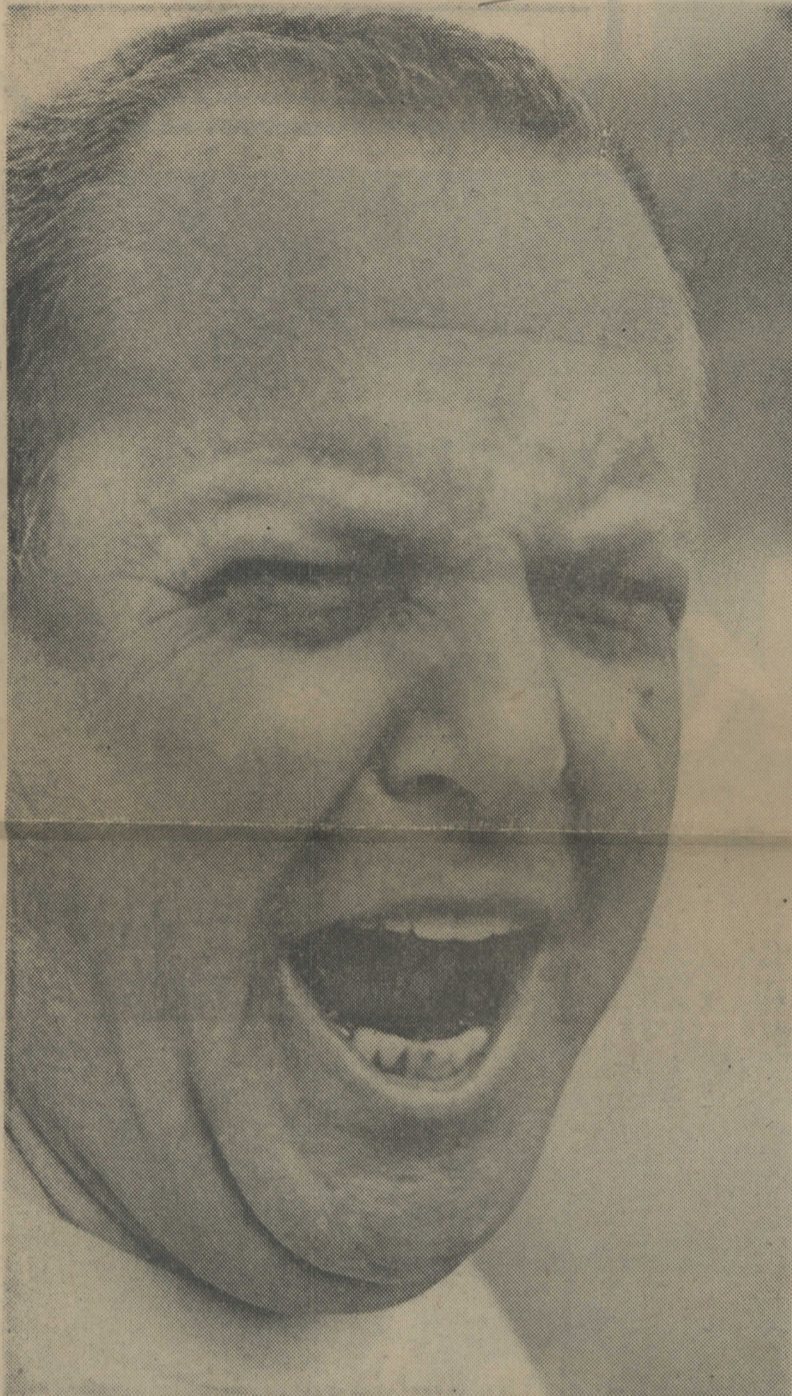


Move 'Em Out!

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This is what any troublemaker will have to face. Patrolman Ernest Travis (above) looks quite formidable. He's one of four Negroes on the squad. At right, the trainees listen. Although brawn is needed, brains and teamwork also are necessary.—News Photos by Rolland R. Ransom.



Upon the command of Sgt. Fred Peters (left), commando tactics trainer of the

new Tactical Mobile Unit, policemen with riot weapons move ahead in for-

mation. They won't be looking for trouble but they'll be ready for it.

Detroit Policemen Train for Riot Prevention

By JOHN W. HUSHEN

A beefy, tough drill instructor barked:

"We only use force as a last resort, but if you have to put him down, put him down to stay. I don't want him getting up to hit us from the rear."

It wasn't Parris Island. It was Belle Isle. And instead of a marine sergeant teaching boot camp novices the art of combat, Detroit police Sgt. Fred Peters was giving 65 fellow officers a lesson in riot tactics.

Belle Isle did resemble a military training area yesterday as the Police Department's newest crime deterrent squad—the Tactical Mobile Unit—began its first day of physical conditioning, prior to moving onto Detroit's streets July 1.

CLASSES, TOO

But muscle, either physical or in firepower, is only half the battle the TMU will wage against crime.

The other half comes in the classroom, where the men are being given courses in human relations, racial relations, racial tensions, public

relations, gathering evidence, first aid and the duty of an officer in making an arrest.

A tough, sharp, no-nonsense police veteran of 17 years heads the unit. He is Inspector Anthony Bertoni, a spit-and-polish man in his own right who expects the men under him to reflect his beliefs in the law and in a civilian's rights.

"I don't want to abuse anyone," the 45-year-old Bertoni said, "but when a bunch of the black jacket types bust into a guy's house to crash a party, they deserve what they get."

HANDLE ANYTHING

The TMU, of course, is not limited to watching for party crashers.

"With 30 men constantly on patrol during the day, and another 30 at night, we can handle anything that comes up," he said.

"Crime prevention is our reason for being. And we have a psychological advantage going in, because no one wants to argue with a well-trained, well-armed, well-disciplined group of policemen. "We aren't looking for trou-



INSPECTOR BERTONI He Heads the Unit

ble, but we'll be able to stop it."

Bertoni said his teams will ride three men to a car and will have their own intercar radios.

The men will not answer regular police runs, but can monitor them, he explained.

Each patrolman is equipped with a miniature two-way radio worn on his belt.

"This will permit us to be in constant contact in an area

where many of our men are on foot," Bertoni said.

Bertoni's squad also will be easily recognizable because of the scout cars they drive. Unlike the usual black vehicles, the TMU will use high-powered interceptors painted white with blue stripes down each side.

A pair of blue dome flashers flank a loud speaker on the roof.

"We want the public to know immediately who we are and what we are there for," he asserted.

The TMU roster is a mixture of seasoned police veterans and men with only a few years on the department. Many of them are ex-marines. Nearly all saw some type of military service.

The impression they give is that of solid power unleashed. That's the impression they mean to give.

MANY VOLUNTEERS

When word spread through the 4,400-man force a few weeks ago that such a unit was being formed, volunteers were quick to sign up.

As the list rose to 300, the inspector called a halt, say-

ing, "We could only take 60, and it was senseless to let the number grow larger."

Bertoni's lieutenants are Roland Robert and Chester Sylvester. His sergeants are Charles Enners, Ralph Osinski and Edward Widner. Each man has 15 or more years on the force.

Bertoni was the lieutenant in charge of the Recorder's Court detail when he was elevated to inspector May 21.

GAS TRAINING

Following yesterday's training in squad tactics, riot control and weapon familiarization, the unit will undergo tear gas training—with and without masks—today.

Thursday ends the physical training and the unit switches to the Police Academy for four days of class work.

The following Thursday, Police Commissioner, Girardin and Mayor Cavanagh will be invited to a preview of the squad before it swings into action.

Where will the Tactical Mobile Unit head first?

"I don't know," said Bertoni. "Wherever there's trouble."

