Photograph A  - Frontiss McCann, 22 years old, killed by Mobile police Saturday, July 7, 1945, about 9 or 9:30 p.m.

View shows clearly one bullet hole in forehead, small cut over right eye, deep gash under right eye, blood streak from the gash down side of face to right ear, bruised nose and upper lip. The gash under eye, bruised nose and lip were evidently sustained when McCann fell on face after having been shot, or were inflicted by officers when carrying dying man to hospital in order to say that he "resisted" them.

Other bullet hole higher on forehead barely discernible.
Photograph B -

Prentiss McGann, 22 years old. Killed by Mobile police Saturday, July 7, 1945.

View clearly shows where shots or bullets fired by Officer Melvin Porter penetrated the forehead of the youth, causing his death. Bruises to eye, nose, and lips also shown.
Photograph C - Midway Club. A group of men were gaming in front of the sign on right. Note light above sign. McCann had stopped just a minute or two looking on, witnesses aver, and with arms folded, when police car approached, came to a stop near club building and at an angle with front of car beyond sign but near fence, which allowed about eight or ten feet between point where car <del>stopped</del> and Officer Porter began firing from the car and where McCann was standing when shot.
Photograph D. Close up view of Coca-Cola sign, light XXXXXX and spot where gaming was in progress when police officer approached, stopped car and fired from right front door, witnesses state, shooting Prentiss McCann Group of men were gaming in front of the sign. McCann is said to have been passing and stopped out of XXXXXX curiosity. Few moments later the officers drove up and began firing. Three small stones or rocks indicate arc of light, and paper shreds indicate XXXXX where McCann fell in pool of blood. Police car front is said to have been at angle pointed toward fence post beyond sign, nearer the building.
WU N9. NL PD=MOBILE ALA JUL 16

THURGOOD MARSHALL

PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING BULLET HOLES AND OTHER DISFIGURATIONS OF MAN KILLED BY POLICE NINE DAYS AGO ALONG WITH FOURTEEN AFFIDAVITS WILL BE RUSHED TO YOU TUESDAY BY AIR MAIL

J L LEFLORE, 909A JUL 17

9:14 AM JUL 17 1945

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE
State of Alabama  
County of Mobile

My name is York Peplinicz. I am 26 years of age. I live at  
1005 Antwerp St., Apt. M, Mobile, Alabama. I have been a resident  
of Mobile for almost 8 years.

On Saturday night July 7, 1945, about 9 o'clock I left my  
home with a case of beer bottles to go to the Midway Club. I live  
South of the Midway Club about a block from the club across a lawn.  
I was looking back toward my home when I heard two shots. I looked  
forward. I saw a man fall. At the time I was about 15 yards from  
where the man fell.

I walked over and saw the men being picked up by a police  
officer and a colored man. They tried to stand the man up and he  
slumped back down. The police officer walked toward the automobile.  
I walked toward the man who was shot and the officer came back  
shaking his hand and said, "I'm sorry it happened. The gun hung  
in the car door." I offered to help pick him up. The officer  
said, "Stand back." The officer and a colored man picked him up  
and put him in the officer's car.

After they put him in the car they left at once.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this  
18th day of July, A.D. 1945.

[Signature]

Notary Public

REPRODUCED FROM THE MANUSCRIPT DIVISION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
INCLOSURE
No. 38791
FROM
Department of Justice
Thurgood Marshall, Esq.
NAACP Legal Defense and
Educational Fund, Inc.
69 Fifth Avenue
New York 2, New York

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Re: Prinissi McCann, Mobile, Alabama,
Victim - Subjects Unknown
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

Reference is made to your communication of
July 20, 1945, and to attachments, certain affidavits
signed by the widow of the victim and certain persons
who were in the vicinity at the time of the killing of
Prinissi McCann. We are sending you a set of copies
of the affidavits, the originals of which were sub-
mitted by you as your only copies.

