

3 NEGROES SHOT AS CHESTER RACE RIOTS CONTINUE

One of Victims Expected to Die—Precautions Prove Futile

Sheriff Orders Citizens Off Streets—Mayor Guarded. Outside Blacks Barred

From a Staff Correspondent.

CHESTER, Pa., July 27.—In new battles between whites and blacks here today three negroes were wounded, one so seriously he is expected to die.

Despite the augmented police force and precautions of city and county officials the race riots, which have kept this city in a turmoil for the last four days, were renewed with added fury.

The first clash came early in the day, hours before trouble was looked for. The three victims were shot down on the streets.

As the fighting started, new forces of guards, State troopers, policemen and deputies were rushed to the storm centres. Posters forbidding all persons to assemble on the public highways were posted early in the day by order of Sheriff John E. Heyburn, Jr., of Delaware county.

Everything is quiet here tonight, however. The arrival of fifteen additional State troopers, under command of Captain Wilhelm, of Pottsville, and of fifty armed guards from the munition plants at Eddystone seems to have restored order.

Few persons were on the streets after

Continued on 3d Page, 2d Col.

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Continued From First Page

nightfall, and by 10 o'clock the principal thoroughfares were abandoned except for the guards and deputy sheriffs in plain clothes.

Twice during the evening trouble seemed about to start. At Seventh and Madison streets a mob chased a negro who was on his way home from work, and a little later a colored family sitting in front of their home in the negro section were jeered at by a group of white youths. State troopers promptly put a stop to both outbreaks, however.

Steps to bar from this city negroes reported to be coming here from other points to battle with the Chester blacks against the white residents were taken upon receipt of warning from Philadelphia that colored men known to the police as desperate characters were en route to Delaware county.

Evidences of the lawlessness that has swept this city for the past four days are everywhere present.

Little Hope for Wounded Negro

The negro most seriously wounded, Frank Meadows, 37 years old, whose home is at Third and Edgemont streets, is reported to be dying in the Chester Hospital. Surgeons tonight prepared to perform a delicate operation, in a desperate effort to extract a bullet fired from a window in the neighborhood of the American Dye Works.

C. B. Boler, 26 years old, of 253 Welsh street, and George Gibbs, of Second and Kerlin streets, the other injured negroes, were shot down in the neighborhood of the Chester Shipbuilding Company's plant. They also were removed to the Chester Hospital and operated upon.

The warning from the Philadelphia police that a number of negroes from that city were planning to come to Chester to stir up further trouble, was received early in the morning. Orders were immediately given to police and special guards to arrest any negro alighting from a train or trolley car, unless he could offer good reasons for his visit.

Shortly after 7 o'clock two colored men jumped from a trolley car on Market street, near City Hall, and began to walk briskly toward a side street. When nabbed by State Troopers and turned over to the police, they gave their names as Peter Ray and E. H. Davis, of Philadelphia.

Each was armed with a revolver and a box of cartridges. Davis was recognized as a man known as "Bad Eddie," one of the most troublesome residents of a notorious negro section in Philadelphia. They probably will be sent back to Philadelphia tomorrow.

Missing Negro May Be Dead

When the police authorities lined up their seventy-eight colored prisoners this afternoon for removal to the county jail at Media it became apparent that the rioting last night may have resulted in more than one fatality.

The only death previously reported was that of Joseph McCann, a white man, of 215 Lloyd street, known throughout the town as "Skeets." But it was discovered that Sammus Trivett, who for two weeks had been living in a boarding house in Bethel Court, having come North recently from a small town in Georgia, was not among the prisoners. The description of him given by the boarding mistress tallies with that of a negro who was violently kicked and beaten during last night's riots, and left lying in the street. What became of him is a mystery.

To prevent a repetition of the outbreak which marked last night Mayor McDowell and Sheriff Heyburn filled the city with guards and extra police details. One of the main units in the formidable aggregation was a squad of thirty State troopers, drawn from sub-stations in different parts of Pennsylvania.

In addition to these, more than fifty armed guards from the munition plants at Eddystone were brought to Chester in huge motor trucks and assigned to patrol duty. Sheriff Heyburn also swore in a number of deputy sheriffs, who were in-

structed to mingle in the street crowds in civilian clothing.

Guard Mayor From Attack

Among the many rumors that flooded the city was one that an attack was to be made upon Mayor McDowell. There is a feeling in many sections that the leniency with which his administration has dealt with colored prisoners arrested on serious charges has given the negro population a sense of release from all restraint, and has made them feel free to do as they please, regardless of law and common decency.

For this reason the Mayor was provided with a bodyguard of two bluecoats, who accompanied him wherever he went. Outside the front window of his office, in the City Hall, were stationed two armed guards from Eddystone. After 7 o'clock no traffic of any kind was permitted to approach the City Hall, guards of State troopers forming "dead lines" at the streets on either side of the building.

