



a look into **Bloody Sunday**



The History

On March 7, 1965, civil rights activists began marching from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery. The march was to protest the denial of voting rights to African-Americans and the murder of 26-year-old activist Jimmie Lee Jackson who was fatally shot by police during a peaceful protest days earlier.

The march was led by John Lewis of the SNCC and Rev. Hosea Williams of the SCLC. After crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge, the activists were faced off by state and county officers. After not promptly obeying orders to disband and turn back, the officers attacked the protests with weapons. Some officers were on horseback while others were on foot, but the protesters did not fight back. Dozens of activists were hospitalized with severe injuries.

Television cameras captured the assault and the protest was quickly transformed into a national civil rights event.

The Effects

Horrifying images of the violence were broadcast on national television, shocking many viewers and helping to rouse support for the civil rights cause. Activists organized another march two days later, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. urged supporters from throughout the country to come to Selma to join. Many heeded his call, and the events helped promote the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 three months later.

Today, the bridge that served as the backdrop to “Bloody Sunday” still bears the name of a white supremacist, but now it is a symbolic civil rights landmark



references

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