

Detriot Riot

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS, ARMY SERVICE FORCES
WASHINGTON

SPGC-L

29 June 1943

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR OF CIVILIAN PERSONNEL AND TRAINING,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR
(Attention: Acting Civilian Aide, Mr. Truman K. Gibson, Jr.)

Subject: Effect of Detroit Racial Conflicts on War Production.

1. The following reports have been received from the Technical Services concerning the effect of the race conflict in Detroit on production in the plants of their contractors:

a. Ordnance Department (Telephone report from Detroit, 22 June 1943).

(1) Michigan Steel Castings Co: This company experienced a lot of difficulty in continuing production on 21 June. On the morning of 22 June, they did not have enough men in the plant to start work. However, they expected the second shift to be OK. While they had the numbers to work with 21 June, there was so much emotional upheaval within this and every other plant in Detroit, it is estimated that the loss to production will run 10 to 15% on that date. PRIME CONTRACTOR: Castings for transmission housings for M3 Tank. Additional parts for the transmission. Final drive unit.

(2) Detroit Steel Castings: Employment about half whites and half Negroes. Same difficulty 21 June as at Michigan Steel Castings. 1st shift 22 June entirely at a standstill. There were a few men in the plant putting around. Expected enough men to start afternoon shift. TANK PARTS. 65% Ordnance.

(3) L. A. Young Spring & Wire: Plants 1 - 2 - 3 - 6. Production curtailed, but not seriously. About normal production expected on afternoon shift 22 June. 100% Ordnance. 20mm Center and End links and 75 mm Shell MK 61. (Plant 1). At Plant 2 and 3, they make 77mm H.E. M48 Shell and 20mm Shot. Both 65% Ordnance.

(4) National Machine Products: Some difficulty, but they did continue production at about $\frac{1}{2}$ what it should have been. 60% Ordnance. Special nuts and adjusting screws.

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Continued

(5) Bohn Aluminum & Brass: Plants 1 and 7. Production interfered with since 11 a.m., yesterday, 21 June 1943. Production now normal. 40% Ordnance. 60% AAF.

Note: Greatest trouble 21 and 22 June in war production was transportation. Heart of riot covered the street car and bus lines and their service was almost at a standstill most of the day.

b. Chemical Warfare Service.

On 22 June 1943, the Chemical Warfare Service reported that two plants were shut down because of the race riot in Detroit. Eureka Vacuum Cleaner closed some time during the afternoon of 21 June. The plant re-opened morning of 22 June; however, 105 female employees were absent. The Electromaster Co. shut down at 7 p.m., 21 June, and on the morning of 22 June, 150 white and colored failed to report, throwing production off about 50%. All other CWS plants opened as usual 22 June.

c. Army Air Forces.

There was an average of about 10% absenteeism in aircraft plants on the morning of 21 June due mostly to the failure of about 50% of the Negroes to report. Small absenteeism noted at Willow Run Bomber Plant where there are only about 1,000 Negroes employed. At the River Rouge Plant of Ford, there was 18% absenteeism, mostly colored workers. At Packard, there was 30% absenteeism on the morning of 21 June, mostly colored workers, and for the most part affecting the foundry. If the situation had remained, the plant would have had to shut down. However, on the 3 p.m. shift, 21 June, more workers came in and it was felt the situation would soon be alleviated. At Bohn Aluminum & Brass, there was 10% absenteeism. At Aluminum Co. of America, the foundry was practically closed with 80% of the colored workers absent. This plant was apparently the worst affected.

For the Director, Industrial Personnel Division:



JOHN E. O'GARA
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Chief, Labor Branch
Industrial Personnel Division

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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For the Director, Industrial Personnel Division:

JOHN E. O'GARA
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Chief, Labor Branch
Industrial Personnel Division

6 July 1943

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Assistant Secretary of War

Attached is the article by Mr. McGill that I spoke to you about last week. While I do not agree with it in its entirety it is certainly thought provoking. His general approach leaves nothing to be desired, all things considered.

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.
Acting Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

*The limits
R. G. S.*

Chicago Herald-American
June 24, 1943

Negroes Offer to Help City Keep Peace

June 24 '43
Declaring all the Negro wants is law and order, A. Philip Randolph, national director of the March on Washington Movement, addressed 2,000 members of his race in the Metropolitan Community Church, 4100 South Park Way, last night.

A resolution that a committee be appointed to call on Mayor Kelly and Governor Green was adopted. The committee was empowered to offer the help of the Negro population of the city to maintain peace.

The meeting was called to protest the Detroit race riots.

BETTER THAN DETROIT.

Earlier, several prominent Negro leaders met in the offices of The Chicago Defender. They agreed conditions are much better here than in Detroit.

Dr. U. G. Dalley, chief surgeon at Provident Hospital, urged that as one step toward better understanding and unity steps be taken for an interchange of groups between white and Negro churches, with each group explaining its problems to the other.

CHURCHES ACT.

The Rev. Joseph Evans, pastor of Community Church, said all churches are taking steps to keep the tension within their own congregations at a minimum.

Dr. Charles Thompson, an official of the Urban League, said he believed axis agents were responsible at least partly for the outbreak of racial classes, and cited Hitler's boast in "Mein Kampf" that he had only to stir up the race question to cause disunity in America.

At another meeting called by the Urban League at the Central YMCA, a committee was selected to call upon Police Commissioner James P. Allman today to discuss methods of maintaining order.

