

# HOMES BURNED AS 56 DIE IN RACE RIOT

## TULSA IS UNDER MARTIAL LAW; 10 BLOCKS ON FIRE

Six Whites Among Dead in Oklahoma Battle; Troops Mount Machine Guns.

### FLYERS THREATEN BOMBING

Many Blacks Are Arrested; Muskogee Negroes Reported Mobilizing.

#### BULLETIN

Tulsa, Okla., June 1.—(11:30 a. m.)—Fire encircled half of the area of the city of Tulsa from north to south of the suburban districts at this hour.

When the blaze got under way rioting ceased. The rioters, aided by several companies of state troops, devoted their efforts to battling the blaze.

Several square blocks in the Negro sections were reported razed.

Utmost confusion prevailed in the city among the fire fighting and police forces.

Oklahoma City, Okla., June 1.—Seventy-five persons, whites and Negroes, have been killed in the race outbreak in Tulsa, according to a telephone message to Gov. Robertson here today from the chief of police at Tulsa.

Martial law in Tulsa was ordered by Gov. Robertson at 11:15 a. m. today and Adj. Gen. Barrett was placed in command of the city. The order was given over the long distance telephone.

Tulsa, Okla., June 1.—Nearly 10 square blocks of the Negro section of Tulsa, where an armed conflict has been in progress between white men and Negroes since early Tuesday night, resulting in a reported death list of at least six whites and 50 Negroes and a rapidly increasing list of wounded, were in flames today. The fire was reported spreading and threatening to wipe out a whole residence section in the

#### FIRE SIREN CALLS OUT ADDITIONAL TROOPS.

Muskogee, Okla., June 1.—Sounding of the fire siren here today threw the city into a panic. It was some minutes before quiet could be restored through the announcement that the call was for the purpose of calling out National Guards for duty at Tulsa. The siren was mistaken for a riot call.

Standpipe and Sunset hill additions. Two white men killed in the riot were identified today. They are Carl D. Lotpelsch, 23, Randall, Kan., shot through the breast, and F. M. Baker, 27, Haveline, Kan., shot in the back with buckshot. The body of an unidentified white man was taken to an undertaking establishment.

#### Machine Guns Ready.

Detachments of National Guardsmen were scattered throughout the city prepared to meet all emergencies with machine guns ready for action. Guards surrounded the armory while others assisted in rounding up Negroes and segregating them in the jail, convention hall, baseball park and other places which had been turned into prison camps.

State troops under the command of Adj. Gen. C. F. Barrett arrived at 9 o'clock to take charge of the situation, augmenting local units of guardsmen who were called out Tuesday night. At this time there were reports of sporadic shooting and the situation seemed to be easing.

#### Firemen Are Stopped.

Two houses at Archer-st. and Boston-st. used by more than 50 Negroes as a garrison, were set afire at that time and an alarm was turned in. Efforts of the fire department to lay hose were stopped by a crowd of armed white men and the department returned to its station. The attempt to destroy the Negro quarter by fire was resumed five hours later when almost simultaneously fire began to burst forth from the doors and windows of frame shacks along Archer-st. Soon dense clouds of black smoke enveloped the location. Under cover of the smoke screen armed men in motorcars and afoot threw a cordon about the place where the Negroes were stationed and occasional shots gave warning that the conflict still raged.

"Don't Shoot." As the fire enveloped the houses Negroes were seen to dart out from flaming doorways with upraised hands, shouting "don't shoot." As they dashed through the smoke they were ordered to surrender and quickly were removed to the prison camps. Adj. Gen. Barrett took up his headquarters at city hall.

Throughout the early morning hours 500 white men and 1,000 Negroes faced each other across railroad tracks. First reports to police headquarters said the bodies of from six to ten Negroes could be seen lying in a space described as "No Man's Land." The police also had a report that a railway switch-

(Continued on Page 2, Column 3.)

