Jailed on Traffic Charge Man Says He Was Beaten

A westside man claims he was beaten senseless by Detroit police officers and refused permission to communicate with his family for hours after officers discovered his driver's license had expired.

Otha Lee Davis, 23, of 2235 Hudson, said a scout car stopped him on 14th, and the officers asked to view his operator's permit and car registration.

Beating

turned the corner at 14th and Edsel Ford drive.

With the police car still behind him, Davis said he proceeded toward his hom. As he turned the corner, his tire went flat. Davis said when he walked around the car, one officer jumped out of the police car which had stopped directly behind him and ordered him to halt or he would shoot.

Davis said the officer advanced with his weapon drawn and he raised his hands.

Davis alleged the officers then began beating him with their fists and nightsticks. He said when he was beaten to the ground, the two officers handcuffed him and threw him in the back of the police car.

Upon arrival at the 10th precinct, Davis said he complained that he was seriously injured and asked for medical care.

He was taken by scout car to Receiving hospital, where he said he remained for about seven hours without an opportunity to notify his family of his whereabouts.

He was charged with resisting arrest and interfering with an officer in the performance of his duty.

The preliminary hearing was held before Recorder's court Judge Elvin Davenport, and the case was adjourned until April 2.

Davis said that at no time during his encounter with the officers did he attempt to defend himself or in any way strike the officers.

A native of Greenwood, Miss., Davis is employed by the Cadillac Division of General Motors Corp. He has been living in Detroit for the past four months since his release from the U.S. Army.