

Revolution '67: Timeline

Student Name _____ Date _____

1967 NEWARK RIOT TIMELINE

I. 1967 NEWARK RIOT QUICK TIMELINE:

1. July 12th, Wednesday (DAY 1): Newark Riot begins at the Fourth Precinct police station.
2. July 14th, Friday (DAY 3): State Police & National Guard enter Newark.
3. July 17th, Monday (DAY 6): State Police and National Guard begin to leave Newark.
4. July 19th, Wednesday (DAY 8): Newark Riot declared officially over.

II. 1967 NEWARK RIOT TIMELINE:

◆ WEDNESDAY, JULY 12th (DAY 1)

1. **EVENING:** Newark Police Patrolmen DeSimone and Pontrelli arrest (African-American) John Smith for alleged reckless driving of his taxi cab, placing him in the back seat of their patrol car.
2. **9:30 p.m.:** John Smith is charged with assault and battery. (Smith later testifies that he was beaten by various policemen in the station.) Smith is locked in a cell.
3. Dense population of nearby Hayes Homes causes rumors of the beating to spread rapidly. Crowd of thirty-five gathers in front of the precinct and the mood grows increasingly tense.
4. **10 p.m.:** Civil rights leaders arrive at the precinct to inquire about Smith and discover that he is badly injured.
5. **11:30 p.m.:** The crowd outside the precinct becomes heated. Civil rights leaders, without using bullhorns, urge the crowd to go home, but they're interrupted when a Molotov cocktail hits the precinct wall.
6. **12:15 a.m. (Thursday July 13th):** A barrage of rocks and missiles hits the police precinct. Police, wearing helmets and carrying nightsticks, charge out of the precinct and disperse the crowd.
7. Looting begins.
8. **4 a.m. (Thursday, July 13th):** Newark streets are quiet.

◆ THURSDAY, JULY 13th (DAY 2)

1. **MORNING:** Newark's city administration attempts to project an image of a "return to normal."
2. **LATE AFTERNOON:** Leaflets for a 7:30 p.m. Anti-Police Brutality Rally in front of the Fourth Precinct police station are distributed. The city administration attributes the leaflets to the United Community Corporation's (UCC) Area Board 2 and the activist group, Newark Community Union Project (NCUP).
3. **8 p.m.:** Barrages of missiles are thrown at the precinct. Police, in helmets and wielding nightsticks, disperse the crowd.
4. **9 p.m.:** Looting and vandalism along Springfield Avenue intensifies.
5. **12:30 a.m. (Friday, July 14th):** Sudden sharp increase of incidents, including looting and fires, outside the containment area.

6. **2:30 a.m. (Friday, July 14th):** Newark police receive radio transmission that “help is on the way.”

◆ **FRIDAY, JULY 14th (DAY 3)**

1. **5 a.m.:** Governor Hughes and the leaders of the local police, State Police, and National Guard meet.
2. **8-9:30 a.m.:** Top officials tour the riot area.
3. Communication problems: The State Police, the National Guard, and the Newark Police Department operate on different frequencies, and neither city nor state units are equipped to send or receive messages on the frequency assigned to the other.
4. **FRIDAY AFTERNOON:** Colonel Kelly reports that most of the looting activity is under control and that the crowds have been contained.
5. **LATE FRIDAY AFTERNOON-EVENING:** Looting subsides but weapons’ fire intensifies and becomes a serious problem.
6. Communication problems, resulting from the use of different radio frequencies by different police elements, are relieved.
7. **14 Deaths reported.**

◆ **SATURDAY, JULY 15 (DAY 4)**

1. **NIGHT:** Burning, looting, and sniping erupt, again.
2. Gunfire commences in new areas, west of South Orange Avenue.
3. **7 Deaths reported.**

◆ **SUNDAY, JULY 16th (DAY 5)**

1. Tensions ease.
2. **SUNDAY NIGHT:** A few incidents of sniping reported.
3. **12:30 a.m. (Monday, July 17th):** Governor Hughes meets with community leaders.
4. **3 Deaths reported.**

◆ **MONDAY, JULY 17th (DAY 6)**

1. **6:30 a.m.:** Governor Hughes decides to begin withdrawing the National Guard and the State Police from Newark.
2. **1 Death reported.**

◆ **TUESDAY, JULY 18th (DAY 7)**

1. Businesses and schools reopen.
2. A small force of State Police and National Guard troops remains.
3. **1 Death reported.**

◆ **WEDNESDAY, JULY 19th (DAY 8)**

1. The Newark Riot is officially over.

SOURCES:

- Governor's Select Commission on Civil Disorder State of New Jersey. *Report for Action*. 1968. Also known as The Lilley Commission Report. http://blog.nj.com/ledgernewark/2007/06/report_for_action.html#more