

RETURNED SOLDIERS RAID MANY GREEK RESTAURANTS

200 Men and 1,000 Sympathizers Wreck Eating Houses, Causing Thousands of Dollars of Damage—Stores Also Attacked

At 2.30 this morning the raid finished at Sunnyside. The rioters went to West Toronto, but did no damage.

Smashing restaurants the length of Yonge street between Bloor and Queen, and on Queen over to McCaul, a crowd of a thousand returned soldiers and sympathizers broke loose last night. From six o'clock in the evening until after two o'clock this morning they were absolute masters of all authority, defied the police and the military, and utterly tore to pieces the interiors of a dozen restaurants and stores, leaving wreckage in their path like unto the devastation they saw themselves after their advance in France following a great artillery battle.

Acting Inspector Snider, Dundas street west station, and P. C.'s Levin and Sharp, were badly used up and had to retire to No. 2 station.

The police say that before they had time to summon a force to deal with the situation the crowd was so large that they deemed it advisable not to make a stand, fearing a riot of large proportions.

There were not more than two or three arrests. The police obtained the numbers of a large number of autos in the crowd.

The cause of the outbreak is said to be due to the reported assault of a returned soldier Thursday evening in the White City Cafe.

At Sunnyside.

At 1.45 the mob was reported attacking the Lakeview Restaurant at Roncesvalles avenue and Queen street.

At 2.10 rioters were at Gerald's Cafe, Dundas street, and were said to be going from there to the Queen Elizabeth, 209 Dundas street west. There seemed to be two crowds, the second one operating in the west end of the city.

Soldiers and Civilians.

In every place the men entered they broke everything in sight and hurled the contents around the stores and out into the rioting mob which stood in front of the doorways and cheered the veterans on. The men took the law in their own hands, and the small gathering of civil and military police had to stand by and look helplessly on as the different places were wrecked, with a loss of thousands of dollars and the endangerment of lives of police constables, who were attacked at different intervals.

Police Stand Pat.

No attempt was made by the police to round up the disorderly crowd. Provost Marshal Miller sent in a call to Exhibition Camp for reserves, but they were not forthcoming. At one o'clock this morning

the only available men in camp numbered one hundred. They were despatched to Bloor and Yonge streets in motor transports. When they arrived four places were completely demolished inside, and it was deemed unadvisable to make any attempt to round up the crowd.

Caus of the Trouble.

The riot is said to have brewed as the result of an alleged assault made upon Albert Cludray, a returned man of Davisville Hospital. The soldiers charge that Cludray was badly beaten in the White City Cafe, 433 Yonge street, Thursday night by a Greek, and that it was in revenge that they had taken the law into their own hands.

Several persons were slightly injured, but up to 2 o'clock this morning no casualties of a severe nature were reported, although anger rose amongst the soldiers at times that threatened to develop into a free-for-all battle between the police and soldiers and their gathering of civilian sympathizers.

Carefully Planned.

The riot is said to have been arranged yesterday afternoon quietly amongst the men. They congregated at Yonge and College street at 6 o'clock last evening and marched to the White City Cafe. At this time the evening rush was on, and when the men entered they commenced turning tables upside down and throwing plates at the hired help. The owners of the place made a hurried exit by the rear door and were successful in escaping from being mauled at the hands of the crowd. Women were cut by plates and after having their hurts attended to in a nearby drug store were able to leave for their homes.

Policeman Sharpe was struck over the head with a crutch but was not injured severely enough to cause his retirement from duty.

\$7,000 Damage.

Within a few minutes of 6 o'clock the big front window was broken and plates and dishes were flying in all directions. Crates of eggs stored in the rear were hurled out into the back lane and bags of flour tossed into the street. Mr. Letros stated later on in the evening that the damage to the White City Cafe would reach \$7,000.

A police guard was placed on duty and the crowd dispersed and it was the feeling of the police that the soldiers had retired for the evening.

At Normal School.

