

WB:VWR:rm

Service Unit:

Please assign a new number to the attached and notify Miss Mythen, Ext. 176, of the number assigned.

March 21, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. EDGAR HOOVER,
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Fritz Abel, Hope Cooper, et al.
Violation Section 52, Title 18,
United States Code

There is attached a photostatic copy of a clipping from the Amsterdam News-Star (Negro), New York City, March 14, 1942, which informs that a mob in Brookshire, Texas, led by the town's only policeman riddled a Negro named Howard Wilpitz with shotgun slugs and automatic rifle bullets, killing him; then dared colored residents to talk about it. It is stated the victim failed to obey a "white man's command to leave town" on February 20, 1942. Thereafter the killing occurred.

Unless there was a justifiable arrest which the victim was escaping from, it appears clear that there has been a conspiracy to violate Section 52, Title 18, United States Code, in that town inhabitants conspired with a state officer to deprive the victim of his life without due process of law.

Inasmuch as Nipponese and Nazi propagandists are using such as this with telling effect through national and international short wave radio broadcasts, it is recommended that this investigation be expedited with all possible despatch.

Apparently Carter Wesley, a reporter on the Houston Informer, Houston, Texas, has conducted an investigation in relation to this particular episode. It is recommended that Mr. Wesley first be interviewed and that the investigation then proceed in Brookside, Texas.

Respectfully,

SIGNED

WENDELL BEROE
Assistant Attorney General

Enclosure
No. 267125

144-74-5
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MAR 24 1942 A.M.
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM. DIV. - ROTNEW

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