Lester Lermond, Lewisburg:

“On August 11 Lester Lermond began a hunger strike over the failure of a letter to his wife to get out. Eight days later he stopped drinking water in order to speed action on the censorship issue. When nine COs in segregation with Lermond attempted to talk with the doctor bout Lermond’s condition, some guards dragged five of them, twisting their arms, down a flight of stairs and put them into a room in the basement. Nathan Horwitz had his glasses smashed and then was dragged by the hair. The other four were Norman Gesner, Alexander Lang, George Peters, and Merle Safford. For condemning the guards’ action in a letter to Acting Director of the Bureau of Prisons A.H. Conner, and later in an interview with Warden Hiatt, Roy Franklyn, Willis Giese, and Thomas Woodman lost the jobs that they had had. Franklyn and Woodman also spent some time in the hole.

Altogether there are now nineteen COs on strike at Lewisburg. This is an all-time high in non-cooperation for that institution. Six of the nine Cos who recently stopped work in protest against a decision of the prison authorities, depriving tow non-Cos of good time were themselves docked thirty days’ good time each. Among the six were William Sutherland and Merle Safford who had been due to leave prison in August. Gordon Goley, a CO, and Estaban Caban, a Puerto Rican Nationalist, both serving second sentences, have been deprived of their good time for declining to sign conditional release papers.”

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