There had been ^{some time} ups in this smoldering situatio
aggravated in recent months
housing shortages and heavy
flux of war workers from ot
sections of the country.

On Sunday, June 13, Negro
white youths clashed in subur
Inkster. Last week there w
clash of similar nature a
amusement park.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Who Is To Blame?

AS DETROIT emerges from the bloody orgy through which it recently passed, and stands bleeding and ashamed before the world, thousands of citizens of both races are asking themselves these questions:

If police brutality toward colored citizens had been less severe, if adequate housing facilities had been made available for members of the race, if job opportunities had been more equitably distributed to colored workers, and if full American justice and opportunity had been given colored citizens the same as other citizens, couldn't this awful riot have been averted? They also wonder that even during the rioting, couldn't the conflict have been quelled sooner and without the intervention of state and federal troops, if Detroit police had not seemingly assumed that the issue was between the colored people and themselves?

Even though some of our white fellow citizens express opinion that the riot was caused by subversive influences to sabotage the war production effort, we share the viewpoint of many other thoughtful citizens who believe that the Detroit riot this week was caused by an organized effort to prevent colored people from participating freely in defense work and enjoy increased economic and social benefits. There is cause to believe that such organizations as the Ku Klux Klan have been involved in these activities, as demonstrated in the recent strike at the Packard plant.

After the Civil War, history records that it was the Ku Klux Klan which was organized in the South to terrorize the newly emancipated colored people and to keep them suppressed. These measures subsided in course of time, but just before the close of World War I, the Klan was revived in Georgia and spread to other states, for the avowed purpose of intimidating the colored soldiers who were returning from France. Many lynchings occurred during this period and numerous race riots flared up, including the bloody riots at Chicago, Atlanta, Washington, D.C. and other cities.

We are in the midst of another World War in which many thousands of colored servicemen are enlisted. Other thousands of colored men and women are now employed in defense plants and earning high pay. At the same time, minority peoples all over the world are demanding the right to share in the Four Freedoms expressed in the Atlantic Charter. Klan leaders in this and other parts of the nation realize these facts and are active again. Other anti-Negro influences are also active, otherwise the recent rioting would not have occurred in Beaumont, Texas, and in the shipyards at Mobile, Ala.

The Detroit riot was not an isolated incident, neither was it spontaneous. It was made to order by anti-Negro organizations which have long been active in this community and nation. The riot storm clouds have been gathering for months. Sporadic clashes between small groups of white and colored Detroiters have flared up at various times in different sections of the city. More than a month ago, one of the early incidents took place in northwest Detroit. A gang of white youth stoned several colored homes, but police prevented a gang of colored youth from retaliating. Racial disturbances have been flaring up at some of the local defense factories, where white workers protested against the hiring of colored workers. The recent strike at the Packard plant was a glaring example. Then came the attack recently made at Eastwood Park by a gang of white youth who sought to drive colored people from the amusement park.

Sunday night, just one week prior to the latest Detroit riot, several hundred white and colored people participated in a racial clash at Inkster, Mich., a few miles west of Detroit. Yet, in spite of these various outbreaks which foreshadowed approaching riots, little was done by public authorities to avert the thing which happened.

An unfortunate feature of the Detroit riot is the fact that so many innocent people had to suffer. Aside from the loss of human life, the property destruction and time lost by war workers who remained home to defend their families, will total millions of dollars and seriously retard the nation's war production program.

What has happened cannot be changed, deplorable as it is and perhaps all do not agree as to where the blame lies. But Detroit citizens, colored and white, can dedicate themselves to the task of eradicating the sinister influences, the injustice, the brutality and the intolerance which breed race hatred and rioting.

Chicago Tribune
June 23, 1943

THE DETROIT RIOTS.

With the arrival of the troops in Detroit, the race riots which had brought deep disgrace upon that community came to an abrupt end. Perhaps it is not merely wishful thinking that prompts the hope that the blood-letting in Detroit will have served to release the emotional tension that in recent weeks has brought race conflict to Los Angeles, Mobile, Beaumont, Tex., and Philadelphia as well as Detroit. We may hope so, but there must be no relaxation of vigilance on the part of police and local authorities to prevent mobs from forming. It is far easier to disperse a crowd before it has gathered the strength and confidence that come with numbers than it is to quell a riot.

The punishment of the ringleaders, if they can be found, would be wholesome. Certainly those persons whose participation in the disorders can be proved from photographs should be prosecuted.

An important lesson can be drawn by the American people from this ugly incident: If we cannot maintain an enduring peace in this country between races whose members have lived in the same communities, recognizing the same laws and customs for many decades, what chance is there for an amicable future if America is tied in an organic union with other countries whose peoples know nothing about our language and our institutions? The rash enthusiasts who are confident that Americans can work in unbroken friendship with Tartars, Bushmen, Chinese and Hindus, have something to learn from the incidents in Detroit and Los Angeles.

Over the years since the Civil war, despite occasional acts of violence, the relations between the races in America have improved but we still have far to go before the problem can be regarded as solved. The advocates of super-governments are asking us to believe that what we have not yet succeeded in accomplishing in America can be achieved with the stroke of a pen on an international treaty. Their thoughtless optimism is scarcely to be distinguished from insanity.

