



**Report  
Tulsa Race Riot  
Disaster Relief  
American Red Cross**

**Compiled by  
Loula V. Watkins  
American Red Cross Registration Bureau**

**Tulsa Historical Society & Museum  
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REPORT  
TULSA RACE RIOT  
DISASTER RELIEF  
AMERICAN RED CROSS

COMPILED BY  
LOULA V. WATKINS.

This compilation contains copies and duplicates of the original texts now in the possession of Mr. Maurice Willows, Director of Relief, Disaster Relief Headquarters, American Red Cross, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Besides the compilation made for Mr. Willows by Mrs. Loula V. Watkins, there are three others—one for Tulsa, one for Washington, and one for St. Louis Red Cross files.

The typing was done by Miss Cleda Timberlake of Denver, Colorado. Most of the snapshots were contributed by Mr. Clarence H. Dawson, of Chicago.

The Compiler

I N D E X

Organization	Personnel
Organization	Relief Orders
Report	Marice Willows
Supplement to General Report	Marice Willows
Miscellaneous Documents	
Clippings	
Photographs and Snapshots	

O R G A N I Z A T I O N

Proclamation of Mayor of Tulsa

Inssuptions from Chairman of Red Cross,  
Southwestern Divisn

National Guard Field Orders

Orders to Physicians Committee

Orders to Boy Scouts

Employment Organization

Identification Tags, Meal Tickets, etc.

Minutes of Meeting of Medical Committee

O R G A N I Z A T I O N

Director of Relief ..... Maurice Willows

Relief Committee

Chairman ..... Clark Field  
Assistants Jennie K. Beam L. C. Murray

Refugee Camp

Director ..... N. R. Graham

Nursing Service

Director ..... Rosalind Mackay  
Assistants Mrs. W.D. Godfrey Bessie Richardson

Purchasing Department

Director ..... O. V. Borden  
Assistant L. R. Surber

Food Supply

Director ..... Mrs. Wheeler  
Assistants Ora Upp Mrs. A. W. Roth

Relief Depot

Director ..... J. T. Forster

Motor Transportation

Director ..... A. C. Anthony

Railroad Transportation

J. A. Hull  
W. L. Walker

Bedding Supplies ..... Lilah D. Lindsay

Clothing Relief Mrs. J. A. Hull Mrs. H. L. Henzman

Bureau of Identification Robert H. Woods

Stolen and Lost Goods A. C. Doering

Shelter ..... H. L. Heinzman

Cinnabar Hospital Relief Station  
Dr. Paul Brown

Director Relief Station Booker Washington School  
E. L. Connelly

FAMILY RELIEF PERSONNEL

Clarence H. Dawson, Director - - Chicago, Ill.

CASE WORKERS

Abbot, Mrs. Gretchen - - - Tulsa, Okla.  
Fish, Mrs. Ruth G. - - - Alamosa, Colo.  
Mac Cartney, Mrs. C. B. - - - Oklahoma City, Okla.  
Prout, Miss Jeanne - - - Memphis, Tenn.  
Scott, Miss Mary Porter - - - St. Louis, Mo.  
Watkins, Mrs. L. V. - - - Kirkwood, Mo.  
Westendorf, Miss Katharine \* - - Denver, Colo.

The following ~~workers~~ workers served only during the emergency period immediately following the riot.

Adams, Mr. C. D. - - - Tulsa, Okla.  
Davis, Miss Dorothy - - - Houston, Texas.  
Golay, Mrs. T. E. - - - Tulsa, Okla.  
Lefko, Mr. Louis - - - Tulsa, Okla.  
Palmer, Miss Ada - - - Chicago, Ill.  
Reed, Mrs. J. M. - - - Tulsa, Okla.  
Williams, Miss Margaret - - - St. Louis, Mo.

STENOGRAPHERS

Timberlake, Miss Clede - - - Denver, Colo.  
Leslie, Miss Mildred - - - Tulsa, Okla.  
Beggs, Miss - - - " "  
O'Brien, Miss - - - " "  
Miss Marguerite Watkins - - - " "

OFFICE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

T. D. EVANS, MAYOR

TULSA, OKLAHOMA.

To The Red Cross Society:

Please establish headquarters for all relief work and bring all organizations who can assist you to your aid. The responsibility is placed in your hands entirely.

(signed) T. D. Evans,  
Mayor.

6/2/21

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS  
Southwestern Division  
St. Louis, Mo.

June 1, 1921.

Mr. A. L. Farmer, Chairman,  
Tulsa County Chapter,  
American Red Cross,  
204 Palace Bldg.,  
Tulsa, Oklahoma.

My dear Mr. Farmer:-

As I indicated in my telegram to you of today, I am sending you herewith a copy of the statement of policy of the Red Cross in race riots and strikes issued by the General Manager in November 1919. This policy still holds.

Unquestionably there is big opportunity for misunderstanding any action taken by the Red Cross in connection with race riots. One or another party to the situation usually misunderstands and it accordingly becomes necessary for the Red Cross to act with unusual caution. As outlined in the attached statement from the General Manager, Red Cross can best serve through meeting the needs in the form of First Aid, Medical Assistance, Nursing Service, etc., to those injured in disturbances, regardless of the faction to which they may belong.

Service should only be rendered to National Guardsmen on the specific request of the State Authorities in charge.

May I ask that you keep me fully advised of any action taken by your Chapter and particularly in the event that any border line question arises which, in your judgment, does not seem to be covered by the enclosed statement of policy.

Very sincerely yours,

James L. Fieser,  
Manager, Southwestern Division.

JLF\*8

(Copy)

(POSTAL TELEGRAM)

Washington, D. C., Nov. 4, 1919.

Alfred Fairbank,  
American Red Cross, Frisco Bldg.,  
St. Louis, Mo.

The various situations that have arisen in United States at this time of unrest and readjustment make it desirable we lay before our Division Managers for their personal guidance the attitude which should govern Red Cross in event of race riots and conditions arising out of lockouts and strikes. Red Cross stands in a peculiar position because of its close relationship to Federal Government and at same time because of its support by the American people as a whole, a position which involves both special responsibilities and special obligations. Red Cross must therefore very keenly have in mind its obligations to maintain a position of impartiality. Red Cross must also always be open to appeal to meet needs in form of First aid, medical assistance, nursing service, etc. to those injured in disturbances regardless of faction to which they may belong. This is the prime service of Red Cross. There are also possible situations where widespread distress may develop as result of conflict between elements in communities, affecting in some cases other than those a party to the disturbance. This type of question may demand action on the part of Red Cross, but decision cannot be made in advance as the possibilities are too various and intricate. Situations do not develop so rapidly but that there remains time for discussion in each case as to the obligation if any on part of Red Cross. There remains a type of service less important but one which Red Cross must consider; this is an obligation to be prepared at all times to furnish certain types of service similar to those of our army. This is a type of service which should not be sought by Red Cross on its own initiative

(Postal Telegram, Washington, D. C., Nov. 4, 1919.)

Alfred Fairbank -2;

but a service which should be given in response to request of those in authority. If those in command United States troops make request upon Red Cross for canteen or other reasonable service for the troops themselves, Red Cross should endeavor to meet these demands, confining their efforts strictly to comfort for the soldiers. In the case of state troops our relations are by no means so well worked out and established by war time experience and charter obligation; however, upon request of governor of any state, Red Cross should consider favorably a call for service similar to that which it would be our obligation to render Federal troops limiting service in same way. Beyond this point Red Cross should consider very carefully before undertaking any form of comfort and aid to those engaged in general police duty, being very sure that any request upon them for service is made on behalf of governmental authority representative of the general public and that the type of service requested is limited strictly to giving personal comfort to servants of the public and that such service be closely confined to its proper purposes and not be enlarged in such extent as for practical purposes to amount to furnishing police service of any kind whatsoever. Under no circumstances should this service be rendered to any group in control of either party to a controversy no matter what the temptation, on contrary it should be our aim to make clear and definite the understanding that irrespective of the merits of any controversy Red Cross will avoid favoring either side to that controversy by acts either of commission or omission. It is evident any question of relief which grows out of conflict between different elements in the population a position of much delicacy to Red Cross with its desire to represent an entire public calls for  
closest consultation between

Postal Telegram, Washington, D. C., Nov. 4, 1919.)

Alfred Fairbank, -3.

delicacy to Red Cross with its desire to represent an entire public calls for closest consultation between Chapters and Divisions and Divisions and National Headquarters as to application particularly as such types of controversy affect more than local situations and often involve questions national in scope.

F. C. Munroe.

HEADQUARTERS OKLAHOMA NATIONAL GUARD

TULSA OKLAHOMA JUNE 2, 1921.

Field Order No. 4

All the able bodied negro men remaining in detention camp at Fair Grounds and other places in the City of Tulsa will be required to render such service and perform such labor as is required by the military commission and the Red Cross in making the proper sanitary provisions for the care of the refugees.

Able bodied women, not having the care of children, will also be required to perform such service as may be required in the feeding and care of the refugees.

This order covers any labor necessary in the care of the health or welfare of these people who, by reason of their misfortunes, must be looked after by the different agencies of relief.

By order of Brig. Gen. Chas. F. Barrett-

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Chas. F. Barrett  
Brig. Gen.

HEADQUARTERS NATIONAL GUARD

CITY HALL, TULSA, OKLAHOMA, June 2, 1921.

Field Order No. 5. To Commanding Officer, 3 Infantry. You will detail a Non-Commissioned officer and 12 men to act as guard at Fair Grounds Detention Camp, this detail be armed and fully equipped will report to Clark Field at American Red Cross Headquarters. From and after 1 P. M. this date detention camp at Nobility Camp will abolish and escape will be removed to Detention Camp at Fair Grounds.

By Command of Brig. Gen. Barrett.

Dwight Kirkpatrick

Major A. G. Lept. Adj.

June 2, 1941

Chief of Police Gustafson:

Will you kindly furnish us two white police officers, to report at Red Cross Headquarters, Fourth and Cincinnati.

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Assist. Director.

Tulsa, Okla.  
June 5th, 1921.

The Physicians Committee of the Board of Public Health recognizes and accepts the selection of Chief of Department as made by the American Red Cross as follows, i. e.

Surgery	Dr. Ralph V. Smith
Obstetrics	Dr. George R. Osborn
Medicine	Dr. Horace T. Price

For immediate service the following Doctors may be called:

Surgery	Dr. H. D. Murdock	O - 95
	Dr. A. W. Pigford	O - 187
	Dr. H. S. Browne	C -1039
	Dr. D. C. Johnson	O -5011
	Dr. G. H. Miller	O -6669
Medicine	Dr. A. G. Wainwright	C - 497
	Dr. C. S. Summers	O -9160
	Dr. W. J. Trainer	O -8744
	Dr. J. E. Wallace	O - 812
	Dr. E. B. Wilson	O -8727
Obstetrics	Dr. Geo R. Osborn	O -2010

It is the purpose of this committee to work in harmony with the American Red Cross and the other organizations doing relief work.

In recognition of the valuable services performed by Dr. Paul R. Browne, we recommend that in case of need he be consulted by all chiefs of departments and this committee.

The committee requests that the various types of work outlined further on, at the places named by performed by the designated physicians.

Sanitation - Dr. C. L. Reeder, Dr. L. C. Presson and assistants shall be responsible for sanitation throughout the city and county.

Fair Grounds Camp - Dr. C. D. Johnson, A. C. Wainwright and assistants shall have charge of all medical and surgical cases at the Fair Grounds Camp, but sending all Major operative cases to the Morningside Hospital and others requiring hospitalization to the Red Cross Hospital.

Obstetrics - Dr. Geo. R. Osborn and Assistants shall take care of all obstetrical cases arising anywhere, which must be sent in time to the Tulsa or Oklahoma Hospitals.

Red Cross Hospital - Dr. R. B. <sup>v</sup>Smith and Assistants shall have charge of all operative cases at the Morningside and Red Cross Hospitals. Dr. C. H. Haralson and assistants shall take care of all eye, ear, nose and throat cases arising anywhere which may require special attention and those now in or coming to the Morningside or Red Cross Hospitals.

Booker Washington First Aid Station - Dr. Geo. H. Miller, Dr. C. S. Summers and assistants shall be responsible for the first aid and after treatment of all cases applying to this dispensary.

The Committee recommends that no attempt be made to rebuild the devastated area until a sanitary sewerage system has been installed, with connections to each building or that it shall at least be started and no building planned without such connections and accessories, within the corporate limits of the City.

We further recommend that the adjacent territory now situated in the county, be immediately included within the corporate limits in order that the health of the community may be protected by the installation of proper sewerage.

We further recommend that recognizing the extremely insanitary conditions existing within the devastated area, that if legally possible, the same be corrected through condemnatory proceedings and necessary destruction of all shacks that are now a menace to health.

In view of the fact that their building and equipment have been destroyed by fire, we recommend that temporary quarters be provided in the colored district for the use of the Tulsa County Public Health Association, that is work may be resumed at once and we further recommend that permanent quarters be provided as soon as possible. We further recommend that the tuberculosis and general public health work be resumed at once among the white population at the Public Health dispensary, 15 West 11th St.

By Order of the Committee

Dr. C. L. Reeder, Chairman

Dr. R. V. Smith

Dr. Horace T. Price, Secy.

TULSA COUNCIL

BOY SCOUTS

OF AMERICA

TULSA OKLAHOMA

REQUEST FOR SCOUT SERVICE

Number of Scouts Needed .....

Nature of Service.

Remarks.

