

U.S. PRISON RIOTS

In Rahway, New Jersey, two-hundred-and-thirty-one convicts barricade themselves in at New Jersey State Reformatory. Signs written on bed-sheets proclaim their demands. For days they have been without food or water, but vow they will hold out. Following their lead violence breaks out in Southern Michigan at Jackson Prison, said to be the largest in the world. A hundred-and-seventy-nine hardened criminals, led by Earl Ward (here interviewed by reporters) seize a cell-block and hold thirteen guards as hostages. Convicts hold knives against the backs of the guards you see here. That is why prison authorities dare not fire at the ringleaders.

State police are called as the disorder spreads. Fires have been started in several buildings in the huge prison, and more than a million dollars damage is done, by two-thousand screaming, rioting convicts (a third of the prison population) who break from the mess-hall and set up a barricade in the prison-yard.

Tear-gas shells disperse some of the rioters, apparently inspired by radio reports of the Jersey disturbance. But as these exclusive, on-the-spot films by a Pathe News cameraman show, it takes more than tear gas to quell the maddened convicts. In the fighting, guards shot and killed one prisoner and wounded several others, and a number of guards were injured, before the guards and state troopers were able to crash the convicts' barrier. Rioting convicts say they ran wild as a protest against bad food, poor medical care and brutality on the part of the guards, and an enquiry into their complaints has been promised.

A wounded prisoner is carried on a stretcher by his fellow-inmates, who seem uncertain what to do with him. After almost an entire day of rioting, the violence subsides. Remaining convicts are herded to their cells. But the hundred-and-seventy-nine convicts forced the prison governor to yield. Through their hostages they held the whiphand.

3-20-101

X In Rahway, New Jersey, two hundred and thirty-one convicts barricade themselves ~~in a building at New Jersey State Reformatory.~~ <sup>at New Jersey State Reformatory.</sup> Signs

written on bedsheets proclaim ~~the prisoners'~~ <sup>their</sup> demands. ~~The prisoners~~ <sup>For</sup>

<sup>Days</sup> They ~~convicts~~ have been without food or water ~~for days~~, but they vow ~~to~~ <sup>they will</sup> hold out. ~~Following their lead violence breaks out in~~ <sup>Following their lead violence breaks out in</sup> ~~their lead was followed in Michigan.~~

X There's violent reaction at Jackson, Michigan, to the Jersey crisis.

~~at Southern Michigan State prison, largest penitentiary in the country,~~ <sup>at Jackson's</sup> ~~the world. Here~~ <sup>said to be the largest prison in</sup>

~~a hundred and seventy-nine hardened criminals, led by badman Earl Ward,~~ <sup>106</sup>

here interviewed by reporters, seize a cell-block and hold thirteen

<sup>132</sup> guards as hostages. Convicts ~~capture~~ <sup>hold</sup> knives in the backs of the

<sup>142</sup> guards you see here. That is why prison authorities ~~are not fire at~~ <sup>are not fire at</sup>

<sup>176</sup> the ringleaders, ~~of the rebellion.~~

Sec. 13

X State police are called as the disorder spreads. Fires have been

started in several buildings in the huge prison, and more than a

million dollars damage is ~~done~~ <sup>done</sup>, by two thousand screaming, rioting

vandalizing convicts--a third of the prison population--who break from

the mess-hall and set up a barricade in the prison-yard. <sup>81</sup>

PRISON--2

Sc. 18

X Fear-gas shells disperse some of the rioters, apparently inspired by radio reports of the Jersey disturbance. <sup>But-</sup> ~~As~~ these exclusive, on-the-spot films by <sup>a</sup> Warner Pathe News cameraman ~~Russ-Saunders~~ show, it takes more than tear gas to quell the maddened convicts. In the fighting here guards <sup>shot</sup> ~~were~~ and killed one prisoner and wounded several others, and a number of guards were injured, before the guards and state troopers <sup>WERE</sup> able to crash the convicts' barrier. Rioting convicts say they ran wild as a protest against bad food, poor medical care and brutality on the part of the guards, and ~~Governor Williams~~ <sup>has been promised</sup> promises an inquiry into their complaints.

Sc. 27

X A wounded prisoner is carried on a stretcher by his fellow-inmates, who seem uncertain what to do with him. After almost an entire day of rioting, the violence subsides. Remaining convicts are herded to their cells. But the hundred and seventy-nine convicts still hold out, <sup>and through</sup> ~~their hostages they hold the whip hand in the negotiations now~~ ~~guards stand watch over other thousands, now subdued to uneasy, sullen going on.~~ ~~obedience.~~

RAHWAY PRISON

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At New Jersey's Rahway prison farm, two hundred and thirty-one convicts held out in a prison dormitory they've seized. It's the fifth prison crisis in ~~three~~ three weeks in New Jersey. ~~that~~ Signs ~~struck~~ hung from windows proclaim the mutineers' desire for an investigation by an impartial committee. The strike started in sympathy with a similar mutiny in the State prison at Trenton. Superintendent William Legay says the convicts seized their guards as hostages and barricaded themselves in. They've been without food and water for days, and the wardens intend to outlast them. But the mutineers say "It's win or die!"