Prophet George Hurley, Earl Walton Dead

16 PAGES

Detroit Tribune
LEADING NEGRO WEEKLY OF MICHIGAN

8c WORTH MORE

VOL. XXI—NO. 15

2146 St. Antoine

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 1943

PHONE CLifford 2924

RIOTING EASES BUT DETROIT STILL UNDER MARTIAL LAW



This lone colored salesman armed with nothing but a brief case and doing no harm to anyone, was hauled off a Woodward Avenue car at Mack, Monday, by a white mob who beat him severely. Note the club at the feet of one of the women in the group. (Other pictures on page 16.)



This store at the corner of St. Antoine and Montcalm, a block from Tribune office, was completely wrecked by colored rioters in reprisal for injuries inflicted by white mobs. Hundreds of other stores owned by whites on the eastside were also demolished by colored citizens.



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Witnesses Tell Of Encounters With Mobs And 'Protectors'

Since Sunday when the riot broke out at Belle Isle bridge, hundreds of citizens have come to the Tribune office and hundreds of telephone messages, telling of incidents they saw or experienced during the bloody orgy. Space and opportunity will not permit the paper to publish all of these incidents, but here are a few of the many which were listed:

Atty. Elvin Davenport, president of the Wolverine Bar association, received a painful blow on the left side of his face. He was coming down Woodward avenue in his car Monday morning and when he stopped for a light, a gang of white rioters, including women, rushed up to his car and began striking him through the left front window of his automobile.

Seventy-year-old Leonard R. Izzard, of 312 Canfield avenue, cashier of Western Union Mutual Insurance company, was pulled off a Woodward Avenue street car at Erskine by white mobsters and severely beaten, Monday evening, as he was going home from work. Izzard stated that two white policemen stood there and saw the crowd of men, women and children stoning him, but did not raise a hand to prevent it. Finally, two white men intervened and urged the crowd to take pity on the old man and stop beating him. Mr. Izzard received several painful head injuries and it was necessary that several stitches be taken on his scalp.

Miss Gladys House, a young colored, and her male escort were on Belle Isle bridge Sunday night en route home, when she was cut by a piece of flying glass during the melee. Her escort was beaten. Miss House asked one of the policemen to help get her and the young man to a hospital for first aid, but was refused. After much persuasion an officer finally agreed to take them as far as the bus line, but Miss House kept insisting until he took them to a hospital.

George Taylor, a clerk in the Recorder's court, was stoned by rioters Monday morning on Woodward avenue, as he was going to

work. Several windows in his car were smashed.

Atty. Joseph Craigen, deputy labor commissioner, was crossing Woodward avenue near the center of the city Monday afternoon, when six white men grabbed him and began to manhandle him, demanding to know why he was walking on Woodward avenue and ordering him to get back to the colored area. Craigen told the men the U.S. Constitution gave him the right to walk where he chose. He succeeded in getting out of the difficulty without serious harm.

Two young girls, Beulah Allen and Lillian Jordan, were on the way to work Monday morning and got off a street car in the center of town to transfer. They saw a large crowd of whites surrounding a lone colored youth, striking and abusing him and daring him to speak. A policeman stood looking on. One of the white spectators protested to the crowd and entreated them to let the boy alone. The officer finally asserted his authority and put the boy on a street car and broke up the crowd.

Robert Fletcher, a postoffice employee, and a Mr. Woods, who resides on the third floor of the

(Continued on page 2)

FOR THE RECORD

By ULYSSES W. BOYKIN

With the smoke of battle cleared away, and the heat of passion and anger subsided, Detroit's citizenry views the results of 28 hours of bloods fighting and destruction.

Counting the jailed, it takes no mathematician to see that Negroes were arrested far out of proportion to their numbers. News commentators mentioned the mobs of whites who yanked Negroes out of buses, street cars, and private cars and beat them, but of the 1200 arrested, only 200 were whites.

Counting the dead — 25 at this writing, with possibly more to die who were hospitalized because of serious injuries—the Negroes numbered 22 of the dead. It takes no wizard to figure who the police were shooting down.

Which all goes to show that rioting accomplishes nothing but disaster, especially for a minority group, unarmed in the main part, who are at the mercy of white armed law and order enforcers, and huge numbers of unruly mobs.

My fellow Americans, by your hands and hot heads you have given the Axis plenty of ammunition to use in furthering their cause. By your actions you have stopped, for a while, what little progress that has been made in bringing all of the things that make a democratic world. Looting of stores, destroy-

(Continued on page 12)

Spiritualist Pastor Dies Of Throat Ailment

Former Georgian Active In Detroit For 26 Years

Prophet George W. Hurley, 1745 McDougall, founder and minister of the Universal Hager's Spiritual church at 944 Napoleon street, died Wednesday morning at 6:25 at his home following eight months illness.

The cause of his death was due to a throat ailment.

The Rev. Mr. Hurley has been a resident of Detroit for 26 years. He was born in Butler, Georgia.

Surviving the 59-year-old spiritual leader are his five children: Miss Erma Hurley, Miss Lena Hurley, Mrs. Georgina Latimer, Carl Hurley and Joe Hurley, all of Detroit.

Funeral arrangements have not been made. The body is at the Charles C. Diggs funeral home, 693 Mack avenue.

NEGROES GREATEST PER CENT OF 1,300 WAITING TRIAL

Judge John P. Scallen began hearing the minor cases resulting from the riot Monday morning and continued all day Tuesday. Hundreds of other participants will be brought to trial as soon as police complete their preliminary investigations.

Two participants in one of the incidents which allegedly led to the riot were convicted Monday by Judge Scallen of disturbing the peace. Both were involved in events at Belle Isle which led to the general rioting.

