

# REVOLTING IN LAST DEGREE IN STORY OF GIRLS

Each Criminally Attacked  
By Six Negroes

**MOB SPIRIT QUIETS  
AS TROOPS APPEAR**

Judge Hawkins Promises a  
Special Grand Jury and  
Speedy Trial

By PETER PIPER

In the face of a huge mob and

protected by 128 bristling bayonets,

the nine Negroes implicated in the

attack on two young Huntsville

women were spirited to the Etowah

county jail at Gadsden by three Na-

tional Guard companies at press time

this afternoon.

The crowds was passive and seem-

ingly knew in advance of the move

the steps that were going to be tak-

en and made no effort to molest

them.

The Negroes will be brought back

to Scottsboro Monday when a special

session of the Jackson County Grand

Jury will be called to consider evi-

dence against them on charges of

statutory offense.

If true bills are returned the Ne-

groes will go on trial at the Jackson

County Circuit Court, Monday April

6, before Judge J. A. Hawkins.

The Jackson county grand jury

will meet Monday to consider evi-

dence against 12 negroes charged

with criminally assaulting two white

girls of Huntsville on a Southern

freight train Wednesday, according

to announcement by Circuit Judge

J. A. Hawkins at Scottsboro today.

If true bills are returned the cases

will be brought to trial at a special

session of the Jackson county circuit

court on Monday, April 6, Judge

Hawkins said.

While a big crowd milled around

Scottsboro this afternoon, the pres-

ence of soldiers and bayonets kept

them at bay around the jail, where

the negroes, the girls and their seven

white companions are being held.

After a night of terror during which

a mob of infuriated citizens milled

about the Jackson county jail in a

threatening mood, three companies

of the Alabama National Guard pro-

TECTED nine negro fiends who Wed-

nesday criminally assaulted two

Huntsville girls on a coal car be-

tween Stevenson and Paint Rock.

And while the soldiers with ma-

chine guns and fixed bayonets, kept

a crowd of angry men and curiosity

seekers at bay, the black men, most

of them young, laughed and joked in

their cells as Judge J. A. Hawkins of

the Jackson county circuit court con-

ferred with the solicitor, sheriff and

other authorities on the advisability

of calling a special session of the

grand jury.

It was understood here this after-

noon that the inquisitorial body

would convene Saturday to consider

the cases against the negroes, six

of whom are alleged by Sheriff M.

L. Wann to have confessed to the

crime.

If true bills are returned against

them, then it is expected that they

will be brought to trial on statutory

offense charges Monday, (the ex-

treme penalty being the electric

chair). In addition Haywood Patter-

son and Eugene Williams, said to be

the worst negro characters in Chat-

tanooga, will be charged with shoot-

ing with intent to murder, lodged by

Ray Thurman, of Jamestown, Va.,

one of the white occupants of the

coal car where the offenses are al-

leged to have been committed.

Thurman declares that the negroes

fired at him five times before he re-

luctantly jumped from the speeding

train.

The crime was one of the most hor-

rible ever perpetrated in the United

States and both Jackson and Madi-

son county are aroused to an extent

that justice will be demanded when

the fiends are placed on trial.

Both girls are daughters of Hunts-

ville widows. Both are in poor finan-

cial circumstances and had caught a

"free" ride to Chattanooga the day

before hoping to obtain employment

of some nature in the larger city.

Unsuccessful in getting work they

were forced to take the same type

of transportation back home. They

climbed aboard the train, an oil

tanker, and there they ran across the

seven white boys. Victoria Price, 21,

one of the girls, recognized O'Dell

Gladwell, of Houston, Texas, as a

half-brother she had not seen for

several years. It was a happy re-

union and after introductions were

made, the group jumped off and

climbed aboard a coal car where

they soon were deep in conversation.

Suddenly the 12 negroes, brandish-

ing their revolvers, leaped from a

box car into the open car, cowered

the white men in one corner and

ordered them to leap from the train.

With the guns in their faces, five

of the boys obeyed though O'Dell

Gladwell, the half brother and Or-

ville Gillie, a brave Alabama boy

from Albertville, refused.