TULSA COUNCIL

BOY SCOUTS

OF AMERICA

TULSA OKLAHOMA

Washington School

INFORMATION ABOUT BOY SCOUT SERVICE

1. EACH OFFICE WILL HAVE A DETAIL OF SCOUTS FOR SERVICE IN THE BUILDING CONSISTING OF A DOOR ORDERLY AND ONE OR MORE DESK ORDERLIES.
2. THE DOOR ORDERLY SHALL NOT BE ORDERED FROM HIS POST BY ANY ONE OTHER THAN THE SCOUT DIRECTOR.
3. THE DESK ORDERLIES ARE FOR SERVICE INSIDE THE BUILDING ONLY.
4. SCOUTS ARE ON RESERVE IN THE SCOUT DIRECTORS OFFICE FOR ALL OTHER DUTIES
5. ALL REQUESTS FOR SCOUTS SHOULD BE MADE IN PERSON OR BY A WRITTEN ORDER STATING THE NUMBER OF SCOUTS DEMAND AND THE NATURE OF SERVICE REQUESTED
6. NO SCOUT SHALL LEAVE THE BUILDING WITHOUT A WRITTEN ORDER FROM THE SCOUT DIRECTOR.

(signed) P. D. Craft.

## EMPLOYMENT ORGANIZATION

### Red Cross Representative:

H. A. Thompson, Cedar 2300, Washington School House.

### Employment Committee:

Chairman: W. B. Ellis, Ouge 5540, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  E. First St.  
Representing Federal State Employment Service.

G. A. Gregg, Cedar 615, Boston and Enter.  
Representing Colored Y. M. C. A.

Edna Pyle, Archer and Cincinnati,  
Representing Y. M. C. A.

Miss Eloise Williams, Ouge 5659, 4th & Cincinnati.  
Representing Y. M. C. A.

Mrs. Victor A. Hunt, Ouge 5825, 5th & Clayenne.  
Representing Y. M. C. A.

Harvey Meyers, Ouge 9593, 120 W. Third St.  
Representing Open Shop Ass'n.

G. F. James,  
Representing Central Labor Union.

H. C. Hopkins, Ouge 9720, 406 So. Cincinnati.  
Representing American Legion.

## EMPLOYMENT ORGANIZATION

### Duties of Agencies.

#### Red Cross Representative

Refers calls of all kinds to proper agency.  
Makes adjustments.  
Forms contact with Red Cross Committee  
Special advertising.

#### Federal State Employment Bureau

Direct all employment work.  
Fill all calls for permanent male colored.  
Labor and day work for colored women.

#### Colored Y. M. C. A.

Fill all calls for day work for colored men.

#### Colored Y. W. C. A.

Fill all calls for permanent work for colored women.

#### General Activities

Committee meeting Tuesday, 2:00 p. m.  
Washington School.

Employment city survey for positions.

Placards all over colored district, calling attention to agencies operating.

Advertising by newspaper stories.

June 6, 1931.

Report from Medical Committee.

Report on Financial matters. Arranged that Fields, Terrell and Avery should arrange handling of funds and distribution of funds.

Matter of feeding taken up. Decided all dependents should go to fair grounds and all mass feeding done there. Reported that arrangements had been made at Booker Washington school to feed all workmen over there for 15 cents per meal and deduct it from wages.

Graham suggested getting all superfluous people out of white residence section, and issuing permanent passes to and from the fair grounds to responsible working people and daily passes to others. Question of jitney service to and from fair grounds for working people, and question of supplies for semi-permanent camp taken up.

Kates moved that Graham and Maj. Fuller be instructed to confer with Executive Committee, with full power on the part of Graham and Fuller to act with the Executive Committee to get all excess people out of servants' quarters and move them to the fair grounds - to act with Central Committee and Mr. Terrell.

Mr. Fields asked Kates to include motion to feed refugees and issue passes.

Kates moved to give Graham and Fuller complete authority to work out any scheme that is advisable to them and the Executive Committee and police identifying refugees by card, keeping off streets, moving, etc.

Willows stated that was not a matter which should be settled by Red Cross themselves, and whatever action is taken should be taken conjointly, in order that a united front might be presented to the people.

Kates stated that motion included recommendation for jitney service and everything else.

Willows stated that this would be placed in the hands of these men, to report back tonight.

Motion seconded, and upon vote unanimously adopted.

Question of setting up stands and stores taken up. Chief Police stated ~~xxxxxxx~~ handling that.

Hopkins was

Mr. Fields: At first we had a clear understanding that the regular funds of the Tulsa Chapter were not to be ~~xxxxxx~~ put

with this relief fund, as St. Louis informed us that their manner of handling relief funds is to handle it as separate from Chapter funds until all other resources are exhausted and then, if necessary, use our Chapter funds and then go back on St. Louis.

MR. Willows: Our understanding with the Committee was, get your bills together and when you need money to pay them, bring them to us.

Question of employment taken. Decided to consolidate with ~~the~~ all other employment agencies and it was suggested that Chairman of State Federal Employment Agency be Chairman of such Committee. Mr. Ireland to handle this matter as he sees fit.

Question of payroll taken up. Any one who is to be paid out of Red Cross Funds to report to Murray or Willows.

Kates brought up question of fire protection at fair grounds and Police Chief said they were attending to it.

Fields stated he would like Central Committee put on record as requesting them to feed workmen.

Murray reported that Borden is going to put on an inventory man and going to take an inventory of all Red Cross stuff.

Willows asked police to take action on matter of supplying transportation for negroes backwards and forwards over and around town, and to take action to stop this transportation by whites.

R E P O R T

BY MAURICE WILLOWS, DIRECTOR

TULSA COUNTY CHAPTER AMERICAN RED CROSS  
DISASTER RELIEF COMMITTEE  
PREFACE

The story of the tragedy enacted in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on the night of May 31st, 1921, and the morning of June 1st, 1921, has been told and retold, with all sorts of variations, in the press of the country. Whatever people choose to call it, "race riot", "massacre", "negro uprising" or whatnot, the word has not yet been coined which can correctly describe the affair.

This report attempts to picture the situation as representatives of the Red Cross found it, and to record the activities of the organization in bringing order out of chaos and in administering relief to the innocents.

(signed)

Director.

## CHAPTER I

Months and maybe years will elapse before the inside truth will come to the surface as to the real causes of civil warfare which turned Tulsa, Oklahoma, into a bedlam on the night of May 31st, 1921.

"Race Riot" it has been called, yet whites were killed and wounded by whites, in the protection of white property against the violence of a white mob. The elements of race rioting were there to be sure, but the proportion of negroes killed and wounded testifies to an unequal battle.

The newspapers agree that the local and immediate cause of the trouble began when a negro boy, on entering an elevator conducted by a white girl, stepped on her foot. A frightened girl, - a more frightened negro, - a police officer, - and the jail. A newspaper headline, - some local irritations, - a band of negroes, a larger band of whites, - plenty of guns, and a riot was on, all Tuesday night and until Wednesday noon it raged.

All that fire, rifles, revolvers, machine guns and inhuman bestiality could do with thirtyfive city blocks with its ten thousand negro population, was done.

Those interested in details bearing on locations, methods used, and the organization of the mobs, both black and white, should refer to newspaper accounts of the trial of the Chief of Police, and in addition, newspaper reports directly following the riot, all of which are contained herewith.

### DEAD

The number of dead is a matter of conjecture. Some knowing ones estimate the number of killed as high as 300, other estimates being as low as 55. The bodies were hurriedly rushed to burial, and the records of many burials are not to be found.

### INJURED

One hundred and eighty four negroes and fortyeight whites were in hospitals for surgical care, within twenty-four hours. Five hundred and thirty-one were given First Aid at the Red Cross Stations during the first three days following the affair.

An adequate picture of conditions relating to the injured cannot be written. Eye witnesses will long remember the speeding ambulances, the crowded hospitals, drugstores, churches and First Aid Stations. While the records show 763 wounded, this does not include wounded people afterwards found on practically all

roads leading out of Tulsa. Wounded people turned up at Muskogee, Sapulpa, and other adjoining towns, and as far north as Kansas City. Neither do records tell of the after-the-riot developments. The Red Cross records show eight definite cases of premature childbirth which resulted in death of the babies.

Subsequent developments also show that of the maternity cases known to the Red Cross Doctors, practically all have presented complications due to the riot.

Too much credit cannot be given to the white citizens of Tulsa for the care and treatment of the wounded. Especially should it be noted that the women and men of the First Aid Stations gave voluntary and gratuitous service. While several hundred were given First Aid at the hospitals, the doctors officiating, and the hospitals themselves have presented bills in full for all services rendered, which bills have been paid out of relief funds.

### BURNINGS

Thirty-five city blocks were looted systematically, then burned to a cinder, and the ten thousand population thereof scattered like chaff before the wind. All evidences show that most of the houses were burned from the inside. Eye witnesses say that the methods used were, first, to pile bedding, furniture and other burnable material together, then to apply matches. Eye witnesses also claim that many houses were set afire from aeroplanes. (In this connection it should be noted that while many houses and outbuildings in the Greenwood and Fairview Additions were destroyed, other were allowed to remain untouched.)

### PROPERTY LOSSES.

Property losses including household goods will reach the two million mark. This must be a conservative figure in view of the fact that law suits covering claims of over \$4,000,000.00 have been filed up to July 30th.

Newspaper accounts accompanying this report and statements of eye witnesses, give vivid pictures of what happened.

Where were the police?

Where was the fire department?

Why the temporary breakdown of City and County Government?

The accompanying newspaper reports and editorials will help to answer these questions.

## STATE TROOPS

State Troops had arrived and had checked the rioting at noon of Wednesday, and Martial law was in effect, with Adjutant General Barrett of the State in charge.

## CHAPTER II

### RELIEF AND THE RED CROSS

While "Little Africe" was still burning, while ambulances whizzed to the hospitals, while "dead" wagons were carrying off the victims, while refugees were being driven under guard to places of refuge; and the fiendish looting, robbing, and pillaging was still in progress, different scenes were being enacted "up town".

Realizing that an awful calamity was in progress of perpetration, the Red Cross immediately sprung into action. The women mobilized with incredible speed, and before midnight of Wednesday had made sufficient insignias of Red Crosses on a background of white to placard ambulances, motor vehicles, trucks and other conveyances for the transport of nurses, doctors, supplies and relief workers. This insignia was a pass everywhere.

Mayor Evans early in the day, by written communication designated the Red Cross as the official Relief Agency.

It should be noted here that even before any official request had been made, the Red Cross had by common consent, sprung into action.

### IMMEDIATE CARE OF REFUGEES

Simultaneously refugee camps were installed at Convention Hall, McNulty Ball Park, First Baptist Church and the Fair Grounds. Indeed every available church and public building and many private houses were used to house the homeless.

### DIVISION OFFICE CALLED

On the afternoon of Thursday, June 3rd, a telephone message to the St. Louis office summoned division help. On Friday morning Assistant Manager, Maurice Willows, arrived in Tulsa, and went into immediate consultation with Red Cross Officials, immediately after which a trip of inspection of refugee camps and hospitals was made.

## PUBLIC WELFARE BOARD

It should be noted at this juncture that the Chamber of Commerce and other city organizations had unitedly appointed a Public Welfare Board consisting of seven of the strongest men of the city to temporarily take charge of the appalling situation. This committee was in its first session when the division representative arrived. This committee met with representatives of the Red Cross and unanimously charged the Red Cross with responsibility for relief operations.

## FINANCIAL POLICY

The Public Welfare Board announced that Tulsa would not appeal to the outside world for contributions. This announcement was given wide publicity, which policy apparently met with universal approval. It was understood that in view of the many local complications which would inevitably follow that the National Red Cross should be asked to furnish expert leadership to direct and handle the problems of relief. In order to steer clear of local complications, it seemed wise to ask National Headquarters for finances sufficient to cover such personnel. This contribution was acceptable to the Welfare Board and the local Red Cross officials.

Consequently, on the night of Friday, June 4th, a telegram was dispatched to the Division Manager, which brought forth the cooperation and funds asked for.

## ORGANIZATION

Immediate steps were taken to centralize the work of relief which was being done at many different points in the "up town" section, notably the Y.M.C.A., the First Baptist Church and the Red Cross office, 4th and Cincinnati. The Booker Washington School property situated in the heart of the burned area was selected, and by Saturday afternoon all relief operations with the exception of the refugee camps were directed from central headquarters. The following organization was announced on Saturday:

### RED CROSS DISASTER RELIEF

General Headquarters and Relief Depot, Booker Washington School  
Refugee Camp. Free Fair Grounds, N. R. Graham, Director.  
Emergency Hospital, 510 North Main Street.  
Red Cross Home Service (ex-soldiers) 4th & Cincinnati  
Tubercular Clinic for whites, 15 West Eleventh St.

## ORGANIZATION

Chairman of Local Chapter, Clark Field.

Director of Relief, Maurice Willows.

Assistant L. C. Murray.

Registration Bureau: This department has all telegrams and mail, and furnished information about lost relatives.

For tents and bedding apply at the north unit building, Booker Washington School.

For lost or stolen property, apply at 703 East Archer, Mr. Doering.

Clothing Department, Second floor, main building.

For employment apply to N. A. Thompson, first floor, main building.

For nursing service, Miss MacKay; for treatment apply first floor, main building.

Purchasing Department, O. V. Borden, first floor main Bldg.

General Dispensary and Clinic (Negro tubercular, venereal and dental clinics, medical dispensary), unit building at north end fair grounds.

Food Supply. Mrs. Wheeler, first floor Main Bldg.

Mogor Transportation Department, first floor Main Bldg.

J. C. Anthony.

Director of Relief Depot, J. T. Forster, Mr. Murray's office.

## TELEPHONES

Main Headquarters in Relief Depot Cedar 2300

Fair Grounds, Cedar 2509

Commissaries, Osage 6156

Tulsa Historical Society & Museum

Fourth & Cincinnati, Osage 1772

Emergency Hospital , Osage 2128

Reconstruction Camp, Cedar 2508

Volunteer workers please report at Fourth & Cincinnati for pass.  
Report location of stolen goods and names of culprits to  
J. M. Adkinson, City Hall.

