

King Killed In Memphis

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI)

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Nobel Peace Prize winner was slain by a white sniper Thursday night when he stepped onto the balcony of his hotel.

Police issued a bulletin for a young white man in dark clothes who dashed out of a building across the street from the hotel. They said he dropped a Browning automatic rifle, fitted with a scope, onto the sidewalk and fled in a white, late model car.

RUMORS SWEEPED west Tennessee and Arkansas of running gunbattles between police and cars fitting the description.

Bloody rioting broke out in Memphis. Two policemen were shot and the National Guard troops and highway patrolmen were called in.

Looting and rock-throwing erupted in Miami, Raleigh, N. C., Jackson, Miss., and Birmingham, Ala., the town where King founded his nonviolent movement.

UNITS OF the Arkansas State Patrol were deputized and rushed across the Mississippi River into Memphis.

Only Wednesday night, King told a rally near the spot where he died that "like anybody, I would like to live a long life . . . but I'm not concerned about that."

"I may not get there with you," he told his followers, "but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land. So I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything."

WHITE reporters who tried to reach the area, where King was to have addressed a rally Thursday night, turned back.

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VF Convocations
King, Martin Luther Jr.
Jan. 19, 1968

KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN, Fri., April 5, 1968

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King Slaying Breeds Unrest

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"It's like a jungle out there," one said.

Former Alabama Gov. George Wallace called the assassination a "senseless, regrettable and tragic act."

King met death in an attempt to prove he could bring off what he had planned to be the biggest demonstration of his life. His planned "Poor People's March on Washington" later this month was under fire because a march he led here last week erupted in a riot.

King insisted he could lead a massive demonstration and keep it nonviolent, and he returned here to prove it. The march, 6,000 strong, was set for Monday.

PRESIDENT Johnson appeared on nationwide television two hours after the shot was fired to "ask every citizen to stay away from the violence that struck Dr. King."

"I know every American of good will joins me in mourning the death of this leader and in praying for understanding throughout the land," the President said. He said he was postponing his trip to Honolulu because of the assassination.

"HE HAD always lived with that expectation," sobbed one of King's aides outside the emergency room where he died at 7:05 p.m., almost an hour after

the high-powered rifle bullet tore a gaping hole in the right side of his neck.

King won his first major battle in the war on segregation in Montgomery, Ala., the cradle of the old Confederacy.

King organized and led the famed Montgomery bus boycott that led, after hundreds of Negroes walked to work for more than a year, to the integrated seating on the transit buses in the Alabama capital.

HIS CAMPAIGNS took him into historic St. Augustine, Fla., the streets of Birmingham, Ala., and rural southern towns like Albany, Ga., Danville, Va., and Selma, Ala.

King, advocating non violence, became the nation's best known civil rights leader and his ceaseless battle won for him

the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. He accepted the prize on behalf of "all men who love peace and brotherhood."

King was pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist church one block from the state capitol when he became the driving force behind the bus boycott that led to one of the most significant victories in the civil rights movements of the 1950's.

SINCE THE Montgomery bus boycott, thousands of Negroes have gone to jail under King's leadership.

King himself was in jail more than a dozen times in seven years. He often led demonstrators clad in blue jeans and a denim jacket.

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