

4-5-68
NGI

Slaying Recalls Series of Deaths That Have Marked Rights Fight

By SETH S. KING

In Albany, Ga., in 1962, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was preaching in a small church after shots were fired into nearby houses.

"It may get me crucified," he said. "I may even die. But I want it said even if I die in the struggle that 'He died to make me free.'"

Dr. King's death at the hands of a gunman in Memphis yesterday recalled those words. His death also recalled the series of racial slayings and shootings that began soon afterward and have recurred every year since then.

The first came a year later, in April, 1963. William L. Moore, a white mailman from Baltimore, was making a one-man march through the South to protest racial segregation.

He was shot to death at close range as he walked one evening near the northeastern Alabama town of Attalla.

Two months later, Medgar W. Evers, Mississippi, Field Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was shot to death as he stepped out of his automobile in the driveway of his home in Jackson, Miss.

In the summer of 1964 hundreds of young civil rights workers from cities in the East and North converged on Mississippi to lead a drive to register Negroes to vote.

The nation was shocked in August by the disappearance of two young men from New York and their Negro companion. After an intensive search that lasted two weeks, the bullet-riddled bodies of Andrew Goodman, a student at Queens College; Michael H. Schwerner, a New York social worker, and James E. Chaney, a Negro civil rights worker from Meridian, were found in a shallow grave near that Mississippi town.

Early in 1965 the racial tensions that had been building burst forth in a bizarre direction.

Malcolm X, the fiery former supporter of Elijah Muhammed, the Black Muslim leader, was speaking in the Audubon Ballroom on Broadway in Harlem when three Negroes charged down the aisle.

A blast from a sawed-off shotgun hit the black militant, who died soon afterward.

At that time, Dr. King said: "I have learned to face threats

on my life philosophically and have prepared myself for anything that might come."

A month later he was at the head of his now famous march in Selma, Ala. Within a week three persons who had participated in it were dead from violence.

Jimmie Lee Jackson, a young

Negro marcher, was the first. He was shot down in a cafe in nearby Marion.

Then the Rev. James I. Reeb, a Protestant minister from Boston, was beaten by a mob of white men in a Selma street and died a few days later.

Before the march ended the nation was again appalled when Mrs. Viola Gregg Liuzzo, a Detroit housewife who had left her husband and five children to help in the march, was shot to death while driving her car between Selma and Montgomery.

The summer of 1965 marked the death and critical wounding in Alabama of two more white men who went South to participate in civil right work.

On Aug. 21, Jonathan Myrick Daniels, a 26-year-old Episcopal seminarian from Keene, N. H., died from the blast of a shotgun as he walked to a grocery store with two Negro girls in Haynesville.

A Roman Catholic priest, the Rev. Richard F. Morrisroe of Chicago, was critically wounded by the same blast.

The summer of 1966 saw the wounding of James H. Meredith, the first Negro to attend the University of Mississippi.

He was injured by a blast fired from ambush along a country road near Hernando as he walked across the state to prove that a Negro civil rights leader could do so.

Early last year, as he was driving his truck home from work, Wharlest Jackson, treasurer of the N.A.A.C.P. branch in Natchez, Miss., was killed by a bomb thrown into the vehicle.