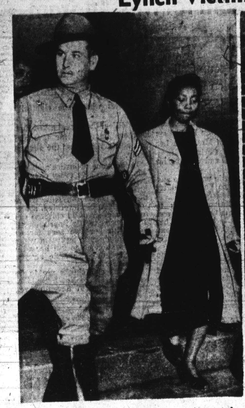
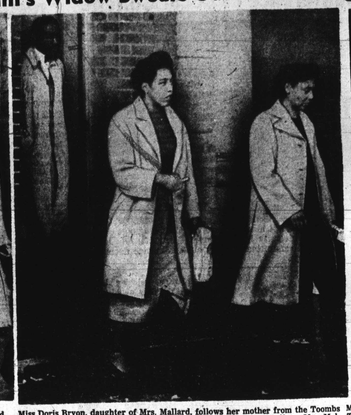
Lynch Victim's Widow Swears Out Warrant Against White Man Who Was Member of Mob



A member of the Georgia highway patrol escorted Mrs. Amy Mallard last week from Savannah to Lyons where she swore out a warrant against a white man in the lynching of her husband.



Miss Doris Bryon, daughter of Mrs. Mallard, follows her mother from the Toombs County Jail in Lyons. Miss Bryon is a student at Georgia State College. Mrs. Mallard, a school teacher, was terrorized by Georgia whites following the slaying of Robert Mallard. Police authorities at first accused her of committing the crime.

Mrs. Mallard is shown as she appeared before Justice of the Peace Ernest L. Morgan in Toombs County Jail and swore out a warrant against a 24-year-old white man, she says, was a member of the group which shot Mr. Mallard to death. The lynching occurred on Nov. 20. Mrs. Mallard's son, Benjamin Mallard, is shown standing beside his mother.

This is William Lamar Howell, white, 24, against whom Mrs. Mallard swore out the warrant in Lyons last week. She identified him as a member of the murder group.

'Let Them Take My Picture,' Sobs Widow

Ga. Legal Defense Committee Head Scorns Out-of-State Aid

LYONS, Ga.—J. T. Ellerbe, executive secretary of the YMCA, Savannah, told a group of newsmen, who had gathered here to cover activities of Mrs. Amy Mallard, that "as representative of the Georgia Legal Defense Committee," he was on the scene to see that the case was kept within the State jurisdiction.

"We want this case kept out of the hands of any out of State interests because people here know the circumstances and conditions," Ellerbe stated.

Many colored and white persons were surprised to "hear a colored man making this statement when it was "out of State" pressure that have caused the case to still be "alive."

Although Ellerbe rode in the car with Mrs. Mallard, the woman stated that he did not speak for her. "He is speaking for himself," she stated.

Mrs. Amy Mallard Near Collapse in Ga. Ordeal

'Steady Nerves' Keep Her Going in Fight for Justice in Brutal Slaying of Husband

BY DOUGLASS HALL

LYONS, Ga.—"Let them take my picture . . . I don't mind the world seeing me . . . I only wish they could have seen my husband that night, dying . . .

That is the answer Mrs. Amy Mallard gave when someone suggested that she stop persons from taking pictures of her as she sat in the office of her lawyer, Aaron Kravitch, Savannah, Ga., last week.

Mrs. Mallard's husband, Robert, was "lynched" several weeks ago in Toombs County, as she and several others looked on.

I talked with her at length. She seemed always on the point of collapse. I expected her to faint at any time. But she kept going, explaining that "I have good, steady nerves."

Fights Battle Alone

As she sat in the office she seemed so alone—fighting the big battle without aid. I looked around the office to see just who was there that could give her a word of comfort. There were none.

Her daughter, Mrs. Doris Byron, sat near her at all times, but she was much more excited than her mother.

"Can't I sign the warrant here in Savannah? Why do I have to go all the way up to Lyons? Will I get protection?" These are some of the questions that Mrs. Mallard asked Mr. Kravitch, who was busy staying out of the way of photographers, making sure that he would not be photographed with colored persons.