Gladwell was pushed off onto the

ladder of the car. A big black

brought the butt end of a pistol down

on his head and he fell to oblivion

beside the rails, fortunately landing

so that he was not seriously injured.

Gillie was allowed to remain on the

car, after being invited by the black

men to take part in the attack and

refusing. He had to witness the

crime.

Here's the story of the attack both

Gillie and the girls told Sheriff Wann

and a reporter of this newspaper.

"We were dressed in overalls. We

started to climb over the car when a

big negro grabbed us and pulled us

back on the gravel pile. He had a

big knife in his hands.

"Another man tore our overalls

from our bodies and with five men

holding each of us, one with an open

knife in his hands, they committed

the crime.

"Near Paint Rock they attempted

a second attack and were only stop-

ped when we declared they could

take our lives."

At Paint Rock, thanks to informa-

tion furnished by the boys thrown

from the train, the negroes, nine of

them, were captured by a great

crowd of citizens. Three made good

their escape.

The nine were taken to Scottsboro

(Continued on page 8)

# REVOLTING IN LAST DEGREE IS STORY OF GIRLS

(Continued from Page One)

along with the girls, who, in the meantime, had been furnished with clothing by women of Paint Rock. Both were so badly injured that they fainted when help appeared.

At Scottsboro the girls were treated by a physician, who said they were in a serious condition. The younger, Ruby Baites, 17, was so serious that she was unable to talk to reporters. The older girl, Victoria Price, 21, told her story amid sobs of anguish and fear. Although assured that she was protected and that the negroes were where they would never harm her again, she talked in whispers and repeatedly called a reporter back to whisper in his ear snatches of the tale, as if afraid her assailants would overhear.

And as the story was being unfolded, the negroes were telling jokes in another part of the bastille. Nasty jokes, unafraid, denying to outsiders they were guilty, laughing, laughing, joking, joking, unafraid of the consequences, beasts unfit to be called human.

Outside the crowd, angry mountaineers seeking a leader, inside, officers, whose sworn oath was to protect prisoners in their charge, having to point guns at friends and neighbors, having to warn them to stay away from black men they themselves would have been glad to get to.

It was a real night of terror, but with the appearance late of three companies of men in khaki, the crowd dwindled away, only to swell in the daylight three-fold, yet lacking that leader that would have sent nine fiends to torment.

The white youths gave their names as J. W. Gleason of Georgia; J. C. Ferguson, of Lindsey, Ala.; O'Dell Gladwell of Houston, Texas; Ray Thurman, Jamestown, Va.; Orville Gillie, Albertville, Ala., and Lester Carter, no address.

The negroes now being held are: Claude Norris, Willie Robinson, Haywood Patterson, Audry Wright, Ray Wright, Eugene Williams, Ozie Powell and Olin Montgomery. All have been identified by the girls.

The Price girl said she resided on Arm street and Ruby Baites on Winston street. The older girl is a blonde, rather heavy set. The younger is a slim girl of a brunette type, frail in physique and apparently unaccustomed to hardships.

## Quiet Reigned Today

SCOTTSBORO, March 25 (AP)—Quiet reigned in this mountain town early today, while National guardsmen paced about the jail where nine negroes, some of whom have confessed, were held for attacking two Huntsville girls aged 17 and 21 yesterday on a Southern Railway freight train near Stevenson, Ala. Five white youths with the girls were thrown from the train and two others were knocked unconscious.

Judge J. A. Hawkins, of Jackson circuit court, last night promised to call the grand jury into session immediately and that if indictments were returned, the negroes would be brought to trial immediately. The call for the grand jury was expected today.

A threatening crowd that fluctuated from 100 to 300 menacing men through the early part of last night dwindled to less than a score about midnight as a cold wind swept in over the mountains sending them scurrying for more comfortable places than the breezy streets.

The troops numbering approximately 100 men from Co. E, 167th Infantry at Guntersville and Co. F. at Albertville were ordered here by Governor B. M. Miller last night, after a request from Sheriff M. L. Wann.

The sheriff and his nine deputies, reinforced by several citizens, kept watch from within the jail through the night, as the crowds who came down from the mountains, mostly in cars but a few astride mules, gathered about the court house.

