behind an automobile. Both Chiefs MOORE and TROY stated that officers of their departments had viewed HALL's body at the Poteat Funeral Home in Albany and had advised that the back of HALL's head had been crushed and that the upper portion of his body was mutilated.

These informants further stated that it was their understanding that the feeling against JONES and SCREWS was very high in and around Newton and that SCREWS had been reported to have been drinking excessively.

The above information was furnished to the Bureau by letter dated February 8, 1943.

Reference letter dated February 17, 1943, furnished this office with copy of a memorandum from the Department of Justice dated February 12, 1943, requesting an investigation for the purpose of ascertaining the circumstances surrounding the death of ROBERT HALL.

On February 19, 1943, the writer and Special Agent WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD contacted the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia, Mr. T. HOYT DAVIS, and advised him that an investigation had been instituted in this matter. Mr. DAVIS stated that he desired a full and complete investigation and indicated that he would cooperate in every way possible.

STATEMENTS OF SUBJECTS

AT NEWTON, GA.

M. CLAUD SCREWS, the Sheriff of Baker County, was interviewed and furnished the following signed statement concerning the arrest of ROBERT HALL:

"Newton, Georgia
February 20, 1943

"I, M. Claud Screws, make the following voluntary statement to William H. Crawford and Marcus B. Calhoun, whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I realize that I do not have to make any statement and that any statement I make may be used against me. No threats or promises have been made to me.

"I reside at Newton, Georgia, and am the duly elected Sheriff of Baker County, Georgia.

"I have known Bobby Hall, colored, the son of Will Hall, all his life.

"I began having trouble with Bobby Hall about two years ago. He seemed to consider himself a leader among the negroes in Newton. When a negro got in trouble with the law he would always advise them as to the action they should take.

Atlanta, 44-42

"About a year ago Bobby Hall was involved in shooting a negro in Mitchell County. He shot a negro named Burns, the son of Lum Burns. The story was that Hall and Burns had had some trouble over a negro woman and that Hall found Burns at the negro woman's house one night and shot him.

"The sheriff of Mitchell County called me and asked me to arrest Hall. I went and got Hall and locked him up for the Mitchell County Sheriff. At the time I arrested him I asked him where the gun was and he said he shot Burns with a pistol and that he threw the pistol in the river when he was coming home. The sheriff of Mitchell County got Hall from me. I don't know what happened at his trial but he did not serve any time for shooting the other negro. Re p64-5

"I heard general talk around town that Bobby Hall had a pistol but I didn't actually know that he had one.

"Around the middle of December, 1942, Frank Jones, the night policeman in Newton, called me one night and told me this story: He said that he had just seen Bobby Hall in town and that Bobby had been drinking. Jones said that Bobby had called him over to his car and showed him his pistol. Jones said that Bobby Hall had told him that the pistol he showed was the pistol he had shot the Burns boy with. I told Jones that Bobby Hall should not have a pistol if he was drinking. I told him to go get the pistol from Hall. I told him that if Hall was drunk to lock him up but if he was not drunk then to tell him to go on home.

"A short time after I talked to Jones, Bobby Hall came to my house and told me that Frank Jones had taken his pistol. He asked me to give him an order so he could get his pistol but I told him that I couldn't give him the pistol until I had investigated the matter. Hall argued with me a little and finally left. All this took place on a Saturday night.

"The next morning I saw Will Hall, Bobby Hall's father, and he asked me to give Bobby his pistol back. I told Will that I would have to investigate the matter before I could give the gun back to Bobby.

Judge denies this p14 "The next Monday I saw the Superior Court Judge at Camilla. This was Judge Carl E. Crowe. I told him about the pistol and he said send Hall to him to get an order for the return of the pistol and he would see to it that I was not bothered with an order.

"Bobby Hall never mentioned the pistol to me again. Will Hall asked me once more to give the pistol back to Bobby and I told him that he would have to see Judge Crowe.

"The grand jury met at Newton on January 18, 1943. Shortly after it met Bobby Hall went before the Grand Jury and told the story about the pistol. I was called before the grand jury and testified about the pistol. The grand jury took no action concerning the pistol.

"About a week after I testified before the grand jury I got a letter from Mr. Robert Culpepper, a lawyer in Camilla, about Bobby Hall's pistol.

