



Detroit Police Department
Public Information Center

NEWS RELEASE

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Detroit, Michigan 482

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PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION

October 25th, 1970.

At approximately 5:45 PM, October 24th, 1970, a Second Precinct scout car approached a number of persons handing out literature on the sidewalk at the corner of Myrtle and 14th Street. The sidewalk was reportedly being blocked and the persons were refused passage unless they took the literature.

Officers attempted to clear the sidewalk to allow pedestrian passage and an officer was grabbed by someone and a scuffle ensued. Help was requested by police radio.

Among those cars responding, was 1-35, manned by two black officers, Patrolmen Marshall Emerson and Forest Harvey.

The Second Precinct scout car then left the scene after one of the subjects was arrested and the crowd appeared under control. At that time, scout 1-35, an unmarked vehicle, arrived at the scene. Patrolmen Emerson and Harvey were in plain clothes.

Patrolmen Emerson and Harvey then drove up 16th Street to turn around and at that time they heard themselves being pointed out as police officers to ten or twelve other persons. This group of persons then started stoning the police vehicle.

Some of these persons then ran into the house located at 3376 16th Street. A few moments later, a shot fired from a window at that address wounded Patrolman Marshall Emerson in the hand.

(continued)

October 25th, 1970.

At approximately 6:05 PM, as officers began to arrive to isolate the area, a gun blast from this house felled Patrolman Glenn Smith, who was in the street.

Officer Smith was D.O.A. at Detroit General Hospital as a result of a gunshot wound to the head.

Patrolman Emerson was treated for his wound at Detroit General Hospital and released.

A total of 12 persons were arrested as they voluntarily left the premises of 3376 16th Street in company with high ranking city officials, their attorneys, community leaders and other interested parties.

When the remaining parties in the house refused to surrender, after several announcements, tactical gas was used and a short time later, three additional persons left the premises and were arrested.

Several high powered rifles, ammunition and gas masks were confiscated from the premises.

Four Detroit Police vehicles were destroyed by fire in the immediate area.

Investigation is continuing into this matter.