Later on a meeting of the men was reported to have been held on the Normal School grounds and an attempt was made to break it up. Some time later the word reached police headquarters that the angry mob had run amuck at the White City Cafe, Bloor street west. This place and the White City Cafe, 985

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Bloor street west. These three places are controlled by Sankep and Letros.

At the Marathon Cafe.

Early this morning they entered the Marathon Cafe, 822 Yonge street, and from there journeyed down to John Klee's delicatessen store on Yonge street. Wainwright's dance hall, Yonge and Gould streets, was entered, but the soldiers left without doing any great amount of damage.

Police Reserves Up.

Inspector Dickson, who is Acting Deputy of Police, held both night shifts of police in reserve. Police patrols followed the crowds around, but no attempt was made to approach the leaders.

Men on Crutches.

Waving the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes the angered crowd marched up the centre of the streets crying "This is the night we will get justice." Most of the men who seemed to be directing the proceedings limped on crutches and were in uniform. Others minus arms and wounded otherwise walked around in disorder.

The White City Cafe had just been newly outfitted and is now a mass of broken glass and dishes. From there the crowd marched back to Yonge and Carlton streets. This was at midnight. They swarmed around the Star Cafe, and within a few minutes the bay window was heard to give in. The contents were soon also to be heard breaking. Mounting the second floor of the building, the front windows were broken and more flour was thrown in the air. It took less than fifteen minutes to clean out the Star Cafe, and from there the scene shifted to the Marathon Cafe, on Yonge street, north of Bloor.

Scene of Wreckage.

A heavy crash served as a warning for the falling in of the front window. Boxes of cigars, cans of ice cream, vegetables and different kinds of canned goods were hurled into the street. Soldiers stood on the counter with their crutches and smashed down the electrical fixtures.

Traveling down Yonge street again they approached another restaurant. The proprietor was standing in the doorway, and when a soldier walked up to him he saluted the flag, and the men carried on without harming the premises. Thieves took the opportunity of hiding in the crowd to avoid police detection.

Groceries, Too.

When the Marathon Cafe was entered they could be seen quite plainly rushing into the building and carrying off large quantities of groceries. One returned man, minus his left leg, was conspicuous in the crowd carrying a box of cigars and a basket of cucumbers.

Numbers of boxes of cigars and large packets containing packages of cigarettes were carried away, as well as canned goods.

Traveling south on Yonge street, the soldiers, covered with flour, were seen smoking cigars. Soldiers who had boxes of cigars opened them and distributed them, but others who had several boxes and other stolen goods sneaked away from the crowd.

P. C. Sharpe Attacked.

When the police patrol drove through the crowd a number of the men were of the opinion that an attempt was being made to make arrests. The patrol, traveling at a high rate of speed, got away, but Policeman Sharpe, who was standing on the car tracks, was attacked and beaten over the head with a crutch by a soldier. The officer did not strike back, but kindly asked the offending soldier to move on.

Military Out.

Provost Marshal Miller had number of military men under direction when he learned of the first raid. Thinking the outbreak was over he temporarily released his men. When the mob continued to raid places he sent in a call for help to Exhibition Camp. Only one hundred soldiers were available, and it was after midnight when the transports containing them arrived downtown.

Military Outnumbered.

It was useless, in the Provost Marshal's opinion, to make any attempt to quell the rioters. Although the police only stood by and looked on, it looked sure that a battle would break out at any moment between the police and the rioters.

Cash Register Looted.

About one o'clock the mob went down Yonge street, visiting the Vendome Cafe at No. 305, and smashed the windows to smithereens. Here \$50 was taken from the cash register. At the Superior Lunch, No. 257, the crowd smashed one window, when the proprietor, named Mastrogan, appeared suddenly and made a drastic appeal.

"I Have Served in France."

"I have served three years in France and England," he cried. "I have been wounded, and now am waiting my honorable discharge."

For a moment there was silence, then the rioters burst into cheering. The leaders cried out that they were sorry, and wild shouts "We'll pay the damage, we'll pay the damage," repaired in the mind of the owner of the cafe the wreckage caused.

