

1968

## Riots - Salisbury, Maryland

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Riots - Salisbury, Md.

# Ministers Urge Calm At Salisbury Funeral

By Peter A. Jay

Washington Post Staff Writer

SALISBURY, Md., May 25 — Daniel Kenneth Henry was buried today, along with Salisbury's once enviable reputation as an island of racial harmony on Maryland's turbulent Eastern Shore.

The city's five leading Negro ministers spoke at the funeral, urging an end to violence and retaliation, as 200 State troopers scattered through the city, now deeply divided. The troopers sought to prevent threatened attempts by whites to disrupt the procession to the graveside.

"Daniel speaks clearly today, more clearly than he ever spoke in his life," the Rev. Charles H. Mack said of Henry. The dead man was a 22-year-old deaf mute whose fatal shooting by a white po-

liceman last Saturday brought two days of violence and more than 1000 police and troops here.

"Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord," Mr. Mack told more than 200 mourners, mostly older men and women, who filled the tiny St. James' A.M.E. Zion Church for the services. "I wish white Salisbury were within the sound of my voice."

But white Salisbury, even had it chosen to come to St. James' would have been turned away by troopers wary of any further racial confrontations. Last night, State police had used chemical Mace to turn an angry crowd of 150 placard-carrying whites bound

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The WASHINGTON POST; Washington, D. C.  
Sunday, May 26, 1968, A1

# Rioting Hits Salisbury After Police Kill Negro

Special to The Star

SALISBURY, Md. — A 9 o'clock curfew was imposed here last night after crowds of Negroes broke a number of downtown store windows and looted shops following the fatal shooting of a negro by a city detective, police reported.

Authorities also reported three fires—in a fertilizer factory, a Campbell's Soup Co. facility and a grocery store.

Mayor Dallas Truitt, who imposed the curfew, said the detective would be suspended until an investigation of the shooting was completed.

The crowds ranged from 300 to 500 persons, authorities said, and a number of car windows also were reported broken.

## Several Injured

Several persons were hospitalized, but none was believed to be seriously injured, police said.

Police also reported making several arrests.

Police said the disturbance broke out about 7 p.m.

The crowds dispersed after listening to the mayor call for order, according to the Associated Press, but police said some rock-throwing continued.

A contingent of Army National Guardsmen who had reported earlier for their regularly scheduled weekend drill spent last night in their armory because of

the disturbance, according to Col. John S. Edwards, chief of staff of the Maryland National Guard.

According to AP, a crowd of about 300 Negroes gathered in front of the city police headquarters about 6 p.m. to protest the shooting of a 21-year-old Negro deaf mute who had tussled with a city detective.

The AP said police had been questioning the man when he reportedly broke from the detective and ran. He was shot outside police headquarters.

The investigators, the mayor said, would include state police, the FBI and a Negro lawyer.

Riots - Salisbury, Md.





By Steve Szabo—The Washington Post

Mourners in Salisbury, Md., pay tribute to Daniel Henry, whose slaying by a policeman touched off violence there last weekend.

## Five Ministers Urge Calm at Funeral in Salisbury

**SALISBURY—From A1**

downtown. "Take the handcuffs off our police," one sign said.

State Adjutant Gen. George M. Gelston, in command of the situation since a nighttime curfew was reimposed on the city after last night's scuffle, said Gov. Spiro T. Agnew instructed him not to impose a curfew tonight.

If Salisbury remained calm tonight, Gelston said, the police and 200 National Guardsmen standing by in the city's armory would be withdrawn and the official state of emergency ended.

The disorders have been met with bafflement by the white leaders of middle class Salisbury, a bustling city of 16,200 that has considered itself a model of race relations.

In a community more concerned with salesmanship than segregation, officials profess puzzlement at both the sudden outpouring of Negro resentment at Henry's death and the almost equally violent counter-reaction on the part of some whites.

"They (whites) can't understand why we won't let them march," Salisbury's white-haired mayor, Dallas G. Truitt, bemusedly told a friend. "It's only fair. We treat the niggers the same way."

This morning, officials were spreading the word that last night's white marchers were farmers and laborers from rural lower Wicomico and Som-

erset Counties, not residents of Salisbury.

Salisbury's Negroes are not so sure. "Our city earned its reputation in a negative way," said the Rev. Thomas Pendleton, a Negro member of the city's biracial commission. "We happened to be quiet when other cities like Cambridge burned, but we're no model."

But the Harvard-educated Pendleton, whom many whites here consider a militant in civil rights matters, reminded mourners at Henry's funeral that "Jesus has said, 'Return not evil for evil.'"

This, as reconstructed today by police and Wicomico

County State's Attorney Alfred T. Truitt Jr. (not a relative of the mayor), was the way the event began that brought troops and brief chaos to Salisbury:

Henry, a Salisbury native, who had spent time in jail and in mental institutions for breaking and entering, but was free on probation, was arrested by Salisbury plainclothes detective Jerry Mason, 26, as a burglary suspect.

He was taken to police headquarters where he was known and recognized. Police, who say he was literate and could understand written questions, then asked him to sign a form

waiving his rights to counsel. He did so, then bolted from the building.

A scuffle ensued, in which Henry grabbed the revolver of police Cpl. John Guarino. Moments later, the revolver fell to the ground. Mason picked it up, yelled to the deaf mute to stop, and fired one shot when he didn't. It struck Henry in the back of the neck and killed him instantly.

Mason, whom Salisbury's soft spoken police chief Leslie J. Payne Jr., 34, described as "one of my best officers," was suspended from duty and charged with manslaughter.

But by the time this was done, rioting had broken out, two grocery stores were burned, and the National Guard was in the city clearing the streets with tear gas.

"No battle was ever won, or problem solved, by physical violence," Mr. Mack said before Henry's steel casket was lowered into the dry sandy soil of the Green Acres Memorial Park.

But Salisbury officials, finding their city no longer immune to disorders like those that have flared in other communities, were unwilling today to forecast a peaceful summer.