

Kent State Tragedy

4 Students Killed By Ohio Troops

Guardsmen Open Fire On Rock Throwers-- Two Girls, Two Boys Die

United Press

Kent, Ohio

Four students were shot to death on the Kent State University campus yesterday when National Guardsmen, claiming they were attacked by a sniper, fired on a group of young persons demonstrating against the extension of the Indochina war.

At least 11 other students were wounded in the brief volley of gunfire which cracked along the tree-lined campus shortly before noon.

Students and the head of Ohio's National Guard differed in their versions of how the shooting began.

In Columbus, S. T. Del Corso, the state adjutant general, said that "a sniper opened fire against the guardsmen from a nearby rooftop."

Brigadier General Robert Canterbury, the commander of Guard troops on the campus, said no warning was given to the students that the troops would shoot.

Student eye-witnesses said

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they heard no gunfire until some of the guardsmen began shooting. They said the guardsmen at the time were retreating under a shower of rocks thrown by the demonstrators.

All of a sudden," said one male student, "some of them turned around, faced the crowd of students and started firing."

The dead students were identified as coeds Allison Krause of Pittsburgh, and Sandy Scheuer of Youngstown, Ohio, and two male students, Jeffrey Glenn Miller of Plainview, N.Y., and William Schneider. No address was given for Schneider.

A blonde coed, who said she had a clear view of the shooting, said "at least half of the soldiers fired into the air or into the ground, but some of them simply aimed right at the students."

It sounded like the finale at the Fourth of July fireworks display," she said.

AGREE

Dozens of other students interviewed separately agreed that the volley from

the guardsmen was the first sound of gunfire they heard on the campus.

Told of the shootings in Washington, President Nixon said the tragedy should convince educators and students that when "dissent turns to violence, it invites tragedy."

"It is my hope that this tragic and unfortunate incident will strengthen the determination of all the country's campuses, administrators, faculty and students alike to stand firmly for the right which exists in this country of peaceful dissent and just as strongly against the resort to violence as a means of such expression," Mr. Nixon said in a statement.

It was the bloodiest confrontation that has yet taken place in the student crusade against the Vietnam war, a crusade that had waned into virtual silence until Mr. Nixon gave it new impetus last week by announcing his invasion of the Cambodian territory where Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops had long found sanctuary.

After the dead and injured had been removed to Robinson Memorial Hospital in

nearby Ravenna, authorities closed the university for at least a week, and sent the 20,000 students home.

Incoming telephone calls from frantic parents swamped the small town's telephone system, and for hours it was not possible to place a long-distance call into or out of Kent.

The main highways leading out of the little college town were jammed bumper with bumper with automobiles loaded with students.

Students remaining near the deserted campus stood around in small groups, silent, sullen, stunned.

National guardsmen with bayonets on their M-1 rifles guarded the university administration building at key intersections on campus.

An armored personnel carrier was parked conspicuously near a liberal arts classroom building.

SWEPT

Trouble started at Kent State Friday night, when an estimated 500 students swept through the business district smashing windows. Governor James A. Rhodes sent out the National Guard the following



AP Wirephoto

Kent is a campus town of 18,000

night when a ROTC building was set afire.

General Canterbury, at a campus news conference in reply to sharp questioning, said no official order was given to open fire.

"The situation did not allow it," Canterbury said. "The emotional atmosphere was such that anything could have happened. It was over in two to three seconds." He said a guardsman "always has the option to fire if his life is in danger."

"A crowd of about 600 students had surrounded a unit

of about one hundred guardsmen on three sides and were throwing rocks at the troops," he said. "Some of the rocks were the size of baseballs. The troops had run out of tear gas."

Governor Rhodes, who had ordered the National Guardsmen on to the campus Saturday after students began looting stores and breaking windows in the downtown area, said "a complete investigation" will be made into the shootings."

"We have called on both the Ohio Highway Patrol and the National Guard to conduct a complete investigation and supply us with full reports," he said.

City officials in Kent, which has a population of 18,000, declared a state of emergency. All stores were closed and traffic was blocked from entering or leaving the community.

Ten students were arrested before order was restored.

At Ravenna, about six miles east of here, Ohio Highway Patrolmen were called in to help prevent disorders by the students sent home when the university was closed.

The university by 6 p.m. was deserted except for National Guardsmen, sheriff's officers and state police patrolling the rolling, green campus.

A few students, sitting on luggage, waited at a bus stop on Main Street for a ride home.

The U.S. Flag was lowered to half mast in front of the university's administration building. Troops were on duty inside.



AP Wirephoto

Guardsmen on another sweep of the campus