You are advised that this matter is being made
the subject of a preliminary inquiry.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

James M. McInerney
Acting Head, Criminal Division

Enclosure No. 38761
State of Alabama  
County of Mobile

My name is Ira Jackson White. I am 47 years of age. I live
1500 Adams Street, Mobile, Alabama. I have been a resident of Mobile
for 27 years.

I am owner and operator of the Midway Club on Dublin Street,
on Bush's Lane.

On Saturday July 7, 1945 I was putting beer in the ice-box
when I heard two shots. Johnnie, the waiter, said, "Somebody got
shot." I said, "It's the backfire of an automobile," and we laughed
about it.

A moment later everybody went out. Someone said, "Somebody
has been shot, and the police are out there." I, myself, went to
the door. I saw the police's car. I saw two men trying to pick
up the man and they put him in the back of the car. I had to go
back and wake change.

The next five minutes I did go out where it had happened but
they had gone. From where I was standing at the time of the shots
to where the man got shot was thirty-five steps.

I saw a pool of blood about three feet in diameter where the
man fell. The sight of the blood made me sick on the stomach and
I had to turn away quickly.

/s/ Ira Jackson White

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
17th day of July, A. D. 1945.

/s/ Rev. E. T. Taylor  
Notary Public
State of Alabama
County of Mobile

My name is Earnest Jones. I am 52 years of age. I live at
1005 Apt. H, Antwerp St. I work for the Mobile Housing Board. I
have been a resident of Mobile for 5 years. On Saturday night, July
7, 1945, about between 8:30 and 9:00 o'clock I was on the South
side of Dublin Street known as Bush's Lane, about 60 feet from the
Midway Club. I was on my way to Midway Cafe but had stopped to talk
to my brother, R. C. Jones, when a police scout car ran up to where
some fellows were having a dice game in front of the cafe. I heard
two shots from one of the policemen's guns and saw a colored man fall
from the policeman's bullets. I said to my brother, "Look yonder,
they", meaning the police officers, "done killed a fellow".

I saw the police officer who did the shooting get out of the
scout car after the man had been shot. He, the officer, was shaking
his hand in what seemed to be a state of excitement.

The policeman, assisted by a colored man, tried to make the
man who had been shot stand by holding him, but he weakened on back
down. They then put the man on the back seat of the scout car,
turned around and headed the car West on Dublin Street.

After the police officers had driven off, I went over to the
spot and saw a pool of blood on the ground. Just before the police
arrived I saw the man who was later shot, standing near the same
with arms folded, looking. I am positive he was not gambling.

X Earnest Jones

(His mark) David Mittles

Subscribed and sworn to before
me this 12th day of July, A.D. 1945.

(/s/) Rev. E. V. Taylor
Rotary Public.
COPY

State of Alabama
County of Mobile

My name is Garfield Daniels, I am 25 years of age. I live at the Camp of the Southern Kraft Paper Mill at Plateau, Alabama. I have been a resident of Mobile for about 5 years.

On Saturday night July 7, 1945 I was among those who were in front of the Midway Club on Dublin St. in Mobile. At about between 9:00 and 9:30 as I was rolling the dice I heard a pistol fire. I looked up and saw a man fall. I thought it was Raymond Johnson, who had come with me from the camp at Plateau. I ran and grabbed him to help one of the police officers put him in the police scout car, on the back seat.

About 11:30 Saturday night plain clothes officers found me at a girl friend's house, but I did not go down to the police station that night.

Sunday morning one plain clothes officer came and I went down with him to the police station in an automobile. They questioned me about the shooting of the man. I told them just what I mentioned in this statement.

As far as I know the man who was shot had no part in the gambling game.

/s/ Garfield Daniels

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of July, A. D. 1945.

/s/ Rev. E. T. Taylor
Notary public
State of Alabama
County of Mobile

My name is Rena McCann. I am 19 years of age. I live at
1528 Kingfisher Drive, Mobile, Alabama. I am the wife of Prentiss
McCann, who was killed by two members of the Mobile police force
on Saturday night, July 7, 1945. We have 3 children, 2 girls
and 1 boy. The oldest child is 2 years old and 2 (twins), a boy
and a girl, are 8 months old.

