

Brutality Stops Ala. Vote March

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Use Bullwhips, Tear Gas

BEAT NEGROES AT SELMA

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Brutality Stops Ala. Vote March

SELMA, Ala. — (UPI) — State troopers and mounted deputies bombarded 600 praying Negroes with tear gas Sunday and then waded into them with clubs, whips and ropes, injuring dozens.

The troopers and possemen, under Gov. George C. Wallace's orders to stop the Negroes' "Walk For Freedom" to Montgomery, chased the screaming, bleeding marchers nearly a mile back to their church, clubbing them as they ran.

A doctor at Good Samaritan Hospital said "There are so many injured I just can't count them." Ambulances screamed in relays between the hospital and Brown's Chapel Church, carrying hysterical men, women and children suffering head wounds and tear gas burns.

At his office in Montgomery, Wallace said "Those folks in Selma have made this a seven-day-a-week job but we can't give in one inch. We're going to enforce state laws."

The Negroes had just reached the end of the long bridge that leads out of Selma's business district when they were confronted by 50 blue-helmeted state troopers.

The troopers gave them two

minutes to disperse. The Negroes did not disperse, and about two dozen troopers, swinging their clubs, pushed the head of the column.

Pushing and clubbing, they drove the Negroes back 50 yards and then began firing tear gas. The tear gas bombs boomed like gunshots and a dense cloud of yellow smoke enveloped the screaming Negroes, some of them children and aged persons.

Then the troopers charged into the gas-dazed Negroes



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

again, and from behind the column Sheriff Jim Clark's horse-mounted civilian possemen charged in, swinging clubs.

The hysterical Negroes broke and ran back to the church. Those that fled in other directions — between buildings — were quickly headed off by the hard-riding possemen.

As the Negroes streamed through the town toward the bridge where they started their March, the possemen darted in at them, clubbing them down. Several witnesses said they saw the horsemen used bull-

whips and lengths of rope to flog the fleeing Negroes.

Dr. Martin Luther King, who was to have led the marchers, stayed home in Atlanta. No explanation was given for the change in plans.

When the Negroes reached the church, some of the less seriously injured hurled a few bricks and bottles at the pursuing possemen. Within moments, a contingent of nearly 50 troopers and possemen, under the orders of Sheriff Clark, marched down the street outside the church in a phalanx. The Negroes quickly cleared the sidewalks, darting into houses, the church, and its adjacent parsonage.

Most of the injuries were head wounds from the clubs and burns from the tear gas. At Good Samaritan Hospital, Dr. E. A. Maddox said one woman had a broken leg and another a broken arm. None of those with tear gas burns were seriously injured enough to be admitted.

The demonstration started out to walk the 50-miles to Montgomery to protest to Wallace the denial of Negro voting rights in Alabama. Wallace announced he would not allow the march, and authorized his troopers to use "all necessary means" to stop it.

Before the marchers left the church, one of their leaders led them in a prayer in a school yard.

"Almighty God," he prayed, "though hast called us to walk for freedom. We pray that as we go through a wilderness of state troopers, thou will hold our hand."

When they reached the foot of the bridge, highway patrol

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SELMA'S SHAME

Negroes and state troopers alike fell to the ground in Selma, Ala. as troopers moved in to break up a march on the state capitol of Montgomery, 60 miles away. State forces used tear gas whips, ropes, and clubs to finally disperse the would-be marchers. (UPI Telephoto)



Brutality

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Maj. John Cloud raised a bullhorn to his mouth and ordered the Negroes to stop.

"This march you propose is not conducive to safety," he said. Several hundred whites lining the road cheered him. "This march will not continue."

"You have two minutes to disperse," he said.

Hosea Williams, a Negro leader at the head of the column, asked Cloud if he could "have a word with you."

"You may disperse or go back to the church or we will break on," Cloud replied. "There's nothing to talk about."

Silence fell across the road as the two minutes passed, the Negroes and the troopers staring at each other. Then Cloud ordered the troopers in.

About two dozen ran into the line of Negroes, shoving them back and clubbing them.

The possemen advanced from the rear.

The Negroes retreated about 50 yards, then stopped. Suddenly the troopers began firing round after round of tear gas into the crowd. The cheers of the white gallery turned to screams as the yellow smoke drifted into them.

The Negroes, coughing, choking and screaming, stumbled, fell and tried to flee in every direction. The troopers charged from the front and the possemen galloped in from the rear.

The bridge was enveloped in the billowing yellow gas, the Negroes and the officers invisible in it much of the time. The screams and gasping coughs of the Negroes and the hammer of hoofbeats rent the air.

The troopers and the possemen all wore gas masks. Sheriff Clark directed his horsemen from his car.

The gas lifted to show the

Negroes fleeing, with the possemen galloping through and around them, clubbing them over the heads and shoulders.