James Wilson, 17, of 668 Livingston, was found guilty of using obscene language and disturbing the peace when he is reported to have pushed and swore at Mrs. Ina Peterson at the

Death Comes To Earl L. Walton, Detroit Musician

Suffers Few Days With Ruptured Appendix

Funeral services for Earl Leonard Walton, of 318 Josephine avenue, prominent Detroit musician and orchestra leader, will be held Saturday at 2 p.m. from the James Cole, Jr., Funeral Parlors, 275 East Warren avenue. The Rev. R. L. Bradby will officiate.

Mr. Walton died at 4:10 Tuesday afternoon at Edyth K. Thomas hospital, after an illness of only a few days. Mrs. Bernice Walton, widow of the deceased, in a statement to the Tribune said that her husband called her before he came from work Tuesday, June 15, and told her he felt very ill with severe pains

(Continued on page 16)

bus loading station at the Belle Isle Casino. He was put on probation for six months.

Homer Carr, 29, of 1430 Mullett, was fined \$25 or thirty days in jail for disturbing the peace. He was arrested at the Belle Isle bridge when police were dispersing the crowd early Monday morning.

Others who were brought before Judge Scallen Tuesday morning on disturbing the peace charges and sentenced to 90 days in the Detroit House of Correction were Mrs. Lela Clark, 21, 5485 Williams; Charles Whitfield, 18, 5826 VanCourt; James Crosby, 22, 5013 Brush; Lee Taylor, 230

(Continued on page 16)

They Say They Saw:

A fiery cross burning and illuminating the darkness at the corner of Bethune and Brush Monday night—age-old symbol of the KKK—one block from the Bethune Police station.

Passersby stopping in front of looted stores, trying on shoes at the curb in the hope that maybe a pair would fit;

White women, wild, shrieking and pointing with glee at fleeing Negroes and shouting, "There goes one, get him, get him!" as they helped mobs locate Negroes escaping from trolley cars and automobiles stopped by hoodlums;

Three Greyhound bus drivers, in uniform, chasing a lone Negro, hitting him with their punches and their heavy belts;

A Negro porter in a white barbership, who spent the night there, asleep in one of the chairs, afraid to go home;

Police men using tear gas to disperse white mobs and pellets to disperse Negro mobs;

No colored troops whatsoever quelling the disturbance;

White mobs rescuing their members who had been arrested;

Lone soldiers or sailors trying to stop mobs from beating people by reasoning with them and pleading with them in the cause of democracy;

The Rev. Horace White and John Graham, vainly striving to deliver a message of peace from atop sound cars;

Special Negro deputies attempting to disperse Negro mobs; clubs as weapons;

Two white policemen practically

(Continued on page 2)

Convention Called Off

On account of the recent riots and unrest in Detroit, the convention of the Michigan State Association of Colored Women scheduled to meet here June 27-29 has been postponed.

Detroit Suffers Job Loss, Property Destruction And Rush On Hospitals

The rioting which broke out at Belle Isle Sunday night and continued unabated for more than 24 hours, began to quiet down early Tuesday morning after the arrival of state and federal troops in Detroit. The atmosphere is still tense, however, as the city begins the painful task of clearing away the debris occasioned by the disturbance.

Detroit is under martial law, which also extends throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, but thousands of defense workers are still remaining away from work, thereby causing a great slump in war production. Armed motorized troops are patrolling the streets of Detroit, the concentrations in colored areas being particularly heavy, but in a few localities sporadic individual clashes are still occurring.

Starts At Isle

The rioting began around 11 o'clock Sunday night at the outer approach of the Belle Isle bridge leading to the famous amusement spot in the Detroit river. According to reports, it was precipitated by an argument between a white and a colored pleasure seeker. The crowd became involved, fighting began and police were called out to restore order. The disturbance rapidly spread to all parts of the city.

Twenty-Nine Dead

Up to date, twenty-nine riot victims are dead; 535 injured and hospitalized, and more than 1,300 arrested. About 80 per cent of the arrested were colored. Court hearings of sixty or more alleged rioters are being conducted by Judge John P. Scallen, in Recorder's court and will continue all week. About 500 will face trial.

Thirteen elementary schools were closed Monday and Tuesday because of lack of attendance, parents being afraid for their children to venture out. Hundreds of stores were wrecked and looted in colored areas, the stores being owned by white merchants. The white rioters lined up along Woodward avenue and in other ventured past. Many cars were

neighborhoods and stoned colored motorists and pedestrians who overturned and some were burned.

'Y' Resident Shot

One of the latest incidents in connection with the riot was the shooting of Julian Witherspoon, 26, of 635 Elizabeth. Witherspoon, who resides at the St. Antoine YMCA was shot in the left side of his back in the lobby entrance of the "Y," shortly after 10 o'clock Tuesday night. Witnesses state that Witherspoon looked out of the door at two officers who had stopped a passing car and that when they saw him in the door, Trooper Anderson fired at him as the young man turned to go up the steps. It is alleged the troopers pushed into the YMCA and with guns in hand lined up the men on the first floor and called them abusive names, while Witherspoon remained wounded on the floor. According to Trooper Anderson, Witherspoon yelled 'Heil Hitler' to him.

At noon Wednesday, the Lucy Thurman YWCA was surrounded by police and invaded. The officers stated they had received a tip-off that a disorderly assembly meeting was being conducted there, but finding no such meeting, they went away.