#### FAMILY WORK PERSONNEL

During the first days of emergency work the use of many volunteers was imperative. The first person of training or experience to arrive was Mrs. L. V. Watkins, formerly Home Service Secretary of Fort Scott, Kansas. Mrs. Watkins was placed in charge of the registration bureau, where she was ably assisted by Mr. Louis Lefko, Secretary of the Better Business Bureau, Mrs. J. M. Reed, Mr. C. D. Adams and Mrs. T. L. Golay. A wired request for additional personnel was sent to the Division Office, and after a delay of ten days our family work forces were supplemented by Miss Jean Prout of Memphis Tenn., Miss Mary Porter Scott of St. Louis, and a little later by Mr. Clarence Dawson of Chicago, Miss Ada Palmer of Chicago, Miss Margaret Williams of St. Louis and Miss Dorothy Davis of Houston, Texas. The last three remained in Tulsa for a period of days only. Later the Division office sent Mrs. C. B. MacCartney and Mrs. Gretchen Abbott. These workers were all supplied out of Division funds.

#### MASS WORK

For the first ten days practically all relief work was conducted mass fashion. The refugee camp at the Fair Ground had been well equipped with plumbing, a refrigerator system, a temporary hospital and first aid stations. Over 2,000 people were housed and fed there, under the supervision of Mr. Newt Graham, and a corps of volunteer assistants.

An additional 2,000 were fed and housed at the Booker T. Washington School properties, while the balance of the refugees were hastily housed in tents, surrounding the Booker T. Washington School. These first relief operations involved the watering and sewerage of both camps, making both properties sanitary. In these operations full and ample assistance was rendered by the National Guard and the City of Tulsa. It should be noted that the disaster had wiped out practically every resource that the negroes formerly had. All relief to able-bodied men was given

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in the form of work, at a wage rate of 25 cents per hour. The men were paid at the end of each day. There were, however, no boarding houses, lunch stands or grocery stores from which to obtain food. This food was supplied to the people at the rate of 20 cents per meal, until the time when temporary lunch stands were erected. In the meantime, the women and children were fed at the RedCross kitchens.

#### FAMILY SURVEY

As soon as practical a survey was made to determine family conditions. This operation required one week of time on the part of the family workers. It was found that only a partial survey was possible because of the fact that thousands of negroes had left the city, for parts unknown, and other hundreds were herded together in servants quarters throughout the city. A total of 1765 families were registered. There were 5366 persons in these families, 1620 of which were children under 14 years of age.

It was found that 1115 families had their homes burned, and an additional 314 houses had been looted which were not burned. It was also found that 563 families were crowded into small quarters with other families. (See Supplementary Report)

By the time this survey was completed 184 families had been provided with tent homes, with floors and sides of lumber. An additional 200 tents are being equipped. It should be noted that accurate figures regarding families are difficult to secure, because of the fact that when the disaster occurred people were scattered in every direction. There are parts of families being found as far as Chicago on the north and Houston, Texas, on the south. In fact, we have located parts of Tulsa families as far west as Los Angeles.

During the first week following the riot railroad transportation was provided for over 300 people. These were mostly women and children, who were sent to relatives in other parts, with the permission of the localities to which they were sent.

#### PRESENT RELIEF PROGRAM

It has been generally agreed that the Red Cross will have functioned when all the homeless are provided with shelter, laundry and cooking outfits and stoves; when the families are reunited as far as possible; when the destitute women and orphaned children are cared for, and those who are able-bodied are placed on a self-supporting basis. (See Supplementary Report.)

## RECONSTRUCTION

The problem of reconstruction will be dealt with in another chapter, suffice to say here that the Red Cross had refused to involve itself with the problem of rebuilding a new colored district. This is a task of the city administration.

## HOSPITALIZATION, NURSING AND MEDICAL CARE

There are no public hospitals in Tulsa, there is no tubercular sanitarium. Consequently, during the riot the wounded and sick were taken to the private hospitals, where they were crowded into every available space and given surgical and medical attention. When the private hospitals became over crowded, a large residence was commandeered and equipped. With incredible speed a hospital staff of doctors and nurses were mustered in. 163 operations were performed during the first week, 62 of these being major ones. At the end of two weeks the Red Cross had equipped four large hospital wards in the Booker T. Washington school house for hospital uses, and all of their patients were transferred to this central hospital.

## FIRST AID FOR THE INJURED

Following the riot the Red Cross established a first aid station with Mrs. Clark Fields and a staff of nurses in charge. 531 patients were given first aid care, during the first ten days.

A general dispensary was equipped by the Red Cross in one of the rooms at the Booker Washington School and turned over to the Tulsa County Public Health Association in charge of Miss Richardson and her staff.

A V.D. Clinic was also equipped and operated by the Dr. C. L. Reeder, County Health Physician.

## NURSING SURVEY

Immediately following the riot all medical nursing and hospital activities were placed under the supervision of Miss Rosalind MacKay, State Supervisor of Red Cross Nursing. She was ably assisted by Mrs. W. D. Godfrey of the Tulsa Red Cross and Miss Bessie Richardson of the Tulsa County Health Association. The following Red Cross Nurses gave their services for two weeks:

Miss Miser	Tulsa, Okla.
Mrs. Cleveland	Cleveland, Okla.
Mrs. Tosh	Sapulpa, Okla.
Miss Weaver	Osage, Okla.
Miss Thomas	Oklahoma City, Okla.
Miss Swanson	Tulsa, Okla.
Mrs. [unclear]	Tulsa, Okla.

Miss Robinson	Tulsa, Okla.
Miss Trotter	Tulsa, Okla.
Mrs. Watson	Tulsa, Okla.

The most important phase of the work of the nurses was the survey made, with the following results:

Number calls made by Public Health Nurses	.....	4512
Number of patients needing medical or nursing care	.....	531
Classified as follows:		
Maternity	.....	38
Infant Welfare	.....	359
General	.....	154
Sent to Dispensary for treatment	.....	80
Number of Emergency calls by nurses	.....	84
Nursing care given to out patients	.....	169

VACCINATION

Early in the day the utmost precautions were taken to prevent disease. There were seven cases of smallpox reported at the Fair Grounds before the refugees could be vaccinated. There was some delay in medical organization because of conflict in jurisdiction between the county and city physicians. It was necessary to corral all vaccine and typhoid serum in the state of Oklahoma. Approximately 1800 refugees were vaccinated and treated with serum. There has been no outbreak of disease thus far. The doctors of the city took charge of the health situation through a committee composed of Doctor C. L. Reeder, Doctor H. T. Price and Doctor R. V. Smith, with Doctor Smith as Chairman. In addition to this committee, Doctor Presson, City Health Physician exercised his functions as sanitarian.

SUMMARY

Chronologically the medical and nursing phase of the relief work was as follows:

1. Immediate surgical and medical care of the wounded at six private hospitals.
2. The mobilization of all available nurses for hospital and field service.
3. Placing the State Supervisor of the Red Cross Nursing in charge.
4. The organization of a committee of doctors under whose direction the state supervisor was to supervise.
5. The mobilization of vaccine and the typhoid serum and the administering of same to the refugees.

6. A Field Survey by Public Health Nurses.
7. The equipping of a First Aid Station, a general dispensary and a V. D. Clinic.
8. Equipping and furnishing a central hospital.
9. The evacuation of the private hospitals.

After one month of service all that is left for the Red Cross to continue is the management and supervision of the central hospital and this will be turned over to Tulsa County when they are in a position to take it over. At the end of five weeks there are still 38 patients in the hospital. Practically all of these are fractures, gunshot wounds and amputations. The Medical and Nursing care is given by white nurses and white doctors.

#### STATUS OF WHITES WOUNDED

Our files contain the names of 48 whites who have passed through the hospitals. The greatest secrecy has surrounded the status of these whites, probably for the reason that they do not wish to have their names among those involved in the riot. All of the whites needing Red Cross assistance have been handled by Mrs. Jennie Beam, Secretary of the local Chapter, with headquarters at 4th and Cincinnati Streets. The best information obtainable is contained in a statement rendered by a local private hospital where practically all of the white wounded were given attention. On attempting to check up the hospital bills for payment, it was found that there were an unknown number who were wounded, given First Aid treatment at hospitals and sent directly to their homes. A reasonably accurate checking up of white wounded will be made possible as soon as claims for hospitalization and medical attention are presented. All applications for assistance coming from whites have been referred to Mrs. Jennie Beam at Red Cross Headquarters.

### CHAPTER III

#### FINANCES

This chapter in its beginnings harks back to the commitments of the Public Welfare Board which amounted to, "Go ahead and take care of the relief as it should be done and we will finance all Red Cross needs." The Red Cross proceeded full speed ahead. The Public Welfare Board started a campaign for funds, collecting the sum of \$26,000.00 during the first few days. The Welfare Board

had also received the promise from the County Commissioners of a fund amounting to \$60,000, to be made available for Red Cross uses. Immediately after July 1st pending the time when this \$60,000 would be available, 25 men had agreed to underwrite the Red Cross for \$25,000.

Plans were also underway whereby the Welfare Board was to engineer a rehabilitation and housing program. They expected to raise immediately a sum of \$100,000 to start with.

When everything was running smoothly, like a thunderclap out of a clear sky the Mayor of the City, T. D. Evans, declared the Welfare Board out of commission, and in its place appointed a new committee of seven which he called "The Reconstruction Committee".

Thus, the backbone of financial support had been broken, most abruptly. The old Public Welfare Board resigned office at a mass meeting and at the time of their resignation recommitted itself collectively and individually to stand by the Red Cross in financing its relief operations.

The Red Cross therefore was placed in a position of having to deal with a new Reconstruction Committee. It was understood, at first, that the new committee was to function as the agent of the city in the same manner as the old committee. Time, however, has proven that the new committee is politically constituted and is chiefly interested in maneuvering for the transfer of negro properties and the establishment of a new negro district.

When it became apparent the the Reconstruction Committee was powerless to raise funds, the old committee members together with Chairman Fields of the Red Cross brought about a meeting of the County Commissioners and the Mayor.

The Mayor and Chairman Fields requested the County to allow the local Humane Society to relieve the Red Cross of its work. The County Commissioners, however, went into reverse and suggested to the Mayor that the Red Cross was the only organization competent to deal with the relief situation. The commissioners and the Excise Board forcefully suggested that the Mayor include \$40,000 from the 1921 City Budget to be used by the Red Cross, in finishing its relief program. The Mayor promptly acceded.

This leaves the financial status as follows:

Appropriation from County of Tulsa .....	\$60,000.00
Appropriation from City of Tulsa .....	40,000.00
Private Donations to Relief Fund .....	24,865.36
Merchandise Contributions .....	6,000.00
	<u>\$130,865.36</u>

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Of this amount approximately \$24,577.31 has been expended, in addition to the \$6,000.00 in merchandise contributions which have been used, or a total of \$30,577.31. (See Supplementary Report for new figures.)

#### PROGRAM FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE

The Red Cross relief program must carry through to a point where these destitute, homeless and sick people can be adjusted into new homes, hospitals, or given over to the care of local agencies. It should be indicated in this report that there is in Tulsa no modern, record-keeping, case-work agency dealing with dependent families. There are no public hospitals nor facilities. Prior to the fire there was a small private negro hospital and a general dispensary for colored people, both of which were burned.

It should also be indicated most clearly that the County Commissioners, the City Authorities, the white population and the negroes themselves, insist that the Red Cross shall carry on until completion, that part of the work which can be considered "temporary relief".

#### RECONSTRUCTION.

All that has been said in this report has had to do with emergency and temporary relief. Two months have elapsed since the trouble started, and on this date, July 31st, no rehabilitation nor ~~trouble~~ practical reconstruction program has been outlined by the city government.

Early in the day the Red Cross made it clear that it was not its function to engineer plans for the acquisition of a new residence district, nor for converting any portion of the burned area into a commercial wholesale or industrial district. It was recognized at once, however, that the most suitable action, from a civic and business standpoint, would be the acquisition of that part of the burned area bordering on the railroad tracks, for future industrial or commercial expansion. Public opinion seems in favor of this general proposition. Any such plan, however, it has been pointed out would involve (1) the organization of a Housing Corporation or Holding Company which would act for the municipality in appraising and purchasing from the negro property owners their holdings; (2) the raising of sufficient funds to back the enterprise; (3) the acquiring of a new residential district to be sewerred, watered, and lighted; (4) a committee or sub-committee to help the negroes clear up their property equities and to assist them in re-purchasing and rebuilding.

The above general suggestions were, on June 4th, made to the representatives of the Public Welfare Board in session at the City Hall. This board concurred and Chairman L. J. Martin outlined in writing a plan which would virtually embody the above suggestions. All that was necessary for the first plans, which among other things included plans for sufficient funds to start the enterprise immediately. It was well known in this connection that several men connected with the Public Welfare Board had agreed to liberally finance the move.

#### MAYOR EVANS SPILLS THE BEANS

A close reading of the newspaper articles in this report will show that just at the time when the Welfare Board was ready to announce its plans to the public, Mayor Evans again took up the reins of positive authority at the head of the city government. His first act was to discharge the old Public Welfare Board. He immediately appointed a new committee which he named "The Reconstruction Committee". This new committee was politically constituted and did not have in its membership men of large financial power or influence. Later on this committee membership was enlarged sufficiently to include representatives from the banking interests. Seven weeks have elapsed at present writing. The Reconstruction committee has shown practically nothing in the way of definite results.

Because of the many complications, political and otherwise, the Red Cross is steering clear of the so-called reconstruction processes which engage the City Hall authorities.

