

15 Injured as Hundreds of Negroes Riot, Toss Rocks at Police, Smash Cars Here



Staff Photo—Robert Connell

Defy Allen, Repulsed by Tear Gas

At least 15 persons — including four policemen — were injured Tuesday afternoon when hundreds of Negroes rioted near the Atlanta Stadium after being egged on by members of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in the wake of the police shooting of a Negro auto theft suspect.

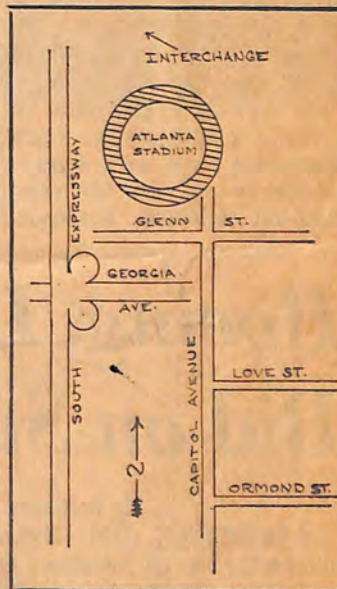
Sixty-three persons were arrested before the riot was quelled.

The rioters ignored pleas of reason from Mayor Ivan Allen Jr., who braved thrown bricks in his efforts to restore peace, and were halted only when city police fired warning shots in the air and discharged tear gas about two hours later.

As police reinforcements arrived in the neighborhood, centered on Capitol Avenue and Ormond Street SW, the officers broke out shotguns — which appeared to incense the crowd.

WHY THE GUNS?

“Why the shotguns? Why the shotguns?” the crowd shouted.



SCENE OF TROUBLE

In Middle Of Mob— The Mayor

By DICK HEBERT

A grim-faced Mayor Ivan Allen walked into the middle of jeering, angry throng of rioters Tuesday afternoon.

fect you."

A number of Negro youths shouted in answer, "Kill the white bastards, kill the white cops."

Some of the youths carried large clubs. Others rained rocks

Constitution reporters covering this story were Dick Hebert, Keeler McCartney, Michael Davis, Bill Shipp and Charles Moore.

and bottles at the officers, hitting some.

The mob started to break up only when the officers began firing shots over their heads and firing tear gas.

CARS OVERTURNED

At the peak of the riot, one police car and a civilian's car were overturned and members of the mob tried to overturn two paddy wagons. Police and the vehicles of white people were stoned as they drove through the area, and several windshield shields were shattered.

Shortly before midnight Mayor Allen surveyed the scene and said, "I think the people who live here have gone to their

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this thing over peaceably."

Standing shoulder to shoulder in the center of a chanting crowd of hundreds, Allen said through a portable megaphone:

'LET'S GO'

"How about listening to me a minute now? How about letting me speak? I'm going to walk up Capitol Avenue to the stadium — and if you want to come, let's go."

Negroes repeatedly asked the mayor, "Why are there only white people with shotguns?"

The mayor answered, "In the first place we don't need any shotguns, and I'm not here with anything. Ain't nobody going to get killed and you know that."

ROCK CAR

After the crowd refused to follow him to the steps of Atlanta Stadium and refused to hear him as he stood above them on the roof of a police car, the Negroes rocked the car and almost turned it over.

Allen was pulled down but he landed on his knees and climbed back onto the car.

At one point, a Negro in a red shirt climbed on top of the car with Allen and pointed a finger into Allen's face, spitting out the words, "Black power!"

REPEAT CRY

The crowd took up the chant as its leader brandished his fists in the air. Allen stood watching grimly.

A few minutes later the Capitol Avenue area was torn by gunfire, exploding tear gas bombs and flying bricks, sticks and soda bottles. Allen still was in the midst of it, caught in a crossfire.

As newsmen and police scampered from the rain of bricks and bottles, Allen ducked behind the armored police riot trucks but minutes later was again approaching Negro groups to disperse them.

LIFE ENDANGERED

Later he scoffed at the idea that he had placed his life in danger.

"The only thing you think of

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