

# Transcribed Excerpts from "Chicago Race Riots Spread" Newspaper Article, July 30, 1919

## Chicago Race Riots Spread, 27 Dead, 244 Injured; President Demands Ratification of French Treaty

*Thousands Reported in Night Fights  
Four Regiments on Duty, Five Units in Reserve; 11 Whites, 11 Negroes Among Known Killed  
Governor Issues Appeal to People  
Day Marked by Frequent Flare-ups but Worst Trouble Seems to End*

CHICAGO, July 29 – With twenty-seven known dead and hundreds injured, scores of them seriously, sporadic writing between whites and blacks was renewed tonight in various sections of the city, including the small North Side area populated by negroes. Unofficial estimates put the total of dead at 32 and wounded at 500. City and state officials, including Governor Frank O. Lowden, remained on the scene throughout the night and expressed the opinion that the worst of the rioting was ended.

The most serious situation was reported in the South Side black belt, where thousands of negroes and whites had gathered. Virtually all North Side and loop police were ordered to this district, those leaving almost without police protection sections from which came reports of intermittent outbreaks.

### **Governor Sees Five Colonels**

Throughout the day and evening Governor Lowden was in conference with city officials, state officials and heads of state militia units. He also called for advice from Colonels Milton Foreman, Abel Davis, Henry Allen, Henry Reilly and John W. Clinnin, who commanded Illinois regiments in France.

In addition, Colonel Joseph B. Sanborn, who led the old "Dandy First: overseas," was reported enroute to Chicago from Springfield. Samuel Insull, former chairman of the state council of defence, and Roger Sullivan, Democratic leader, also saw the governor.

The government let it be known that four regiments of state troops were ready for duty at a minute's notice and that they would be sent into the riot district as soon as a request came from the proper municipal authorities.

The first pitched battle of the night occurred at Thirty-fifth and State streets, one of the centres of trouble since the first rioting Sunday. A small automobile, filled with whites, each armed with a pistol and all firing indiscriminately at blacks, crashed into a patrol wagon at the street intersection.

### **Two White Men Killed**

Two of the whites were killed in the collision. Two other and every policeman in the patrol wagon were hurt.

Immediately there was a rush of blacks and policemen to the wreck. The police could not push the enraged negroes away and opened fire, killing one negro and wounding thirty others. The wounded policemen and whites were placed in ambulances and a crowd of whites followed them to the Provident

Hospital. Outside that institution, which is maintained and manned by the negroes, a crowd of blacks had gathered and the two races quickly clashed.

A call for police brought a strong detail, who charged half a dozen times before the rioters were dispersed. One negro police sergeant and a dozen rioters were wounded in this clash. One of the whites wounded in the fight at the automobile was Frank Hoedek, an employee of the Federal Collector of Internal Revenue. He was caught under the machine and a negro shot him in the face. The negro was arrested...

### **Night Brings Clashes**

A sinister silence that prevailed in the black belt on the South Side at dusk gave way to confusion and sharp clashes, principally with clubs and knives as weapons, as the night wore on.

Where these outbreaks occurred the negroes predominated. Several meetings at the negro halls were broken up by the police, after which crowds formed on the streets.

In the early night clashes various weapons were used, including table knives and slingshots. Few guns appeared.

The coroner's list shows the deaths evenly divided between blacks and whites, eleven of each having been killed.

Troops had not been ordered to patrol the black belt, the police maintaining that they were still able to handle the situation.

In addition to the four regiments on the ground, consisting of the 11th Infantry, I.N.G., and the three regiments of reserve militia, the 9th and 10th regiments of the guard and three other reserve units were mobilized at various towns through the state, awaiting word to entrain for Chicago. This gave a potential military force of approximately 6,500 as a background for the city police force.

### **Death List Twenty-four**

The Coroner's office tonight announced an official list of twenty-four, as follows:

Joseph Powers (white), William Otterson (white), James Crawford (negro), John H. Simpson (negro policeman), Nicholas Kleinmark (white), Henry Baker (negro), John Niles (negro), David Marks (white), Clarence Metz (white), Eugene Temple (white), Morro Lozzerani (white), B.F. Hardy (negro), Hymanis Taylor (negro), Robert Williams (negro), Morris Perel (white), Harold J. Brignadello (white), F.L. Chenel, Edward Lee (negro), Thomas Joshua (negro), Eugene Williamson (negro).

Three unidentified negroes.

One unidentified white man.

### **Dozen Policemen to Block**

Every block in the district bounded north and south by Twenty-second and Thirty-ninth streets and east and west by Cottage Grove and Wentworth Avenue, was patrolled closely. The main disturbance points were guarded by a dozen policemen to the block, with reinforcements of mounted men and additional patrolmen at each intersection, while every police station was filled with reserved armed with rifles.

