

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

**DALLAS, TEXAS**

FILE NO.

**44-46**

REPORT MADE AT <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dallas, Texas</b></p>	DATE WHEN MADE <p style="text-align: center;"><b>8-15-42</b></p>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <p style="text-align: center;"><b>8-3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8-42</b></p>	REPORT MADE BY <p style="text-align: center;"><b>H. T. ARTERBERRY</b></p>
TITLE <p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNKNOWN SUBJECTS WILLIAM VINSON, VICTIM</b></p>			CHARACTER OF CASE <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</b></p>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

VINSON abducted from Texarkana Hospital, Texarkana, Texas, shortly after midnight July 13, 1942, by three unknown white men. VINSON was later found to have been hanged by a mob to a cotton gin winch, after having been dragged through the streets of Texarkana while tied to the bumper of an automobile. VINSON had been shot earlier in the day for the offense of assault with intent to rape. Unable to determine identity of lynching mob.

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**REFERENCE:**

Bureau letter, dated July 27, 1942

**DETAILS:**

At approximately 1:30 A. M. on July 13, 1942, WILLIAM VINSON, colored, was shot and wounded at a cafe located across Highway #82 from the main entrance of the Red River Ordinance Depot, a defense project, located approximately 19 miles West of Texarkana, Texas. VINSON had been accused of a crime of assault with intent to rape on a Mrs. J.L. TALLEY, who was residing in a trailer house near the Cafe where VINSON was shot and seriously wounded.

Lieutenant W. E. SAFFORD, Officer of the Day, and Chief of Plant Protection, Red River Ordinance Depot, advised that he was one of the first officers of Red River Ordinance Depot to arrive at the scene of the shooting and wounding of VINSON. That after he conducted

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT  ③ - Bureau 3 - Dallas		<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: red; margin: 0;">158260-71</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: red; margin: 0;">DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: red; margin: 0;">SEP 10 1942 A.M.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: red; margin: 0;">DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION</p> </div> <p style="text-align: right; color: red; margin-top: 10px;">S.L.B.</p>

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a preliminary investigation, he determined that a by-stander by the name of ROBERTS had shot and wounded VINSON for the above named alleged offense. Lieutenant SAFFORD related that he dispatched a Red River Ordinance Depot ambulance with the victim to the Texarkana, Texas, Hospital, located some 19 miles away. Lieutenant SAFFORD further related that no arrests were made at the scene of the shooting, since a crowd of defense workers and hangers-on crowded about the cafe, and that it was with difficulty that he persuaded the workmen to let the ambulance proceed with VINSON from the scene of the shooting to the Texarkana Hospital. Lieutenant SAFFORD related that he secured none of the names of the individuals who were at the scene of the shooting.

Lieutenant SAFFORD further related that on Sunday morning, July 12, 1942, at about 11 o'clock, Mr. MUNROE P. WATTS, Sheriff of Bowie County, Texarkana, Texas, arrived at the scene of the shooting, and that he told him that he had sent the victim to the Texarkana Hospital in an ambulance, and that he advised Sheriff WATTS where he could be located, and that he was taking no further action in the matter. Lieutenant SAFFORD related that he did not know what investigative action that Sheriff WATTS took in instant matter.

Afterwards, Reporting Agent interviewed Mr. MONROE P. WATTS, Sheriff, Texarkana, Texas, who advised that officers of the Red River Ordinance Depot had advised him that they had transported the victim after the shooting to the Texarkana Hospital, that he immediately went to the Texarkana Hospital and there conferred with hospital officers, including Dr. KARLTON KEMP, who advised him that it was their opinion that VINSON would not survive the day. Sheriff WATTS related that he visited the victim in the colored ward of the Hospital, which is located in the basement of said building. That colored nurses were on duty, and that all of the attendants with whom he conferred advised him that VINSON was in an unconscious condition, bleeding internally. That glucose had been administered, but that it was their opinion that VINSON would not survive the day. Sheriff WATTS related that since he had been advised by responsible parties at the Hospital, including Mrs. CLYDE CURRY, the Supervisor who was on

