, near Norlina, North Carolina. They submitted the following story:

Sometime between 3 and 4 P. M. June 7, 1947, at a store run by McDonald Scott at Ridgeway, North Carolina, Henry G. Andrews appeared in a semi-drunken condition and created a disturbance. Scott told Andrews to quiet down or he, Scott, would call the police. Andrews, however, continued his boisterous behavior and Scott notified W. N. Carter, Chief of Police, Norlina, North Carolina, who thereafter, together with Officer Bottom of Warrenton, North Carolina, came to the Ridgeway store and arrested Andrews at approximately 4 P. M. Carter searched Andrews in the store in the presence of Scott and two Negroes, T. P. Plummer and John Nuckles, removing a pocket knife from Andrews. Carter then placed Andrews in the back seat of a police car driven by Bottom. A second Negro, Isaac Mayo, who had been previously arrested for drunkenness, was already in the back seat of the police car. Andrews, according to Mayo, was handcuffed to Mayo at this point.

Mayo is said to have stated that Carter and Bottom proceeded from Ridgeway through Norlina in the direction of Warrenton. At some point after the police car had left Norlina, Andrews sought to placate the officers and persuade them to release him. He apparently put his hand on Carter's shoulder. Carter told Andrews to keep his hands off of him whereupon Andrews sat back in the rear seat protesting loudly that he had meant no offense. Then, according to Mayo's reported statement, Carter drew his police pistol and shot Andrews fatally three times in the neck. The police car stopped and Mayo tried to jump out of the car to avoid being shot himself but was subdued and put back in the police car. It is understood that Mayo alleges that Carter and Bottom then drove up and down the road for a time waiting for Andrews to die. They then drove on to Warrenton where they left Andrews' body.

Police Chief Carter returned to Scott's Ridgeway store after the killing and reported to Scott that he had killed the Negro. Whatever was related to Scott at this point by Carter was also said in the presence of T. P. Plummer and John Nuckles.

An inquest was held by Coroner Petar of Ridgeway exonerating Carter and Bottom.

cc - Records  
Chrono.

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It would appear from the allegations submitted to the Department that Officer Carter shot and killed the victim, Andrews, under circumstances indicating that his action was without justification. The killing of Andrews, therefore, may involve a violation of Section 52, Title 18, U. S. Code, on the theory that Carter subjected Andrews to a deprivation of life, imposing summary fatal punishment without due process of law. Accordingly, a discreet investigation of this matter is requested.

The investigation should include a thorough interrogation of Isaac Mayo, Scott, Plummer and Nuckles. Coroner Petar should be carefully interviewed to determine, among other things, if it is admitted by the police officers involved that the victim was handcuffed to Mayo at the time of the shooting. The scene of the shooting should be checked to determine if there are any persons living in the area who may have been witnesses to the shooting. The subjects themselves should not be interrogated until all of the material leads have been exhausted.

Copies of the reports on the basis of this investigation should be submitted to the Department and to the United States Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina.