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Mob Rule Is Feared in Tennessee Town After Bloody, Gunshot Election Battle

(Continued From Page One) for deputy stragglers who had not been taken into custody or sent to the hospital in the bloody fighting.

Over Score Wounded

More than a score of them had been wounded, some critically.

Reports that two deputies had been slain and their bodies still in the smoking wreckage of the jail had not been confirmed.

The shooting erupted late yesterday when the G. I. Non-Partisan League challenged the McMinn county powers with both ballots and bullets during the primary election.

The uprising swelled to a prolonged pitched battle during the night.

In the absence of constituted law, full order could not be restored. No further shooting was reported but G. I. supporters—their numbers swelling hourly—continued demonstrations throughout the city of 10,000.

Two G. I. Leaders

Two G. I. leaders, former Lt. Cmdr. Ralph Duggan and G. I. Campaign Manager James Buttram,

and Athens Publisher Lowell F. Arterburn tried to form a committee to maintain order.

They said they had called the governor in Nashville three times urging a declaration of martial law and the governor replied he would take the request "under advisement."

The four-man Athens police force was reported in hiding.

Sheriff Pat Mansfield, who had sworn in the special deputies, was not to be found, although armed teams of G. I. party men were scouring the city for him.

Major Paul J. Walker, who was driving with the machine, went vacationing three days ago and it was reported he usually leaves town at election time.

In Charge Here

"We're in charge here until some one else comes," said a G. I. leader. "We'd be glad to see the militia but we don't think the governor is going to send them."

The deputies marched from their blood-spattered stronghold with their hands up to end the shooting.

Crude dynamite bombs turned the trick after volley after volley from rifles, shotguns and other arms failed to dislodge the deputies from the jail where they held three G. I.'s hostage and had cornered most of the ballot boxes.

Mid-town Athens, where fires from burning automobiles cast a lurid light over the night, fighting resembled a miniature battlefield.

Chunks were torn from the two-story brick jail house by the gunfire blasts and a dynamite bomb had blasted down the porch.

Wreckage of seven automobiles littered the streets.

Many buildings bore scars from the prolonged shooting.

As he finished to the accompaniment of wild cheers the G. I.'s dragged two more deputies from the jail.

In a special announcement, the "non-partisan" party to which the G. I.'s belonged along with dissident Democrats and Republicans asserted it had no choice in the riot except "to meet fire with fire."

The G. I. election officials went to the polls unarmed to have a fair election as Pat Mansfield promised," the statement said. "They were met with blackjacks and pistols.

Fires Blaze in Town

"Several G. I. officials were beaten and the ballot boxes were moved to the jail. The G. I. supporters went to the jail to get these ballot boxes but were beaten by gunfire."

"The G. I. candidates had promised that the votes would be counted as cast. They had no choice but to meet fire with fire. In the precincts where the G. I. candidates were allowed watchers led by 100 men."

"The G. I.'s are elected and will serve as your county officials beginning Sept. 1, 1940."

The statement was signed by James Buttram, campaign manager whose towering figure had been the rallying point for the G. I.'s throughout the battle of Athens.

A dozen fires had blazed in downtown Athens where members of the mob poured gasoline on automobiles belonging to the jail defenders, and turned them into torches which lit the terror swept streets.

Residents Hide in Homes

Women and children crouched in cellars at their homes or bolted their doors and hid under furniture as stray shots ricocheted through the streets of this sleepy mountain town.

The fight began when unarmed veterans who attempted to watch the balloting were roughed up by some of the 300 armed special deputy supporters, sworn in to "guard" the voting booths by Sheriff Pat Mansfield, co-leader of the county Democratic machine.

One woman, wife of a deputy, endured the siege.

One jail defender was carried out so covered with blood it was impossible to tell if he were dead or alive. As he was placed in an ambulance, a woman in the crowd called, "Doesn't he look sweet."

"And doesn't he look brave," yelled another.

Ballots Hauled Out

By this time it seemed the whole town of 10,000 had swarmed to the jail area. The shooting had stopped entirely. Automobile spotlights played over the dejected deputies lined up before the building and hoarses blared.

A tremendous cheer went up as the ballot boxes were hauled from the jail and taken off by truck by members of the G. I. faction.

A veteran named Ralph Duggan charged out in front of the crowd and shouted, "Boys, you know I've been with you all day and it seems like I got a right to be heard from."

"We are going to put these men in jail and treat them a damn sight better than they would have treated us. You are fine young men, you have fought a good battle and you have won it."

Meet 'Fire With Fire'

"You are not going to do anything you'd regret now. We're going to keep the jail tonight. We want 150 to 200 armed men to be here. When the national guard or whatever it gets here we are going to have everything nice and orderly. We'll be in control and will dictate the terms."

The veterans had waged a strong pre-election campaign to oust the old-line regulars headed by State Senator Paul Cantrell and Sheriff Pat Mansfield. The two had decided to switch jobs in this election, Cantrell running for sheriff and Mansfield for state senator.

Observers at Polls

The veterans had sent observers to the polls when the old-line Democrats who control the party primary, in which nomination is tantamount to election, announced that the ballots would be counted only by machine Democrats.

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Barricaded Deputies

The barricaded deputies drove the mob back in an exchange of gunfire, but the street crowd threw a steel ring around the jail and ignored repeated orders to disperse.

During the campaign, veterans, Republicans who have little political voice in the south, and dissident Democrats had rallied around tall, handsome Jim Buttram, overseas veteran and former football star, who had demanded the defeat of the old-line Democrats who had run county and state politics unchanged for years.

Counting of ballots stopped when the gun fire broke out, but in the end returns reported the veteran-backed ticket was leading two to one.

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The veterans did not put up a candidate to oppose Mansfield, but backed Knox Henry, a war veteran, for sheriff.

McKellar Renominated
For Sixth Senate Term

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Aug. 2 (U.P.)—Veteran Senator K. D. McKellar was renominated for a sixth term today, but vote violence that marked the Tennessee primary

shaded the bitter E. H. Crump vs. C. I. O. angle of the election.

Senator McKellar, senate seat-

holder for 30 years, had 142,532

votes to 82,328 for 46-year-old Ed-

ward W. (Ned) Carmack, former

Murfreesboro newspaper publisher.

Unofficial reports had been tabu-

lated from 85 of Tennessee's 95