Impose Martial

At a meeting of colored and white leaders at the Lucy Thurman YWCA Monday afternoon, an appeal was made to Mayor Edward Jeffries who was present, to ask assistance from the state and federal troops. As the rioting increased toward night, Governor Harry Kelly arrived in Detroit and placed Wayne, Macomb and Oakland counties under modified

(Continued on page 2)

Chicago Sun
June 22, 1943

Victory for the Enemy! Sun 6/22/43

Rumors First, Then Riots, That's Story of Detroit

By Justin McCarthy.

Staff Correspondent of The Chicago Sun.

Detroit, Mich., June 21.—Hitler won a battle in Detroit today. The bloodthirsty mobs that took over America's fourth largest city might as well have been wearing the black uniforms of Nazi storm troopers. Actually they did more harm than enemy troops could have done.

For if the enemy had invaded the city with his soldiers, the 2,500,000 citizens of Detroit would have arisen to a man and laid down their lives in defense of their homes.

Americans Shot Each Other.

But the enemy invaded Detroit with his diseased mind. He came to the huge war production center with his vicious, sick thoughts that teach men to hate and kill other men because those other men are members of another race. He was here in the minds of the otherwise sensible Americans who joined screaming mobs and roamed the principal thoroughfares of Detroit to pounce on, beat

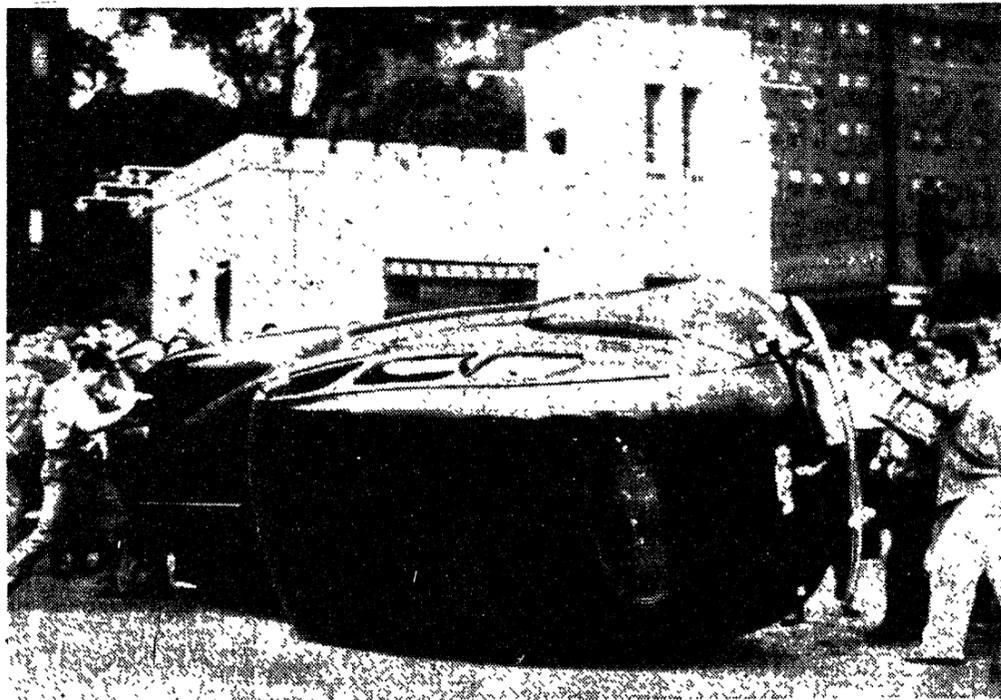
and shoot Americans of another color into bloody pulps.

The enemy invaded Detroit with rumors. First there was the inevitable rumor that a Negro had insulted a white woman. That grew to the rumor that the Negro had raped a white woman. That grew to the rumor that Negroes had banded together to shoot, beat and attack all white people. There was a rumor that the water system had been poisoned.

Authority Is Defied.

The enemy invaded Detroit with disrespect for authority. Gangs of

See RUMORS, Page 13, Col. 6.



RIOTERS OVERTURN NEGRO'S AUTO

One of many automobiles driven by Negroes which were overturned in Detroit yesterday by white rioters. Drivers of the car were beaten.

ACME TELEPHOTO.

Continued from Page 1.

youthful toughs, some of them with bloody heads and bandaged hands from fights they had already had, stood on street corners in downtown Detroit and flung insults at police who tried to protect Negroes.

The Negroes were not blameless. They also fought. They took the law in their own hands. They ganged up to pelt stones through automobile and streetcar windows. They beat people, too. They tooted and ran amuck.

But somehow, to use a trite expression, figures don't lie. At this writing 24 persons had been killed in one day of rioting. Twenty-one of them were Negroes.

Victory for the Axis.

All the people who can be reached for comment said it was a terrible thing. It was a victory for the Axis which won a battle without using even one bullet made in Berlin.

And there were some persons on the streets here tonight who seemed to enjoy it all. They were having a fine time.

"Get that one," they would scream. And a mob armed with lead pipes, clubs and sometimes guns, would run down a victim. He would plead for mercy. But there was that insane sadistic expression in the eyes of the mob. And they would start to beat the man. They would beat him on the head. They would make sure their blows fell where they had the most effect.

'Kill 'em' They Screamed.

"Kill 'em" some one on the edge of the mob would scream with almost a tone of glee in his voice.

Tawdry-looking women joined the "fun" too. They had a fine time inciting the already blood-crazed gangs. They would pass rumors among the men about what the Negroes had done or tried to do to them.