There were threats from among the groups gathered about the jail in cars and little knots, and some of them were armed, but the menace of shotguns from within the jail and Sheriff Wann's warning that he would not permit the negroes to be taken, prevented any concerted effort to move on the prison.

While the crowds gathered outside, the negroes ranging from 15 to 25 years in age slept in the jail, seemingly little concerned.

Sheriff Wann late last night questioned them and said six admitted attacking the girls, after throwing five white youths who were accompanying them from the train and knocked two others unconscious.

The officers said there were twelve negroes in the group that boarded the freight car in which the girls

and the seven youths were riding at Stevenson, Ala., and ordered them to leave the train. When the youths refused, a free for all fight ensued, and five were thrown from the train.

The youths thrown from the train notified authorities and a posse intercepted the train at Paint Rock and took the negroes off along with the two remaining white youths and the two girls.

Physicians who examined the girls here said they were not badly hurt. The girls told authorities they had failed to find work in Chattanooga and donning overalls, boarded the freight to "bum their way home."

The white youths gave their names as J. W. Gleason, of Georgia; J. C. Gerguson, of Lindsey, Ala., O'Dell Gladwell of North Carolina, Ray Thurman, Jamestown, Va., Orville Gillie, Albertville, Ala., and Lester Carter, no address.

Gille and Carter were knocked unconscious and were left on the train.

The negroes were booked at the jail here as Claude Norris, Willie Robinson, Haywood Patterson, Audry Wright, Ray Wright, Eugene Williams, Ozie Powell and Olin Montgomery. Officers did not try to ascertain their addresses. All were identified by the girls.

Sheriff Giles of Madison county in which Huntsville, home of the girls is located, telephoned Sheriff Wann last night offering his assistance and that of his staff, if necessary, to preserve order.

Officers said the throngs gathering here last night included citizens from many miles around, informed by "mountain telegraph" that the negroes had been arrested for attacking the two girls.

Early this morning officers said they feared that another crowd would congregate from adjoining communities today after the sun had abated the nocturnal chill, but they expressed belief that the guardsmen could successfully repulse any assault on the jail.

In addition to many rounds of ammunition for their rifles, the guardsmen were armed with sub-machine guns, tear bombs, and smoke bombs could be used to throw up a dense screen that would be difficult to penetrate.

All of the negroes have been charged with a statutory offense and Patterson and a negro named Weems have been charged with shooting with intent to kill on accusations lodged by Thurman who said five shots were fired at him as he was hurled from the moving train. Both negroes were said to have been armed.

Sheriff Wann said the negroes had been questioned separately and that some had denied the charges but had been implicated by others. Both the young women, who was said to have been the only eye witness to the attacks, identified them. Gillie said he was choked and held with a knife at his throat.

Judge Hawkins was understood to be enroute from his home at Fort Payne and indicated over telephone before departing a special grand jury session would be called on his arrival. Guardsmen were not permitting bystanders within two blocks of the jail.

## Situation is Quiet

MONTGOMERY, March 26. (AP)—Adjutant General Hartley A. Moon said today that Major Joe Stearnes of Guntersville, commanding the National Guard detachment at Scottsboro, had reported the situation there was quiet and there had been no disturbances since the arrival of the troops.

Major Stearnes is in command of eighty officers and men from Alabama National Guard units at Albertville and Guntersville after a crowd gathered about the county jail at Scottsboro late yesterday following the arrest of nine negroes on charges of attacking two young white women on a freight train.

## REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Lucie F. Dillard by Sheriff to First National Bank, \$100.

Rosa and C. W. Myrick by Mtgee to Henderson National Bank, \$3,000.

John C. and J. H. McAnelly by Tr. etal to Birmingham Trust and Savings Company, Tr., \$1.

**Easter Dresses, \$10.00  
values for \$4.95—S. L.  
Terry.**

## Fire at Wilson Residence

Mrs. A. O. Wilson's residence on Randolph street was the scene of a fire this afternoon, the Huntsville Fire department making a quick response to the alarm. The blaze had caught from a fire place in the rear of the house, causing nominal damage.

READ THE WANT ADS