

# Children's Crusade

At a time when racial segregation was at its height in Birmingham Al, black children encountered white authority head on. Their non-violent resistance revealed the true ugliness of the south and resulted in the end of segregation by race in the city-state. For quite some time black people have had to deal with racial inequality, until one day they can't take it anymore!

Birmingham Alabama, The most racist city in the south. The head of police Eugene "Bull" Connor was in charge of the safety for people on the streets, but of course only for the white people, he was what you could call the most racist man living in Birmingham. Martin Luther King Jr purposely went to jail hoping to inspire others to stand up for their rights, but no one did. Then there was DJ Shelley "The Playboy" who was in charge of the radio station for blacks. He had a great connection with people, so King asked him to tell everyone about The plan to march but to hide what it actually is so they called it "D-Day". The purpose was to walk down to the Town Hall and talk to the mayor about racial inequality in the town.

Since all the adults were too scared to protest worrying that they would lose their jobs and maybe even their houses, so only children showed up at the 16th street Baptist Church where a meeting about the protest was being held. At first King rejected all the kids afraid they might be hurt, but once he realized that these kids would be his only hope for continuing the march, he gave in.

It was finally D-Day and a car drove by with a sign reading "It's Time". All Kids from all over Birmingham that could see the car driving by started practically flooding out of the school trying to get out any way they could, out the windows out the doors and started following the car and about 20 kids just hopped right on the car. Almost every time the kids would look back they would see more and more kids joining the trip, kid from as far as 18 miles away from Birmingham joined in the walk towards the 16th Street Baptist Church. Once they got there they all barged in ready to take orders from both King and Rev. James Bevel and King but by the time it was 12:00 and King hadn't showed up, James Bevel just gave the orders and groups of kids with 50 kids in each group came out. But soon the police showed up and jailed them all and when the cops thought they got them all, a whole nother group would come out, and another group and another and another, it was almost endless you could say. First kids were arrested by the cop car full, then paddy wagon full, and eventually by the school bus's full. On the first day of protest around 973 kids were arrested and released from jail and the ages of children ranged from age six to eighteen. On the second day of protest kids were unexpectedly assaulted with fire hoses, police attack dogs, and physical force from the police and even Bull Connor brought out his huge white army tank but was pelted with large rocks and bottles. Over 1,900 kids were arrested that day and around 150 kids even died due to the ravenous dogs and high water pressures from the fire hoses. On the third day of protest while the black children and white authority were going at it, President J.F.K was alarmed by what he saw was happening over in Birmingham in the newspaper.

Eventually the protests stopped and Bull Connor was kicked out of his position as head of police. The importance of the act is that if these kids wouldn't of stood up for their rights President J.F.K wouldn't of became aware of racial inequality that led to the creation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 the year right after the children's crusade and King wouldn't of made his famous "Letter From Birmingham Jail". In conclusion the children's march, Birmingham Alabama 1963 was a major success in paving the path way for racial equality not only in Birmingham, but all over!