

"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 fighting 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, thus 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.

Police Head "Well Pleased"

A fatal affair took place in the West Side Italian district, where a negro was knocked from a bicycle, beaten, stabbed, wounded with sixteen revolved bullets, and, after death had relieved him, gasoline was poured on his body and set afire. The corpse probably will never be identified.

Miles south of the black belt there were fights in the evening in Woodlawn and in Englewood. A stray bullet from the latter clash wounded an aged white woman a block away.

The North Side troubles centred around West Division Street. There was considerable shooting throughout the Barrabee Street police district, but so far as could be learned no fatalities resulted. Several negroes and numerous whites were arrested, most of the latter giving Italian names.

Hundreds of negroes, many carrying personal possessions and some without baggage joined in an exodus today. The majority of them, chiefly in the family groups, bought railroad tickets for Memphis and Nashville. A considerable number said they were going to Indianapolis, where they said, negroes were never disturbed.

Despite authenticated reports of stabbings, clubbings and stonings that poured into police stations as the night wore on, acting Chief of Police Alcock insisted that he was "very well pleased with conditions."

He said he had approximately 1,800 men in the black belt, thirty-five patrol wagons, one ambulance, thirty motorcycle men and a mounted squad. The belt was divided into zones tonight, and a captain, fifty patrolmen and a squad of detectives were placed in each zone.

Negroes barricaded in their homes on the south side wounded three policemen in a battle with motorcycle policemen at State and Thirty-second street. Negroes in many south side neighborhoods were charged by the police with sniping. A number of men were wounded.

Rubbish thrown into State Street from upper windows blocked the path of seven motorcycle policemen, and as they stopped they were fired upon. Two of them and a detective sergeant who joined them were wounded, and their companions then burst through the barricaded doors of two buildings and arrested sixteen negroes. Two Springfield army rifles and ammunition were found.

Sniping continued in other neighborhoods until late at night. Two men were shot from their motorcycle in Princeton Avenue, near Forty-seventh Street.

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.

To Turn to Traction Strike

It could not be learned tonight that the city government has made any request for the use of troops. Although the Governor and Mayor Thompson held a conference today, it was announced that the Mayor believed the improvement noted by General Dickson would permit him to turn his attention to the traction strike.

"Mayor Thompson and I are cooperating heartily," said the Governor at the conclusion of the conference, "and shall continue to do so, keeping in close touch with each other. We are working together to bring the forces of law and order into control."

"I want to see all the citizens of Chicago get thorough protection and a square deal all around," said the Mayor, and his thought was echoed by the Governor. The Mayor said he wanted to appeal to all citizens to give their protection to their fellow citizens and to aid the authorities in restoring order.

Situation Under Control

The Governor said he had no idea as to the responsibility for the outbreak of violence and said he could see no point in going into responsibility at this time, but that the present duty was to suppress disorder and uphold the law. It was necessary to keep cool heads and join in cooperating to prevent further violence.

"I am sure a large majority of the people are in favor of law and order," continued the Governor, "and they must do everything to avert another outbreak of race feeling."

General Dickson, who made several trips of inspection through the negro district, said he found the police better distributed and that, with the change in the feeling he had observed, he believed the situation was under control.

Grand Jury Probe Ordered

State's Attorney Hoyne took official cognizance of the riots today and ordered a grand jury investigation. The August grand jury will be sworn in next Monday and that body probably will begin the inquiry immediately. Four Assistant State's Attorneys were held on duty tonight at the Criminal Courts Building.

Chief Garrity today suspended a policeman who was charged with failure to arrest a white outh who threw a stone which struck an unidentified negro youth, knocking him from a raft at the Twenty-ninth Street beach Sunday afternoon. The negro was drowned and that incident has generally been conceded as the start of the riots.

The policeman said the mobs of thousands of whites and negroes were such that it was impossible for him to find the whate youth.

The chief declared that if the charges were true Policeman Callahan, the man complained of, was the individual responsible for the subsequent riots.

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.

2,000 in Fighting

Berger Odman, twenty-one years old, white was shot through the abdomen and probably fatally pounded. In other combats several white men and negroes were injured. Two thousand men, it is estimated, were fighting at various points in this part of the city.

Race riots combined with the streetcar strike today and a marked effect upon Chicag's packing industry and promised to extend their influences to other lines.