About 8:45 p.m. on Saturday July 7, 1945, Prentiss left
home saying he was going to Green's Fish Market to get some eggs
and would be back in a few minutes.

When he did not return within a reasonable time I became
worried because he never would stay away from home late. I never
knew until Robert Davis, Jr. told me about 11:00 o'clock Sunday
morning, July 8, 1945 that my husband had been killed by the
Mobile police.

I know my husband never has gambled, nor did he drink
whiskey. He was a member of the Antioch Baptist Church of Waynes-
boro, Mississippi. He was a good provider for the children and me.

He was a war veteran of the present war, and received an
honorable discharge about 2 years ago.

/s/ Rena McCann

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
18th day of July, A.D. 1945.

/s/ Rev. E. T. Taylor
Notary Public
State of Alabama  
County of Mobile

My name is Jake Ludgood. I am 55 years of age. I live at 959 Weinacker Avenue, Mobile, Alabama. I have a truck and do general hauling. I have been a resident of Mobile 17 years.

On Saturday night, July 7, 1945, at about between 7:30 and 8:00 o'clock as I was sitting on my brother, Jim Landers' porch, I saw a police scout car moving Eastwardly on Dublin Street also known as Bush's Lane.

I also saw some men gambling in front of the Midway Club which is on Dublin Street, between Antwerp and the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio railroad tracks.

The scout car passed and didn't stop at the time to arrest those who were gambling. I told Will White and my brother who were sitting on the porch with me that I could not understand why the officers passed and made no attempt to arrest those who were gambling. Later, after darkness, I saw the police scout car turn from around the back of the Midway Club to the front and turn again facing Northward and the entrance to the cafe.

I saw a colored man fall. A few moments later I saw a police man and a colored man pick up the man who had been shot, assist him to the back door of the car and put him in the car.

The scout car then backed out and went West on Dublin Street. I did not go to the immediate scene of the trouble.

/s/ Jake Ludgood

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of July, A. D. 1945.

/s/ Rev. E. T. Taylor  
Notary Public
COPY

State of Alabama
County of Mobile

My name is Willie Bonner. I am 35 years of age. I live at 1051 Swan Drive, Apt. C, Mobile, Alabama. I have been a resident of Mobile for eight months.

On Saturday night, July 7, 1945, I was at the Midway Club, in Mayville, when an automobile rolled up in front of the Midway Club from a road on the side of the building. As the car came to a stop, two shots were fired from the right front side. I saw a colored man who had been standing out in front of the club talking before the car arrived, fall.

I saw a police officer get out of the right front door of the car, and walk to where the colored man had fallen. The officer stood there and looked at the man as he lay on the ground. A few moments later another colored man helped the officer put the man who had been shot in the police car. They put him in the back of the car. Only the two police officers left with the wounded man in the automobile. The officers drove in a westerly direction after leaving the Club.

/s/ Willie Bonner

Subscribed and sworn to before this 18th day of July, A.D. 1945.

/s/ Rev. E. T. Taylor
Notary Public
COPY

State of Alabama
County of Mobile

My name is Will White. I am 24 years of age. I live at
954 Grant Street, Mobile, Alabama. I have been a resident of Mobile
between 4 and 5 years. I do general hauling with my truck.

On Saturday night, July 7, 1945, at about between 7:30 and
8:00 o'clock, I was sitting on the front porch of Jack Ledgeood's
home on Dublin and Antwerp Streets, about ½ block from the Midway
Club.

I observed a police scout car going East on Dublin Street,
known as Bush's Lane, and pass directly in front of the Midway Club.
Some men were gambling in front of the Midway Club but the scout car
did not stop at that time. Those of us sitting on the porch, Jack
Ledgeood, Jack Ledgeood and myself, expressed surprise that the scout
car did not stop and the officers attempt to arrest those who were
gambling.