#### EXTENSION OF FIRE LIMITS

One of the first acts was to extend the fire limits to embrace practically all of the burned area. This move automatically made it impossible for the rebuilding of frame houses on the old properties. Shortly after this action the Red Cross asked the city authorities to grant the negroes permission to build temporary wooden houses on their lots. This permission was granted, only to be recalled a week later when it was found that a startling number of houses were under erection within the newly-extended fire limits. Thus, at present writing, little, if any progress is being made in re-building in the burned district. We advise the reading of the attached newspaper clippings which give reports from the Reconstruction Committee. Summarized, their activities revolve around the erection of a public sentiment which would force the negroes to rebuild in a section somewhere outside the city limits. Concurrently, it was hoped that public opinion would become sufficiently strong in favor of a Union Station site or a Commercial District, to bring about the financing of some such project. The Committee has not, however, evolved or stated any practical plan of reconstruction.

## THE NEGRO ATTITUDE

The negroes have consistently said to the City, "Pay us for what we have lost and we will talk to you about selling what we have left." It is entirely safe to say that the rebuilding situation is still unsettled and chaotic. Neither the city nor the negroes know what to do nor what will come next.

## CONTINUING RELIEF

In the meantime, the Red Cross has been pressed to the limit in placing the negroes on a living and self-supporting basis, in caring for the sick, and in assisting in disease prevention.

## THE RED CROSS RELATIONSHIPS

The Tulsa County Chapter, with the guidance of the Division Representative, is responsible for the Red Cross policy execution. The workers from the Division Office have been supplied the local chapter at Division expense. Altho using funds from the public treasury it maintains an independent position, in the handling of such funds.

The accounting system is under general supervision of the Division Accountant.

## ADDENDA

The newspaper clippings and pictures tell the rest of the story. All local persons contributing valuable services are mentioned in these articles. Be it said, however, in this report that the Red Cross has had the united support and good will of the whole population, all political factions and both of the newspapers.

It has been taken for granted that the Red Cross is the only organization which could minister to both blacks and whites and maintain a strictly neutral position on all political and racial questions.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) Maurice Willows, Director.

R E P O R T

By Maurice Willows.

TULSA COUNTY CHAPTER AMERICAN RED  
CROSS DISASTER RELIEF COMMITTEE.

PREFACE

The story of the tragedy enacted in Tulsa, Okla., on the night of May 31st, 1921, and the morning of June 1st, 1921, has been told and retold in the press of the country, with all sorts of variations as to causes, actual happenings and immediate results.

The unprejudiced and indirectly interested people have from the beginning referred to the affair as the "race riot", others with deeper feeling refer to it as a "massacre", while many who would saddle the blame upon the negro, have used the designation, "artfully coined", "negro up rising". After six months work among them, it has been found the majority of the negroes who were the greatest sufferers refer to June 1st, 1921, as "the time of Jews' ". Whatever people choose to call it the word or phrase has not yet been coined which can adequately describe the events of June 1st last.

This report refers to the tragedy as a "disaster".

(Signed)

NARRATIVE REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 31st, 1921.

CHAPTER 1.

The real truth regarding the underlying causes of the short-lived civil war which turned Tulsa, Oklahoma, into a bedlam on the morning of June 1st, 1921, may come to the surface in the future. The concensus of opinion, after six months intervening time, places the blame upon "the lack of law enforcement"

"Race Riot" it has been most generally termed, yet whites were killed and wounded by whites in the protection of white property against the violence of the white mob. The

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elements of race rioting were present, from all evidences, on the night of May 31st, but the wholesale destruction of property - life and limb, in that section of the city occupied by negroes on June 1st between the hours of daylight and noon, testifies to a one-sided battle.

Altho newspaper clipping attached indicates the apparent local cause of the trouble, subsequent developments have proven that the arrestment of the negro boy was merely an incident. Both the negro boy and girl have dropped out of the picture, it being shown that there was no grounds for any prosecution of the boy.

Those persons desiring to satisfy themselves as to causes, are respectfully referred to newspaper accounts of the trial of the Chief of Police, which are contained in this volume.

It should be noted, however, that while the original shooting took place at the County Jail on the night of May 31st, the actual burning, pillaging and destruction was consummated during the daylight hours of June 1st in the district nearly a mile from the Court House.

All that fire, rifles, revolvers, shot guns, machine guns and organized inhuman passion could do with thirty-five city blocks with its twelve thousand negro population, was done.

Those interested in details bearing on locations, methods used, and the organization of the mobs, both black and white, should refer to newspaper accounts contained herewith.

## DEAD

The number of dead is a matter of conjecture. Some knowing ones estimate the number of killed as high as 200, others estimates being as low as 55. The bodies were hurriedly rushed to burial, and the records of many burials are not to be found. For obvious reasons this report cannot deal with this subject.

## INJURED

One hundred and eighty-four negroes and forty-eight whites were in hospitals for surgical care as charges of the Red Cross, within twenty-four hours after the disaster. Five hundred and thirty-one were given First Aid at the Red Cross Stations during the first three days.

An adequate picture of conditions relating to the injured cannot be written. Eye witnesses will long remember the speeding ambulances, the crowded hospitals, drugstores, churches and First Aid Stations. While the records show 763 wounded, this does not include wounded people afterwards found on practically all roads leading out of Tulsa. Wounded people turned up at Muskogee, Sapulpa, and other adjoining towns, and as far north as Kansas City. Neither do records tell of the after-the-riot developments. The Red Cross records show eight definite cases of premature child-birth which resulted in death of the babies.

Subsequent developments also show that of the maternity cases given attention by Red Cross doctors, practically all have presented complications due to the riot.

Too much credit cannot be given to the white citizens of Tulsa for the care and treatment rendered the wounded. Especially should it be noted that the women and men at the First Aid Stations gave voluntary and gratuitous service. While several hundred were given First Aid at the hospitals free of charge, the hospitals

themselves, which were crowded with patients, ultimately presented bills in full for all services rendered, which bills have been paid out of relief funds. It should also be made clear that the attending surgeons almost without exception have been paid in full for the services rendered in the emergency.

#### BURNINGS.

Thirty-five city blocks were looted systematically, then burned to a cinder, and the twelve thousand population thereof scattered like chaff before the wind. All evidences show that most of the houses were burned from the inside. Eye witnesses say that the methods used were, first, to pile bedding, furniture and other burnable material together, then to apply matches. Eye witnesses also claim that many houses were set afire from aeroplanes. (In this connection it should be noted that while many houses and buildings in the Greenwood and Fairview Additions were destroyed, other houses, evidently chosen ones, were allowed to stand untouched. During the months following the disaster the Relief workers have gathered interesting information as to the ownership of the houses left intact.)

#### PROPERTY LOSSES

Property losses including household goods will easily reach the four million mark. This must be a conservative figure in view of the fact that law suits covering claims of over \$4,000,000. were filed up to July 30th. A large number of property owners were not at that time heard from.

Newspaper accounts accompanying this report and statements of eye witnesses, give vivid pictures of what happened.

Where were the police?

Where was the fire department?

Why the temporary breakdown of City and County government?

The accompanying newspaper reports and editorials will help to answer these questions.

### STATE TROOPS

State Troops had arrived and had checked the rioting at noon of Wednesday, and Martial Law was in effect, with Adjutant General Barrett of the State in charge.

## CHAPTER II.

### RELIEF AND THE RED CROSS

While "Little Africa" was still burning, while ambulances whizzed to the hospitals, while "dead" wagons were carrying off the victims, while refugees were being driven under guard to places of refuge; and the fiendish looting, robbing, and pillaging was still in progress, different scenes were being enacted "up town".

Realizing that an awful calamity was in progress of perpetration, the Red Cross immediately sprung into action. The women mobilized with incredible speed, and before midnight of Wednesday had made sufficient insignias of Red Crosses on a background of white, to placard ambulances, motor vehicles, trucks and other conveyances for the transport of nurses, doctors, supplies and relief workers. This insignia was a pass everywhere.

Mayor Evans early in the day, by written communication, designated the Red Cross as the official "relief Agency."

It should be noted here that even before any official request has been made, the Red Cross had by common consent, sprung into action.

#### IMMEDIATE CARE OF REFUGEES

Simultaneously refugee camps were installed at Convention Hall, McNulty Ball Park, First Baptist Church and the Fair Grounds. Indeed every available church and public building and many private homes were used to house the homeless.

#### DIVISION OFFICE CALLED

On the afternoon of Thursday, June 3rd, a telephone message to the St. Louis office summoned division help. On Friday morning Assistant Manager, Maurice Willows, arrived in Tulsa, and went into immediate consultation with Red Cross officials, immediately after which a trip of inspection of refugee camps and hospitals was made.

#### PUBLIC WELFARE BOARD

It should be noted at this juncture that the Chamber of Commerce and other city organizations had unitedly appointed a Public Welfare Board consisting of seven of the strongest men of the city to temporarily take charge of the appalling situation. This Committee was in its first session when the Division representative arrived. This committee met with representatives of the Red Cross and unanimously charged the Red Cross with responsibility for relief operations.

## FINANCIAL POLICY

The Public Welfare Board announced that Tulsa would not appeal to the outside world for contributions. This announcement was given wide publicity, which policy apparently met with universal approval. It was understood that in view of the many local complications which would inevitably follow, that the National Red Cross should be asked to furnish expert leadership to direct and handle the problems of relief. In order to steer clear of local complications it seemed wise to ask National Headquarters for finances sufficient to cover such personnel. This contribution was acceptable to the Welfare Board and the local Red Cross officials.

Consequently, on the night of Friday, June 4th, a telegram was dispatched to the Division Manager, which brought forth the cooperation and funds asked for.

## ORGANIZATION

Immediate steps were taken to centralize the work of relief which was being done at many different points in the "up town" section, notably the Y.M.C.A., the First Baptist Church and the Red Cross office at 4th and Cincinnati. The Booker Washington School property situated in the heart of the burned area was selected, and by Saturday afternoon all relief operations with the exception of the refugee camps were directed from central headquarters. The following organization was announced on Saturday:

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RED CROSS DISASTER RELIEF

General Headquarters and Relief Depot, Booker Washington School.

Refugee Camp, Free Fair Grounds, H. R. Graham, Director.

Emergency Hospital, 510 North Main Street.

Red Cross Home Service (ex-soldiers) 4th & Cincinnati.

Tubercular Clinic for whites, 15 West Eleventh St.

ORGANIZATION

Acting Chairman of Local Chapter, Clark Field.

Director of Relief, Maurice Willows.

Assistant L. C. Murray.

Registration Bureau: This department handled all telegrams and mail, and furnished information about lost relatives.

"For tents and bedding apply at the north unit building, Booker Washington School."

"For lost or stolen property, apply at 703 East Archer, Mr. Deering."

Clothing Department, Second floor, main building.

"For employment apply at H. A. Thompson, first floor, main building."

"For nursing service, Miss Mackay; for treatment apply first floor, main building."

Purchasing Department, C. V. Borden, first floor main Bldg.

General Dispensary and Clinic (Negro tubercular, venereal and dental clinics, medical dispensary), unit building at north end fair grounds.

Food Supply, Mrs. Wheeler, first floor Main Bldg.

Motor Transportation Department, first floor main building,

J. C. Anthony.

Director of Relief Depot, J. T. Forster, Mr. Murray's office.

#### TELEPHONES

Main Headquarters in Relief Depot,	-	Cedar 2300
Fair Grounds,	-	Cedar 2509
Commissaries,	-	Cedar 6158
Fourth & Cincinnati,	-	Osage 1772
Emergency Hospital,	-	Cedar 2128
Reconstruction Camp,	-	Cedar 2508

Volunteer workers please report at Fourth & Cincinnati for pass.

Report location of stolen goods and names of culprits to

J. M. Adkinson, City Hall.

#### FAMILY WORK PERSONNEL

During the first days of emergency work the use of many volunteers was imperative. The first person of training or experience to arrive was Mrs. L. V. Watkins, formerly Home Service Secretary at Fort Scott, Kansas. Mrs. Watkins was placed in charge of the registration bureau, where she was ably assisted by Mr. Louis Lefko, Secretary of the Better Business Bureau, Mrs. J. M. Reed, Mr. C. D. Adams and Mrs. T. L. Goley. A wired request for additional personnel was sent to the Division Office, and after a delay of ten days our family work forces were supplemented by Miss Joan Prout of Memphis, Tennessee, Miss Mary Porter Scott of St. Louis, and a little later by Mr. Clarence Dawson of Chicago, Miss Ada

Palmer of Chicago, Miss Margaret Williams of St. Louis and Miss Dorothy Davis of Houston, Texas. The last three remained in Tulsa for a period of ten days only. Later the Division Office sent Mrs. C. E. MacCartney and Mrs. Gretchen Abbott. These workers were all supplied out of Division Funds.

#### MASS WORK

For the first ten days practically all relief work was conducted mass fashion. The refugee camp at the Fair Grounds had been well equipped with plumbing, a refrigerator system, a temporary hospital and first aid stations. Over 2,000 people were housed and fed there, under the supervision of Mr. Hewt Graham, and a corps of volunteer assistants.

An additional 2,000 were fed and housed at the Booker T. Washington School properties, while the balance of the refugees were hastily housed in tents, surrounding the Booker T. Washington School. These first relief operations involved the watering and sewerage of both camps making both properties sanitary. In these operations full and ample assistance was rendered by the National Guard and the City of Tulsa. It should be noted that the disaster had wiped out practically every resource that the negroes formerly had. All relief to able bodied men was given in the form of work, at a wage rate of 25¢ per hour. The men were paid at the end of each day. There were, however, no boarding houses, lunch stands or grocery stores from which to obtain food. This food was

supplied at the rate of 20¢ per meal, until the time when temporary lunch stands were erected. In the meantime, the women and children were fed at the Red Cross kitchens.