"On the evening of January 29, 1943, Mr. George Durham, a farmer of Baker County, came to my office and gave me a warrant for the arrest of Bobby Hall. This warrant was drawn by Mr. T. A. Riley, Justice of the Peace, and charged Hall with stealing a truck tire. Mr. Durham gave me this warrant shortly after dark on January 29, 1943. This was the same day or the day after I received the letter from Mr. Culpepper about Bobby Hall's pistol.

"At the time I got this warrant I was busy working on tax books and did not have a chance to serve it right then.

"Sometime later in the night Frank Jones, the night policeman at Newton, and Jim Bob Kelley, a resident of Baker County, came in my office.

"Around 12 a.m. on the morning of January 30th, 1943, I told Frank Jones that I had a warrant for the arrest of Bobby Hall. I asked him if he would go down and arrest Bobby and lock him up. He said that he would. I told him to take my car and asked Jim Bob Kelley if he would go with Frank. He said that he would. The left to go get Bobby.

"About 12:30 a.m. on January 30, 1943, I was standing by the well near the court house in Newton getting a drink of water. At this time Frank Jones and Kelley drove up in my car. I asked them if they got Hall and they said they did. I then saw Hall in the back seat of the car. I opened the back door and said 'Get out Bobby.' Hall started getting out of the car. I saw then that he had a shot gun. He said 'You damn white -." By that time he was on the ground. I knocked the barrell of the shot-gun up in the air and it went off over my head. After the gun went off Kelley, Jones and I all went for Hall. Kelley got the gun away from him. Hall was still fighting. I was hitting him about the face and head with my fists. Frank Jones hit him several times on the head with a blackjack. I don't know how many times he hit him with the blackjack. I was in front of Hall and Jones was standing sort of behind him. Hall did not fall when Jones first hit him. He had to hit him several times before he fell. Hall finally fell to the ground in front of the well. After he fell to the ground no one hit him. When the fight first started I hollered to Jones to hit Hall with the black jack because it looked like the only thing to do.

Kelly denies this pg

"After Hall was on the ground I saw that he was bleeding pretty badly around the head.

"Kelley and Jones picked Hall up and carried him to jail. Each one of them got an arm and picked him up. They carried him through the court house to get the key to the jail. I did not go to the jail with them. I went back to my office.

Atlanta, 44-42

"After putting Hall in jail Jones and Kelley came back to my office and I asked them how Hall was. Jones said he was in pretty bad shape.

"I then called Dr. J. M. Barnett at Albany by long distance and told him that I was sending a patient to the hospital. I told him to look after him and send me the bill. I then called the Phoebe Memorial Hospital in Albany and asked them to send an ambulance to the jail at Newton to pick up a negro patient.

"I stayed in my office working and Frank Jones and Jim Bob Kelley stayed with me.

"Sometime between one and two a.m. on the morning of January 30, 1943, an ambulance from Albany came to pick up Bobby Hall. Kelley and Jones met the ambulance and went to the jail to help load Bobby Hall. I did not see Bobby Hall after Kelley and Jones carried him to jail.

"At the time I saw Hall in the back seat of my car when Jones and Kelley brought him to the court house after arresting him he was not hand cuffed and his wrists or hands were not restrained in any manner. To my knowledge neither Jones or Kelley had any restraining device of any kind. Hall was not hand cuffed in my presence after he had been knocked unconscious nor were his wrists bound in any manner.

"On the night that Hall was arrested by Jones and Kelley I had not been drinking at all. To my knowledge neither Jones or Kelley had been drinking. They did not drink in my presence and they gave no indication by their actions that they had been drinking. I did not smell any whiskey on either of them.

"After Hall was carried to jail the shot-gun which he had was placed in my office. I did not unload this gun but understand that it was unloaded by my son, Lemuel Screws, and found to have been loaded with buck-shot. This gun has been in my immediate possession since the night Hall was arrested.

"Kelley and Jones told me that they got the gun from Hall's house and that when they arrested him he made a grab for the gun and that Jones beat him to it. They said they had placed the gun in the front seat of the car leaning on the seat with the stock on the floor of the car.

"Hall was not struck any place except around the head in my presence. He was not dragged and to my knowledge suffered no injuries of any kind except around the head.

"At the time I saw Hall on the night of his arrest he was fully dressed. He had on pants and shirt and possible a sweater.

"I have read the above statement consisting of ten and one third pages (handwritten) and declare it to be true and correct.

s-M. C. SCREWS

"W. H. Crawford
Marcus B. Calhoun
F.B.I., Atlanta, Ga."