At the stock yards there was a sharp falling off in livestock transactions, packing firms buying only sparingly because of doubt as to the ability of their negro employees to reach their work and also because some of their white workers were threatening to strike.

According to C.C. Cox, division superintendent of the Pullman Company, Pullman car porters went out on their runs during the evening with eagerness. On arrival of trains in the morning the porters were told to remain in the cars. Mr. Cox thought none disobeyed.

Two Dangerous Flare-ups

The fighting today centred mainly in the heart of the "Black Belt," along Thirty-fifth Street. To cope with the situation the police massed reserves of men, rifles, patrol wagons, ambulances and motorcycles in the vicinity. Some four thousand state troops were under arms in the city and as many more were under orders to be ready for emergency.

There were two dangerous flare-ups, however, as far south as Fifty-first and State streets, and three vicious fights took place in the downtown district on Wabash Avenues in broad daylight.

Harold Rignadello, white, was riddled by bullets fired from a house at 1021 South State Street and killed. When the police rushed the place they found and arrested four women and nine men, all negroes. Two revolvers, two razors, an axe, several knives and a quantity of cartridges were discovered piled near a window from which the negroes had been shooting.

One of the most serious riots of the day occurred in the Cook County jail when one hundred negro prisoners, exercising outside their cells, overpowered a negro guard and raced into the exercise room of the white prisoners, where there were between 600 and 700 men. When the negroes burst in there was an instant clash.

The regular force of guards was unable to control the fighters and so unable to control the fighters and so locked the doors and appealed for aid. The prisoners fought for an hour before they were beaten into submission with clubs. Several of the negro prisoners, it was reported, carried knives and a number of white prisoners are said to have been seriously wounded.

Race rioting spread outside the South Side colored district. There was serious fighting and shooting in the Loop early in the forenoon. The exclusive North Side residential district received a touch of disorder.

Strike Increases Disorder

The street-car strike seemed to aid the spread of race rioting which surged up to the South Side into the Loop on the heels of thousands walking to work who ordinarily ride. Streets, ordinarily almost deserted early in the day were busy with pedestrians, mostly men and boys, whose numbers afforded rich opportunities for racial quarrels.

Joseph Powers, white, a street-car conductor, was shot and killed soon after daylight in the stockyards section. William Henderson, a negro, was arrested on suspicion, in connection with the killing.

One unidentified negro was killed and two negroes were wounded at Wabash and Adams streets, the heart of the downtown district, in rioting which was renewed shortly before 7 o'clock this morning.

Among those injured last night were three members of the 7th Regiment who were beset by negroes while on the way to their armory. Corporal W. T. Riggs was shot in the back; Charles T. Williams was shot in the side and J.N. Rinkus was slashed with a razor. Major Frederick Haynes was found probably fatally beaten, presumably by negroes. An automobile containing Adjutant General Dickson was fired on, but without damage to the occupants.

Negroes Quit Black Belt

An exodus of negroes to the North and West sides began as the fighting was at its height. Some fifty thousand more negroes already live in those parts of the city, and the police took precautions to stop any resentment shown by whites at the added population of Africans. This hegira was stopped at daybreak by the streetcar strike.

When the streets had been cleared in the negro section the more persistent rioters marched downtown and sought out negroes at their work. The police in these instances did not offer protection to the blacks. One band entered a restaurant across the street from the City Hall, wrecked part of the furnishings, dragged a cowering porter from the kitchen and beat him unconscious with a five-gallon bottle. Afterward several bluecoats arrived and dispersed the crowd.

Governor Lowden before coming here to help stop the riots telegraphed the following appeal:

"I appeal to all citizens, white and colored, to obey the law. There are no wrongs committed by either race that cannot be better redressed through the orderly processes of law than by mob violence.

"The entire power of the state will be used to restore order and punish those guilty of lawlessness. It is time for all good citizens, white or colored, to aid the authorities in every way possible to uphold the law."

In an effort to aid in ending the race disturbances, forty-five negro clergymen met today and recommended that a committee of 100 composed of representative white men and negroes be named immediately to devise plans for restoring order.

Other recommendations made by the clergymen were:

That all open vice and gambling in the negro district be eliminated at once.

That negro man and women join labor unions of their craft wherever possible.

That negro speakers be sent through the district to advise the residents against following the leadership of those advocating violence.

The clergymen declared that practically all the clashes have been between white and negro workmen.