

Shotguns and Tear Gas Disperse Rioters Near the Berkeley Campus

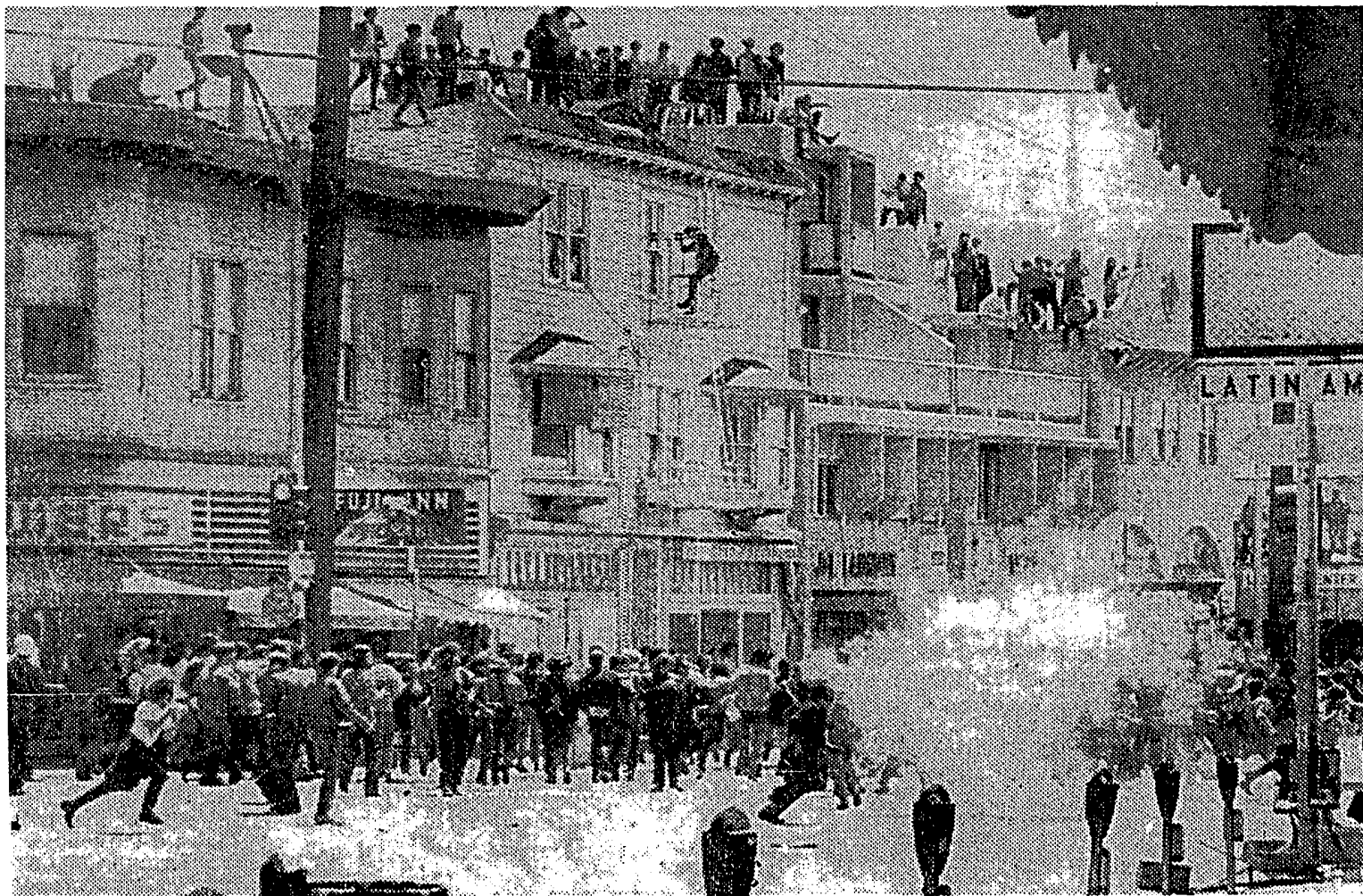
By LAWRENCE E. DAVIES Special to The New York Times

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A tear gas canister fired by the police explodes amid demonstrators and passers-by near the university campus

By LAWRENCE E. DAVIES
Special to The New York Times

BERKELEY, Calif., May 15 — Policemen with shotguns and National Guardsmen with tear gas opened fire on rioters along Telegraph Avenue near the University of California here this afternoon, incapacitating scores of per-

sons. Two hours after the first clash 21 persons had been arrested, several of them on felony charges. Gov. Ronald Reagan, about three hours after the trouble began, ordered the National Guard to active duty to supplement two of the Guards gas dispersal teams already on

hand. His press spokesmen refused to disclose the number of troops involved. The Governor, with the concurrence of local officials, also imposed a curfew on the city, forbidding loitering between 10 P.M. and 6 A.M. and outlawing parades, assemblies, and sound permits, with any

violations to be treated as misdemeanors. The rioting began in protest against the university's taking over "People's Park," a tract of land owned by the institution but improved in recent weeks by hippies, yippies, nonstudents

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RETURNED: A demonstrator throwing a tear gas canister back at the police during yesterday's violent rioting in Berkeley, Calif., near the University of California campus.