# TULSA IS UNDER RULE OF SOLDIERS

(Continued from First Page.)

man and brakeman had been shot to death.

The trainmen were killed, it was reported, because they refused to permit members of the opposing crowds to ride upon a switch engine passing the lines. The engineer was reported to have escaped.

## Renewed at Dawn.

Officials had hoped that with the coming of dawn the trouble would die out. On the contrary, however, the early morning gunfire was taken as an indication that the riots had been renewed.

As dawn broke 60 or 70 motor cars filled with armed men formed a circle completely around the Negro section. Half a dozen airplanes circled overhead. There was much shouting and shooting. A row of houses along the railroad tracks was fired, but lack of wind prevented the flames spreading. A party of white riflemen was reported to be shooting at all Negroes they saw and firing into houses. The Negroes were said to be returning the fire desperately.

The trouble is said to have had its inception over the arrest late Tuesday of a Negro for an alleged attack upon a white girl.

The Negro was taken to the courthouse and lodged in the jail on the upper floor of the building. Early in the night motorcars containing armed Negroes appeared on the streets headed for the courthouse. A crowd of 300 Negroes surrounded the building. Armed white men soon began gathering.

## Call for Troops.

The crowds soon reached such proportions that the authorities realized the situation was beyond their control and a call was sent to Gov. Robertson for troops. The governor directed Adj. Gen. Charles F. Barrett to take any steps necessary to handle the trouble. The adjutant general ordered out three companies of guardsmen here and sent instructions to commanding officers in a number of nearby towns to be prepared to rush men here on immediate notice.

The local guardsmen were thrown about the courthouse and prevented the crowds from breaking through.

National Guardsmen were patrolling the downtown streets and every effort was being made to induce the crowds to disband.

Officials were uncertain as to the exact number of persons injured Tuesday night, but they declared it probably would be large. Many of the injured, it was said, were hurt while engaging in hand-to-hand fights.

## See 1,000 Armed Negroes.

Occupants of the last car to go through the Negro section this morning reported that fully 1,000 armed Negroes were still to be seen.

Soon after the first appearance of the Negroes Tuesday night the streets were filled with shouting, gesticulating men. Suddenly there was a rush for sporting goods houses and hardware stores, where the crowds broke in and armed themselves with whatever weapons they could find. Guardsmen were used to disperse the rioters at the stores and a military order confiscated all stocks of arms in the city until the disturbance could be put down.

The situation was further aggravated this morning by reports from Muskogee that crowds of Negroes there were arming themselves and preparing to come to the assistance of those of their race in Tulsa. Muskogee advices said that the officials there were guarding all highways to prevent the departure of Negroes from that city.

## Machine Guns Sent.

Oklahoma City, Okla., June 1.—Adj. Gen. Charles F. Barrett, in charge of Oklahoma National Guard, left here early today on board a special train which took one Oklahoma City machine gun company to Tulsa. Gen. Barrett will retain charge of the situation until crowds are dispersed, he said.

Dick Rowland the Negro charged with assault, was removed from the county jail during the night to a place of safety unrevealed, it was learned this morning.

In a fresh outbreak at 7:30 in the Stand Pipe hill district in the extreme northern end of the Negro quarter, Mrs. S. A. Gilmore, a white woman, was shot in the left arm and side. Mrs. Gilmore was standing on the front porch of her home when she was shot by a Negro, one of a score or more barricaded in a church.

## Three Hundred Arrested.

Three hundred Negroes are reported to have been captured by the whites.

Twenty-six lines of captured Negroes, eight or ten abreast, were marched down North Main-st. with white civilians carrying Winchester and revolvers, taking them to Convention hall.

All Negroes had their hats off and their hands held high above their heads, the whites with their rifles and pistols against the Negroes' ribs.

The airplanes circling over the Negro section were said to carry bombs.

Negroes were fleeing Tulsa by the hundreds to escape death. Armed whites were doing their best to cut off escape.