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duty at that time at the Hospital, that they did not believe that VINSON would live throughout the day, and was in an unconscious condition, that he did not deem it advisable or necessary to place an armed guard about the Hospital to protect VINSON, since no information had come to him of any trouble of any kind whatsoever. Sheriff WATTS further related that usually one could sense a feeling of trouble in instances of this kind; but, due to the condition of VINSON he did not place any armed guard at the Texarkana Hospital, and that if this was an act of negligence on his part, then he would accept the responsibility.

The following voluntary statement in connection with this matter was obtained from Sheriff WATTS, and is as follows:

"Texarkana, Texas  
August 5, 1942

I, MONROE P. WATTS, make the following voluntary statement to H. T. ARTERBERRY, who is known to me to be a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, and said statement is made freely and voluntarily without any promises or threats having been made. I have resided in Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas, my entire life. I have been an officer of the law in Bowie County at different times covering a period of approximately ten years. On January 1, 1940, I assumed the duties as Sheriff of Bowie County, Texarkana, Texas, and am at the present time serving in said capacity.

I further state that at about 4:00 A.M. Sunday, July 12, I received information that a negro man had been shot and captured at a joint located across the highway directly in front of the main entrance to the Red River Ordnance Depot, a defense plant which is located about 19 miles west of Texarkana, Texas. I had received information that this negro man had attempted rape on a Mrs. J.C. TALLEY, a white woman who was residing in a trailer camp near this place; that after said attack some of the citizens of this vicinity gave chase and chased this

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negro man into this joint where effort had been made to apprehend him and when he made fight was shot by C.L.ROBERTS, a defense worker, ROBERTS told me that this negro attacked GIFFORD ADAMS, a white man, and hit him over the head with a flashlight, and then backed up and got a butcher knife and told ROBERTS and ADAMS that he would kill both of them. At that time ROBERTS struck this negro over the head with his pistol and it went off and shot Adams in the arm. Then the negro drew the butcher knife and ROBERTS shot him in the side or stomach. The negro was later placed in one of the Red River Ordnance Depot ambulances and carried to the Texarkana Hospital In Texarkana, Texas.

I received advices from the hospital attendants that the negro was in a dying condition and was expected to live but a short time; that he was unconscious; and in view of this physical condition no effort was made to place him under arrest, since it appeared to be useless under the circumstances.

I sent one of my deputies, W. J. WATLINGTON, out to the scene of the crime just as soon as I was notified of the affair. My deputy reported to me substantially the facts I have above related. Later in the morning, I went back out to the scene with my deputy, W.J.WATLINGTON, and spent the entire morning trying to ascertain something about the attempted rape and the shooting. About 2:00 P.M. of that same day, I brought Mrs. Talley, the victim, and her husband, to the Texarkana Hospital to see the negro, who at that time I learned was WILLIE VINSON. This was the first time that I had seen WILLIE VINSON. He seemd to me to be in a very critical condition, and could not talk at that time. The nurse in charge told me that this negro was not expected to live throughout the day. The victim and her husband viewed the subject in the colored ward of the Texarkana Hospital, and the victim

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at that time did not identify the subject as her assailant.

Under the circumstances as above related, I did not deem it necessary to place a guard in the hospital where this individual was supposed to be in a dying condition, and for the further reason that no excitement, rumors, or outside talk of any kind whatsoever was afloat in the community, and any further precautions at this time seemed wholly unnecessary to me. At the time of this happening, I was at home in my bed asleep. Should I for one moment have expected any trouble of any kind, or that this individual would be kidnapped, lynched, or otherwise mistreated I would not have been at my home asleep. The next morning I knew about this affair when I was awakened by a call from the Texas Police Department, at 12:30 A.M. July 13, advising me that the colored patient at the Texarkana Hospital had been reported missing from his bed in the hospital. I immediately went down to the hospital and learned that he had been hung up over the cotton gin. I immediately got R.L.BURNS, Justice of the Peace, and went over there and cut him down. I then called the Jones Undertaking Company to come and remove his body.

