

Letter Boasts of Ingleside Attack

In an ill-typed, poorly spelled letter addressed to The Chronicle, the "George L. Jackson Assault Squad of the Black Liberation Army" took "credit" yesterday for Sunday night's shattering shotgun attack on Ingleside District Police Station.

The assault, in which as many as five persons may have participated, killed Sergeant John V. Young, one of the city's most respected officers, and left a woman clerk, Ellen (Nina) Lipney, seriously wounded.

The letter, reproduced by copying machine from a piece of binder paper, was headed (in lower case) "message to black people" and read:

"on the night of aug. 29, 1971, revolutionary violence was committed against the Ingleside Pig Sty as one political consequence for the recent intolerable political assassination of Comrade George L. Jackson in particular and the inhumane torture in POW (Prisoner of War) Camps in general.

"We retaliate against these acts along with the constant murder and brutality of Black People in their communities.

"We must not forgot nor allow our oppressors to continue brutalizing families and friends of our incarcerated comrades.

"REMEMBER AUG 29, 1971

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COURTROOM S.F. HALL OF JUSTICE

"The George L. Jackson Assault Squad of "The Black Liberation Army."

The August 29 reference, police believe, was to the melee that erupted in a Hall of Justice courtroom last Thursday, August 26, during a Soledad Brothers pre-trial hearing. Jackson, one of the "brothers" was shot and killed ten days ago during a breakout attempt at San Quentin Prison.

LIEUTENANT

Lieutenant Charles Ellis, head of the police homicide detail, would neither dismiss the letter as the work of a crank nor vouch for its authenticity.

"I feel there is certainly a revolutionary conspiracy in the country and certainly in the Bay Area and we've been getting the brunt of it for the last few weeks."

Ellis refused further comment on the letter, which is being studied.

He was equally non-communicative about the curious parallel between the Ingleside station attack and one that occurred precisely one year before to the day on the Fairmont police station in Philadelphia.

In the Philadelphia attack, seven blacks — part of a group calling itself "The Revolutionary"—entered the station. One or two men, without saying a word, fired through a window inside the office and killed a police sergeant.

Five of the assailants were subsequently captured, but two escaped and are still at large. They have been identified as Russell Shoats, 27, 5 feet 6, a steel worker, and Richard Rickey Thomas, 25, 6 feet, 170 pounds, with "semi-bushy hair."

The description of Thomas is similar to that of the young black who invaded the Ingleside district and gunned down Sergeant Young and Mrs. Lipney.

FILE

Ellis said the Philadelphia file on the attack is now en route to San Francisco police.

Ellis said, however, that the "best thing going" so far

in the San Francisco investigation is the search for a young white woman, brunette but wearing a blonde wig, who may have "cased" Ingleside station less than half an hour before it was riddled with bullets.

Shortly after 9 p.m., Ellis said, the woman phoned the station to report a lost handbag, and a few minutes later arrived to make a personal report.

She gave the information to Officer Jim Nance, who later said he felt she was a "phony."

DESCRIPTION

He described her as "fairly attractive," about 23 years old, five feet four inches tall, weighing 120 pounds, and wearing a micro-mini dress.

The woman, Ellis said, gave two addresses, one in San Francisco and one in Sacramento. Both addresses, he added, have been verified, but the woman is not known at either place.

"We have a lot of people working in the area where she said she lost her purse," Ellis said.

A composite drawing of the woman is now being assembled and will be released shortly, Ellis said.

REASON

He reiterated his belief that the subsequent attack was "planned to kill San Francisco police officers," and expressed doubt the assassins wanted to break into the station's small arsenal.

At least ten homicide inspectors are working on the case, and inspectors from other details are also participating in the inquiry.

Ellis said at least 18 shotgun blasts as well as shots from a 9-mm. pistol were fired into the station before the attackers left. They are believed to have escaped in two autos, one black and one tan. Two such vehicles were seen speeding away from the murder scene.

A Rosary for the Sergeant Young will be recited at 8 o'clock this (Wednesday) evening at Holy Name Catholic Church, 39th avenue and Lawton street. A Mass of the Resurrection will be offered at the church tomorrow (Thursday) morning at 9:30 o'clock. Burial, with full police honors, will be at Holy Cross Cemetery.