DIXIE TERROR

Cop Shoots Out Vet's Eye, Kills 2

BIRMINGHAM—Two Negroes have been killed and a third, a veteran, had an eye shot out in a reign of terror against the Negro people sweeping through the little town of Union Springs. A Negro clergyman has been hounded out of town.

The murders and the shooting are charged to a white police officer, Dewey Bradley, by Negro residents, according to Kenneth C. Kennedy, of the Southern Negro Youth Congress who has just completed an investigation. Bradley, suspended from the police force, still walks the streets of Union Springs.

The Negro people of the town doubt that the local authorities will mete out justice to Bradley or provide adequate protection for them. The Southern Negro Youth Congress has demanded that the United States Department of Justice act in these cases.

Negroes Leaving Town

The Union Springs murders are part of a pattern of post-war anti-Negro violence in many Southern localities. The streets of Union Springs, which in other years were filled with Negro people who came into town for their Christmas shopping, are now deserted. White business men complain that retail sales among Negroes have suffered an alarming drop.

Many old and established Negro families are leaving Union Springs. Negro mothers write their sons in the service not to come back after their discharges, Kennedy's report said.

Victims of Bradley's reign of terror, all Negroes are: Edgar Thomas, 27, storekeeper, murdered; Jesse Hytner, employee of the railroad railroad, murdered; Ed Day Gary, veteran of World War II, eye shot out.

Pastor Threatened

Rev. J. L. Pinkney, business man and pastor, was ordered to leave town because he witnessed the Thomas shooting.

Edgar Thomas' first brush with Bradley came Oct. 7 when the officer overheard Thomas in his own store discussing the Negro question with a friend. Bradley broke into Thomas's store, beat him mercilessly and then arrested him on a charge of disorderly conduct. Paroled from jail, Thomas' white friends forced his release, but Bradley returned with two pistols and a sawed-off shotgun and killed the man.

The murder of Hytner took place in the streets of Union Springs. Hytner was arrested by Bradley, who demanded the railroad worker's knife. Hytner handed it over and then Bradley proceeded to beat him so brutally that even white bystanders were moved to protest.

Shot Through Heart

"I gave you my knife like you told me," said Hytner. "How come you beat me?" Bradley's reply was a shot through Hytner's heart.

Ed Day Gary owes his life only to the fact that Bradley's aim was a little off that day. The ex-serviceman is now in the veterans' hospital at Tuskegee, where his eye was removed as a result of the wound inflicted by Bradley's revolver.

Gary was taking his old father home a few weeks ago when he had the misfortune to encounter Bradley and another city officer. They took the old man into custody on a charge of drunkenness and then Bradley followed Gary to his car.

Vet Wounded

"Get out of that car," said Bradley.

As Gary turned the knob to open the car door Bradley's pistol fired and Gary fell back wounded.

Union Springs has a population of 3,000 of which two-thirds are Negroes. If it is distinguished from other cotton towns in the region, it is because here the Negro people have made more advances and are established in the business life of the community. Many Negroes have stores and small business establishments.

Shortly before V-J day the city fathers decided to enlarge their police force. They went over into Covington county in the extreme southern part of Alabama to secure Dewey Bradley and another officer. The day that Bradley was hired marked the beginning of the reign of terror against the Negro community.

The Southern Negro Youth Congress has taken steps to bring the shocking story of Union Springs to the attention of the Nation.