I have made a diligent search, and have given Mr. ARTERBERRY, FBI agent, my assistance in every way, and the entire facilities of my office is at the disposal of the FBI or any other agency that might desire my services.

MONROE P. WATTS

H.T.ARTERBERRY  
Special Agent, FBI, 1200 Tower  
Petroleum Building, Dallas, Texas."

On Monday morning, July 13, 1942, The Texarkana Gazette, a daily newspaper published in the city of Texarkana, Texas, carried a story that WILLIE VINSON, a twenty five year old wounded negro, accused of an attack on the wife of a war plant worker in Bowie County, was taken from the Texarkana Hospital at 12:32 A.M. that

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date. That eight minutes later VINSON was strung up to a cotton gin winch in the 200 Block of Factory Street by a mob that numbered less than twenty men who traveled in three automobiles. The story further related that three men entered the front door of the Hospital, made their way quickly passed Mrs. MARGARET MULLEN, Night Supervisor of nurses, who was at the time talking on the telephone. That the mob left by way of the south emergency ambulance drive after shoving their victim into an automobile that carried no license plates. That a fourth man sat at the wheel. The story further related that the lynching party sped West on West 6th to Spruce Street; thence South to West Third where they turned West once more; thence driving across the Third Street tracks onto South Lelia Street, and into the darkness on Phenie Avenue. That at this point the men stopped their cars close together and dumped VINSON's body on the ground, and that a heavy rope was affixed about his neck, with one end tied to the bumper of the car in which he was taken from the Hospital. That the party started again, this time swinging North off Phenie Street onto Factory Street, dragging the negro whose body slid on its back during the several hundred yards, then rolled over and over as the lead car swung the S-turn before driving into the grounds of the Texarkana Cotton Oil Corporation Plant on Factory Street. That these individuals were working with speed, and that the body was slowly pulled almost to the top of the winch of the cotton gin, and that after this hanging, the cars and the occupants drove away at a rapid rate of speed.

The newspaper item further related that the entire abduction and hanging of VINSON was accomplished in eight minutes, since it was 12:32 A.M. when VINSON was removed from the Hospital, and that at 12:40 A.M. he hung dead from the gin winch. At the Texarkana Gazette Office, Texarkana, Texas, information was had that the Reporter who wrote the above story concerning the abduction and hanging of VINSON in this case was Mr. ALFRED WEEKS, who has been reporting for this paper for a number of years. Mr. WEEKS was interviewed in the Office of the Chief of Police in Texarkana, Texas, on August 7, 1942, and the following voluntary signed statement was secured from him:

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"Texarkana, Texas  
Aug. 7, 1942.

I, ALFRED WEEKS of 1508 Hickory Street, Texarkana, Ark., make the following voluntary statement regarding the lynching of WILLIE VINSON, colored, to H.T. ARTERBERRY, who is known to me to be a special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me in this regard whatsoever.

I am the night telegraph editor of the Texarkana Gazette and have been connected with this firm for approximately six years.

My statement follows:

Six nights a week I handle the telegraph copy desk. On Sundays I work out on the street as a reporter covering what is known as a police beat. This includes checking police stations, fire departments, hospitals, and the Sheriff's offices.

In checking the Bowie County Sheriff's office late on the afternoon of Sunday, July 13, I was informed by Sheriff Monroe WATTS that a negro by the name of WILLIE VINSON had been shot in a restaurant across the highway from the Red River Ordnance Depot after a negro had attempted to attack a white woman after dragging her from a trailer cabin. He told me the negro was in Texarkana Hospital in Texarkana, Texas, and was not expected to live.