#### FAMILY SURVEY

From time to time as found practicable, house to house surveys have been made to determine the next immediate relief needs of the effected families. From week to week the emergency relief situation has been made according to the needs of the moment. The first survey was necessarily a partial one for the reason that literally thousands of negroes had left the country for parts unknown and other hundreds were crowded together in servants quarters throughout the city. The first survey made during the week following the disaster showed 1765 families in Tulsa more or less seriously effected. There were 5366 persons in these families, 1620 of which were children under fourteen years of age.

As far as figures were obtainable, it was found that 1115 residences have been destroyed exclusive of stores, cafes and other business properties. It was ascertained that in addition, 314 residences had been looted of practically all household possessions and valuables, which houses were not burned. It was also found that 563 families were crowded into small quarters with other families.

No accurate estimate was possible on the number of refugees that left the district during and immediately following the trouble. As a basis of calculation, after seven months of relief work it is estimated that a total of 2480 family case records have been opened, indicating that at least 715

Families temporarily left Tulsa, returning later for various reasons. All evidences show that most of the families returned to their old homes after the cotton picking season was over, in order to place their children in school and to reestablish where possible their old homes.

There is little indication that other cities were seriously burdened with Tulsa dependents. Indications also point to the fact that the majority of these families found employment for themselves and children in the agricultural districts.

#### HOUSING MEASURES

During the week of the riot, 284 army tents, 16x16, with a few, 17x21, had been thrown up to accommodate the refugees. The provisions, however, did not meet the conjectured conditions in servants quarters.

By June 18th, 184 of these tents had been provided with floors and sides of lumber, wire screening and screen doors. Housing measures were handicapped because of insufficient sanitation and because of the lack of sewerage and also of the impossibility of inducing the city authorities to quickly furnish enough sanitary toilets.

#### HEALTH

With every sanitary condition unfavorable, thru one device or another, typhoid and other epidemics were avoided. In many instances strict measures were taken to segregate a few of the worst cases of typhoid, and the liberal use of typhoid serum, together with lime and other disinfectants, played a part in this epidemic.

### GENERAL RELIEF PROGRAM

In the early days it was generally agreed that the Red Cross would have functioned when the homeless were provided with shelter, laundry outfits, cooking outfits and stoves; when sufficient, simple, plain bedding was provided; when the families were reunited as far as possible; when the destitute women and children were cared for; and when the able-bodied were placed on a self-supporting basis.

### RECONSTRUCTION

The problem of reconstruction will be dealt with elsewhere. Suffice it to say that the Red Cross has refused to involve itself with the problem of permanent reconstruction or the rebuilding of a new colored district. This obviously was a task for the city and county administrations.

The uninformed should know that approximately two thirds of the burned area is located beyond the city limits.

### HOSPITALIZATION, NURSING AND MEDICAL CARE

There are no public hospitals in Tulsa, there is no tubercular sanitarium. Consequently, during the riot the wounded and sick were taken to the private hospitals, where they were crowded into every available space and given surgical and medical attention. When the private hospitals became over crowded, a large residence was commandeered and equipped. With incredible speed a hospital staff of doctors and nurses were mustered in. 163 operations were performed during the first week, 82 of these being major ones. At the end of two weeks the Red Cross had equipped

four large hospital wards in the Booker T. Washington school house for hospital uses, and all of the patients were transferred to this central hospital.

#### FIRST AID FOR THE INJURED

Following the riot the Red Cross established a first aid station with Mrs. Clark Fields and a staff of nurses in charge. 551 patients were given first aid care, during the first ten days.

A general dispensary was equipped by the Red Cross in one of the rooms at the Booker Washington School and turned over to the Tulsa County Public Health Association in charge of Miss Richardson and her staff.

A V. D. Clinic was equipped also and operated by the Red Cross and turned over to Dr. C. L. Reeder, County Health Physician.

#### NURSING SURVEY

Immediately following the riot all medical, nursing and hospital activities were placed under the supervision of Miss Rosalind MacKay, State Supervisor of Red Cross Nursing.

She was ably assisted by Mrs. W. D. Godfrey of the Tulsa Red Cross and Miss Beattie Richardson of the Tulsa County Health Association. The following Red Cross Nurses gave their services for two weeks:

Miss Miser	-	Tulsa, Okla.
Mrs. Cleveland	-	Cleveland, Okla.
Mrs. Tooh	-	Sapulpa, Okla.
Miss Weaver	-	Osage, Okla.
Miss Thomas	-	Oklahoma City, Okla.
Miss Swanson	-	Tulsa, Okla.
Miss Hatch	-	Tulsa, Okla.
Miss Robinson	-	Tulsa, Okla.
Miss Trotter	-	Tulsa, Okla.
Mrs. Watson	-	Tulsa, Okla.

The most important phase of the work of the nurses was the house to house survey made, with the following results:

Number calls made by Public Health Nurses	-	-	4512
Number of patients needing medical or nursing care	-	-	551
Classified as follows:			
Maternity	-	-	38
Infant Welfare	-	-	359
General	-	-	154
Sent to Dispensary for treatment	-	-	80
Number emergency calls by nurses	-	-	84
Nursing care given to out patients	-	-	169

#### VACCINATION

Early in the day the utmost precautions were taken to prevent disease. There were seven cases of small pox reported at the Fair Grounds before the refugees could be vaccinated. There was some delay in medical organization because of conflict in jurisdiction between the county and city physicians. It was necessary to corral all vaccine and typhoid serum in the state of Oklahoma. Approximately 1800 refugees were vaccinated and treated with serum. The doctors of the city took charge of the health situation through a committee composed of doctors C. L. Ronder, H. F. Price and H. V. Smith, with Dr. Smith as Chairman.

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In addition to this committee, Doctor Freeseon, City Health Physician, exercised his functions as sanitarian.

#### SUMMARY

Chronologically the medical and nursing phase of the relief work was as follows:

1. Immediate surgical and medical care of the wounded at six private hospitals.
2. The mobilization of all available nurses for hospital and field service.
3. Placing the State Supervisor of the Red Cross Nursing in charge
4. The organization of a committee of doctors under whose direction the state supervisor was to supervise.
5. The mobilization of vaccine and the typhoid serum and the administering of same to the refugees.
6. A Field Survey by Public Health Nurses.
7. The equipping of a First Aid Station, a general dispensary and a V. D. Clinic.
8. Equipping and furnishing a central hospital.
9. The evacuation of the private hospitals.
10. The building of a suitable hospital for the more permanent care of those wounded during the disaster and all of the sick needing hospitalization because of the lack of suitable homes. An arrangement was made whereby the County Commissioners and the Board of Education jointly turned over for Red Cross use certain properties located at 324 North Hartford. On this centrally located site a nine-room hospital building was erected, the Red Cross furnishing the building material and the East End Relief Committee (colored) furnished the labor.

This made the hospital a cooperative enterprise. The property when built represented an investment of approximately \$68,000.

11. The evacuation of the Booker Washington School property as relief and hospital headquarters on September 1st, 1921.
12. The formation of a Colored Hospital Association, which is incorporated under State law. The purpose of this Association is to take over the management of this hospital and to ultimately take title to the same. A full statistical report of hospital operations is given elsewhere.

To the everlasting credit of Tulsa and the Red Cross, it should be said that the very best surgical and medical care obtainable has been given the negro patients. Dr. H. S. Browne (white) has supervised the medical and nursing service since the first week following the disaster. A white nursing staff was maintained until the Colored Hospital Association began functioning, January 1st, 1922.

#### STATUS OF WHITES' WOUNDED

Our files contain the names of 46 whites who have passed through the hospitals. The greatest secrecy has surrounded the status of these whites, probably for the reason that they do not wish to have their names among those involved in the rioting. All of the whites needing Red Cross assistance have been handled by Mrs. Jennie K. Beam, Secretary of the Local Chapter, with headquarters at 4th and Cincinnati Streets. The best information obtainable is contained in a statement rendered by a local private hospital where practically all of the white wounded were given attention. On attempting to check the hospital

bills for payment it was found that there were an unknown number who were wounded, given First Aid treatment at hospitals and sent directly to their homes. The number of white wounded probably exceeded the number given in this record, as the figures given represent the cases whose medical care was actually paid for out of relief funds. (Many humorous instances might be cited of claims presented by "innocent bystanders" for the payment of doctors' bills). All such claims were rigidly investigated and many were turned down for the reason that it could not be shown that the wounded parties were "innocent bystanders", or persons in the employ of the city or county for guard purposes. Quite early in the fall, a claim for \$85.00, doctor bill, was presented by a young white man for gunshot wound treatment. The claim was of the "innocent bystander" kind. After lengthy explanation on the part of the claimant as to how the injury was incurred, but after his admission that he was not employed by the city or county, the Red Cross record-keeper confronted him with a full sized photograph of the same young man in the middle of the riot district with a shot gun over his shoulder and high powered rifle in his hand. Altho he did not deny the identity, he has not been seen at the Red Cross office since. After this experience, no further claims have been made by "innocent bystanders".

#### FINANCES

This chapter in its beginnings harks back to the commitments of the Public Welfare Board which amounted to, "Go ahead and take care of the relief as it should be done and we will make good." Tulsa Historical Society & Museum

proceeded full speed ahead. The Public Welfare Board started a campaign for funds, collecting the sum of \$26,000.00 during the few days at first. The Welfare Board had also received the promise from the County Commissioners of a fund amounting to \$60,000.00, to be made available for Red Cross uses. Immediately after July 1st pending the time when this \$60,000.00 would be available, 25 men had agreed to underwrite the Red Cross for \$25,000.00.

Plans were also underway whereby the Welfare Board was to engineer a rehabilitation and housing program. They expected to raise immediately a sum of \$100,000 to start with.

When everything was running smoothly, like a thunder-clap out of a clear sky the Mayor of the City, T. E. Evans, declared the Welfare Board out of commission, and in its place appointed a new committee of seven which he called "The Reconstruction Committee."

Thus, the backbone of financial support had been broken, most abruptly. The original Public Welfare Board resigned office at a mass meeting and at the time of their resignation recommitted itself collectively and individually to stand by the Red Cross Relief Committee if their services should be necessary.

The Red Cross therefore was placed in a position of having to deal with a new Reconstruction Committee. It was understood, at first, that the new committee was to function as the agent of the city in the same manner as the old committee. Time, however, has proven that the new committee was politically constituted and was chiefly interested in maneuvering for the transfer of negro property and the establishment of a new negro district.

When it became apparent that the Reconstruction Committee was powerless to raise funds, the old committee members, together with Chairman Fields of the Red Cross, brought about a meeting of the County Commissioners and the Mayor.

The Mayor and Chairman Fields of the Red Cross Committee requested the County to allow the local Humane Society to relieve the Red Cross of its work. The County Commissioners, however, went into reverse and suggested to the Mayor that the Red Cross was the only organization competent to deal with the relief situation. The Commissioners and the Excise Board forcefully suggested that that Mayor include \$40,000.00 in the 1921-1922 budget to be used by the Red Cross, in finishing its relief program. The Mayor promptly and gracefully acceded.

This left the appropriation status as of September 1st as follows:

Appropriation from County of Tulsa	\$60,000.00
Appropriation from City of Tulsa	40,000.00
Private Donations to Relief Fund	24,865.36
Merchandise Contributions	6,000.00
	<u>\$130,865.36</u>

The financial report and statement indicates full payment of the appropriation made by the county but a falling down on the part of the city. It should properly be said that there is no indication that the public has been aware of the failure of the city to meet its properly and legally made pledges of financial support. On the other hand there is every indication of disinterestedness and lack of sympathy on the part of certain city officials. It was deemed best by the Relief Committee not to press its claims upon city funds. This meant the curtailment and limitation of the relief program to the extent of \$22,400.00.

It should be said that the County officials have from the beginning shown a magnanimous spirit toward the stricken colored population, while on the other hand the city officials in control of the municipal policy, certainly for the period ending October 1st, were entirely out of sympathy with the relief program. In fairness to Mayor Evans it should be recorded that since October 1st, or more accurately speaking, since certain court decisions were made restricting the city from interfering in the rebuilding processes, he and other city officials have shown an increased and more sympathetic interest in the condition of the colored people.

#### PLANS FOR THE WINTER

From month to month as conditions changed and after conference with W. Frank Persons, the Vice-Chairman of the Red Cross, James L. Fieser, Division Manager, and local chapter officials December 1st, 1921, was set as the date for closing the relief operations of the American Red Cross. Certain conditions, however, delayed the closing date to December 31st. The primary reason for this delay in closing, was the lack of any modern, record-keeping, case-work agency dealing with dependent families in Tulsa. There are no public hospitals nor facilities for handling the problems remaining. Prior to the fire there was a small private negro hospital and a general dispensary for colored people, both of which were burned.

It should also be indicated most clearly that the County Commissioners, the City Authorities, the white population and the negroes themselves, insisted upon the Red Cross continuing its relief work thru the winter, but that the best judgment of the Red Cross Relief Committee, Division and National offices,

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dictated the final decision to close on December 31st, 1921.

Arrangements have been made whereby the "Tulsa Relief Trusteeship" will maintain a nucleus of workers and an office in the colored district to carry on the work of salvage and relief until the same is deemed unnecessary.

#### RECONSTRUCTION

All that has been said in this report has had to do with emergency and temporary relief. Seven months have elapsed since the trouble started, and on this date, December 31st, no rehabilitation nor practical reconstruction program has been outlined by the city government.

Early in the day the Red Cross made it clear that it was not its function to engineer plans for the acquisition of a new negro district, nor for converting any portion of the burned area into a commercial wholesale or industrial district. It was recognized at once, however, that the most suitable action, from a civic and business standpoint, would be the acquisition of that part of the burned area bordering on the railroad tracks, for future industrial or commercial expansion. Public opinion seemed in favor of this general proposition. Any such plan, however, it was pointed out, would involve, (1) the organization of a Housing Corporation or Holding Company which would act for the municipality in appraising and purchasing from the negro property owners their holdings; (2) the raising of sufficient funds to back the enterprise; (3) the acquiring of a new residential district to be sewered, watered and lighted; (4) a committee or sub-committee to help the negroes clear up their property equities and to assist them in re-purchasing and rebuilding.

