

Guard, Inmate

Two Stabbings At San Quentin

San Quentin prison was tense yesterday under the guard of a double force of correctional officers after two non-fatal stabbings, one of an officer and one of an inmate.

Yesterday's incidents are the latest in an accelerating series of prison knifings at San Quentin that left one inmate dead Saturday and claimed the life of another guard late last month.

The latest victims were Correctional Officer Robert Mays of 600 Fell street, San Francisco, and inmate Jerry Al Story.

Prison officials said that Officer Mays, a black man, was stabbed once in the right chest by an inmate as he entered the door of the prison's Protestant chapel, where a gospel music concert was just breaking up.

His assailant, also a black, then fled toward the interior of the chapel with Mays — who thought he had been merely hit rather than stabbed — in pursuit.

After grappling the man into submission, Mays brought him to a nearby guard emplacement. There the officer noticed blood on his shirt and realized he had been stabbed.

A 12-inch makeshift "shank" knife fashioned from a piece of steel stock was taken from the inmate, who was then put in a segregated unit of the prison to await a disciplinary hearing as soon as charges can be

formally brought.

The wounded guard, meanwhile, was taken to the prison's hospital, where his condition was diagnosed as "not serious," and transferred to Kaiser Hospital in San Francisco.

Day watch officers, already working extra duty because of the prison's reduced weekend staff, remained on duty throughout the evening meal.

Story, a 37-year-old Humboldt county man serving a life term for robbery and parole violation, approached a guard during the breakfast hour in the East Cell Block and said "I've got a knife in my back."

Saturday's stabbings came at a time when San Quentin officers, spurred by the July 21 stabbing death of guard Leo Davis, had been calling for an investigation of prison administration over "unsafe" working conditions at the prison.

Last Wednesday Arnold Thompson, president of the San Quentin chapter of the California Correctional Officers Association, filed the investigation request with the Marin county district attorney.

Davis was stabbed to death last month by inmates thought to be intent on murdering an inmate-informer who testified against seven prisoners accused of killing a guard at Soledad prison.

Although San Quentin officials yesterday did not offer a motive for Mays stabbing they said they didn't think it was in any way connected with the Soledad trial.