

HERO GIVES LIFE AFTER RESCUES IN BOMB-SET BLAZE

Explosion in Tenement Follows Mysterious Warning.

14 FAMILIES IN PERIL.

Prophecy of Departing Tenant Fulfilled Few Days Afterward.

Fred Koenig went to a hero's death today when an incendiary set fire to his home, No. 21 East One Hundred and Tenth street, and he, after saving his wife of a year and his week-old boy, went to rescue others.

The house at No. 21 is a five-story structure in which lived fourteen families, all hard working, respectable persons. Only a few days ago a family of foreigners moved from the second floor, and on that day one of the women members of the family said:

"All you had better move out of here. This house is marked and those in it will meet the fate those people met over at One Hundred and Ninth street and Second avenue, when fourteen were killed."

No one heeded the warning. She had given it in such a mysterious way that it was thought to be only the chatter of a gossiping woman.

Shortly after 2 o'clock this morning there was an explosion. An instant later flames burst from the rear of the tenement-house, and climbed from the second floor up through the attic to the roof. In a tenement in the rear, which faces on One Hundred and Eleventh street, live a number of foreigners. They were awakened by the explosion, and seeing the flames, began shouting their revolvers.

Stairways Cut Off.

When the police arrived all escape for the tenants above the first floor had been cut off by way of the stairs, and the families took to the fire-escapes. Of course the bottom ladder was stuck. The bottom ladder on burning tenements is always stuck when death threatens.

On the second floor rear lived Charles Smith, his wife Anna and six children. Across the hall lived John Baradiso, his wife and three children, and Joseph Spirito. It was outside of Baradiso's door that the explosion occurred, and there was no chance for him or his household to get to the hall.

Paradiso guided his wife and little ones to the fire-escape, and there they waited until Edward Williams, a liquor dealer, and Jack Martin and John G. Shaw, of No. 115 East One Hundred and Tenth street, came. Then the children were dropped into the arms of the men.

The tenants on the third floor rear were not cut off by way of the stairs. The tenants in the front of the building were not having such trouble. The flames were not so severe, and then, loo, somebody got the ground ladder in place.

Guided Blind Woman Out.

On the fourth floor rear lived George Storm and his wife and their children. Addressed by the fire chief, John G. Shaw, and Miss Lizette Grover, a woman of fifty, who is totally blind. Storm and his wife got their younger children on the fire escape, but Andrew took charge of Miss Grover. The boy reached the ground safely, and then guided her steps down to safety. John McQuiken, his wife and their children, "Jim," fourteen, who has a broken leg, and Mamie, fourteen, lived across the hall from the Storms. The flames were shooting into their apartment, which was open, and shut it. He explained afterward that when doors were closed at times of fire the danger was lessened.

McQuiken and his family got down to safety, and then came young Fred Koenig, his baby and wife in his arms. He reached the rear court safely, and then looked about for his sister, Mrs. Thomas Corker, who, with her husband and two children, lived across the hall from Koenig.

The Corkers had a hard time in saving their lives. They had got to the first floor escape and there had been compelled to drop their children into the arms of the men on the ground. Then Mrs. Corker had leaped and been taken to Harlem Hospital in a serious condition.

Went Back to Death.

Koenig did not know his sister and her family were safe. No sooner had he reached the court than back up the fire-escape he scrambled to the fourth floor. He entered his sister's apartment, which by this time were burning in every room, and began to go through them. He got to the front stairs, where they were blocked by the flames, toppled and fell. Young Koenig toppled to the bottom with the burning heap, and there, with one leg broken and the other injured, he roared to death.

When the firemen began going through the building Acting Chief Samuel Poling took to the third floor when the flames reached a window and yellow for a ladder to be raised. The ladder was being lifted when the window gave way and Poling plunged to the street. He was internally injured and was taken to Harlem Hospital in a serious condition.

On the front fire-escapes the firemen found Ignatz Levy, his wife Lena, and two children, Mollie, eight, and Solomon, eight months. The firemen also found a number of others on the fire-escapes, and carried them down to safety.

The fire was out and the firemen were digging about the remains. One came upon the body of poor Koenig. His wife and baby had been taken to the home of a neighbor, and the young wife believed her husband was doing brave work in aiding the firemen, when word was brought to her that he was dead.

The Fire Marshal has begun an investigation, and will attempt to locate the woman who issued the warning to the tenants.

Young Woman Whose Coat Was Slashed, Girl Who Saw the Act, and Man Who Is Accused



HELEN WALSH

SLASHED GIRL'S NEW RAIN COAT ON BRIDGE CAR ON BRIDGE CAR

Samuel Buchander Accused of Using Scissors on Garment Worn by Miss Roy.

ATTACKED BY CROWD. Man Arrested and Held Under \$500 Bail in Centre Street Court.

When Miss Roy, of No. 1265 Forty-first street, Brooklyn, started for the office in Manhattan where she is employed as a telephone operator to-day, she wore her new rain coat—one of those rubber coats that look like silk and run to pronounced colors. Miss Roy's coat was light blue, adorned with big white buttons.

She squeezed her way aboard a car of a bridge train and stood alongside Samuel Buchander, a sander maker. Helen Walsh, of No. 611 Fortieth street, had a seat right across from Miss Roy and Buchander.

As the train was running down the incline on the Manhattan side of the bridge Miss Walsh saw a beam of light on metal. Looking a little closer she saw a hand manipulating a pair of scissors steadily engaged on the back of Miss Roy's striking rain coat.

Slashed Her Rain Coat. The scissors glared their way through the cloth and the amazed Miss Walsh suddenly saw Miss Roy's back skirt through a large egg-shaped aperture in the back of the rain coat. Then she realized that the man on the bridge had mutilated the garment with the scissors and was carefully speaking the extracted pieces into his pocket.

With a scream that startled everybody in the car, Miss Walsh made a grab for Buchander's hand. He dropped the cloth and the scissors were taken to force his way to the door, but male passengers, barred his progress, and when Miss Walsh had explained, grabbed hold of him.

The situation was explained to Miss Roy, who began to cry when she found that she could stick her arm through a hole in her nice new raincoat. Some of the men, passengers were taking rapid-fire smashes at Buchander's face, and women were crowding around him to scratch his eyes out. The train reached the Manhattan terminal.

Taken to Police Court. Policeman O'Flaherty took charge of Buchander and hustled him to a Fourth avenue car with Miss Roy and Miss Walsh. Buchander was arraigned in Centre Street Police Court and held on the complaint of the two young women.

This is the first "Jack the Slasher" case the Bridge police have encountered since the case of the woman who was taken to the Stock Exchange and escape, and I could do the same thing, but I refused to be "shaken down" for \$25, so I have to serve."

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CHILD VICTIM OF POLICEMAN HESS WIFE'S WITNESS

School Girl Elizabeth Grady Testifies Against Abductor in Divorce Suit.

WHITTLE & CORRIE ABSON.

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