

No doubt anymore about viciousness of bomber at large in Birmingham, Alabama

By Al Kuetner
UPI Staff Writer

Any lingering doubts that a truly vicious and malicious bomber is at large in Birmingham, Ala., disappeared Wednesday with a sober announcement from the police department.

The latest outrage in the steel city's grim racial conflict involved the detonation of two explosive charges — 13 minutes apart.

The police said the first was an apparent decoy, set off to draw a crowd. The second apparently was a homemade booby trap which utilized a tool box filled with dynamite overlaid with staples, other pieces of metal and rocks.

The contents were meant to spray people who came to the scene. A tragedy was averted because the crowd that usually materializes at a bombing scene stayed in fright behind their doors.

Birmingham now has experienced 23 racial bombings in the past five years. Until the 18th St. Baptist Church was hit Sept. 15, taking the lives of four Sunday School girls, there was no apparent design to kill. The church bomb was placed beneath the steps and timed for a delayed blowup.

Wednesday's bombing appeared at first to be mere harassment — loud noises in the night to disturb the uneasily sleeping city.

Later information proved that theory to be all wrong.

Need For Caution
Disclosure of the new tactics used by the bomber means that police will have to investigate future explosions with extreme caution. It will have to be somewhat like a military team going into a mined town.

"This one could have been planted to kill officers," Police Inspector J.W. Haley said. "It definitely was a booby trap, meant to kill."

The new brand of violence came as two presidential mediators — former Army Secretary Kenneth Royall and former West Point coach Earl (Red) Blaik — were scheduling closed-door meet-

ings with white and Negro leaders over the race crisis.

After sessions with each race the two had nothing to report. They said earlier their mission would take a long time during which they planned no press briefings.

Several Birmingham Negro leaders complained that their integration movement was having difficulty finding the mediators, but they managed to get together late Wednesday.

Demands Federal Troops

Controversy over the committee operations, plus the booby trap incident, brought renewed demands from the Rev. F.L. Shuttlesworth, a leader in the Birmingham movement, for federal

troops.
"It's clear that law and order have broken down; they are throwing dynamite everywhere and anywhere," Shuttlesworth said.

Shuttlesworth, himself, is one of the major points of controversy in the stormy racial situation. Most Birmingham white leaders refuse to deal with him on grounds he is "one of the outsiders." His present church is in Cincinnati.

The wiry little racial leader holds a strong influence, however, among the approximately 5,000 Negroes who have been most active in demonstrations.

Young laundry worker receives hero award

PITTSBURGH (UPI) — A 21-year-old laundry worker from Tucson, Ariz., was awarded a silver medal and \$1,000 from the Carnegie Hero Commission today for rescuing seven women during an explosion and fire at a laundry and dry cleaning plant.

Ventura Urquidez Jr., disregarding choking smoke and scorching flames, led Mrs. Lucy G. Villa and Mrs. Rossie L. Chesler to safety shortly after the

blast last March 29 which killed seven persons.

He returned inside and reached two more women, leading one and carrying the other to safety. Urquidez then carried Carmen Ramos and Olivia Aros to safety and made one more trip inside to remove another woman just before the walls of the one-story structure collapsed.

The commission also awarded death benefits of \$600 and a

bronze medal to Ethel C. Robinson, aunt of Booker C. Olden, who died in an attempt to save two children from burning to death in Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 6, 1962.

Six sticks of dynamite exploded prematurely Aug. 14, 1962 at a copper mine in Oracle, Ariz., injuring Wilbur D. Nelson, 48, and Merely C. Fairless, 40.

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