



ROBERT F. DILLON
Deputy indicted for assault.

Drew Assault Laid to Officer

Deputy Sheriff Robert F. Dillon, who on April 23 participated with other deputies and law-enforcement officers in recapturing John E. Drew, 25, slayer of Deputy Sheriff Al Bowe, and Kenneth L. Teague, alleged parole violator, who had escaped from the county jail the day before, was indicted by the county grand jury Tuesday on a charge of assault and battery for manhandling Drew after the latter had been handcuffed.

In a special report accompanying the indictment, the grand jury exonerated the other deputies and law-enforcement officers, pointing out the beating of Drew was "an isolated instance of an officer of the law exceeding his authority and duty."

Sheriff Exculpated

Immediately after return of the indictment, Sheriff Martin T. Pratt, issued a statement that at no time has he ever "approved or condoned the misuse of prisoners," saying there is a standing order "in my office, having been in effect for many years, that calls for the immediate dismissal of any officer who uses undue force or violence to secure evidence or confessions from a person accused of a crime."

In its statement, the grand jury said it held Sheriff Pratt "blameless" for the incident, inasmuch as he "was not present at the time and the acts were in direct violation of his specific and long-standing orders."

Dillon, who is 32 years old, has worked out of the Vanport City precinct headquarters of the sheriff's office since his appointment as deputy sheriff February 19, 1943.

Texts of Sheriff Pratt's statement and the grand jury report on page 14.