

Four Students Killed In Kent State Riots As Violent Campus Demonstrations Spread

KENT, Ohio (UPI) — Four Kent State University students, including two coeds, were killed yesterday in a campus gun battle during a clash between National Guardsmen and 3,000 rioting students.

At least seven other students were wounded and eight injured.

First reports from Joseph Durban, the university's information officer, said two of the victims were National Guardsmen but the morgue later confirmed only that it had two male and two female victims. Coroner Robert Sybert said none of the victims were Guardsmen.

The telephone company said all telephone communications to any section of Northeast Ohio were knocked out. Not even emergency calls from many worried parents of Kent State students were being accepted, the company said.

Shoot-Out In Football Field

Assistant Adjutant General Frederick P. Wenger said snipers fired at the Guardsmen on a football practice field.

"The Guardsmen on campus returned the sniper fire, as best as I can determine," Gen. Wenger said.

Sheriff's deputies from surrounding counties

were called to the Kent State University campus Sunday night to assist 500 National Guardsmen after about 1,000 students began smashing windows and setting fires on campus and the surrounding area.

City officials said the situation was "getting out of control."

Some students were reported in underground heating and maintenance tunnels and troops also were sent to the library where other students had taken refuge.

The Guardsmen, armed with rifles and fixed bayonets, broke up an earlier demonstration Sunday evening by tossing tear gas into a crowd of about 2,000 students.

The disturbance was near the site of the ROTC buildings, the two-story brick Air Force facility, and the one-story wooden Army structure which had burned to the ground.

At least 15 students were injured — seven wounded by gunfire — in the most violent outbreak so far in growing campus protests against the move of American troops into Cambodia.

Nixon Issues Statement

"It is my hope that this tragic and violent incident will strengthen the determination of all the country's campuses, administrators, faculty and students alike to stand firmly for the right which exists in this country of peaceful dissent and just as strongly against the resort to violence as a means of such expression," President Nixon said in a statement.

It was the bloodiest confrontation that has yet taken place in the three-year-old student crusade against the Vietnam war, a crusade that had waned into virtual silence until President Nixon gave it new impetus last week by announcing his invasion of the Cambodian

After the dead and injured had been removed to Robinson Memorial Hospital in nearby Ravenna, authorities closed the university for at least a week, and sent the 20,000 students home.

Urged Student Strike

Newspaper editors from nine eastern universities urged a student strike "not against the universities but a strike by the entire University."

Thirteen schools signed a four point resolution asking for a strike to protest the Cambodian decision. They were the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, Pennsylvania State, Temple, Bryn Mawr, Villanova, Lycoming, Bucknell, Rutgers, Goucher, Drexel, West Chester State and the Philadelphia College of Art.

At Stanford University in California, 800 students met to discuss strike tactics for the coming week. The group advocated a non-violent university shut-down beginning Monday.

University President Kenneth S. Pitzer considered closing the campus which was wracked by trouble last week — to outsiders.

In New York, Columbia University President Andrew W. Cordier agreed to a one day moratorium on classes yesterday. He said the University would remain open, but students and faculty members who participate in the moratorium would be excused.

ROTC Offices Hit

In Cleveland, Ohio, about 75 students occupied the ROTC offices on the Case Reserve University campus. Case President Robert Mores told the students protesting that "this is not the way to get out of Cambodia."

At Rutgers University's New Brunswick, N.J. campus, a committee of students called for a boycott against the Coca-Cola Co., alleging students can reach the government through business.

The Washington, D.C. demonstrators were arrested on charges of failure to move on and disorderly conduct when they dropped to their knees in prayer after police interrupted a worship service in Lafayette Park across the street from the White House.

The nine eastern schools who called for a nationwide student strike said they planned the