You didn't think it could happen here. But it has. This is the kind of stuff of which Fascism is made. It's the same thing Hitler's storm troopers did to the Jews.

It Is Not Propaganda.

It's the kind of thing most Americans have seen only in the movies. And most Americans didn't believe it and still don't. They like to think it's just part of the Allies propaganda campaign to build up hatred of the Axis.

But the more than 600 injured and the more than a score of dead whose blood-soaked bodies lie in the morgue are not propaganda. This is the real thing. And it's going to take more than horrified expressions of disbelief to stop it.

Chicago Herald-American
June 22, 1943

Troops Bring Peace to Detroit

Troops Bring Peace to Detroit

(Picture on Page 14.)

By the Associated Press.

DETROIT, June 22.—An army-enforced peace settled upon riot-torn Detroit today with the guns of the military in grim command of the areas where racial fights had spread death, terror and destruction.

Ordered by President Roosevelt in a formal proclamation to desist, and with steel-helmeted federal troops supporting his command, white and Negro antagonists skulked into hiding after the deaths of 23 persons—20 of them Negroes—during a calamitous day and night.

At least 700 persons were injured and approximately 1,300 arrested and still held this morning. Of the total under arrest, police estimated about 85 per cent were Negroes.

On streets where the blood of both Negro and white had run, 1,100 soldiers marched in patrol to assist the state militia, state police and city police. Early today authorities said conditions were "quiet."

UNDER FULL CONTROL.

The troops, rolling up in trucks and jeeps and armed with rifles and machine guns, reached Cadillac Square, heart of the city, an hour before midnight. Word of their arrival spread quickly. Within 30 minutes, police said, the situation had much improved. By midnight the situation seemed under full control.

A related incident which occurred at the Fort Custer, Mich., army post last night was revealed today in a statement released by

Continued on Page 7, Column 1.

Col Ralph Wiltamuth, post commander, saying:

"Members of one of the Negro quartermaster battalions attempted to secure arms and trucks at Fort Custer Monday night, but were promptly arrested. The men had become restless over the disturbance in Detroit and wanted to go to assist their families. Prompt action by military authorities quickly restored order. Five men were confined in the post stockade awaiting investigation."

FD CALLS FOR QUIET.

President Roosevelt, in a proclamation from Washington, ordered that "all persons engaged in unlawful and insurrectionary proceedings" retire peaceably to their homes. He called on "all good citizens" to "uphold the laws and preserve the public peace."

At 2 a. m. Brig. Gen. William Guthner of the Sixth Service Command, in charge of the troops, reported no further serious trouble, saying:

"The troops have met with no violence and have used no violence."

Gen. Guthner, assigned to Detroit by Maj. Gen. H. S. Aurand, commanding officer of the Sixth Service Command, disclosed that more troops were being held in reserve, and that soldier forces would be amplified today, so they could patrol the public transportation lines. Fights on street cars had become so extensive some crews refused to work. Mayor Edward J. Jeffries ordered all transport employes to return to the job today, however.

ANSWER GOVERNOR'S PLEA.

Federal troops came to the city upon Governor Harry F. Kelly's request as rioting swelled to new peaks late last night with both mob fights and individual battles so numerous that police were virtually helpless.

Two Negroes met death from police guns in a battle at an apartment hotel where, police said, Negro snipers were firing from upper windows. Gunfire and gas grenades from the police drove out all occupants, including pajama-clad tenants.

In that fight, Patrolman Lawrence Adams was wounded in the groin. Residents in neighboring building cowered behind locked and barricaded doors.

Time and again fights broke out in the Hastings st. district, a section of the city near downtown known as "Paradise Valley." It was at this point the federal troops concentrated attention upon their arrival.

24 HOURS OF FIGHTING.

In the nearly 24 hours of almost constant fighting, automobiles were upset and set afire, stores were pillaged and windows wantonly smashed. One brickbat killed a Negro woman.

Loot was extensive, and many arrests were made for theft. In the hospitals, nurses and doctors were hard-pressed to take care of the injured brought there in ambulances with sirens screaming and in private cars.

Early last night Governor Kelly, declaring a state of emergency, ordered a 10 p. m. curfew, banned the sale of alcoholic beverages, directed that amusement places close up at 9 p. m. "until further orders."

COVERS 3 COUNTIES.

The governor's order, announcing military rule with the state's militia directed to assist local officers, covered the tri-county area known as "Metropolitan Detroit" with more than 2,000,000 inhabitants. This area, strategic in war production, covers Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Rioters, however, ignored the curfew order. Fights continued, and police squad cars dashed up and down in answer to alarms. Then came the governor's request for troops, upon their appearance rioting subsided almost immediately.

The army today began an investigation to determine the riots' effect on war production. Major factories kept production going, but reported that many workers, both Negro and white, failed to come to work.

Climaxing three years of un-

Ask Aid of Governor Parley

Requests for an immediate radio appeal by President Roosevelt for a halt of racial strife, and a recommendation that governors of the 48 states appoint inter-racial committees to investigate such disorders, were made by national Negro leaders here last night.

John H. Senstacke, president of the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association, said in a telegram to the President:

"Fascist elements in our country, by urging discrimination and encouraging prejudices, are inspiring racial clashes and riots throughout the country.

"We cannot readily throw our full resources into the fight against the enemies of democracy abroad, if internal strife is constantly provoked by native Fascists.

