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Annotated article by Jack Roach to Charleston News and Courier, 30 September 1962

Jack Roach

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NITE PRESS COLLECT-

TO: Managing ~~Editor~~ Editor
Charleston News and Courier
Charleston, S.C.

by A special Correspondent

OXFORD, MISS. - Federal marshals - 200 strong - who arrived here yesterday won't ^{find} ~~have~~ the finest of accommodations.

[In fact, ~~they~~ their needs will be taken care of by an Army outfit and Army chow appears to be the likely menu.

[A tent city was set up ^{yesterday} about ten miles north of here in a cleared out area on a federal reservation. The camp, located about three miles off the main highway, can be ~~re~~ reached only by a winding, unpaved, ^{bumpy,} narrow road that chokes any motorist with red dust as he drives over it.

~~The 70th Eng. Bn. from Fort Campbell~~

[One hundred and seventy men of the 70th Eng. Bn. from Fort Campbell set up the tent city and will provide logistical support for the federal men. These needs were described as "...tents, bedding, food and gas and oil for vehicles," according to Capt. B.A. Hale, assistant information officer on the scene.

[The supplies will be "...Army type" he said.

[Some members of the Army unit are airborne troops but Capt. Hale emphasized they were there as specialists in certain fields such as medicine and communications.

[He also emphasized the unit is at the camp solely to take care of the marshals.

[This report ^{er} was at the camp yesterday afternoon as a seven-truck convey left ~~the camp~~ at approximately 2:15 p.m. ~~Following the convey over a circuituous 22-mile route - ever~~ mile of ~~it~~

The convey ~~team~~ took a circuituous 22-mile route - every mile of it on roads as bad as the one leading to the camp - it ended up at the airport here. A much shorter route on a paved highway was available but this main highway leads ~~through~~ through the town of Oxford.

^{TIMING} The ~~time~~ was perfect since the convey ~~arrived~~ convoy arrived at the airport as five transport planes, ~~circled~~ carrying the marshals, circled overhead.

The marshals did not immediately embark but when they did they were loaded into ~~the~~ ^{the} trucks and after another indeterminable period were then whisked to the university campus.

It took one DC-4, three DC-3's and a C-46 to transport the marshals to ~~Oxford~~ Oxford so consequently the seven Army trucks were hardly sufficient to carry them to their final destination.

They were jammed in, - the fortunate on seats alongside the truck, the others standing or kneeling on the ~~+~~ floor. The 84-degree heat soon took its toll on the men since it was considerably hotter under the heavy tarpaulins over the trucks so ~~they~~ ^{the tarpaulins} were soon removed.

The marshals were dressed in civilians clothes, each wearing a white helmet with "U.S. Marshal" stamped on it in black paint. Each ~~e~~ wore a yellow vest ~~vi~~ which contained ~~was~~ in its pockets what appeared to be gas grenades and each carried a long night stick.

A number of the marshals were ~~armed held tear gas gun~~

(A number of the marshals held tear gas guns at the ready.

(As evidence of the careful planning which went into the maneuver, very shortly after the trucks were loaded an Air Force jet transport plane arrived carrying Nicholas Katzenbach, deputy attorney general; Edwin H. Guthman, Attorney General Robert Kennedy's press secretary; Norbert Schlei, legal counsel for the Justice Department; Harold Reis, deputy ~~atten~~ attorney general and Dean Markahm, Justice Dept. special agent.

(Further evidence of the advanced planning that went into the maneuver was offered by a civilian who lives close by the tent city area. He said a that last Friday a helicopter landed on the site and surveyed it.

#####

Jack Roach