Later, after dark, the scout car returned in a westerly
direction on a street back of the Midway Club. I noticed that
the car then cut around on the West side of the building to the
front and turned northwardly toward the entrance of the Midway
Club. When the car came to a stop the policeman on the right be-
gan firing before getting out of the car.

The crowd gambling and the onlookers were to the right of the
car. The policeman fired twice. I saw a man fall from the officer's
gunfire. I saw the officers and a colored man put the man who had
been shot in the back of the police scout car. I went over near the
Midway Club. After the officers had driven off I saw a pool of blood
on the ground at the spot where the man who had been shot by the police
officer fell to the ground.

/S/ Will White

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
12th day of July, A.D. 1945.

/S/ Rev. E.T. Taylor
Notary Public
State of Alabama  
County of Mobile

My name is Jack Ludgood, I am 25 years of age. I live at 1659 Dublin St., Mobile, Alabama. I have been a resident of Mobile about 8 years.

Saturday night July 7, 1945 I was sitting on my porch with my brother, Jake Ludgood, and Will White. About between 9:00 and 9:30 I saw a car when it swung around the West side of the Midway Club and continued to turn to come to a stop in north eastwardly position between 8 to 10 feet from the fence on the East side of the property.

I heard two shots at the moment the car stopped. I saw a man fall on his face. I told my brother "They done got one," meaning that the police officers had shot someone.

I saw one of the officers, assisted by a colored man, put the man who had been shot into the police scout car. They put him in the back of the car.

/s/ Jack Ludgood

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of July, A.D. 1945.

/s/ Rev. E.T. Taylor
Notary Public
State of Alabama
County of Mobile

My name is Sam Hill. I am 22 years of age. I live at 1005 Antwerp St., Apt. C, Mobile, Alabama. I have been a resident of Mobile a little more than 2 years.

On Saturday night, July 7, 1945 between 9:00 and 9:30 I was on my way to the Midway Club to get some sandwiches. I saw the police scout car come around the West side of the Midway Club. There is a road on the West side of the Midway Club. I saw the car when it came to a stop. I heard two shots at the time the car came to a stop. I saw a man fall after the shots. I saw someone standing over the fallen man. I saw two men pick him up and put him in the car.

I was across the street at the time of the happening, but would not go over on the side of the street to the Midway Club at that time. I waited until after the police car had driven off before I went to the club. The police car went west on Dublin St.

/s/ Sam Hill

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of July, A.D. 1945.

/s/ Rev. E.T. Taylor
Notary Public
July 20, 1945

Hon. Tom C. Clark  
Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
Washington 1, D.C.

Dear Mr. Clark:

We are enclosing nine affidavits concerning the killing of Prinise McCann, a Negro, in Mobile, Alabama, by local policemen.

It appears that on July 7 McCann was in the vicinity of a crap game, but was not engaged in the game, nor connected with the game in any way. According to our investigation and the affidavits enclosed the police officers without warning and while allegedly enforcing state statutes against gambling, without any provocation wilfully shot and killed the deceased.

We are also enclosing several photographs of the place of the killing and the deceased. I am sure that after going over this material you will agree with us that an immediate investigation by the Department of Justice is warranted and if the facts are as alleged that it is the type of case which comes within the rule recently established by the Supreme Court in the decision in the case of United States v. Claude Surtees, et al. We are therefore requesting an immediate investigation by the Department of Justice and stand ready to cooperate in any way desired.
Because of the urgency of the matter we have been unable to have the enclosed affidavits copied so that you are getting the originals and we are without copies for our office.

Sincerely yours,

Thurgood Marshall
Special Counsel

Encls.
TM:\AG
ucpwa-19
cic
Ten affidavits are being mailed tonight. Five others will be mailed tomorrow or the next day.

JLL

JUL 29 1945
This man, Ira Jackson White, is a white person. He is operator of the Midway Club.