

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER Friday, March 18, 1994

## Suspect told others in car to shoot, the FBI says in court documents

**SHOOTOUT** from B1

Williams had no attorney, so he was taken back to a holding cell, his arraignment was rescheduled for 4 p.m. and an attorney was appointed. Williams was discharged from the hospital yesterday morning. He appeared weary during his second court appearance. A slender man with muscular arms and shoulders, he was dressed in mismatched, light-weight hospital pants and shirt. He walked stiffly, shuffling into the courtroom in thin hospital- or prison-issue slippers.

He later told the judge he had stitches on the right side of his head — where his hair had been shaved away in a circle the size of a quarter — and in his abdomen.

Williams is the first cousin of Jermaine Lipscomb, 23, of the 4200 block of North Hicks Street, who died in the shootout. Jackson, 20, of the 4300 block of North 15th Street, remained in hospital yesterday.

The FBI affidavit said that five guns were recovered from the black Hyundai the four suspects were traveling in, along with 18 rounds of ammunition of different calibers.

The FBI said that of the three suspects, only Jackson had admitted to having fired a pistol during the shootout.

Four federal agents and one Philadelphia policeman, part of an elite anti-drug task force, were involved in the shootout. Special FBI agent Robert C. Reutter said task force had the suspects under surveillance as part of an ongoing investigation.

Williams' mother, Dorothy Williams, said that FBI and hospital officials had denied her information about her son's condition despite repeated calls.

"They haven't let me see him," she said, adding that she had spent several hours on the phone and at the Albert Einstein Medical Center, where Melvin Williams was taken for an abdomen wound, trying to find out amid the conflicting rumors and news reports whether her son was alive.

"You would think a detective or a doctor would call us to tell us your son is alive. . . . But when I call the hospital, they put the FBI on the phone and they go click."

"I don't care what the case is, but you should know what's happened to your child," said Lonella Henderson, Dorothy Williams' sister.

Williams said she felt as if she had lost two sons in the shootout. She said she considered Jermaine Lipscomb her own son.

"Jermaine called me his mother," she said. "He was crazy about me."

She said that she and the family were shocked to learn, from news reports, that agents had shot Lipscomb with more than 30 bullets.

"Did they have to shoot him 30 times to make sure he was dead?" she asked.

Lipscomb's girlfriend, Fatima Cooper, 18, said they were expecting a child in six months.

"We'd been going out for four years," she said. "We had talked about getting married."


The North Broad Street intersection seemed deserted yesterday afternoon, compared with the usual bustle, residents said.

"The place is quiet today," said Toni Walker, who said she was an area resident. "There's a hat-seller who's been there in the rain and the snow and he's not there today."

About the shooting, Walker shakes her head.

"I think it's some kids who acted stupid. I think the FBI overdid it."

Inquirer staff writer Susan Caba contributed to this article.



**Cousins Jermaine Lipscomb (left) and Melvin Williams in a family picture. Lipscomb was killed, Williams wounded, in the shootout.**

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