

Two Are Dead, Shops Looted, Liquor Stolen

Halifax, May 8 (CP).—Fires burned tonight in the heart of Halifax, as civilian and service police strove to enforce a curfew and clear the streets of thousands of victory rioters who have smashed and looted virtually every store in the downtown business section.

The curfew, effective at 8 p.m., was issued about an hour earlier by Mayor Alan M. Butler. It was read by Rear Admiral L. W. Murray, officer commanding Canadian Northwest Atlantic, who toured the streets in a sound truck.

Late tonight two deaths had been reported and many were injured, but many hospital cases were merely patients suffering from varying degrees of cuts. The main business section was a mass of glass.

Scores of drunks fell into broken glass in the streets and came up bleeding from many cuts.

The exact casualty toll in the two-day rioting could not be immediately determined, but it was believed to stand at at least two dead and hundreds injured.

Tonight one entire ward was filled with riot casualties at the Royal Canadian Navy Hospital. A navy man was reported killed, but this could not be confirmed. On Monday night an 18-year-old navy rating drank himself to death in the dockyard.

Started Last Night

The celebrations started last night, eased off this morning, then broke out with renewed violence this afternoon in an orgy of drunken smashing and looting. Damage will run into hundreds of thousands of dollars, but no estimate is possible yet.

The destruction is the worst visited on Halifax since the great explosion of 1917, when buildings were flattened and thousands of windows smashed.

No buildings were flattened in the victory riot, but there is scarcely a window in the city's main business section that hasn't been smashed. Thousands of dollars worth of goods were looted from the smashed stores, and virtually the entire liquor supply was carted out of the city's liquor stores.

One large fire raged on Barrington St. where People's Credit Jewelry store caught fire and the flames spread into the neighboring D'Allaird's women's wear store.

Think Fires Incendiary

Police and firemen have not revealed cause of the fire, but it is understood to have started in the basement, presumably from incendiary action. Onlookers said another fire that gutted a Hollis St. building housing Pader's drug store, also was of incendiary origin.

Power lines were cut at one point by firemen as they fought a blaze on Granville St., and part of the city was without light or power for more than an hour. Another fire broke out on Gottingen St., in the north end, but was subdued.

As liquor flowed free in the wake of the store lootings, destruction spread rapidly through the city, and Mayor Alan M. Butler hurriedly called a conference between police officials, heads of the armed services, civil defense authorities and Attorney-General's departments.

Service police have been reinforced by volunteers and all available officers and men have been sent on the street to gather in the rioters.

Scores of servicemen and civilians have been taken in and questioned, and the army has detained several looters, but so far no charges have been laid against any one.

Civilian police were helpless against the hundreds of drunken looters who roamed the streets, smashing plate-glass windows and entering all stores without interference. Men and women walked calmly down the street carrying armloads of shoes, clothing, and with their pockets filled.

Shattered glass and debris of all descriptions littered the main streets, and the sound of shattering glass was everywhere as members of the mob smashed in store fronts with poles, or stood on the far side of the street throwing stones and bottles at the windows.

Only one store front remained unbroken in the city's miles of

downtown thoroughfares tonight, that of Jack Sutherland's barber shop. Mrs. Emma Mackay was responsible for the comparative miracle. She owns the building.

She stood in front of the store for 15 long and tiresome hours today, diplomatically talking at least a dozen people out of breaking her window.

"This store has been here for 56 years," she said "and it wasn't even broken in the Halifax explosion in 1917."

Raid Liquor Stores, Brewery

Police threw cordons around the liquor stores and Keith's Brewery, which had been looted earlier.

They said their only hope was to keep the mob away from the liquor, and hope that their drunken orgy would end soon.

At the height of the turbulence men and women by the scores reeled through the streets, carrying cases of beer, cases of whisky or rum, or else walked with hands full of bottles.

The parks were turned into virtual beer gardens as couples and groups sprawled on the grass with a case of whisky—an entire man's ration—beside them.

Liquor was dime-a-dozen around the town. Drunken sailors reeled up to you with arms full of bottles, offering to sell it for \$1 or \$2 a quart, or else giving it away outright with a sudden generous impulse.

At the ransacked liquor stores and brewery, men and women fought madly to get in. Even children were in on it, two or three of them seizing a case of beer and rushing off with it.

The victory celebrations started last night, when a street-car and a police patrol wagon were burned and three liquor stores rifled. Things quieted down about 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning, then broke out again with a vengeance early this afternoon.

A mob of some 500 sailors, other servicemen and civilians roamed down Granville St., smashing every window, then turned to Water St. and the brewery. They stormed in through a cordon of service police and began carting out beer by the case. Some loaded it on trucks they had commandeered somewhere.

Then began a scene of drunkenness and destruction that is rarely equalled in a city outside a war zone.

Bands of looters roamed up and down Barrington and Hollis Sts., kicking in windows or smashing them with clubs or boards they tore off buildings.

It wasn't long before the looting started, first in a shoe store, and then spreading to other stores including the jewelry store which was later fired.

The streets soon were littered with shoes, coats, groceries and articles of a dozen kinds thrown carelessly around.

No street cars were running, and few automobiles ventured out on the glass-strewn streets.

On the eastern slopes of Citadel Hill hundreds of men and women—civilians, merchantmen, airmen CWAC's, WREN's, airwomen—gathered in groups hooting and shouting as they gulped down quart after quart of beer. Much of the beer had come from a raid on one of the city's breweries during the afternoon. The city was littered with empty bottles and beer cartons most of them taken in raids of liquor stores and the breweries. The mob was completely out of hand during the day.

Hundreds of WREN's had been given passes for leave in the evening, but these were cancelled shortly before the curfew went into effect and they were ordered to remain in barracks.

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