The above general suggestions were, on June 4th, made to the representatives of the Public Welfare Board in session at the City Hall. This board concurred and Chairman L. J. Martin outlined in writing a plan which would virtually embody the above suggestions. All that was necessary for the first plans, which among other things included plans for sufficient funds to start the enterprise immediately. It was well known in this connection that several men connected with the Public Welfare Board had agreed to liberally finance the move.

#### A CONSTRUCTIVE PLAN OF SET

A close reading of the newspaper articles in this report will show that just at the time when the Welfare Board was ready to announce its plans to the public, Mayor Evans again took up the reins of positive authority at the head of the city government. His first act was to discharge the old Public Welfare Board. He immediately appointed a new committee which he named "The Reconstruction Committee". This new committee was politically constituted and did not have in its membership men of large financial power or influence. Later on this committee membership was enlarged sufficiently to include representatives from the banking interests. Seven months have elapsed. The so-called Reconstruction Committee has gone out of existence without recording any constructive results.

Because of the many complications, political and otherwise, the Red Cross has successfully steered clear of the so-called "reconstruction processes" which engaged the "committee" during the early and late fall.

## EXTENSION OF FIRE LIMITS

One of the first acts of the new committee was to extend the fire limits to embrace practically all of the burned area within the city limits. This move automatically made it impossible for the rebuilding of frame houses on the old properties. Shortly after this action the Red Cross asked the city authorities to grant the negroes permission to build temporary wooden houses on their lots. This permission was granted, only to be recalled a week later when it was found that a startling number of houses were under erection within the newly-extended fire limits. The agitation for and against the permanency of the fire limits proceeded for two months and until the district court - three judges presiding - permanently enjoined the city officials from executing the provisions of the fire ordinance recorded immediately after the fire. During the interim the negroes were prevented from helping themselves by rebuilding. With the final court decision, the so-called Reconstruction Committee automatically went out of business and rebuilding processes began in earnest. The statistical report appended indicates the progress made since that time.

Summarized, the activities revolve around the creation of a public sentiment which would force the negroes to rebuild in a section somewhere outside the city limits. Concurrently, it was hoped by some that public opinion would become sufficiently strong in favor of a Union Station site or a Commercial District, to bring about the financing of some such project. The Committee did not, however, evolve or state any practical plan for helping the household situation.

### THE NEGRO ATTITUDE.

The negroes have consistently said to the City, "Pay us for what we have lost and we will talk to you about selling what we have left". The Insurance Companies have consistently refused to honor the payment of insurance moneys because of the riot clause in the insurance policies. No suits for damages have reached the local court dockets and that which has been done is the responsibility of the negroes themselves and their white friends who have stood back of them.

### RED CROSS RELATIONSHIPS

The Tulsa County Chapter with the guidance of the Director of Disaster Relief, bore the responsibility for Red Cross policy and execution. The workers from the Division office have been supplied the local chapter at Division expense. Altho using funds from the public treasury, it maintained a strictly independent position in the handling of such funds.

The accounting system has been under general supervision of the Division Accountant and a firm of local Public Accountants.

### ADDENDA

The newspaper clippings and pictures tell the rest of the story. All local persons contributing valuable services are mentioned in these articles. Be it said, however, in this report, that the Red Cross has had the united support and good will of the whole population, all political factions

and both of the newspapers.

It has been taken for granted that the Red Cross was the only organization which could minister to both blacks and whites and maintain a strictly neutral position on all political and racial questions.

Respectfully submitted.

December 31st, 1921.

Director.

SUPPLEMENT TO GENERAL REPORT

July 30, 1921.

Tulsa Disaster Relief Statistics.

Compiled as of July 31st, 1921.

(These records do not show figures for any but those whose records are actually known to the Red Cross office.)

Number of families registered for relief .....	1912
Number of persons in these families .....	5739
Number of detached persons .....	360
Number of families with no children .....	407
Number of families with no children (missing or dead) ....	222
Number of families with no mother (missing or dead) ....	87
Houses burned .....	1256
Houses looted but not burned .....	216
Families living in tents at present .....	245
Families living with other families .....	649
Families definitely relieved with clothing, beds, bed clothing, tentage, laundry equipment, cooking utensils, dishes, material for clothings, etc. ....	941
Churches housed in Red Cross tents .....	8
Medicines furnished (outside of hospitals) .....	130
Medical service (in field) given to maternity cases, typhoid cases, and infant cases .....	69
Small property adjustments made .....	68
Transportation furnished (estimate) .....	475
Telegrams sent or received (relative to riot victims).....	1250

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL

Hospital cases, definitely charged to Red Cross .....	183
First Aid cases - during riot .....	531
Cases still in hospital .....	32
Maternity cases in hospital awaiting confinement .....	3
Maternity cases - prospective hospital cases .....	4
Equipped: 1 general dispensary for Tulsa P.H. Asso. 1 V. D. Clinic for County Physician 1 Dental Clinic 4 Wards in hospital	
Physicians in Employ of Red Cross .....(colored).....	1
.....( white ).....	1
Total number of nurses employed by Red Cross since riot:	
In hospitals .....	36
In field .....	8
TOTAL .....	44
At present on Staff .....	5
Number of surgeons whose services were paid for from Red Cross funds .....	11

## Summary of Accomplishments to date.

1. During the immediate days after the riot, over four thousand people were housed and fed in detention camps, mess fashion.
2. An unknown number, approximating 2,000, were given shelter and fed wherever houses could be found to accomodate them.
3. Five hospitals were supplied with emergency dressings and medical supplies for care of 183 patients. 531 First Aid cases were cared for at emergency First Aid stations.

Note: It should be noted that all of the hospitals charged their regular fees both for hospital care and surgical attention - the bills being presented to the Red Cross.

4. Anti-tetanic, typhoid and small-pox serums were administered to over 1,800 people.

Following the concentration of relief in the Booker T. Washington school, individual work has been done with 1,912 families in addition to many hundreds of detached persons of whom no records were kept. On account of the variety of services rendered, it is impossible to list the kind of services rendered.

5. A modern hospital, general dispensary, dental clinic, and a V. D. clinic has been equipped and put into service.
6. Over 200 temporary residence tents have been fully equipped with floors, sides, and screens, and the people made as comfortable as possible. 150 women have been supplied with laundry outfits, thus enabling them to particaly make a living.

## PROBLEMS STILL TO BE MET

1. Of first importance is the evacuation, in late August, of the Booker T. Washington school. This means that our four-ward hospital, the general dispensary, V. D. clinic, dental clinic, supply rooms, lumber yard, and relief administration offices must find quarters elsewhere.
2. On account of there being no permanent rehabilitation and housing program officially stated or planned, the Red Cross or some other agency must act in a temporary rehabilitation capacity

Attention is called to one or two items most important, of which is the preparation of over 1,400 school children for school in September. Probably one-half of these must be furnished from some source or other, clothing, headwear, shoes, stockings, and school equipment.

Next in importance is the probability of a long winter with more sickness than usual, and with no provisions for emergency hospital or nursing care.

I might also call attention to the fact that with fall comes relief needs in bedding which will be stupenduous. Practically none of these temporary homes are equipped with stoves, lighting or heating.

It would be insane to argue or assume that more than three-fourths of the negro population are in position to help themselves - with the more essentials in living without continued assistance. It is quite certain that with the present status of unemployment and reduced wages, with no lessening of the cost of living, that even some wage earners will need emergency assistance.

The solution of these problems cannot be met by a "let alone policy". To avoid chaos among the negroes before spring, these problems must be faced and tackled by the community with sufficient finances and personnel to handle them on a socially sound and economical basis.

#### A Still Larger Problem

Developments are showing that as the overflow from the old burned district in reaching beyond the city limit, living conditions are becoming worse and worse, especially in the Greenwood addition. Sanitary and sewer arrangements are entirely inadequate and the lack of any policing is fast leading to a probably worse condition than existed before the riot in the old burned area. There is a growing attitude on the part of the city to throw responsibility for moral and sanitary conditions on the County, and the County is unprepared to meet the new condition with the necessary speed.

I might also call attention to the fact that the roads condition leading into the County through the Greenwood section are such in the dry season as to make it a disease-breeding center. Dust and filth accumulates everywhere.

These are but a few of the problems presented for action during the next few months.

SUMMARY MEDICAL AND SURGICAL RELIEF

No. Wounded Whites Hospitalized During and After Riot at Red Cross Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	46
No. Wounded Negroes Hospitalized during and after Riot at Red Cross Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	135
No. Negro Cases Hospitalized since Riot	-	-	-	-	-	-	98
Total Number persons receiving hospital care	-	-	-	-	-	-	283
No. patients still remaining in hospital	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Number persons died	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
No. persons who have from time to time been discharged	-	-	-	-	-	-	193
No. First Aid cases during and after Riot	-	-	-	-	-	-	531
No. Colored Physicians used by Red Cross in treatment of sick since riot	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Total No. of White physicians whose services were paid for by the Red Cross	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Total No. of Nurses employed by Red Cross during and after the Riot:							
a. Hospital	-	-	-	-	-	38	
b. Field	-	-	-	-	-	8	46

Up to and including December 28th, the hospital has been in charge of Dr. H. S. Browne, Attending Physician and Surgeon, and under him a staff of three of the best white nurses obtainable. The white nurses, Mrs. Edmondson, Miss Cissor and Mrs. Pendergraft, left the service December 28th, the nursing work being taken over by a staff of colored nurses. Dr. H. S. Browne is Supervising Physician and Surgeon.

A Colored Hospital Association has been organized and incorporated to take over the management of the hospital. A staff of colored physicians and surgeons has been organized by Dr. Battler, County Physician, the plan being to have the hospital entirely under the management of the colored people, the property interests for the time being to remain in the hands of the Board of Trustees - three or five white citizens yet to be selected.

TULSA AMERICAN RED CROSS RELIEF

RECAPITULATION OF ACCOUNTS

As of Sept. 1, 1921.

HOUSING AND FEEDING

Kitchen Labor		\$1,046.31	
Food	<del>\$5,352.64</del>		
	Refund 91.07		
Refugee Camp Labor		5,261.57	
Shelter Labor		5,437.50	
Lumber & Building Material		392.32	
Construction Labor		4,121.07	
Shelter (Tents)		178.60	
		<u>6,142.10</u>	\$17,579.47

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL

Care of Riot Sick and Wounded

Emergency Hospital Labor		1,821.37	
Medical Hospital Supplies		1,418.46	
Nurses		3,570.92	
Hospitals (Care of Wounded)		2,824.85	
Hospital Laundry		220.00	
Physicians and Surgeons		5,871.00	
Plumbing and Fittings		1,244.11	
			<u>16,981.70</u>

FAMILY REHABILITATION

Clothing Commissary Labor		298.01	
Furniture (cots)		3,308.24	
Blanket Supplies		1,725.51	
Clothing Supplies		982.06	
Kitchen Utensils		278.83	
Household Supplies		1,925.22	
Transportation Persons	4,334.07		
	Refund 67.09		
Telegraph & Telephone	230.52		
	Refund 14.07		
Miss Mildred Leslie - Salary		216.45	
		<u>325.00</u>	13,326.30

CLERICAL - INCLUDING PURCHASING,  
DISBURSING, ACCOUNTING & PROPERTY CARE

Salaries		2,937.82	2,937.82
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EQUIPMENT

Ford Automobile		539.50	
Furniture		28.20	567.70

GENERAL RELIEF EXPENSE NOT OTHERWISE  
CLASSIFIED

Sanitary & Salvage		1,115.44	
Telegraph & Telephone	230.52		
	Refund 14.07		
Express	796.77		
	Refund 795.41		
Automobile Transportation		1.26	
Office Supplies		774.40	
Other Supplies		608.47	
Postage		776.42	
Freight		27.80	
		<u>262.47</u>	<u>3,792.77</u>

\$55,185.76

FULL SOCIAL AND MEDICAL  
RELIEF REPORT  
Up To And Including  
December 31st, 1921.

RELIEF STATISTICS

Total No. families registered .....	2480
Total No. persons in these families .....	8624
Total No. detached persons .....	410
Total No. families with no children .....	462
Total No. families with no father (missing or dead) .....	222
Total No. families with no mother (missing or dead) .....	87
Total houses burned .....	1256
Total houses looted but not burned .....	215
Families definitely relieved with clothing, eds, bed clothing, tentage, laundry equipment, cooking utensils, dishes, material for clothing, etc .....	1941
Churches housed in Red Cross tents .....	8
Medicine furnished (outside of hospital) .....	230
Medical service (in field) given to maternity cases, typhoid cases, and infant cases .....	269
Small property adjustments made .....	88
Transportation furnished (estimate) .....	475
Telegrams sent or received (relative to riot victims) ..	1350

RECONSTRUCTION

As of this date, December 30th, 1921, the following list shows progress being made by the negroes in rebuilding in the burned area:

160	One-room frame shacks
272	Two-room frame shacks
512	Three rooms or more, frame
1	Large brick church
2	Basement Brick Churches
4	Frame Churches - one room
24	One story brick or cement buildings
24	Two story brick or cement buildings
3	Three story brick or cement buildings
1	Large Theater
1	Corrograted Iron Garage
2	Filling Stations

There are still 49 families residing in tent covered houses. All of these are unable to rebuild. The Red Cross has assisted, with the use of funds from the National Association for the Improvement of Colored People, in the erection of 13 homes.

