

SELMA, ALABAMA

presumed

- David Prince and Jerry DeMuth injured by/possemen here tonight. Following amass meeting here tonight at the AME Zion Church on Green Street, the two reporters were attacked and beaten by white men presumed to be part of Sheriff Jim Clark's posse. As they left the church where law enforcement personnel had been present part of the time, they saw about 60 helmeted possemen. Some had brown uniforms, others plain-clothes, but all had helmets. He took some pictures then tear gas came.
- Prince called to Jerry to get between the bullings, when he turned Jerry wasn't there. A spotlight was shone in his eyes and then a shot rang out intended for him and lodged in the house behind him. His camera was thrown against the house. Later it was smashed. He was assaulted and rolled up in a ball. He was hit and kicked in the back and legs. He and Jerry left Selma driving to a ~~sp~~ hospital in Montgomery. They stopped at a Howard Johnson's on the way, where someone called the police. They were greeted by a Montgomery policeman with two police dogs in the back.
- They went to St. Margaret's hospital on the outskirts of Montgomery. By midnight it seemed Jerry had a gash across the forehead as if from a billy stick, and a slash across his neck which was bleeding badly. His glasses were broken. Prince had some kind of back injury.
- Prince described the possemen: some had tear gas masks. Those with masks also had automatic weapons. All however had helmets.
- When they arrived in Selma this afternoon they first called the FBI and reported their presence. The FBI man told him he wasn't sure what protection they could expect from the Sheriff but suggested they call him. They introduced themselves in the office of Sheriff Clark shortly after noon. They are on a Black Star assignment. Both have Atlanta police press credentials. DeMuth is also with Esquire. Prince with Macmillan publishing. In the sheriff's office there were about "20-30 uniformed men." Prince said the second next mad to Clark, who was directing the office appeared embarrassed that the men were talking about beatings. At first it appeared the Sheriff's posse had singled out the reporters. However, three local Negroes were hospitalized as a result of beatings after the mass meeting. Two men, one woman. One was admitted to Bur-ell Hospital in Selma, the other two to Good Samaritan Hosp. in Selma. Nature of injured and names not known.
- John Lewis and Mitchell arived safely. After midnight Lewis and Love were the only ones left in the office. They reported local people told them the streets had been cleared. Mrs. Boynton reported earlier that she had seen several local Negroes carried bloody to the hospital. Lewis also said Lingo was in town.
- DeMuth and Prince had eaten at a restuarant earlier where the cook had pulled a large man to the side. They whispered together and pointed to the two reporters. Later Prince recognized the big man as his assailant. When he had Prince on the ground he told him the waitress said Prince had a weapon. The big man took his wallet.
- Prince also reported that two times Sheriff Clark tried to intervene -- once when the camera was being smashed.
- He said before he was knocked down he saw the possemen swinging at some women with children. One man with a tear gas mask asked Prince if the Negroes started it. He claimed to be a state inspector.
- The SHeriff's men asked to see the press cards again when they left the church. Clark and some of his men watched through the windows during part of the mass meeting. After they got in their car, some law enforcement men told them to get moving and keep going.
- At one point P. was knocked in the stomach with a rifle.