

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) SS
COUNTY OF WAYNE)

1485

After being duly sworn, deponent, Mr. James Townsend Lee, who resides at 980 Frederick St. states that on Monday morning at 12:15 A.M. June 21st I discontinued work at 5826 Hastings St. I left this address to go to Canfield and Brush streets to get something to eat, when I arrived there I found the place was crowded. I went back to Hastings and Forest, as I got to the intersection some police officers drove to the curb and said to me, "Where are you going nigger?" I replied that I was going home. Just about this time two more car loads of policemen drove up. These officers got out of their car and began to beat me. They hit me over my right eye with their night sticks, they kicked me in the groin, from which I am still suffering from the blow. The officers beat me all of the way from 4630 Hastings street to the corner of Hastings and Forest in front of Jake's Bar. The officers said to me, "Why don't you run nigger?" One officer said to the others, "We dam near killed that nigger, let's go down and get somebody else."

In the scuffle with the police some cards and my wallet had fallen to the street. They were scattered from the place of the riff to the corner. I asked the officer if I could go back to get my personal belongings that had fallen to the street. One of the officers informed me that I could. He cursed me and told me to go home.

On Tuesday evening, June 22nd, I was sitting out in front of the Bar at 5826 Hastings. I had a registered gun for the protection of the building. I heard some type of noise which seemed to be in the cellar of my building. I carried my searchlight with me to the cellar but found nothing there. At this time I came back upstairs and was standing at the entrance of my building when some police officers drove up. They searched me and took all of my belongings. The police disarmed me at this time, and carried me to the Canfield station.

I was transferred from the Canfield station to the Armory on Piquette Ave. At the Piquette Armory I was not fed anything at all. There were about 300 persons held at the Armory as prisoners at the same time I was held there. We were forced to drink water from gallon containers. A man-hole was used as a lavatory. Prisoners had to sleep on the bare floor.

Thursday morning I was transferred to the Central police station. At this time I asked to get in touch with my family, but I was told by the officers that it was impossible for me to get in touch with anyone.

I was brought to court Friday morning, charged with carrying concealed weapons. I was placed on a bond for \$1,000.00 but this was lowered to \$300.00. At the present time I am out on bond.

Advice was given me by my brother, Alexander Lee, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who recognized my picture in the newspaper. I am still under doctor's care in Pittsburgh.

James Townsend Lee

Subscribed to and sworn before me this 30th day of June, 1943.



[Signature]

NOTARY PUBLIC