The Red Cross on its own account has transformed 152 tent homes into more or less permanent wooden houses.

FAMILY TASKS YET REMAINING

1. There still remains 49 tent houses to be converted into all wooden ones. While the National Association of Negroes have agreed to cooperate in financing this rebuilding, it is improbable that they will carry out their agreement unless some white guiding hand is present.
2. There is still a number of a hundred families whose destitution is due to the riot still needing constant help of one sort or another.
3. The problems of overcrowding, sufficient bedding and clothing and minor sickness are still present in abundance.
4. The transfer of the hospital has not been completed. A Colored Hospital Association is being incorporated. A staff of colored physicians and nurses are working at the hospital, under the direction of Dr. H. S. Browne and Dr. Butler, but it is too early to throw full responsibility of management and control to the negroes.

The hospital can and should be made self-sustaining. Wise direction at this time is necessary to insure this.

5. The business end of Red Cross Relief operations cannot close until all December business is closed and the books and accounts audited by public accountants. Such an audit is complete up to September 1st. It is estimated that the final closing accounts will take until January 15th.

## SOCIAL RELIEF SUPPLY SCHEDULES

During the first three days following the riot a vast quantity of food was supplied for refugees at the Y.M.C.A., the Fair Grounds, the churches, the Convention Hall, the McNulty Park and other places. Likewise, a vast quantity of bedding supplies, cots, blankets, etc.

These supplies are not listed in the following table, altho these articles were ultimately paid for from relief funds. The cost of these first relief supplies is included in the detailed financial classification.

This supply list is necessarily a partial one, it being impossible to list the endless number of small goods which make up building material, clothing supplies and household equipment. This list does, however, give an idea as to the variety and extent of social relief operations.

Preceding the list, however, should be the following statement on the methods of distribution.

### METHODS OF DISTRIBUTION

Beginning on June 3rd, all family relief supplies given, were incidental to the particular need of a particular family. By a flexible system of family case work each family was encouraged in helping itself to the limit of their ability. Where lumber was donated, for instance, the labor necessary to rebuild or build the tent house was supplied by the family or their negro friends. Exceptions were made only in the cases of widows, sick or helpless people.

Instead of issuing ready-made clothing, cloth was supplied, sewing machines were provided and the raw material turned into clothing by the negro women and girls.

A typical variation was made in the cases of school books for High School pupils. The girls in the High School classes who could not purchase their school books were furnished with work, making hospital garments, nightgowns, underwear, etc., thus enabling them to pay for their books. The High School boys were furnished manual labor, their wages paying for their books.

The same plan was followed with bedding supplies. The raw goods have been furnished, power sewing machines have been provided and the women required to manufacture their own quilts, comforts, cot pads, sheets, pillow cases and pillows.

The following is a list of relief supplies purchased on requisition or donated on invoice as shown:

HOUSING

<u>Article</u>	<u>Purchased</u>	<u>Donated</u>	<u>Made in Workroom</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tents	303	10		313
Lumber	305,160 ft	72,000 ft		377,160 ft
Tent Poles	300			300
Paint	119 gal.			119 gal.
Shingles	41 bun.			41 bun.
Screen Doors	152			152
Screen Wire	16,300 ft			16,300 ft
Roofing Paper	125 rolls			125 rolls
Lime	40 bbls.			40 bbls.
Nails	2,233 lbs.			2,233 lbs.

HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT

<u>Article</u>	<u>Purchased</u>	<u>Donated</u>	<u>Made in Workroom</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cots	1,222	160		1,382
Blankets	1,491 prs.	225 prs.		1,716 prs.
Comforts	143		360	543
Mattresses	112	36	60	228
Pillows	349		240	589
Cotton Bats	1,540			1,540
Bed Springs	120	16		136
Stoves (cooking)	36	24		60
Stove Piping	1,400 ft			1,400 ft
Gas Stoves	54	8		62
Heaters (small)	68			68
Oil Stoves	25	10		35
Lamps	50			50
Chairs	48	26		74
Laundry Tubs	360	16		376
Boilers	360			360
Sets of Irons	350			350
Wash Boards	360			360
Variety Kitchen Utensils	8,272			8,272
Bedsteads	40			40

CLOTHING MATERIALS

Children's Stockings	500 prs.			500 prs.
Thread	50 doz.			50 doz.
Men's Socks	300 prs.			300 prs.
Women's Stockings	200 prs.			200 prs.

Clothing Materials (cont'd)

<u>Article</u>	<u>Purchased</u>	<u>Made in Donated Workroom</u>	<u>Total</u>
Outing cloth (for children's underwear)			
Unbleached Domestic (underwear)			
Ginghams			
Cheese Cloth			
Denims			
Canvas for Surgical Dressings			
Sheetings			49,982 yds
Material for Layettes			
Quilt Material			
Material for aprons			
Comfort Material			
Diaper Cloth			
Dress Cloth (Children's School Dresses)			
Boys' Suits	36		36
Boys' Caps	70		70
Girls Caps	100		100
Children's Shoes	50		50

SCHOOL BOOKS

No. not know. Total cash value of school books  
furnished \$1,239.00

SUNDRY RELIEF SUPPLIES

Disinfectants	24 gal.	24 gal.
Working Tools (spads, wheelbarrows, hammers, saws, shovels, etc.)	204	204
Gas and Water Piping	2,800 ft.	2,800 ft.

NOTE: Additional information on relief statistics is con-  
tained in the financial statement covering expenditures.

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. During the immediate days after the riot, over four thousand people were housed and fed in detention camps, mass fashion.
2. An unknown number, approximately 2,000, were given shelter and fed wherever houses could be found to accommodate them.
3. Five hospitals were supplied with emergency dressings and medical supplies for care of 185 patients. 631 First Aid cases were cared for at emergency First Aid Stations.

(Note: It should be noted that all of the hospitals charged their regular fees both for hospital care and surgical attention, the bills being presented to the Red Cross.)

4. Anti-tetanus, typhoid and small-pox serums were administered to over 1,500 people.
5. Hospital care, a general dispensary, a dental clinic, and a V. D. Clinic was equipped and put into service at the Booker T. Washington School and used there until September 1st.

In the meantime a fairly modern nine-roomed hospital has been built ready for occupancy, which was immediately pressed into service on the vacation of the school properties.

6. Over four hundred tent homes were erected with board siding and flooring with screen ventilators and screen doors, these for immediate temporary use.

Since October 1st, two hundred twenty-five of these have been converted into oil wood one-room or two-room houses.

7. Over five hundred children, mostly of the lower grades, were furnished school books and many of them school clothes, at the beginning of the school year.

8. During the months of October, November and December, an average of fifteen carpenters were kept at work on daily wages replacing tent homes with wooden shacks. During the same months an average of fifteen women have been employed in the work room, making underwear, quilts, hospital garments, bedding and clothing equipment.

9. A total of 2400 families have been to the Red Cross office with their troubles. A thorough record of each of these has been made and individual treatment afforded according to the merits of each case. The aim in each instance has been to help the sufferers help themselves, the Red Cross giving material assistance where the needs of the case warranted. In all of these cases the Red Cross workers have acted as counselor and advisers.

#### CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Definite cooperation of the right sort has been given by all local social agencies, the East End Relief Committee, the National Association for the Improvement of the Colored People.

SUMMARY MEDICAL AND SURGICAL RELIEF

No. Wounded Whites Hospitalized During and After Riot					
at Red Cross Expense	-	-	-	-	48
No. Wounded Negroes Hospitalized during and after riot					
at Red Cross Expense	-	-	-	-	135
No. Negro Cases Hospitalized since Riot	-	-	-	-	98
Total Number persons receiving hospital care	-	-	-	-	233
No. patients still remaining in hospital	-	-	-	-	22
Number of persons died	-	-	-	-	18
No. persons who have from time to time been discharged					193
No. First Aid Cases during and after Riot	-	-	-	-	531
No. Colored Physicians used by Red Cross in treatment of sick since riot	-	-	-	-	11
Total No. of White Physicians whose services were paid for by the Red Cross	-	-	-	-	11
Total No. of Nurses employed by Red Cross during and after the riot:					
a. Hospital	-	-	-	38	
b. Field	-	-	-	8	46

Up to and including December 30th, the hospital has been in charge of Dr. H. S. Browne, Attending Physician and Surgeon, and under him a staff of three of the best white nurses obtainable. The white nurses, Mrs. Edmondson, Miss Sizer, and Mrs. Pendergraft, left the service December 28th, the nursing work being taken over by a staff of colored nurses. Dr. H. S. Browne is Supervising Physician and Surgeon.

A Colored Hospital Association has been organized and incorporated to take over the management of the hospital. A staff of colored physicians and surgeons has been organized by Dr. Butler, County Physician, the plan being to have the hospital entirely under the management of the colored people, the property interests for the time being to remain in the hands of the Board of Trustees - three or five white citizens yet to be selected.

1 died Dec. 30th.

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL DEC. 30th:

1. Cal Arnley - Shot in ankle - old man - may still save leg.
2. Alex Stevenson - Shot in hand - arm and leg - Compound fractures.

Others in Hospital Since Riot:

3. Elsie Walker - 80 yrs. old - ulcers in leg - will never be well. Case for County. Homeless.
4. Frank Miller - Old man - T.B. - home burned in riot - case for county.
5. Jake Miller - Old man - suffer paralytic stroke during riot - homeless - case for county.
6. Arthur Morrison - Age 12 - pelegra - homeless since riot - Mother died result injuries in riot.
7. Henry Gamble - Aneurism - may recover - old man - case for County.
8. Charles Carter - T.B. - homeless since riot - case for County Hospital.

Others in Hospital

9. Charles Caldwell - Hemorrhoids
10. John Williams - Asthma - syphilitic
11. Richard Ashford - Age 12 - Tumor on chest
12. Mary Stewart - Removal Fibroid tumors, appendix and ovaries.
13. Harriet Pierce - Periorphium ovaries, appendix and curetment.
14. Bennie Krout - Infected jaw.
15. Arthur Montgomery - Shot in abdomen
16. Arizona Robinson - Removal of ovaries and tumors.
17. Henry Oscar - Pneumonia
18. Mammie Nurse - Tonsils and throat
19. Ruth Johnson - Syphilitic - medical case
20. William Collins - Syphilitic
21. Hebeal Adams - T.B. - Case for County

# HOSPITAL PERSONNEL

As of December 30th, 1921.

---

Dr. H. S. Browne and Dr. Butler, white, Supervising Physicians and Surgeons with a staff of negro physicians and surgeons.

Miss Fagg  
Mrs. Marshall  
Mrs. Bagedale  
Homer Mosely  
John Grisson  
Rebecca  
Mrs. Phillips  
Arthur

Day Nurse  
Night Nurse  
Asst. Day Nurse  
Day Orderly  
Night Orderly  
Nurses Aid  
Cook  
Asst. Cook

NOTE: Dr. H. S. Browne has consented to remain as Supervisor for a period of fifteen days or as long thereof as may be necessary to turn the patients over to the colored doctors with safety.

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

(Copy)

Tulsa, Oklahoma  
July 1st, 1921

Mr. Maurice Willows  
Red Cross Headquarters  
Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Kind Sir:

This seems to express to you the profound gratitude, not only of every negro in Tulsa, but throughout the civilized world wherever there is a negro. Words fail me in trying to express our appreciation for your noble work for us. You and the Great Red Cross are helping us as a race to shut out of our lives all that is evil, to do our "Duty", and in that way we hope to receive the pure, the beautiful, the good, the true, and when the time comes that we shall add our motto to the music of the spheres it will be full of "Joy and Thanksgiving, no harsh note to mar the full, harmonious sound".

"We have but faith, we cannot know;  
For service is of things we see,  
And yet we trust it comes from Thee,  
A beam in darkness, let it grow."

Knowing that God will reward you for what you have striven to do for us, for what you are doing, and for what you will do; in His words we read that what is done for the least of His subjects is precious in His sight.

Is the prayer of a grateful people,

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Louella T. West.

and

J. S. West, Pastor

Tulsa Historical Society & Museum

(COPY)

R E S O L U T I O N S

On the 31st night in May, 1921, the fiercest race war known to American history broke out, lasting until the next morning, June 1st, 1921. As a result of the regrettable occurrence, many human lives were lost and millions of dollars worth of property were stolen and burned. Hundreds of innocent negroes suffered as a result of this calamity - suffered in loss of lives, injury from gun-shot wounds, and loss of property. Many of us were left helpless and almost hopeless. We sat amid the wreck and ruin of our former homes and peered listlessly into space. It was at this time and under such conditions that the American Red Cross - that Angel of love and Mercy - came to our assistance. This great organization found us bruised and bleeding, and like the good Samaritan, she washed our wounds, and administered unto us. Constantly, in season and out, since this regrettable occurrence, this great organization, headed by that high class Christian gentleman, Mr. Maurice Willows, has heard our every cry in this our dark hour and has ever extended to us practical sympathy. As best she could, with food and raiment and shelter she has furnished us. And to this great Christian organization our heartfelt gratitude is extended.

Therefore, be it resolved that we, representing the entire colored citizenship of the city of Tulsa, Oklahoma, take this means of extending to the American Red Cross, thru Mr. Willows, our heart-felt thanks for the work it has done and is continuing to do for us in this our great hour of need.

Resolved further that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the American Red Cross Headquarters, a copy be mailed to Mr. Willows and his co-workers, and that a copy be spread upon the minutes of the East End Welfare Board.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed)

B. C. Franklin

E. F. Saddler

J. W. Hughes

I. N. Spears

P. A. Chappelle

Dimpie L. Bush

Committee.

Office of the  
HAST AND RELIEF BOARD

Tulsa, Oklahoma, December 24, 1921.

