Chronology Freedom Rides from "The Freedom Ride" May 1961

March 13 - Announcement CORE of Freedom Ride

April 28 - CORE wrote to Pres. Kennedy about plans.

May 4 - Ride from Washington begins, arrive Richmond. May 7 - Arrive Danville where dispute over restaurant service settled quietly at Trailways. May 8 arrival at Charlotte, arrest one Rider tresspassing at Greyhound bus terminal.

May 9 - Arrival Rock Hill, SC, attack in Greyhound terminal. May 10 - 2 riders arrested Winnsboro, SC, released after few hours.

May 12 - Arrived Athens, Ga., used all facilities, on to Atlanta, restaurant closed at Greyhound station.

May 13 - Fift Circuit directs lower court to "obliterate" distinction between intra-state, interstate passengers at Birmingham train terminal, where one interstate, one interstate terminal.

May 14 - Some Riders served Trailways in Atlanta. Both groups leave for Birmingham, in Trailways & Greyhound buses.

May 15 - Greyhound bus met by mob in Anniston; passengers prevented from getting off. Tires slit, went flat six miles out. Men following in autos attempted to board, prevented by state policemen riding bus. Incendiary device thrown through window set fire to bus. Completely destroyed. All passengers removed, 13 admitted to hospital, mostly for smoke inhalation; later resumed ride to Birmingham.

Trailways bus also met mob at Anniston. Driver ordered Negroes to rear. One Negro, two white Riders beaten.

At Birmingham, Riders attacked as they got off (Trailways bus), one required over 50 head stitches (must be Peck).

May 16 - Riders in seclusion in New Orleans. In B'ham, 3 men arrested for attack of May 15.

May 17 - Riders meet at church, New Orleans, disband. Thus ends original CORE planned ride. But Finks, Brownell plan riders Montgomery.

Bus arrives B'ham from Nashville with students, incl. 2 whites. Police met bus outskirts B'ham, arrest two Riders whos refuse change seats. Two policemen on bus into B'ham, where crowd waiting. Drivers refuse to go on to Montgomery. Ten Riders (8 Negro, 2 white) plus five Negro Riders taken into protective custody from B'ham.

May 18 - Riders in jail; one white student released in custody of her father. 5 B'ham Negroes released. Atty-Gen K. tries to reach Patterson phone, can't.

May 19 - Two jailed students - 1 white, 1 Negro, get suspended fines, released. Remaining seven taken by Comer in early morning 120 miles to Tenn. line, put out. They were back in B'ham in afternoon, where joined by 10 or so others, incl. 3 whites, tried to get bus to Montgomery, couldn't, spend night waiting room.

Ala. court on joined CORE & its followers from more freed rides. Patrolman read order n incoming buses. Both Pres & AttyGen tried to reach Patterson phone, can't. Pres talked with LtGov.

John Siegenthaler, adm. ass't to AttyGen, conferred w/LtGov.
May 20: Gov. said wouldn't "escort these agitators. We stand firm on that position". 8:30 AM, after 18 hours waiting, Greyhoundbus takes Riders to Mont. FBI told local police Mont. probability violence, were told local authority sufficient. On arrival, six Riders beaten, 3 severely. Newsman attacked. Siegathaler knocked unconscious. Police arrived in 10 minutes, took a while to disperse mob. At least 3 integrationists arrested.

Atty Gen again tried to reach Gov. couldn't, ordered marshals, got fed.dist. court injunction against KKK others interfering with "peaceful interstate travel" Pres. Kennedy appealed to state/local officials for order.

May 21: Fed. marshals continue to come in.
Sunday King Jr. cuts short speaking tour, flew to Mont. from Chi., to address mass meeting church. Mob outside dispersed after rioting by fedmarshals, state patrol, with some aid local police. Negroes kept in church till a.m. Gov. declares martial law, National Guardsmen appear. Deputy Atty Gen White comes Mont. takes charge; Gov. denounces fed.intr. in conference with White.

Ala. Associated Press Asst. condemned "the breakdown of civilized rule" in Alabama, singles out Ala. Public Safety Director Floyd Mann as one person who did carry out duties.


Fed. agents arrest four men charge firing bus Anniston.

More students arrive Montgomery from Nashville, New Orleans, NY.

White said arrest of Freedom Riders for violations Ala. injunction would not bring fed. intervention.

May 23: Montgomery quiet, with Nat'l Guardsmen patrolling. One person arrested in connection riot.

Gov. at press conference blames Sunday night riot on fed. marshals.

Press conference by King, Farmer, Abernathy, Diane Nash, John Lewis, said ride would continue no matter what cost. Few more students arrive Montgomery.

Gov. Barnett has Miss. Nat. Guard on stand-by alert.

May 24: Under Nat. Gd. escort, some Riders leave Mont. Trailways 7 AM. Before leaving, ate at bus terminal, at 11 AM, second bus took rest.

On arrival Jackson, 27 arrested trying to use rest rooms, lunch counter, charge breach of peace, refusal to obey officer. No other disturbances.

In Mont. more Riders show up, incl. prof. & students from North.

In Fed. dist. court, Rof J asks injunction prohibits head of Mont. & Rham police depart. interfering interstate travel, said all derelict in performing duties.

Bobby asks "cooling off period". SCLC exec. comm. says no.

Greyhound orders discipline again inst. Mont. employees who refused service food to Negroes.

LaGrange, Ga., 5 men trying to obstruct bus with more Riders arrested.


Latest group Riders arrested eating Trailways Mont. with Wyatt Walker, exec. dir. SCLC, Abernathy, Shuttlesworth, Abernathy & 6 Riders file suit fed. dist. court asking invalidation Ala. bus terminal seg. laws.

Rof J enters amicus curiae, asks speedy hearing.
Fri. May 26: ML King and others meeting in Atlanta announce "temporary lull but no cooling off" in Riots. Birmingham & Montgomery police chiefs under subpoena to produce records of their activities.

PrivateKey students post bail, released Mont. jail

In Jackson, 27 convicted, $200, 60 days suspended sentence. Police dogs used to drive persons away from front of courthouse.

Man arrested Rome Ga. for attack on TV reporter in Birmingham.

Exec-Secy NAACP dissented from plea for "cooling off"


Freedom Riders Coord. Comm. formed, Atlanta, of SCLC, CORE, Nashville Student Movement; SNCC. ML King explained exclusion NAACP on ground it was primarily "legalistic body".

5 of Jackson 27 released on bond; four took bail to stand trial New Orleans on earlier charges picketing downtown stores.


Mon. May 29 - Trial begins fed. court Mont. on govt. complaint police chiefs.

Partial law ends Montgomery.

in Jackson, 19 of first group Riders put to work on prison farm, 3 others released appeal bond.

17 who arrived May 28 in Jackson convicted 60 days or $200, choose jail.

3 arrested to Grange May 24 convicted.

Bobby asks ICC issue regulations.

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Sept 22 ICC ruling

Oct 16 three major railroads放弃 South

End rag trade terminals.

Now - ICC went into effect. Are fears

Tested, found B'ham, Atlanta complied -

But not so in smaller

Mississippi. But not so in smaller

localities.