

13 Guard Rifles Taken to Kent State Police

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Office as F.B.I. Agents Study Shootings

Role of Guns Undefined; Campus Remains Quiet

By JOHN KIFNER

Special to The New York Times

KENT, Ohio, May 6 — Thirteen M-1 rifles were brought to the campus police office at Kent State University today as agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation looked into the deaths of four students in a volley of National Guard rifle fire on Monday.

The 13 rifles, tan cardboard tags tied to their barrels, were brought in a jeep to the command post in Merrill Hall this afternoon. Guardsmen assigned to the task refused to say anything about the rifles.

The M-1 rifles were apparently among those used by the guardsmen on Monday. M-1 rifles had been issued to the National Guard troops, which were sent to the campus last weekend.

The Kent State campus was quiet again today. Off-duty guardsmen wandered about the grounds and toured the hill by Taylor Hall where shortly after noon on Monday a Guard unit opened fire on a crowd of students, killing four and wounding at least nine.

Three students remained in the intensive care unit of the Robertson Memorial Hospital. Two were in fair condition and one was listed as "guarded." One was paralyzed from the waist down by a bullet wound in the spine.

200 Troops to Stay

About 400 guardsmen left the campus today and others were to be released tomorrow evening. Two hundred guardsmen will remain on duty until Friday.

It was still uncertain when the university would reopen. It was closed shortly after the

shootings occurred. Some advisers were urging the university's president, Robert I. White, to keep the school closed for the rest of the term.

Students here say that the disorders were touched off by a sense of rage and frustration at the expansion of the Vietnam war into Cambodia. The unrest exploded last Friday night, when students began smashing windows. The next night they burned down the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps building.

Ohio National Guard officials have refused to identify the unit involved in the shootings or its commander. They said that the

force numbered 100 men and was accompanied by several lieutenants, captains, and a major.

They fired without orders, the officials say, because they feared for their lives at the hands of the students.

But James Minard, a 27-year-old drama student, who had served two years in the Army and was 10 to 15 feet from the troops, said today that, just before the volley began, he saw a slim officer in a soft, baseball-style hat bring a black military police nightstick downward in an arc, as if giving a firing command.

Brig. Gen. Robert Canterbury, the National Guard officer in command at Kent State, has told newsmen that his men were in danger of being "over-run," adding, "The nearest rioter was 10 or 12 feet away."

The general said that officers immediately ordered a cease-fire because, "when the shooting took place, the rioters started to disperse." The guardsmen moved downhill aft-

er the shooting, and no guardsmen or policemen came to the aid of the wounded students. Students gathered around the victims, linking arms to keep people back, while some tried to apply first aid and others ran to call ambulances. Civilian ambulances responded.

General Canterbury said that his men withdrew over the hill and did not return because the students "were gathered in circles" around those who were wounded.

Asked why the guardsmen did not fire warning shots, the general said that "there is some question about the advisability of warning shots in most of the police departments." He said he felt that a number of his men had "shot to wound."

Senator Young's Account

WASHINGTON, May 6 (UPI) — Senator Stephen M. Young of Ohio said today that the first shot at Kent State was fired accidentally by a National Guardsman who was hit by a tear gas canister thrown back by a student.

"There was no sniper," he said. The guardsmen, he added, "just lost their heads."

Mr. Young gave no source for his information, which he relayed to the Senate in a statement.