The courage with which Tulsa Negroes withstood repeated attempts of the city administration to deliver the "burned area" over to certain land grafters is the subject of most favorable comment all over the country. The rapidity with which business buildings and residences are being rebuilt, in most instances, better than before is proof in wood and brick and in stone, of the black man's ability to make progress against the most cunningly planned and powerfully organized opposition.

Without weakening the above statement and taking nothing from the Tulsa Negroes courage, fortitude and resourcefulness, gratitude forces the admission that had it not been for the helping hand of the American Red Cross Society, his morale would have broken and the splendid history he has made since June 1st, 1921, when the savings of a lifetime were reduced to ashes, would have been impossible. The the Red Cross has wrought so nobly in our behalf, is due largely to the spirit of the man in charge, Mr. Maurice Willows. He is an apostle of the square deal for every man, regardless of race or color. Behind closed doors in council with bodies of influential white men he fought battles and won victories for us sufficient to merit the everlasting gratitude of our people. The Red Cross as a society, has ministered to our physical needs and Mr. Willows as a man, has stood for our civic rights at home and a fair presentation of our case abroad. When importuned by interested parties to refer to the eventualities of May 1st and June 1st, in his official report, as a "Negro uprising", he stubbornly refused and instead, called it "the Tulsa disaster" and in addition told the truth as, upon investigation, he found it.

While assembled to witness the method by which the Red Cross has elected to give Christmas Cheer to the Negro Children of Tulsa and upon the eve of Mr. Willows' departure from our midst, the undersigned thought it fitting to offer these few words of appreciation on behalf of the entire Negro population of Tulsa, for the unselfish service he has rendered us, with the added assurance that the prayers of a people whom hardship and oppression have thought how to pray will follow him and his associates wherever, in response to the call of suffering humanity and in the line of duty, they may go.

HAST AND RELIEF COMMITTEE

Tulsa Tribune, May 31st, 1921

### NAB NEGRO FOR ATTACKING GIRL IN AN ELEVATOR

---

A negro delivery boy who gave his name to the police as "Diamond Dick" but who has been identified as Dick Rowland, was arrested on South Greenwood avenue this morning by Officers Carnichael and Paek charged with attempting to assault the 17-year-old white elevator girl in the Drexel building early yesterday.

He will be tried in municipal court this afternoon on a state charge.

The girl said she noticed the negro a few minutes before the attempted assault looking up and down the hallway on the third floor of the Drexel building as if to see if there was anyone in sight but thought nothing of it at the time.

A few minutes later he entered the elevator she claimed, and attacked her, scratching her hands and face and tearing her clothes. Her screams brought a clerk from Renberg's store to her assistance and the negro fled. He was captured and identified this morning both by the girl and clerk police say.

Rowland denied that he tried to harm the girl, but admitted he put his hand on her arm in the elevator when she was alone.

Tenants of the Drexel building said the girl is an orphan who works as an elevator operator to pay her way through business college.

STATEMENT OF THE PASTORS OF THE CITY OF TULSA

The fair name of the city of Tulsa has been tarnished and blackened by a crime that ranks with the dastardly deeds of the Germans during the Great War, provoked by the bad element of the negro, arming themselves and marching through the streets of the city. Block after block of our city has been swept by fire applied by the frenzied hand of the mob. Many of our people are dead, while thousands of innocent, peaceable, and law-abiding citizens have not only been rendered homeless, but they have been robbed and despoiled of all their earthly possessions. The pastors of Tulsa blush for shame at this outrage which renders our city odious and condemned before the world.

We believe that the only bulwark of American safety for our liberties, our homes, the peaceful pursuits of happiness, of law, order, and common decency, is found in the teaching and living of the high ideals of Jesus Christ, - that without Christ modern civilization cannot bear the weight that is being placed upon it, and the crash is inevitable.

We, the Pastors of this city, hold that there cannot be peace, security, happiness, moral conscience, to say nothing of religious development, so long as the following obtain:

1. The Bible, God, Jesus Christ, and the Christian Religion outlawed in the Public Schools. It is only where Christianity has influence and power that the Jew and the Infidel are protected. We insist that they have no right to tear down in America that which not only protects them but protects us. The little sop thrown to the Christian forces at Commencement by Prayer and a Sermon is little more than an insult to Christianity.

While the Bible has been outlawed, the dance has been put in the Public Schools over the protest of hundreds of fathers and mothers who have a conscience on the subject. Certainly it is an established fact that the dance weakens moral fibre. We therefore demand consideration.

2. A Wide Open Sunday. The amusement houses, parks, and anything else that desires is free to run wide open on the Lord's Day. It was respect for the Lord's Day and the Lord's House the built that sturdy New England civilization which gave the world the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the great Educational Institutions of the Eastern part of the United States, as well as the great Statesmen, Poets, Philosophers, and Philanthropists.

3. Motion Picture houses constantly showing films that are suggestive in title, poster, advertisement, and in actual production on the screen where there is drinking, the use of weapons, the portrayal of lust the portrayal of the eternal triangle, the breaking of homes, the caricature of the Christian ministry, - until the young and the ignorant get the idea that such is the common order of Society. That in 1919, Tulsa County gave the startling total of 56.9 divorces, an increase of 18.9% over 1917, two years, is food for solid thought.

4. Officials who can see a car parked a foot out of line, but who are blind to Choc-joints, boot-legging, and the like, said to flourish in and about Tulsa.

5. Officials who have already winked at two lynchings, and who had every opportunity of knowing that a third was contemplated hours before the trouble actually began.

6. Criminals who are given their freedom almost immediately after arrest either on worthless bonds, or through some powerful "Friend" at court, or through some other unlawful manner.

7. A certain type of citizenship which openly boasts of violating the law with respect to the 18th Amendment.

These and other things have existed in the minds of some, especially the younger ones, that the Law is nothing and may be violated with impunity and that punishment is a farce.

We, the Pastors of the City of Tulsa, urge that a thorough and complete investigation of this outrage be made immediately, and that wherever the guilty ones may be found, and whoever they are, white or black, that full punishment be meted out. Good citizenship can not condone and tolerate vandalism, looting, and such other lawless acts as both black and white were guilty of May 31st, and June 1st. We believe that the possession of firearms and ammunition, especially rifles, revolvers, and such should be made a felony.

We call upon the officials, both County and Municipal for a full enforcement of the Law. We call for a readjustment of our Moral and Civic life, placing it on the plain of decency, righteousness and justice.

We appeal to the Christians of Tulsa to be more faithful in exemplifying the true meaning of Christianity in word and deed, to refrain from all questionable practices, and to give themselves over to the practice of Christian virtues and general Christian living.

We appeal to the unaffiliated Church members to take membership at once with their respective Churches, for in so doing they will strengthen the moral fibre of the Community. This is no time to hold aloof.

We also deem it the part of wisdom that there should be a closer cooperation between the religious and business forces of the two races in Tulsa, so that at all times there shall be a better mutual understanding making it possible for both races to work together to achieve the highest ideals. As an example of what we have in mind, we have invited the pastors of the Colored churches to associate themselves with the Ministerial Alliance in this city.

We believe most emphatically that the Church is the only hope for the City of Tulsa, and without her moral influence there can be no security no matter how many or what laws are enacted, or how well policed the city may be. The observance of all law depends upon the moral consciousness and the Church is the only institution in our society whose sole and only business is the creating of that Moral Consciousness.

The Church stands between Society and destruction. What are you doing for the Church?

TULSA MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE .

## Statement of one of the Negroes

On the night of May 31st, between nine and ten o'clock, someone told me there was a race conflict. I was asked to go down on the street, but after being told that some had gone to the Court House I refused to go, knowing that I could not use any influence with the scattered bunch. On the morning of June 1st, I arose, expecting to go to the school house. I did not have any idea that the trouble had reached such a proportion.

At five o'clock a whistle was blown, seven aeroplanes were flying over the colored district, and a Machine Gun was placed in front of my home. I was called to the door by home guards and armed citizens. I was not dressed, but was told to bring my family out. They said if we would obey they would protect us and our property. I was not allowed to go back in the house. I called my wife and son, she came out dressed only in a kimona and shoes. We were ordered to put our hands above our heads, marched up Fairview Street, then across the Stand Pipe Hill to Easton Street, where we found automobiles driven by ladies and men.

We were carried to the City Hall, the men were placed in the corridor down stairs, the women were carried up stairs. After so many were crowded into the corridor, we were carried to Convention Hall. Many people cheered and clapped their hands as we were marched four abreast with our hands above our head. A man was shot at the door of the Convention Hall while both hands were above his head. Many men who were shot out in the city were brought in the hall and we heard their cries and groans. Namely: Dr. Jackson, Johnson and Stovall. We looked out of the windows, saw our homes go up in smoke. At noon, we were fed with sandwiches and coffee.

In the late afternoon, we were allowed to leave the Convention Hall only when some white person we had worked for would come and vouch for us. Mr. Oberholtzer, City Superintendent of Public Schools, came and called for all colored teachers, and we were taken to the old City High School, where I met my wife again. All the lady teachers were taken to the homes of the city principals and cared for nicely. We were allowed to stay in the old High School all night. The next morning, I saw my wife much improved as to her dress. Miss Kimble of the Domestic Science Department of the white High School gave us our breakfast.

The next morning, without hat or shoes, I was determined to improve my personal appearance and comfort. After much solicitation I was allowed to go under the guard of a soldier down on Main Street to Renberg's Clothing Store. He gave all the colored male teachers a suit of clothes and hat. In the evening of the first day after the trouble, I was allowed to go out and look over the burned area. Thirty-five blocks, including my home and eight rent houses, were in ashes.

My second night was spent in the Booker T. Washington High School, which had been placed in charge of the Red Cross. Our wives slept on one side of the house on cots and the men on the other side. I was placed temporarily in charge of conditions of the food supply.

We lined the people up, many hundreds being in the line, and fed them their meals by allowing them to pass between two tables, on one was sandwiches, the other, coffee. In this way, we gave each his allowance

In a very short while, the entire High School Plant was made into a hospital, office rooms, distributing rooms, etc., which soon brought a partial temporary relief to the many who were suffering from wounds, hunger, and the need of clothes.

The stories told by those who came for relief are so freighted with horror, I refrain from repeating them. Many of the sick were forced from home. Those on crutches were compelled to go likewise. A mother giving birth to child was no exception to the rule.

A Reconstruction Committee was appointed by the Mayor of the city. A like committee was ordered selected by his honor from the remaining negro population. We have been asked to give up the lands on which our homes, business, churches and schools were located and requested to go north and east of the city, but and rebuild. The only consideration offered us was leave our lots and when they have increased in value, they will sell them and we have the profit thereby. Thus far, we have failed to acquiesce in the recommendation of the request.

(Signed) J. W. Hughes, Prin. City School.

To Mr. Willows.

A request from a true friend,  
As you must leave you do intend;  
And your leaving is a regret,  
As you have did for us - we can never forget.

Please take this as a token  
To all whom may concern,  
That you come and went as a gentleman,  
And this the colored of Tulsa will confirm.

When you far away from Tulsa town,  
Do not think of us with a frown,  
For God only can tell  
How much we appreciate you as well

Thank God for the Red Cross,  
For by His hand he put you boss,  
And thus He would been to blame  
If you and your host had not carried out His aim.  
Amen.

- A. J. Newman.

Nov., 1921.

## CHRISTMAS TREE

The body of the foregoing report was written prior to the one big event in the lives of the negro children of the devastated district. For the first time in their lives, these hundreds of little folks were without their former comfortable homes. The resources of their parents had been reduced to a point where Christmas could not mean much to them. The workers of the Red Cross staged for them probably the largest Christmas affair ever staged in Tulsa. A beautiful big tree was placed in front of the Red Cross Relief Headquarters. Mr. Chas. Page of Sand Springs kindly furnished the lighting and decorations. The tree was topped with a large cross.

Imagine, if you can, this huge tree brightly lighted standing on Hartford Street in the middle of a district which had once been comfortable homes, but now filled up with little one and two-room wooden shacks with here and there and everywhere large piles of brick and stone, twisted metal and debris, reminding one of the horrible fact of last June. War of the worst sort there had been. The Maurice Willows Hospital (named such by unanimous vote of the colored people of the district as a measure of their appreciation for what the Red Cross Director has meant to them) stood within a few yards of where the tree was placed. Imagine, if you can, the joy brought to the twenty-seven patients when after dusk on Christmas Eve a chorus of twenty-two hundred voices sang their Christmas carols and typical negro melodies. Never has the writer witnessed more spontaneous outburst of Christmas fervor than on this occasion. Whole families were there - men, women and children. "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot", "Down By The River Side", "Standing In The Need Of Prayer", coming from the throats of these people revibrated throughout the night air and attracted most of the crowd gathered in the business section over on Greenwood Street. It seemed as the whole negro population could not resist the chance to sing. A liberal supply of candies, nuts and oranges had been tied up into half-pound packages. Twenty-seven hundred of these were distributed in orderly fashion. Individual packages had been prepared suitable to the needs of women and children. These packages had in them everything in the way of useful articles from a spool of thread to a heating stove. Bed springs, pillows, children's underwear, quilts, cotton bats and every other sort of useful articles were brought by Santa Clause to families which needed these practical things most.

The crowning sentiment of the celebration was in a speech made by one of their leaders who said, "Let us always remember the old negro tradition, 'there is no room in our hearts for hatred'". This occasion furnished what was termed as the "greatest night in the history of Tulsa negroes", and was a fitting culmination of the major relief program of the Red Cross.

# AMERICAN RED CROSS

(Disaster Relief Headquarters)



Tulsa County Chapter

Tulsa, Oklahoma

PHOTOGRAPHS AND SNAPSHOTS

Tulsa Historical Society & Museum

PHOTOGRAPHS

THE BURNED AREA---TULSA RACE RIOT -JUNE 2, 1921  
SCENES TAKEN DURING THE BURNING