I wrote my story on information furnished me by the Sheriff and made a special trip to the home of Mr. HENRY HUMPHREY, editor and general manager of the Gazette for him to look over. I told him I wished to be sure there was nothing in the story that might incite mob action, but at the same time I told him there was the possibility that the negro might be taken from the

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Hospital as feeling in this area was tense against negroes because of repeated attacks by them on white women recently.

About 7 p. m. I received an anonymous telephone call from a man who first asked me if we had put an extra on the street. I told him no and asked him "an extra about what?"

He replied: 'if you're such a good reporter you ought to know. If you watch the hospital where that negro is tonight, you may see something'. Then he hung up. I accounted for his knowing about the negro being at the hospital from hearing a broadcast of the attempted attack over Radio Station KCMC that used my story on the air in a news cast earlier.

I continued to check my beat, but kept a pretty close watch on the hospital that was only two blocks from the office. Around 10 p. m. I met Hal Smith, a friend of mine who works at the radio station and told him of the call I received and also of my seeing a car traveling slow by the hospital several times. We walked down to the hospital and hung around outside for 15 or 20 minutes then returned to the office and a short time later met DOGGIE WILKINS, an advertising representative of the Gazette. He had his car so we drove back to a spot half a block from the hospital and parked where we could command a view of the hospital entrances.

We had about given the thing up when we spotted an automobile drive in the alley behind the hospital and later saw some men in the shadows. They tried to enter the basement doors used for ambulance calls, but they were locked. I then saw three men enter the front of the hospital and I figured they meant to get the negro. At this point I got out of the car and walked to the edge of the lawn of the nurses home. It was a matter of seconds until the trio emerged through the basement doors with the negro who was groaning and pleading. I believe he realized what was happening although he was under stimulants because of his injury that surgeons said would prove fatal.

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I did not recognize any of the three men, or a fourth who sat at the wheel of a automobile that drove in the ambulance drive. The three were rather roughly dressed and the thought struck me at the time that they were probably war plant workers, friends of the husband of the woman who was molested. They shoved and dumped the negro in the car and drove away as two other cars quickly closed in and followed. We trailed the three cars and two of them had no license plates and I could not be sure about the third.

A mile from the hospital they stopped the cars and tied a rope around the negro's neck and dragged him through the streets for several blocks before reaching a cotton gin where they strung him up to a winch. It was necessary to drive down into a sort of field to reach the winch. We stopped our car at the driveway entrance to turn around so that we would be headed back toward town and my office as it was very near my deadline and those of the press associations.

During this time Hal Smith was keeping time for me on the various events of the abduction and hanging. As soon as we saw the body being pulled up on the winch we left. I would estimate that some 15 or 20 men got out of the three cars at the scene of the hanging, but it was rather dark and we were too far away to recognize any of them even if we had known them.

I am also furnishing Mr. ARTERBERRY with a copy of the paper that carried my story the following morning. Any details that I may have omitted will be found in it.

ALFRED WEEKS

H.T.ARTERBERRY  
Special Agent, F.B.I.  
1200 Tower Petroleum Bldg.,  
Dallas, Texas."

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Mr. WEEKS advised that he was accompanied on this trip when he trailed the lynching party as aforesaid by Mr. W. C. (Doggie) WILKINS, advertising salesman for many years for the Texarkana Gazette, and Mr. HAROLD M. (Hal) SMITH, Manager and Announcer of Radio Station KCMC, which is leased by the Texarkana Gazette to the Texas State Net Work System.