"We urge you as commander-in-chief to take immediate steps to end the activities of those who encourage and promote racial prejudice and to halt the spread of racial clashes. We urge you to call the attention of all Americans through the radio and press to the unpatriotic activities those who subvert the constitutional guarantee of equal opportunity for all."

Edgar Brown, director of the National Negro Council, sent a telegram to the governors' conference in Columbus, O., asking them to grant an audience to three Negro leaders, with the view of establishing state committees to study inter-racial relations in industrial areas.

Governor John W. Bricker of Ohio replied that the governors would consider the suggestion today.

rest between Negro and white residents, the rioting began about midnight Sunday. A fight on the bridge over the Detroit River to famous Belle Isle, amusement spot, seemingly minor at first, spread ultimately into a battle

Chicago Defender
June 25, 1943

IT WON'T HAPPEN HERE!

+++ ALL QUIET NOW IN DETROIT; 31 DIE IN RIOT +++



RIOTS AT A GLANCE | CITY RALLIES

City
EDITION

THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF
TWO PARTS — PART ONE

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OL QUEEN



RIOTS AT A GLANCE

1. A total of 31 known dead and more than 700 injured at Detroit in the most violent race clash yet fought during World War II. State police and troops were ordered to the battleground in the Negro section to quell the rioters.
- * * *
2. Two killed and more than 60 hurt in a wild race riot in Beaumont, Texas, started by a false claim by a white woman that she had been raped. Martial law was finally invoked to stop the riot after 24 hours of looting that virtually "stomped" the section into the ground.
- * * *
3. A Negro private shot to death at Fort Bliss, Texas, by a gun-crazy white sentry after false rumors of race rioting in nearby El Paso.
- * * *
4. Clashes in two Ohio war plants at Cleveland and Hubbard causing injury to three Negro workers.

**Blame Prejudiced Police
For Detroit Fatalities**

See Photo, Page 6

DETROIT, Mich.—A searing wave of race riots topped by a devastating outbreak here that cost 31 lives engulfed the nation this week spreading death and destruction in its wake.

Bringing the June death toll in racial clashes to 39 and the list of known injured close to 1,000, the Detroit conflagration was the worst since the record East St. Louis riot of 1917 when 33 died.

Repercussions of the auto city outbreaks were felt in a half dozen cities with large Negro populations. President Roosevelt was urged to take decisive Federal steps to crack down on Axis-inspired fifth column agitators attempting to spread the rioting.

1500 Arrested

Martial law and federal troops ordered to Detroit by President Roosevelt finally quelled the bloody rioting that raged for 36 hours. The city was slowly getting back to normal but the bandaged heads and the scarred ruins of the Negro section gave vivid testimony to the fury of the rioters.

Some 900 were injured in the battles while 1500 persons were arrested.

Most of the dead, injured and arrested were Negroes and there was bitter criticism throughout the

THE DEAD

- Samuel Johnson, 27, of 640 East Hancock.
- Robert Lee Davis, 28, of 620 Euclid.
- William Hardges, 27, of 987 Division.
- Carl L. Singleton, 19, of 968 East Warren.
- Anderson L. Ford, of 930 Mack avenue.
- Fred Lathen, 24, of 223 East Warren.
- Carrie Hackworth, 29, of 629 Mt. Vernon.
- Ely Tolbert, of 547 Harmon.
- John Hicks, 23, of 128 Leicester.
- Charles Grundy, 20, of 4104 Du-bois.
- Bishop Haas, 20, of 304 Alfred.
- Mose Kissick, of 4250 Brush.
- John W. Wright, 37, of 8215 Oakland.
- Edmund Willis, of 690 Winder.
- William Bailey, 36, of 1473 Beau-bien.
- John Jones, 28, of 8246 Oakland.
- Henry Wood, 32, of 8783 Russell.
- Marvin Rich, 33, of 2427 John R.
- Tommy Walker, 17, 1009 Theodore.
- Percy L. Peoples, 4803 Brush.
- Sylvester Bowers, 33, of 957 Frederick.

Ten others unidentified.

Negro Sky Hawks

**CITY RALLIES
TO PREVENT
RACE CLASHES**

**CIO Calls Emergency
Meet At City Hall To
Prevent Outbreaks**

It won't happen here!

Taking heed of the alarming spread of race riots across the nation, leading Chicagoans—Negro and white—moved swiftly this week to put into immediate action a sweeping program designed to prevent similar outbreaks on the Southside.

Half a dozen organizations convened in emergency session to map a broad campaign hitting at possible sources for racial outbreaks.

Taking the lead on a city-wide scale was the local Congress of Industrial Organizations which called a conference of groups of all races to meet Friday night in the Council chambers at City Hall to formulate a program of action to hit at racial sore spots before trouble begins.

Kelly To Speak

Mayor Edward J. Kelly was scheduled to address the meeting summoned by Fullerton Fulton, Local CIO president, who declared:

"The instigation of these riots can only serve to materially aid the country's enemies through the staging of the morale of our people."

A committee from the Chicago Urban League called upon Police Commissioner James P. Allman Thursday morning to demand that city police be instructed to help prevent any outbreaks and be absolutely impartial in making arrests.

The visit to Allman followed an Urban League conference at Central Y.M.C.A. which was assured by Barnet Hodes, Mayor Kelley's representative, that all precautions had been taken to prevent similar outbreaks in Chicago.

Randolph Rally

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Some 900 were injured in the battles while 1500 persons were arrested.

