Brutal Beating By Cops Blamed For Man's Death

NEGRO PRISONER'S EYE KICKED OUT; NEW ORLEANS NAACP NOTIFIED

NEW ORLEANS, La. — According to an almost unbelievable story being circulated throughout the entire Carrollton section, a Negro man, Henry Hauser, 35, of 8315 Leake avenue, was subjected to a brutal beating which is believed to have caused his death several weeks ago. The beating, according to reports, was administered on March 22, 1944, while Hauser was in custody of Seventh Precinct police, and Hauser died in Charity hospital five days later.

Vigilant was bent reports by the facts learned by interested persons who checked the story which had been related in hurried tones in Carrollton churches, taverns, and other gathering places for the past few weeks.

It has been definitely learned that Henry Hauser was arrested on March 22, from Plum and Jes- et streets, and that he was taken to Seventh Precinct police station. It has also been learned that Hauser was taken to Charity hospital on March 22, and died on March 27, at 11 a.m.

Prior to his death, Hauser is reported to have made a deathbed statement to the effect that police — the two officers who arrested him and two others — had beaten him en route to the police station, and while he was in the station. It is also reported to have said that he was so brutally beaten in the stomach by police using their fists and a rubber mallet, that he was knocked unconscious and that a bucketful of water was thrown on him to revive him so that he could be beaten more.

Unconfirmed reports were to the effect that Hauser's eye was picked out during the administration of the beating in the police station.

A check with the city board of health disclosed that Hauser died on March 27, 1944, after having been confined to Charity hospital for 20 hours.

The cause of his death was stated on the death certificate as:
"Plastic peritonitis; bronchial pneumonia of the right side; peritonitis of the bladder, cultured at Charity hospital, and septic hepatitis."

Hauser, according to information received, had been placed under arrest for being drunk and disturbing the peace.

Funeral services were conducted for Hauser on March 30, 1944, at the Central Funeral Home, 1940 Eagan street, with interment in the Greenwood cemetery.

Facts of the alleged police brutality in Hauser's case have been referred to the New Orleans Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, it was disclosed Monday.