Police and Guard Rout Coast Rioters

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and others as a playground and gathering place.

Most of the injuries, hospital spokesmen said, appeared to have resulted from the use of birdshot by the police.

By evening, Telegraphs Avenue and nearby streets were littered with bricks, rocks and broken glass but most of the direct confrontation between the police and protesters was limited to the first hour of violence.

The balminess of the evening, however, caused law enforcement leaders to maintain their vigil.

A spokesman for City Manager William C. Hanley said no order had been given to the Berkeley police to use birdshot. The operational field commander is Sheriff Frank Madigan, but his whereabouts were not disclosed.

The spokesman estimated at least 300 law enforcement personnel were engaged in the operation but observers put the number at double or triple that figure. Policemen were on hand from Oakland, San Francisco and a half dozen or more other cities.

At Herrick Hospital, the nurses lost count of the numbers and an aide said most of the victims were taken immediately into surgery.

Late in the evening the number of injured stood at about 75, including at least 15 policemen who suffered minor hurts and were treated by a county doctor. Arrests totaled almost 40, with charges ranging from obscene gestures toward a policeman. The bail ranged from \$100 to \$18,000.

The shooting started near the Sather Gate entrance of the Berkeley campus after a demonstration attended by 1,500 or so at Sproul Hall Plaza. At the rally's conclusion, Dan Siegel, the student president-elect, shouted:

"Let's go down and take over the park."

Shortly afterward a platoon of Alameda County sheriff's deputies opened fire into a crowd standing on a roof at Dwight Way and Telegraph Avenue, near the campus. National Guardsmen arrived soon afterward and they tried to control the rioters by firing tear gas.

Among those wounded early in the fracas were Don Wegers, a reporter for The San Francisco Chronicle, and Daryl Lembke, San Francisco bureau chief for The Los Angeles Times.

A state highway patrolman, whose name was not disclosed, was stabbed.

Governor Reagan had never lifted a state of extreme emergency that he declared for the campus and its immediate environs on February 5 while confrontations between the police and striking students led by members of the Third World

Liberation Front were almost a daily occurrence.

The Third World Front is a group, found on a number of San Francisco Bay area campuses, made up of students of minority ethnic and national backgrounds. It includes usually the Black Students Union and representatives of Asians, Mexican-Americans and American Indians.

The Governor's proclamation enabled the sheriff to call upon the National Guard and the state highway patrol to keep order on the campus.

A critical situation had been building for the last day or two since Dr. Roger W. Heyns, chancellor of the Berkeley campus, served formal notice that the university would evict the "people's park" patrons and place a steel mesh fence around the 445 by 275 foot area owned by the institution. It covers most of a square block at the corner of Haste and Bowditch, near the campus.

Worked for Weekends

Several hundred policemen had appeared at the park before 5 A.M. and "dispossessed" a small group of "trespassers" in preparation for the start of the fence erection an hour later.

Squads of laughing, singing hippie types had been busy at the site for several weekends, transforming the \$1-million property—destined eventually for student housing and, more

immediately, for playing fields—into a park.

They had spent a reported \$700 for turf, with which they covered part of the bare ground and have spread sawdust over some of the rest. They also brought in striped swings to delight children and installed benches and tables for picnics.

Someone dubbed the result "power to the people park," which was shortened on a sign to People's Park. A corner bulletin board carried a schedule of activities so that residents and nonresidents, students and nonstudents, who arrived with picnic baskets or sandwiches in brown bags could stop to read on their way to a picnic table.

There were three apple trees and colored balloons and a steel triangle like a chuck wagon dinner bell, which they called a "bulldozer alarm," to alert them when the police might be about to descend on the area.

Art Goldberg, one of the leaders of the Free Speech Movement on the Berkeley campus more than four years ago, said recently that the university had purchased the land because the Berkeley police department had asked it to.

"They're trying to drive the students and the street people out," he asserted, a statement that has been denied by the administration.