

Jury Charges Prison Fire Set By 3 Convicts

United Press International report

Playground Daily News, July 19, 1967, page 10 (placement linked by overlap with the preceding article).

Source: photographs taken by Spencer Madrie of microfilm at the Fort Walton Beach library archives (user-provided provenance). Received through Telegram on September 26, 2026.

Source notes

The top of photos 21-23 repeats the final paragraph of the page-10 AP report, establishing page continuity. Photo 22 is the clearest main copy. The jury's findings are attributed to this newspaper report, not independently verified court records.

Reading transcription

Visually checked against the supplied photographs. Line-break hyphenation and spacing are normalized; brackets identify editorial flags. Historical wording, names and reported counts are retained. Source images govern if a transcription error remains.

MILTON, Fla. (UPI) - A coroner's jury Tuesday blamed three convicts for deliberately starting a prison road camp fire in which 37 prisoners burned to death Sunday night.

All three of the accused prisoners were among the victims of the flash fire at the prison camp at Berrydale, north of here. Only 14 convicts survived and six of these were critically burned.

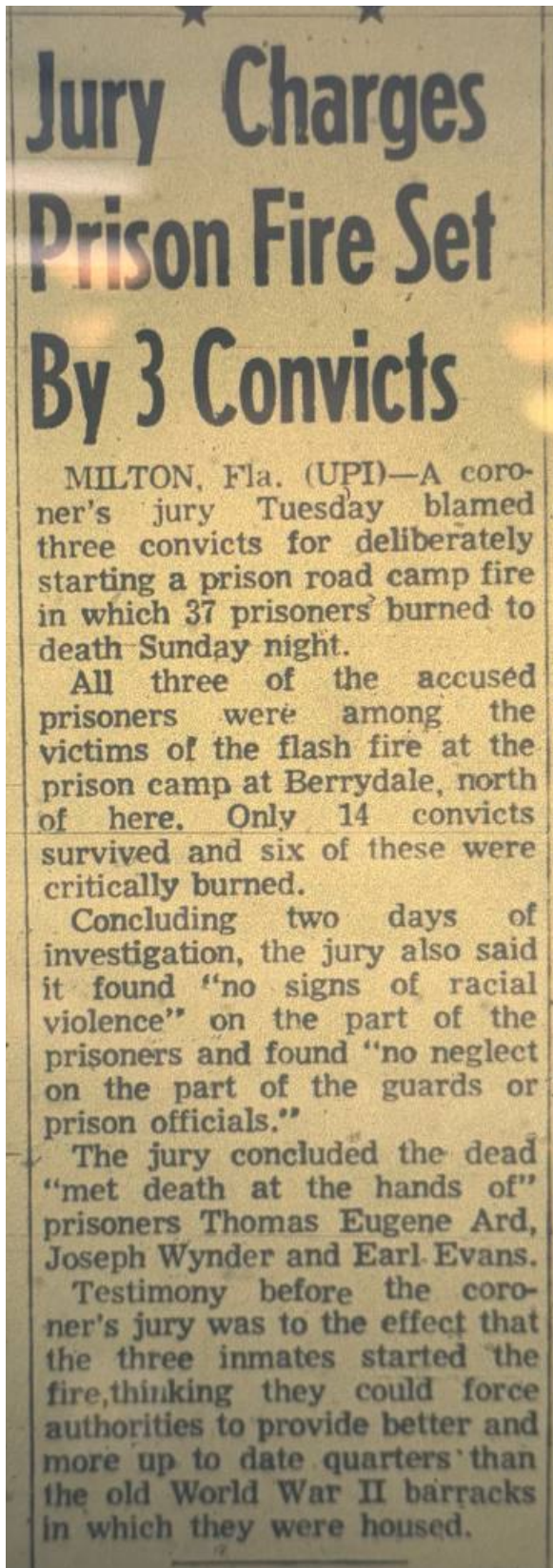
Concluding two days of investigation, the jury also said it found "no signs of racial violence" on the part of the prisoners and found "no neglect on the part of the guards or prison officials."

The jury concluded the dead "met death at the hands of" prisoners Thomas Eugene Ard, Joseph Wynder and Earl Evans.

Testimony before the coroner's jury was to the effect that the three inmates started the fire, thinking they could force authorities to provide better and more up to date quarters than the old World War II barracks in which they were housed.

Source view - photo 22

Best complete headline and article



Source view - photo 23

Alternate overlapping view for comparison