The Eddystone guards were stationed at street corners in the "Black Belt," and State troopers in pairs patrolled the thoroughfares in the same section.

Meadows was shot as he was about to enter the office of the dye works for his wages. There was a group of white men about a block away, but no one was seen near him. A shot rang out as he was crossing the street. The negro staggered for a moment, then fell to the ground. The group of white men dispersed at once, but the police believe they fled only because of a dread of becoming involved. They are convinced the shot was fired from a nearby window.

The negro lay writhing in the street for nearly ten minutes before aid reached him. Then he was removed to the hospital.

No Arrests After Attacks

The other two negroes were shot earlier in the afternoon. Gibbs, a trusted employe of the ship yards, had been ordered by his superintendent to go home by way of the front street. Instead, the negro walked through Second street. He had gone only a few steps when five shots were fired at him, two of them taking effect.

Boler was shot in the left foot while loitering in the neighborhood of the shipyards. No arrests have been made in connection with the three attacks.

All of Chester is virtually under martial law tonight. Citizens were ordered to remain in their homes after nightfall and the streets were cleared of all but necessary traffic. Saloons and stores were ordered closed at 7 o'clock. Jitneys, which usually congest some of the thoroughfares, were temporarily put out of business. Only trolley cars and automobiles with special permits were permitted to use the streets.

Market street teemed with excitement around two o'clock this afternoon when the prisoners taken in the riots last night were loaded into a special trolley car in front of City Hall for removal to Media. They were taken away to make room for prisoners likely to be taken during the night.

After the streets had been cleared in the immediate neighborhood of the City Hall, and a wide cord of guards swung across the street, the negroes, dirty and disheveled, some of them in bare feet and all of them in rags, began to file out. Guards were stationed on the front and rear platforms and along the aisle. State Troopers prevented any attempt to follow the car.

May Demand McDowell Quit

It is reported that a committee of citizens has been organized to demand the resignation of Mayor McDowell as soon as conditions have been restored to normal. Many prominent citizens say the trouble is directly traceable to political favoritism practiced as a bait for the negro vote.

They believe the bad feeling was first engendered three weeks ago when two negroes, arrested for a brutal assault upon Margaret Ewing, a white girl, in Crozier Park, were held under \$300 bail for court, and later released when William F. Ramsey, Representative from the First district of Delaware county, furnished the bail. The committing magis-

trate was a man named Lear, who presides in the "Black Belt." The negroes were re-arrested and held without bail at the order of District Attorney Hannum.

Deep resentment has also been created by the action of Edward S. Fry, hotel proprietor and political potentate in the "Black Belt," in furnishing bail for one of the two colored women, charged with inciting the murder of William McKinney on Tuesday night.

Sheriff Heyburn, who has virtually taken charge of the city, declared today that riots were the result of a deliberate plot by the Southern whites in Chester to drive the blacks from the city.

Southern Whites Blamed by Sheriff

"Thursday's night affair," he said, "was planned yesterday and I know pretty nearly the bunch behind it. There are a lot of southerners here who came to work in the ammunition plants, and they have been driving our people to kill the negroes ever since that white girl was assaulted.

"I think it would have been a good plan if we could have brought Thomas, the man who is charged with killing young McKinney, to an earlier trial, for this would have allayed the anger of the whites and would not have given them a chance to be the cat's paws for the Southern fellows here.

"This is nothing more than sectional hatred brought into Chester. A couple of murders and other crimes have only intensified the trouble, but we are able now to cope with anything that happens and I believe that the back bone of the riot is broken."

NEGRO FROM CHESTER TRIES TO HOLD UP CAR

A negro who is believed to be a fugitive from the race riots of Chester was arrested yesterday morning after he had tried to hold up a trolley car and a motor truck near the corner of Twenty-second and Walnut streets.

He stopped the car and the motorman, who thought that he intended to hold up the passengers shut the door in his face, knocking him from the steps. The conductor, who had heard the commotion immediately put on full speed across the Walnut street bridge.

Shortly afterwards the negro attempted to hold up a United States mail truck. But when the chauffeur saw the revolver he too put on full speed and disappeared up the street. When Policemen Foy and Mulhearn, of the Fifteenth and Locust streets station, arrived on the scene, he was still flourishing the revolver. After he was arrested they found an automatic pistol and a box of cartridges in his pocket.

He was given a hearing before Magistrate Rooney. At the hearing he gave his name as Henry Wilson, of West Second street, Chester. He said that he had no intention of holding up the car, but only wanted to get aboard. The magistrate held him under \$600 bail for court on the charge of carrying concealed deadly weapons.