Police and Revolvers.

At the Colonial Cafe, it is said that one of the soldiers was struck at with a revolver in the hands of a police inspector, and that the man was hurt.

When the mob got to the New York Lunch, the proprietor was ready with his papers to show his Canadian citizenship, and the rioters passed him by.

Affair Grows Menacing.

About half-past one the rioters were lining up in front of Childs' Restaurant, when two returned soldiers that had just come out spoke to them, and told them that they had been well treated there. At this juncture the affair was very menacing. The police were in strong

force with drawn batons, but the dicta of the returned men just out of Childs' persuaded the mob, which moved off up Yonge street again. Some of the marauders began to go home, and at this period the night's excitement looked as if it was beginning to die down.

A shoe shine parlor on Yonge street, just north of Bloor, is said to have been demolished also in the disturbances there.

The Palace Cafe, 271 Queen street west, was damaged to the extent of \$3,000. Jordon Bajis, the owner, stated that he has been naturalized in Canada for ten years and was also married in this country.

Police Release Prisoners.

The New London Cafe, 311 Queen street west, was next entered and damaged. At this place an attempt was made by the police to arrest two civilians. The crowd gathered around and the police were forced to release them.

An officer in uniform attempted to address the men by stating that the returned men would be blamed for the whole affair, while civilians were causing the damage. This had no effect on the crowd, who proceeded westward to the next place which they intended destroying.

Pork Butcher's Loss.

It just required about six minutes to practically demolish the store and stock of John Klees, pork butcher, 504 Yonge street. Swooping down on the building the mob used several good-sized stones on the big plate glass, which had been broken earlier in the evening. They rushed in and hurled the scales onto the floor and then started throwing the olives, pickles, canned goods, German sausage and other stuff out of the window. When the stock was practically all gone a police inspector arrived on the scene, and with the sight of a good bright revolver ordered the mob to exit, which they did, but not with empty arms. By the time the place was cleared of the rioters the stock left on the shelves would not have filled a two-dollar order.

At Queen and McCaul.

The crowd, after thoroughly ruining the restaurant opposite McCaul street, on Queen, came back to Queen and Yonge. One of the returned men hurled a whiskey bottle through the upper window of the New York Restaurant to start the proceedings there, but before any further damage could be done forty hurriedly summoned policemen arrived in one of the big Consumers' Gas Company's trucks and by using their batons freely they succeeded in dispersing the crowd. The police then took the numbers of all the autos in sight in hopes of getting the ringleaders, while the crowd broke up in bunches to await further developments.

Smashed Window.

At 12.50 a.m. the crowd tore into the Marathon Cafe, 822 Yonge street, and with crutches forced in the big bay window. The entire stock was carried out, and windows and electrical fixtures were splintered.

Nothing Left on Shelves.

The store of John Klees at 504 Yonge street, who conducts a delicatessen business, was badly damaged when the raiders paid their visit there, tearing down the shelves and wrecking everything in the place. Boxes were hurled about, in fact nothing was left on the shelves.

Abdul Simons of 501 Yonge street convinced the crowd that he was an Italian, and he was allowed to pass unmolested.

A woman and three children in the windows of the Home Lunch on Yonge street, just south of Bloor street, appealed to the better side of the soldiers, and they passed on to other places. It was said that the woman and the children alone saved this place from destruction.

They Make a Stand.

At 1 o'clock this morning the police made a stand when an attempt was made to raid the Colonial Lunch at 349 Yonge street. The crowd was addressed by Lieut. Bethune, 75th Battalion, an officer with four service stripes.

"This is the kind of thing which gets you in wrong," he said, and he was howled down.

The police made a cordon but they were rushed back. P. C. Levin, was struck by a bottle and rendered unconscious and had to be taken away in an automobile. Then some one sent for the firemen, and two hose waggons appeared on the scene. Lt. Bethune then drove off. The crowd moved on to other points of attack.

Acting Inspector Snider of No. 2 Division was badly cut about the face and had to go with P.C. Levin to No. 2 Station.