



PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

ABOVE—The winter of a lot of Northern men's discontent was the draft, and this is how the draft numbers were selected. LEFT—The rioting mob loots Brooks Brothers store and makes off with clothing.

# DRAFT RIOTS ERUPT IN THE NORTH

Compiled by JOHN W. STEPP  
Star Staff Writer

## Background

**T**HE Federal Government managed through nearly two years of the war to raise enough men for the services by relying on volunteers impelled by patriotism and later encouraged by bounty payments. Where volunteering lagged, the Northern States pushed things along by passing their own conscription laws, with a bounty (or bonus) for joining up. By August, 1862, however, the Union losses through battle casualties and disease were such that volunteers alone could not fill the gaps. The North did not seem quite ready when President Lincoln that month issued a call on the States for 300,000 nine-month militia, with instructions to the Governors to draft men from the militia if an insufficient number of volunteers responded. The order prompted small riots and threats of riots in Wisconsin, Indiana and the coal-fields of Pennsylvania. In the light of this reaction, actual drafting was postponed, but then came the Enrollment Act of March, 1863. With the drawing of the first names for the new National draft in New York City violent protests erupted.

From The Evening Star, Tuesday, July 14, 1863:

EXTRA.

~\*~\*~\*~\*~

FURTHER OF THE GREAT RIOT  
IN NEW YORK.

~\*~\*~\*~\*~

The City in Possession of the Mob.

~\*~\*~\*~\*~

GOV. SEYMOUR IN TOWN  
ENDEAVORING TO QUELL  
THE RIOT.

The city has been filled with rumors to-day of terrible doings by the mob in New York city, to the effect that, thirty thousand strong, they had the city in their possession and were burning and destroying on all sides.

The Associated Press, up to this hour, has not furnished one word to-day in relation to affairs there, but the following dispatches have reached here by the Independent Telegraph line.

NEW YORK, July 13, 11 p.m.—The post office is closed and the bells are ringing constantly for fires burning in different parts of the city.

The windows of the office of the Evening Post are closed.

The U. S. Sub-Treasury is garrisoned by soldiers.

The office of the Associated Press is closed, and all lights in the telegraph offices are extinguished.

The Fifth Avenue Hotel is threatened with destruction by the mob.

A young reporter, named Lawson, of the Philadelphia Inquirer, was severely handled and maltreated by a crowd of ragged boys and Irishmen...

(SECOND DISPATCH.)

NEW YORK, July 14—12:30 a.m.—The mob has been sensibly diminished by the heavy rain that is now falling.

Two handsome brown-stone-front buildings in Lexington avenue have been destroyed....

The negro boarding-houses on Roosevelt street, and several houses occupied by negroes on Cherry street, have been destroyed....

Cannon have been brought from the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and placed

in position to protect the Custom House, the Sub-Treasury and Post Office....

Several negroes in various parts of the city have been severely beaten...

The brutality and senselessness of the rioters came as a shocking surprise to everyone. The attacks on the Negroes were especially savage—perhaps the Irish minority taking out its frustrations on an even smaller minority.

From The Evening Star, Thursday, July 16, 1863:

EXTRA!

THE LATEST FROM NEW YORK.

~\*~\*~\*~\*~

COLLISION BETWEEN THE  
MILITARY AND THE MOB.

~\*~\*~\*~\*~

THE RIOTERS SCATTERED  
WITH GREAT LOSS.

~\*~\*~\*~\*~

We are indebted to Mr. Talcott, the enterprising Superintendent of the Independent Line of Telegraph for the following:

NEW YORK, July 16.—A very serious collision occurred yesterday, between the military and the Rebels in east 19th street. At one time the military were driven back, but the rioters were repulsed eventually with great loss.

The number of injured is estimated at between 200 and 300.

During the day several negroes were caught and hung to the lamp posts....

The city authorities and police in New York were totally unable to control the uprising, so units of the Army of the Potomac were sent into the city. More than 50,000 rioters in

three days set fires, and otherwise destroyed public and private property to the extent of \$1.5 million damage. In the reign of terror, even the provost marshal's home was wrecked. To a lesser extent, rioting also spread to such cities as Boston, Rutland, Vt., and Portsmouth, N.H. Peace came on these headlines.

EXTRA!

LATEST FROM NEW YORK.

~\*~\*~\*~\*~

The Riots There Suppressed.

~\*~\*~\*~\*~

All Quiet There Last Night and  
To-day.

~\*~\*~\*~\*~

(Special Telegram to the Star.)

The night passed quietly here, and this forenoon so far. There has been no renewal of the disturbances, the mob spirit having been quelled through the fears of the loyal bayonets already assembled to protect public and private rights.

ALL QUIET IN NEW YORK.

~\*~\*~\*~\*~

THE REIGN OF MOB LAW  
IS OVER.

~\*~\*~\*~\*~

NEW YORK, July 18.—Everything is quiet here. The 8th and 71st Regiments arrived at 9 o'clock.

Although authorities refrained from immediately starting the draft, in mid-August they made the move, and this time there were no disturbances.

NEXT SUNDAY: Capture of a Raider