Mrs. Mallard, nerves on edge, pleaded with the attorney for advice—but all she got was a very harsh answer, and a threat . . . "Go ahead and do as I told you." Advice Kravitch, who is getting quite a bit of free publicity out of this case, snapped, "if you don't we will get a warrant and take you up there."

Mrs. Mallard was crying.

Escorted by Troopers

Lt. W. E. McDuffie of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, assured Mrs. Mallard that she would be brought back to her hideout in Savannah. Still doubtful, the trembling widow, walking between Lt. McDuffie and Cpl. D. E. Watson of the Georgia State troopers, left the building.

Along with other newsmen, I trailed the trooper's car at about 80 miles an hour. The only way we caught up with them is "that they gave out of gas and had to stop for a refill. We got lost, went 20 miles out of the way, but managed to get in Lyons five minutes before Mrs. Mallard's party reached there.

Once on the courthouse grounds, it seemed as if all were taking the matter as just another occasion, there were a few persons standing around the jail—and about a dozen seated on the entrance to the courthouse. They did not seem the least bit concerned when we drove up.

Newsmen Barred

When the car carrying Mrs. Mallard drove up in front of the jail door, all the prisoners were looking through the bars. Sheriff R. E. Gray of Toombs County came over and conferred with State troopers and GBI officials and after several minutes Mrs. Mallard was escorted into the jail.

Newsmen were barred from the jail, but the following account was given by persons who witnessed the affair:

Identifies One of Mob

Six prisoners were lined up against the wall and Mrs. Mallard was asked to pick out the man who was there on the night that her husband, Robert Mallard, was killed. She unhesitatingly pointed to and named William L. Howell. The white men were dressed in overall and did not speak, except that Howell confirmed his name.

When asked if she recognized any of the other men as being there that night, Mrs. Mallard stated that she recognized the car of R. L. Clifton "because of the radio aerial on the rear of it."

Mrs. Mallard then waxed to the courtouse, 100 yards away and swore out a murder warrant for Howell. The process was long and technical. Often during the hour-long session she needed the advice of her attorney, but he had seen fit to remain in Savannah.

One Lawyer Withdraws

It was reported that J. Ellis Pope, white, of Lyons, who was associated with Kravitch as counsel for Mrs. Mallard, had withdrawn from the prosecution "under pressure."

After many interruptions, tears, advice, blunders, conferences, and what not, Mrs. Mallard finally became the first colored woman to accuse a white man of murder in Toombs County, Ga.

Mrs. Amy Mallard, wife of Robert Mallard, who was lynched in Lyons, Ga., on Nov. 20, bursts into tears in Toombs County Jail where she was questioned with Howell. L. Howell, white, 24, of "killing my husband, because he (Howell) was right there with the rest of them."

Widow Recalls Lynch Scene

Picked Porter's Pocket Under Divine Guidance Clerie Tells Ala. Judge

BIRMINGHAM (ANP) — A self-styled minister of the gospel, who maintained that divine orders led him to pick pockets, was put on probation for two years by a United States judge here last week. The "minister," whose name was withheld, was arrested on a charge of stealing $31 from a porter's pockets in a man's room on a speeding train.

A native of Panola, Sumter County, the "preacher" said he had committed the crime under the influence of prayer. In his initial interview with the police, he said he was wearing his ministerial robes at the time of the theft because he was returning from an Eastern mission to which his congregation had dispatched him.

94th Engineer Troops Win Promotions at Ft. Belvoir

FORT BELVOIR, Va.—During the month of October, 72 members of Headquarters and Service Company and Companies "B" and "C," 94th Engineer Battalion, received permanent promotions.

Sgt. Shelly Hickson, Arlington, Va., and Sgt. Ernest H. Thomas, Anderson, Texas, members of Headquarters and Service Company were promoted to sergeant first class.