Mr. W.C.(Doggie) WILKINS advised that he had resided in Texarkana many years and was advertising salesman for the Texarkana Gazette and had been for the past twelve years. He advised that he would say that he and Mr. HAROLD M. SMITH accompanied ALFRED WEEKS on the night of July 13, 1942, when WILLIE VINSON was abducted from the Texarkana Hospital and hanged a few minutes later near the Texarkana Cotton Oil Corporation. Mr. WILKINS related that WEEKS requested that he go along; that he had had a tip that something might be doing at the Texarkana Hospital that night, and that at the insistence of WEEKS, he and HAROLD M. SMITH concluded that they would go along with him. WILKINS related that it was agreed that he, WILKINS, would drive the automobile and follow the lynching party, while WEEKS wrote his story of the lynching, and that HAROLD M. SMITH, the Radio Announcer, for KCMC was to assist in keeping the time, and that it was the time-keeping by Mr. SMITH that enabled Mr. WEEKS to state the exact minute of the abduction and hanging of VINSON. WILKINS stated that while he and WEEKS and SMITH were backed in an alley not far from the Hospital, that they saw three unidentified white men emerge from the basement of the Hospital with the victim where they dumped him in an automobile and sped away, which was followed by two or three more automobiles; that the automobiles had no license plates, and that he was unable to identify any individual in the abduction party.

Mr. HAROLD MUNROE SMITH advised that he was the Announcer and Manager for Radion Station KCMC, Texarkana, Texas; that he had previously broadcast the news of the attempted assault by VINSON on the white woman, and that sometime during the late evening of July 12th, Mr. ALFRED WEEKS, a reporter for the Texarkana Gazette invited him to go with him. That WEEKS had related that he had received an anonymous telephone call earlier in the evening advising

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him to come to the Texarkana Hospital later on that night if he wanted some information for a story. Mr. SMITH related that Mr. WEEKS stated that he had received many bum tips before, but that being a newspaper reporter, he decided to take no chances on not heeding the anonymous telephone tip. Mr. SMITH related that he backed himself, along with WEEKS and WILKINS, in his automobile in an alley not far from Texarkana Hospital but in sight of the building. That sometime shortly after midnight they could see three men emerge from the Hospital carrying a colored man, while a fourth man sat at the wheel of the automobile. That after placing this colored individual into the automobile, the automobile speedily dashed away, and that before he and WEEKS and SMITH could reach this automobile with their car, two or three other automobiles had been backed down the street in some position that they feel behind the car that was carrying VINSON. That they trailed the lynching party for a few minutes until he was strung up to a cotton gin winch by some white men whose identity or address he could not give. That one o'clock was fast approaching, and that the United Press Association press wire at their newspaper office closed at one o'clock, and that they had to hurry back to town in order to get the story on the one o'clock wire. That later, Mr. WEEKS secured his camera and some film and returned to the scene of the lynching, but that officers in the meantime had arrived on the scene and cut the body down, and that Mr. WEEKS, the reporter, was unable to secure any photographs of the victim.

Messrs. WEEKS, the reporter, WILKINS, the advertising salesman, and SMITH, the Radio man, declined to discuss the matter as to why they did not tip off officers of the law earlier in the evening that a lynching of VINSON was liable to take place that night. They related that their only interest in the matter was from a newspaperman's standpoint.

Information was had that Mrs. MARGARET MULLEN was on duty at the Texarkana Hospital as Night Supervisor of Nurses. The following voluntary signed statement was secured from her with reference to her knowledge of the instant matter:

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"Texarkana, Texas  
August 5, 1942

I, Mrs. MARGARET MULLIN, make the following voluntary statement to H. T. ARTERBERRY whom I know to be an Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

I am a resident of Texarkana, Texas. I am a graduate nurse. On July 13, 1942, I was on duty at the Texarkana Hospital as Night Supervisor. A colored man whose name I learned to be WILLIE VINSON, was in the colored Ward of the hospital for treatment for gun shot wounds. He had been brought to the hospital at four o'clock that morning which was July 12, 1942. I had observed him a number of times during the time he was there in the colored ward. I do not think he knew what was going on. I further state that at about thirty minutes after midnight Sunday night three unknown white men entered the colored ward and removed WILLIE VINSON. I glanced at them as they passed by me, but I did not recognize a single one. They did not speak to me. In fact I paid them no mind since there was a man in a dying condition on the third floor of the hospital and many folks were coming and going in the hospital to see this sick man. The colored nurse on duty with me was in the kitchen at the time washing dishes. She knew nothing of the affair until the men were all gone. The men were average size men and were not well dressed. I had never seen them before I am sure. Neither did I see how many automobile loads of people were in the mob. I saw none of the automobiles.

