

FBI Admits Shooting Wrong Arrest Suspect

Post 7/21/73

BATON ROUGE, La., July 20 (AP)—The FBI acknowledged today that a Black Muslim killed Wednesday by agents attempting to arrest him for Army desertion was the wrong man.

Agent Donald Moore said that the FBI has learned that a man named Calvin Henry Wallace, now serving a seven-year sentence at San Quentin Prison in California, had enlisted in the Army in 1972 under the name of the dead man, Milton Leon Scott, 21.

Scott was shot to death on the front porch of his Baton Rouge home Wednesday, when he resisted arrest, agents said.

Moore described the incident as tragic, but said the shooting was justified self-defense because Scott assaulted the two agents with a blackjack.

"I don't think it was a mess-up because the Army had asked us to look for a Milton Scott, and we found Milton Scott," Moore said. "It's just that he had not been in the Army."

Moore said Wallace had met Scott twice in the San Francisco area and had obtained his Social Security number, a copy of his birth certificate and other personal information.

He said Wallace was in prison for check forgery, assault and other crimes, and had a history of assuming other men's identities. The agent said Wallace deserted Oct. 24, 1972, and the Army asked the FBI to locate and arrest Scott as a deserter.

The two agents involved in the shooting were identified as Bill Woods and Delbert Hahn, both white. Which man fired the fatal shot was not disclosed.

The FBI said Wednesday that Scott first answered the door and acknowledged that he was Milton Leon Scott.

However, when the agents informed him they had a warrant for his arrest as an Army deserter, Scott was quoted as telling them he had never been in military service and would not go with them.

Agents said he then closed the door to his home and the struggle started when the FBI men tried to enter the house. The FBI said he attacked the agents and attempted to take their guns.

Scott's wife Beverly, 19, said her husband was not armed. She said the agents had dragged Scott from their small frame house, after which she heard two shots. Mrs. Scott accused the agents of trying to kick her husband after he was shot.

Television station WVUE reported Thursday night it had learned that Scott was in Baton Rouge during 1972 at the same time the Army said a Milton Leon Scott—with the same Social Security number—was in training at Ft. Ord, Calif.

The station quoted members of Scott's family as saying his wallet, with all of his identification cards in it, had been stolen in 1970.

Finger prints? This is what comes of the FBI lists