The police concentration was the most complete in the city's history, exceeding even that which coed successfully with the Haymarket anarchists more than three decades ago. It was undertaken after three days and two nights of rioting had showed little inclination to subside and the list of dead and injured had grown steadily.

### **22 Dead, 244 Injured**

At 5 o'clock tonight the official death list issued by the Coroner's office had reached 22, an increase of 12 over last night, and 244 persons had been reported to the police as having been injured. The latter figure was admittedly incomplete and police officials thought it did not comprise half of those actually hurt in the fighting.

Scores known to have been hurt left police stations or hospitals without giving their names, and it was stated that several hundred probably had tended to their wounds without placing themselves within the purview of the authorities.

During the five hours of the afternoon 18 whites and 14 negroes were reported as injured.

Governor Lowden interrupted a trip to Nebraska and hurriedly returned to Chicago, reaching the city on a special train in the morning. With Adjutant General Dickson, he was in full cooperation with the municipal authorities and in constant touch with developments. The adjutant general believed the situation much improved today and said there had been a noticeable change in feeling since last night...

### **1,200 Negroes Laid Off**

More than 1,200 negroes in the employ of the municipal government were sent to their homes today to remain off duty until the rioting has ceased. Patrol wagons were utilized to convey the negro employees to their homes for their protection and because of the street car strike. All street repair work was stopped today because about one-half of the employees are negroes, and street cleaners also were laid off.

The Department of Public Works closed nine public playgrounds in neighborhoods where white and negroes are the patrons. The department also deputized 400 special policemen to help guard public property and it was planned to use 800 additional guards tomorrow if necessary.

### **Want Sailors Held**

The Police Department received notice today from the provost marshal at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station that every effort was being made to prevent sailors joining in the race riots, and requested that all sailors found on the streets be taken in custody and returned to the station. Leaves of absence for such sailors will be cancelled on the spot.

Filtering of negroes into the loop from the "belt" led to a number of fights late today in which several persons were injured. One negro escaped a mob by running into one of the largest stores on State Street, taking the elevator to the eighth floor and clambering down a fire escape in the alley.

Several fights took place at State and Van Buren Streets. At least three negroes were stabbed and beaten at this point during the early evening. Near this intersection a colored man, who said he had served three years in the Canadian army overseas and had been both wounded and gassed, was severely wounded.

### **Negroes Threaten Arson**

The menace of fire was added to an already serious situation when Fire Marshal O'Connor reported that he had been informed negroes were threatening to apply the torch to homes of whites on the South Side. The marshal said every available fireman was being held in reserve to meet such an emergency.

Several of the big department stores sent for the police department a large number of delivery trucks for taking to their homes negroes who had sought refuge in the stations during the day. Each wagonload of blacks was heavily guarded.

### **Italians Attack Negro Homes**

The first clash on the North Side took place when a building occupied by two negro families was attacked by Italians living in the neighborhood. A dozen shots were fired and bricks were hurled through the

windows. Two detectives attracted by the shots held the mob at bay until seventy-five policemen arrived armed with rifles. No one was seriously hurt in this fight.

A short time later a negro leaped from an alley and knocked a white man down. In a moment a crowd of Italians started for the assailant, who ran and escaped. The police arrested four Italians, two of them armed with sawed-off shotguns and two with revolvers.

Another negro was fired at repeatedly while near his home on Larrabee Street, also on the North Side.

Italians were also participants in rioting on the West Side, according to the police. William Donnelson, a negro, was attacked by a crowd at South Racine Avenue and Taylor Street and beaten and shot in the head and neck. He was taken to a hospital, where it was said he might die.

### **Negro Thrown Into River**

On the South Side, John Johnson, eighteen years old, a negro, was stabbed, beaten and thrown into the river at Archer Avenue and South Halsted Street. He was rescued by police and taken to a hospital.

An unusual incident occurred at the manufacturing plant of George C. Cook & Son. Shortly before 6 o'clock in the evening the head of the firm went into the alley at the rear of his plant and, according to witnesses, fired a score of shots at random. Two of the bullets wounded Jessie Vinaci, eleven years old, and U. Bartello, twenty-nine years old. Each was hit in the leg.

A crowd of excited whites gathered about the factory, which employs seventy-five negroes. When the police arrived a rapid exchange of bullets was taking place. Cook and his son were taken to a police station pending an investigation. Two or three negroes who fled from the building were caught and beaten.

Fierce fighting took place in Englewood on the South Side.