Just as soon as I realized what had happened to the patient, I called the Texas Police Department. The police came to the hospital but they had already gone. Sheriff MONROE P. WATTS came by the hospital later but the men had already left with the colored patient.

I know nothing further concerning this matter that would assist in determining the identity of anyone in connection with the abduction of the colored patient as aforesaid.

WITNESS:

MRS. MARGARET MULLIN

H. T. ARTERBERRY

Spl. Agt. F. B. I. - 1200 Tower Petroleum  
Building, Dallas, Texas."

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It was ascertained from the Texarkana Hospital that MILDRED ALEXANDER, a colored nurse, was on duty at the time VINSON was abducted, and the following voluntary signed statement was secured from her, which is as follows:

"Texarkana, Texas  
August 5, 1942

I Mildred Alexander, make the following statement to H.T.ARTERBERRY, who has told me that he was an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make this statement voluntarily and without any hesitation whatsoever.

I am a graduate nurse and am employed at the Texarkana, Texas Hospital. I was working at the hospital on the night of July 12, 1942, when WILLIE VINSON, a colored man, was brought to the hospital for treatment for gunshot wounds. This man was unconscious at all the times I saw him. I went off duty at Seven o'clock Sunday morning July 12, 1942. I then came back on duty at 11 o'clock Sunday night. WILLIE VINSON was still unconscious at about ten to fifteen after midnight Sunday night I was in the kitchen at the hospital washing dishes. In a short time Mrs. MARGARET MULLIN rang me and asked me what those men were doing down there. I told her that I did not know; that I was in the kitchen cleaning up but that I would go around there and see, but when I reached the colored ward I noticed that WILLIE VINSON, the patient, was gone. There were two colored men patients still in the ward.

I have no knowledge as to the identity of any individual who may have taken part in the abduction of the above named WILLIE VINSON.

MILDRED ALEXANDER

WITNESS:

H.T.ARTERBERRY, SPL.AGT.F.B.I.,  
1200 Tower Petroleum Building  
Dallas, Texas."

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Information was had at the Texarkana Hospital that REBECCA CALDWELL, 1207 Oak Street, Texarkana, Texas, a graduate nurse and an employee of long standing at the Hospital, was on duty on the night of VINSON's abduction, and the following signed voluntary statement was secured from her touching her knowledge of instant affair:

"Texarkana, Texas  
August 6, 1942

I, REBECCA CALDWELL, 1207 Oak Street, Texarkana, Texas, make the following voluntary statement to H.T. ARTERBERRY who has advised me that he is an Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I am a graduate nurse and have been employed at the Texarkana Hospital for a number of years. I was on duty at this hospital from three o'clock till eleven o'clock P.M. on July 12, 1942, which was the date that a colored patient at the hospital named WILLIE VINSON, was taken from the hospital by some unknown persons and later hanged.

I further state that three white men came into the colored ward where I was on duty. They looked at me but did not speak. They then looked in the door where WILLIE VINSON lay on a bed, but I never heard a word spoken. The three men were medium sized men and appeared to be dressed in khaki trousers and white shirts. They immediately left the hospital. This must have been around ten o'clock P.M.

I further state that Mr. ALFRED WEEKS, a newspaper reporter for the Texarkana Gazette, came up to where I was sitting at the desk and asked me how WILLIE VINSON was. He then looked into the room but immediately left the ward. I do not know where he went. It must have been around ten thirty o'clock P.M. when Mr. ALFRED WEEKS came into the colored ward of the hospital.