The following members of Headquarters and Service Company were promoted to corporal: William Bradford, Detroit, Lawrence Cooper, Fort Pierce, Robert T. Brown, Huntington, W. Va.; Verlie Parish, Clothier, W. Va.; Howard L. Murey, Fort Belvoir, Va.; Raymond L. Jones, Freeman, Va.; Robert E. Johnson, Mobile, Ala.; Norvel M. Pittman, New Orleans; Donald E. Donald, Phoenix, Ariz.; Charles Richardson, Pelican, La.; Lloyd B. Turner, Hannibal, Mo.; Joe L. Steel, Rutledge, Ala.; Kinney Jr., Birmingham, Ala.; James Borders, San Augustine, Tex.; Lyman Adams, Norfolk, Va.; Roosevelt Foster, New Orleans; Robert Wade, Kansas City, Mo.; Lloyd Lockett, Shreveport, La.; Arthur J. Gray, Houston, Tex., and John M. Hylton, NYC.

The following members of Company "B" were promoted to sergeant: Marcus Alleyne, NYC; Marvin D. Cook, Harmony, Ind.; Lewis Crestle, Norfolk, Va.; Wilfred Johnson, Daytona Beach, Fla., and John Newman, Denver, Colo.

The following members of Company "C" were promoted to private first class: Armstrong Kirbyville, Mo.; John H. Bradway, Chester, Pa.; James Burden, Donald L. Clark, NYC; Clarence Dancy, St. Louis; Louis Davenport, Gaylesville, Ala.; Paul A. Diggs, Portsmouth, Va.; James C. Gill, Philadelphia; Robert E. Gilmore, NYC; Joseph Goodson, Norfolk, Va.; Roy H. Howard, Philadelphia; Roy H. Jackson, Kansas City, Mo.

James C. Johnson, Bluefield, W. Va.; Lawrence Johnson, Bluff Creek, Ala.; Haywood Mangrum, Bainbridge; Johnnie Quattlebaum, Florence, S.C.; Bernard P. Sutton, Gainesville, Ga.; Charlie H. Swindell, Gainesville, Ga.; Thomas Tillman, Hillsboro, Texas; Lyman T. Tyson Jr., Covington, La.; Shelly Wade, Thomasville, Ga., and John A. Webb Jr., Coushatta, La.

RECRUITS WIN PROMOTIONS

The following members of Company "B" were promoted from recruit to private: Benjamin Clark, Berkley, Calif.; Leroy P. Coleman, Chicago; Herbert H. Roberts, Philadelphia, and Albert E. Thomas, NYC.

Sgt. Arnold J. H. Handy, Herne Texas, a member of Company "C" was promoted to the grade of sergeant first class. The following members of Company "C" were promoted to corporal: Willie M. Bell, Savannah, Ga.; Stell Dorsey Jr., Hampton, Va.; Randall Dyson, Rosland, La.; Woodrow Johnson, St. Louis; Lonnie Lee, Lake Charles, La., and Jesse Taylor, Washington, D. C.

The following members were promoted to private first class: Leo Allen, Dahlgren, Va.; Roy L. Clark, Corsicana, Tex.; Edward Gaillion, Hempstead, L.I., N.Y.; Joseph Hill, Arcola, Miss.; William R. Johnson, Corpus Christi, Tex.; Roosevelt Richardson, Shady Valley, Tenn.; Ernest Smith, Charleston, S.C.; Bronze Smith, Ashland, Ala., and John Sutton, Elizabeth City, N.C., and Rennie Tyler Lafayette, Va.

Julius C. Coulter, Charleston, S.C., a member of Company "C," and James B. Hamey, Arlington, Va., a member of the Medical Detachment, were promoted from recruit to private.

The 94th Engineer Battalion is commanded by Lt. Col. Edmund H. Lang, Capt. Herbert Bucker of Washington is the (S-3) plans and training officer.

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