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# Soledad Blame on Jackson

## *Prisoner Tells Of Fatal Day*

By Harold V. Streeter

A defense witness gave testimony today tending to place the blame for the death of Soledad Prison Guard John V. Mills solely on the late George Jackson.

As the murder trial of Fleeta Drumgo and John Clutchette entered its 10th week, Dr. Richard Basford of San Francisco declared a study of autopsy records and pictures led him to believe Mills' death in the prison Jan. 16, 1970, was the result of a blow on the head, caused by striking a railing in a three tier fall.

### **Tells of Killing**

The initial prosecution witness, prisoner Thomas Yorke, had testified he saw Jackson, slain in a San Quentin escape attempt last Aug. 21, throw the guard from the third tier of the prison's "Y" Wing and that

he struck a second tier railing on the way down. Other witnesses have testified that Mills was hit by with his own flashlight and with karate blows delivered by Jackson and Drumgo.

Dr. Basford, a pathologist and chief of the medical staff of Cathedral Medical Center, disputed earlier testimony of the doctor performing the autopsy on Mills.

### **'Violent Blow'**

Basford said he had done considerable autopsies on violent deaths and that it was his view that Mills died from a "hemorrhage into the vital centers of the brain... from a serious violent blow to the back of the head" that could only have occurred from striking the railing on the way down.

Basford said that not even a karate expert nor the flashlight could have done such damage.

Under cross-examination by Chief Assistant District Attorney Ed Barnes of Monterey County, Basford said karate experts are capable of breaking board, thicker than the bone at the back of Mills head, but if a karate blow had been responsible, Jackson's hand would have been damaged.

But, said Basford, pictures of the hand showed only callouses.