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I further state that I went off duty at eleven P.M. When I went off duty WILLIE VINSON appeared to be unconscious. I learned later that sometime after I went off duty this man was taken from the hospital by a mob.

REBECCA CALDWELL

WITNESS:

H. T. ARTERBERRY  
Spl. Agt. F.B.I.-1200 Tower Petroleum  
Building, Dallas, Texas"

Information was had from the records of Texarkana Hospital that another graduate nurse, Mrs. MYRTLE FINERN, 2008 West 9th Street, Texarkana, Texas, was on duty on the night of instant abduction of VINSON. Mrs. FINERN was interviewed at her home, 2008 West 9th St., Texarkana, Texas, but advised that she was so frightened over the entire affair and was still in a highly nervous state, that she disliked very much to discuss instant affair, but would advise that she was a graduate nurse and had been employed at the Texarkana Hospital since June of this year. That she went on duty at the Hospital at 11 o'clock on the night of July 12, 1942. She related that she noted several men coming and going from the Hospital that night, but that she paid no particular attention to them since there was a male patient in a nearby room to her who was in a dying condition and not expected to live throughout the night. That it appeared to her that these men were friends and relatives of the dying man, and that she made no effort to secure names or description of any of these callers. She stated that she heard a commotion after midnight in the colored ward; that she started down the steps to the colored ward when she saw two or three men leaving the colored ward. That she then dashed back up stairs to the window and looked out and saw two men, as she recalled, lifting the colored patient, WILLIE VINSON, into the back of an automobile. That she did not know the color of the car, but that it was a four door automobile of some kind. Mrs. FINERN stated that she could not recall the way a single one of the men were dressed. That she could not give a description of any manner whatsoever of anyone, except that they were white man. Mrs. FINERN was asked if she was acquainted with Mr. ALFRED WEEKS, a reporter for

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the Texarkana Gazette, but advised that she did not know Mr. WEEKS, and that she could not say whether he was in and out of the Hospital earlier that evening or not.

Information was had from MILDRED ALEXANDER, nurse, and REBECCA CALDWELL, that the only colored patients in the ward of the Hospital at the time WILLIE VINSON was abducted were JAMES ALBERT SANDERS, an employee of GIFFORD-HILL Construction Company who was still a patient at instant Hospital, and BAILEY McGOUGH, 1224 Willis Avenue, Texarkana, Texas.

Reporting Agent interviewed JAMES ALBERT SANDERS, previously a patient in the colored ward of Texarkana, Texas, Hospital, who related that WILLIE VINSON appeared to him to be in an unconscious condition during the entire day that he lay in the ward. That he could hear an occasional groan, but that he was unable to talk to them in any manner. SANDERS related that he was asleep at the time VINSON was abducted, but was awakened while they were leaving the ward with him. That only one light was on in the ward, and that he did not get a very good look at VINSON's abductors. That he believed that there were three white men in the group, and he was positive there were two. He further related that he was frightened on being awakened; that if he could have been more collected he might have more information to relate but that he would admit that he was greatly frightened on awakening and finding that a fellow patient in that ward was being removed by some men. SANDERS further stated that he could not recall whether these individuals wore dress clothes, workmen's clothes, khaki or whatnot. SANDERS further related that BAILEY McGOUGH, 1224 Willis Avenue, Texarkana, Texas, was the only other colored patient in the ward, but that he had long since left the Hospital, and that he did not know his present whereabouts.

Effort was made to locate BAILEY McGOUGH at 1224 Willis Avenue, Texarkana, Texas, but unable to do so at this time.