Most of the dead, injured and arrested were Negroes and there was bitter criticism throughout the community of the prejudiced police who were responsible for most of the fatalities.

There was talk of a recall movement to oust Mayor Edward J. Jeffries because of his lax handling of rioters and long hesitation to request martial law.

Starts at Belle Isle

Starting with a reported fist fight at Belle Isle, recreation spot in the Detroit river, the rioting spread swiftly across East Detroit through Sunday night and all day Monday with mobs of whites and Negroes growing bigger hourly.

Frantically trying to keep the mobs apart, the Detroit police whipped out tommy guns and tear gas but almost always in the direction of Negroes.

Armed with beer and pop bottles, bricks and improvised weapons of scrap iron and table legs white mobs gathered on the edges of the Negro district on the East side and brutally beat isolated Negro citizens, overturning automobiles in which Negroes were riding and setting their cars on fire. In retaliation Negro mobs formed within the Negro district and stoned all whites who were caught in the ghetto.

Over a hundred stores on Brush, Beaubien, St. Antoine, Hastings and Oakland streets which are owned and operated by whites in the Negro districts were looted and wrecked.

Use Tear Gas

Tear gas was used to disperse a crowd within a stone's throw of the city hall when a white group chased a Negro youth. A crowd of whites, numbering from 300 to 400, stood at Woodward and Adelaide streets and stoned every passing auto that contained Negroes. One of the cars struck a safety zone as the driver attempted to dodge the rocks. It later overturned.

Residents of the Negro section raided every store in the community operated by white interests. The places were looted and the proprietors intimidated.

Meanwhile, Mayor Edward J. Jeffries, Jr., maintained a deaf ear to pleas for martial law. He insisted throughout the better part of the day that the police, augmented by state police and an auxiliary unit of special policemen, could handle the disturbance.

Flies In On Bomber

Arrival of Governor Harry Kelly, flown here by army bomber from Columbus, Ohio, where he had been on business, was the signal for invoking martial law. Immediately upon reaching the city, the governor ordered the militia to take charge and imposed a 10 o'clock curfew, with orders that no one was to be on the streets after that hour.

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Negro Sky Hawks Rout Germans In Initial Fight

WASHINGTON. — The Negro fighter unit commanded by Lieut. Col. B. O. Davis Jr., engaged in its first skirmish with the enemy and came through with flying colors it was announced by the War Department Thursday.

Six members of the squadron, flying P-40 Warhawks, were attacked June 18 over Pantelleria by 12 German Focke-Wulf 190's. The Focke-Wulfs were escorting German bombers attempting to raid the island, then in Allied hands. Ten more German fighters hovered overhead to provide protection.

The Americans, led by 1st Lt. Charles W. Dryden, 22, of New York, parried the thrust, damaged two German fighters and forced the remainder to retire. The Americans all came home safely.

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Randolph Rally

A mass meeting called by A. Philip Randolph's March on Washington was held Wednesday night at the Metropolitan Community church and protested against the failure of Detroit police to enforce the law and prevent rioting. Committees were elected by the rally of 1800 persons to visit Mayor Kelly and Governor Green to discuss methods of preventing racial disturbances.

An emergency committee to plan a program to ease racial tensions was set up by the Chicago Council of Negro Organization, Irene McCoy Gaines, president.

Both the CIO Packing Workers Organizing Committee and Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union, passed strong resolutions demanding that President Roosevelt act to halt the growing racial conflagration.

The South Side section of the Communist Party, labeled the outbreaks "fifth column work" and took a slap at A. Philip Randolph's program of "civil disobedience." Their statement declared:

"In the midst of this wave of lynchings, riots and strikes there are some among us calling for a program of civil disobedience. It would be suicidal for the Negro people to be guided by such counsel. It would play into the hands of the fifth column. It would help to incite additional riots and violence against Negroes."

AME Zion Bishop Declares Riots 'Second To Lynching'

By BRUCE L. REYNOLDS (Church Editor)

"No matter what cause or what reason is given, race rioting is a disgrace!" declared the Rt. Rev. John W. Martin, presiding bishop of



Bishop Martin

the fifth Episcopal district, making his annual address before more than 200 delegates and a host of visitors attending the thirty-third session of the Michigan Annual Conference, African Methodist Episcopal church, at Blackwell Memorial A. M. E. Zion church, Oakwood boulevard and Langley avenue, Wednesday afternoon. Rev. William T. Beck is host-pastor.

Bishop Martin, in his strong remarks on riots stated they are "second only to lynching, for it means we do not have or just as well not have law enforcement officers; it means that the majority group, or a large number of this group, feel that

they have a right to do as they please, law or no law!"

Asks U. S. Intervention

Commenting on the report that an investigating committee in Los Angeles, Calif., discovered the recent "zoot suit" clashes were fanned into flame by the press and police, Bishop



Rev. W. T. Beck

op Martin said, "If this speaks in any way for other cities it is time for the national government to take a hand." **Conference Opens Tuesday** The conference opened Tuesday evening. Bishop Martin made short remarks, after explaining that Rev. J. H. Hunter of Detroit, who was scheduled to deliver the sermon, had not arrived from that riot-scarred city. Officers to the conference were elected. They are Miss Lillian I. Browder, secretary; Rev. Cicero L. Weddington, assistant secretary; Rev. J. W. Crockett, statistician; Bruce Hopewell, marshal, and Rev. George W. Rivers to report to the Star of Zion, connection organ. The bishop administered