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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 Charlotte, arrest one Rider trespassing ~~at Greyhound bus terminal~~ busterminal. May 9 arrival Rock Hill SC, attack in Greyhound terminal. May 10 2 riders arrested Winnsboro SC, released after few hours.

May 12 - arrived Augusta, Ga. used all facilities.

May 13 - arrived Athens Ga. used all facilities, on to Atlanta, restaurant closed at Greyhound station.

- Fifth Circuit directs lower court to "obliterate" distinction bet. intra-state, interstate passengers at Birmingham train terminal, where one interstate, one intrastate terminal.

May 14 - Some Riders served Trailways in Atlanta.

Both groups leave for Birmingham, in Trailways & Greyhound buses.

Def J advised Birmingham police warnings of violence.

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 policeman riding bus. Incendiary device thrown through window set fire to bus. Completely destroyed. All passengers removed, 12 admitted to hospital, mostly for smoke inhalation; later resumed ride to Birmingham.

Trailways bus also met mob 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).

No one arrested either Anniston or Birmingham. No police on hand at Birmingham, none arrived until 10 minutes after fighting began.

Mon May 15 - Greyhound drivers refuse to go on to Montgomery. Riders took plane for New Orleans, get there late at night. Patterson statement asks Riders get out of Alabama. Bobby asks state provide police protection. Patterson agrees, then changes mind.

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

Wed May 17 - Riders meet at church New Orleans, disband. Thus ends original COR planned Ride. But ~~Fewer, fewer, regan ride to Montgomery~~  
Bus arrives B'ham from Nashville with students, incl. 2 whites. Police meet bus outskirts B'ham, arrest two Riders whose fuse 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 sympathizers taken into protective custody (from B'ham)

Thurs 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.

Fri. May 19 - Two jailed students - 1 white, 1 Negro, get suspended fines, released. Remaining seven taken by Connor 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 enjoined Core & its followers from more freedom rides. Patrolmen read order n incoming buses. Both Pres & AttyGen tried to reach Patterson phone, couldn't. Pres. talked with LtGov. John Siegenthaler, adm. asst to AttyGen, conferred Mont. with Gov.

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Chronology Freedom Rides (cont)

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

AttyGen 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.

*Sun.* 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; Governor denounces fed.intervention in conference with White.

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

*Mon.* May 22: 800 Nat'l Guardsmen on duty. More federal marshals come in. Atty Gen said they would stay until things under control. Said Gov. not cooperating.

Fed.agents arrest four men charged firing bus Anniston.

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

White said arrest of Freedom Rider for violating Ala.injunction would not bring fed. intervention.

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

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

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

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

*Wed.* 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 counters, 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, D of J asks injunction prohibit heads of Mont.&B'ham police depts interfering interstate travel, said all derelict in performing duties.

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

Greyhound orders deseg.intern. aga inst Mont. employees who refused service food to Negroes.

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

*Thurs.* May 25: Rev. SS Seay, Sr. Negro leader, shot in wrist Mont. bullet passing car. Latest group Riders arrested eating Trailways Mont. with Wyatt Walker, exec.dir.SCLC, Abernathy, Shuttlesworth. Abernathy & six Riders file suit fed.dist.court asking invalidation Ala. bus terminal seg.laws.

D of J enters amicus curiae, asks speedy hearing.

*Chronology (3)*  
Fri. May 26: ML King and others meeting in Atlanta announce "temporary lull but no cooling off" in Riots. B'ham & Mont. police heads under subpoena to produce records of their activities.

Northern prof. students post bail, released Mont. jail.

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

Man arrested Rome Ga. for attack on TV reporter in B'ham riots.

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

Sat. May 27\* Six white teenagers arrested Mont. for wounding Rev. Seay, released in custody parents. Vice chairman ADA urges Freedom Riders disregard Bobby's cooling off plea.

Freedom Riders Coord. Comm. formed, Atlanta, of SCLC, CORE, Nashville Stud. 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.

Sun. May 28. 17 Riders, from Mont. & Memphis, arrested Jackson in waiting room.

Mon. May 29 - Trial begins fed. court Mont. on govt. complaint police chiefs. Martial 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 LaGrange May 24 convicted.  
Bobby asks ICC issue regulations.

Sept 22 ICC ruling  
Oct 16 three major railroads serving South end seg. trans + terminals.

Nov. 1 - ICC went into effect. <sup>are fears</sup> Amtrak complied - tried, found B'ham, Amster complied - not Miss. Co. But not so in smaller localities.