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Mrs. CLYDE CURRY, Housekeeper and Supervisor of maids at Texarkana Hospital was interviewed and advised that she was on duty at the Hospital on the night of instant abduction. That she saw a group of men on numerous occasions pass through the lobby of the night entrance of the Hospital, but since a patient in the Hospital was at the point of death and numerous friends and relatives were being permitted to see him, that it never occurred to her that an abduction was about to take place at her Hospital. She related that after she had been apprised of the fact that an abduction was on, that she became so frightened and jittery that she has no knowledge or recollection of anything that happened until about two or three o'clock in the morning, when Sheriff MONROE P. WATTS came out to the Hospital to interview her and conduct an investigation relative to the abduction of instant VINSON.

Dr. KARLTON KEMP, of the staff of Texarkana Hospital, according to the Hospital records, had treated VINSON earlier in the evening, but had not been on duty for several hours prior to the abduction, and, consequently, could give no information concerning instant abduction.

Mr. JACK N. RUNNELS, Chief of Police, Texarkana, Texas, was interviewed and advised that instant shooting and abduction and lynching of VINSON was not brought to his attention until after the affair had been completed, when he was called at his home at 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning and advised by his desk sergeant that a lynching had just taken place. Chief RUNNELS related that since the first offense, namely the assault with intention to rape and the shooting of VINSON near Hooks, Texas, was 19 miles from his jurisdiction, that he gave the matter no thought or consideration concerning placing any guards at the Hospital where VINSON was carried. That he considered the matter purely a county and state affair, and that same was none of the city's concern.

Information was had that some guards at the Red River Ordnance Depot might have information concerning the forming of

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a mob at the scene of the shooting of VINSON 19 miles West of Texarkana, but investigation conducted by Reporting Agent disclosed that aside from Lieutenant SAFFORD, the officer of the day and Chief of Plant Protection, the only guard that could be located was a Mr. RAYMOND JONES. Mr. RAYMOND JONES was interviewed by Reporting Agent at the office of the Chief of Guards, Red River Ordnance Depot. Mr. JONES related that after VINSON had been shot near the entrance to their project, that he saw groups of men standing about after the ambulance had left for Texarkana with VINSON, but that there were no guards in the group, and that he recognized none of the defense workers who may have gathered around as onlookers.

Mr. SID C. LEE, County Attorney, Bowie County, Texas, advised that Judge U.L. DOBBIE urged Bowie County Grand Jury to conduct an investigation of this affair, and that he, as County Attorney, handled the matter before the Grand Jury a few days following the abduction and lynching of VINSON. Mr. LEE related that he could not divulge any information that was given out in the Grand Jury Room, but stated that when the work was completed, that a report was made to the Court that not enough information could be had concerning the matter inquired about which would warrant the finding of a true bill thereon.

Agent conferred with Mr. WILLIAM V. BROWN, Mayor of Texarkana, Texas, who advised that as a common rule he deplored the practice of lynching, but that he made an exception in a case of rape or attempted rape. That he realized there was always a chance of executing an innocent man, which would be deplorable, but that he found it extremely hard to waste any time or sympathy on the victim of a lynching on a charge of rape. That the victim usually goes out in the night time bent on mischief, and violating the criminal laws of his State to satisfy a beastly lust upon a helpless and unwilling victim, knowing the enormity of his crime and knowing the legal penalty which the statutory laws of his State exact for such crime. That the rapist, with the knowledge that lynching for a crime of that kind is the "code of the south", and that the statutory laws prescribe death for such an offense, that this individual proceeded to violate both the written and

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unwritten law; and if he loses he should not whine, since he has forfeited not only the respect and sympathy of good white people, but the good negroes as well.

Mayor BROWN related that he not only deplored the fact that there was a lynching, but rather that there was a provocation for the lynching. Mayor BROWN further related that he was not in sympathy with the Reporting Agent's investigation. That he did not order his Chief of Police to proceed to the Texarkana Hospital to guard the victim, since he considered it none of his legal business, and that he was not interested in the victim anyway.

There being no further leads or information which appear that can be secured at this time concerning instant affair, this case is hereby considered closed.

C L O S E D