

August 19, 1965
Eufaula, Alabama
(Barbour County)

Joseph Daniel Williams, about 50 years of age, is a veteran of WW II. He was injured in the War and has a steel plate in his head. He also has epilepsy.

Last Night, August 18, he drove up to the front of his sister's home. The local police pulled up in back of him and accused him of running to stop signs. He tried to go to relatives to get the money for the fine but the policemen wouldn't let him do this. They then began to beat him over the head with nightsticks. Then they handcuffed him.

Two more policemen arrived and all four proceeded to beat him. He was thrown in the back seat of the police car, beaten and taken to jail, where it is reported that he was beaten again.

His sister, Moselle Rogers of Eufaula went to the jail to see what she could do to help. She was given no information and told to get out. A white friend of hers, unknown, demanded they give Williams medical attention.

Chief of Police, Buck Abbott called a doctor. The doctor advised them to get Williams to the hospital immediately.

Williams has two broken bones in his head, a possible concussion and may have internal injuries. His legs were swollen and bloody.

His doctor is B. Blassingille and Williams is now in the Veterans Hospital in Tuskegee. Dr. Blassingille says they will not be able to tell for 72 hours whether or not he will live.

Mr. Williams is very active in the civil rights movement. He is a Negro.

Some of the eye witnesses, un-named, testify that Officer Van Pelhan, Roy Andrews, Champ Phillips were three of the policemen that beat Mr. Williams.

This indecent act occurred between 7:30 and 8 p.m. on Dale Road in Eufala.