

BIG BUILDINGS ROCKED FOR MANY BLOCKS

The Wrecked Car That Caused Explosion by Short Circuiting Electric Wires

(Specially Photographed for The Evening World.)

ministering the rites of the church to me, when I suddenly got my wits back."

The force of the explosion was felt west of the New York Central cut. Pedestrians were thrown down on Fifth and Madison avenues, and reports of injured and killed came from every side until the requests for ambulances and emergency fire apparatus were coming in from a dozen call boxes at the same time.

The Rev. Father McQuade of St. Patrick's Cathedral discovered seven dead immediately after he came upon the scene. To the injured he could reach he gave consolation. The first dead body taken from the wrecked trolley car was Mrs. Mary B. Pope of No. 134 East Fortieth street. She had been crushed by the trucks of the car, which smashed through the bottom.

At least fifty children in the New York Nursery and Child's Hospital at the northeast corner of Fifty-first street and Lexington avenue were badly cut by flying glass.

The Bible Teachers' Training School, a ten-story building on the corner of Lexington avenue and Forty-eighth street, was rocked by an enemy window blown out. The fire was shaken out of the furnace in the basement, but the men and engineer succeeded in putting out the flames.

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL SHAKEN.

The shock of the explosion caused St. Patrick's Cathedral to rock and cracked some of the windows in the archiepiscopal residence.

Mrs. Lavette and Helen and Father O'Connor, McQuade, Sinnott and Byrnes of the Cathedral hurried to the scene. The priests administered consolation to scores of injured.

At Sub-Station O, of the Post-Office, at Madison avenue, the explosion threw the mail all about the floor and clerks were slightly injured.

Besides all the available internes and ambulances that could be summoned from half a dozen hospitals calls were sent out for all the visiting surgeons of the hospital staffs for emergency service. Nine fire engines, four trucks and twelve companies of firemen were called out by Fire Commissioner Waldo. The reserves came from the East Fifty-first, the East Sixty-seventh, the East Thirty-seventh and the Tenderloin stations, and there was added to this force a battalion of railroad workmen.

A force of forty policemen was detailed to visit all the buildings along Lexington avenue that had suffered from the explosion and give what aid they could to the injured. Police Commissioner Crosby, when he arrived, sent for all the police surgeons he could reach.

Watchman Frank Stagg of the supply station was standing on a platform above the railroad cut and just over one of the gas tanks when the explosion occurred. He was blown forty feet in the air. His body and the bodies taken from the wrecked trolley car, were the first to arrive and be identified at the East Fifty-first street station.

The Hotel Belmont, which has a foundation five stories deep, was shaken by the explosion and Henry F. Bechman, a manufacturer of presses, from Battle Creek, Mich., occupied rooms on the seventeenth floor. He was dressing when the shock came. He said that it sounded to him like the roar of a very heavy blast of dynamite. Then the building shook under his feet and he felt it oscillate. He hastened to the hallway, but found that there was no excitement in the building, most of the guests having been in bed.

There was a mild panic in the new Hotel Fitz-Carroll, at Forty-sixth street and Madison avenue. Many of the big plate glass windows were cracked and many ceilings opened. It is feared that the foundations may have been slightly damaged.

There was a scare in other big hotels as far south as the Waldorf-Astoria.

RAILROAD SERVICE TIED UP.

The explosion shot the train service in the cut and tunnels to pieces. No effort was made to get trains in or send them out until the railroad officials had learned what the explosion was. By that time there was a complete tie-up. There were a dozen crowded trains in the tunnel. They were severely shaken and the motormen suddenly stopped their engines. The passengers were alarmed and thousands piled out of the trains that were near the cut and walked toward the tunnel. When they got into the cut and saw the burning supply plant and heard the babel of fire whistles and ambulance songs there came such a frantic rush for the exits that traffic was readjusted at 2:30.

The property damage will run into the millions. There is a ledge of rock to the back of the store, and when the initial force had passed by this compressed cushion blew outward toward the street, tossing the little girl through the space where the plate glass window had been and landing her on the sidewalk. She escaped with two cut fingers and some bruises.

In at least a score of houses kitchen ranges were cracked and fire shaken out on the floor. Special details of firemen took care of these emergencies. Windows on Lexington avenue were cracked as far north as Seventy-second street.

TWO DISTINCT AIR PRESSURES.

Persons who were on the streets in the vicinity of the explosion and have a connected idea of what happened to them say that there were two distinct and powerful air pressures following the original concussion. First came a blast of air from the explosion, radiating outwardly. Then came what appeared to be a vacuum and then a great rush of air back toward the explosion from outside the zone of its full force.

A practical illustration of the force and direction of these air currents was furnished in a little candy store in Lexington avenue, between Fiftyfifth and Fifty-first streets. A girl pupil of the Cathedral Parochial School was in the store. She had left the door open and was standing near the door. The rush of air blew in the plate glass window and hurled the child and the storekeeper to the back of the store. It would seem that the air was cushioned in the back of the store and when the initial force had passed by this compressed cushion blew outward toward the street, tossing the little girl through the space where the plate glass window had been and landing her on the sidewalk. She escaped with two cut fingers and some bruises.

INJURIES IN CATHEDRAL SCHOOL.

The Cathedral school of the Christian Brothers is on the north side of East Fiftyfifth street at No. 111. Brother Alban, who has charge, was entering the building when the front door was blown in after him.

"I had the narrowest escape of my life," said Brother Alban. "But I was not hurt at all. On the second floor Brother John had an advanced class of boys in commercial work. There were fifteen sitting at typewriters, with their backs to the windows. They were all of them cut about the neck and head by bits of glass. But Brother John, who was facing them, was badly cut and may lose his eyes.

"Only the guardian providence of God saved the sisters who live across the street and who almost always cross the street at about that hour to come to instruct our girls' classes. I ran to the entrance of the house as soon as I got my senses. The street was full of bricks fairly smoking with dust. But the sisters had not come out.

The Cathedral branch of the New York Public Library is almost directly opposite the explosion. No one was in the building. Books were torn in half, covers blown off and great blocks of books were knocked into a pulp against the walls.

The F. and M. Schaefer Brewing Company's plant in East Fiftyfifth street, near Park avenue, was so shaken that most of its machinery was thrown out of gear. Some of it will have to be replaced. The brewery will be partially shut down for repairs.

CROKER'S VIEW

(Continued on Second Page.)

In such a way that it formed a connection between the third rail and the opposing current, which was communicated to the steel debris in the wreckage through one of the tracks. The tool formed a short circuit. There was a flash of electricity and the gas was touched off.

"The explosion was below the level of the street and largely under the building, so it was confined in a way. The force of a dynamite explosion is spent in the vicinity of the explosion itself."

"I travel through the ground. The force of this explosion seems to have traveled through the air like the charge from an exploding shell.

"In my opinion, nitric gas and a spark of electricity in combination caused this disaster."

Not Dynamite, Says Survivor.

Arthur Spooner of No. 8 Willis street, Brooklyn, a structural ironworker and one of the few who survived close association with the explosion, is of the opinion that it was caused by gas. He is in Flower Hospital and told an Evening World reporter of his experience.

"I was in a wooden sunny on the second floor of the new power-house," he said, "when a drill, that had been used in a strong hole of gas for three days or twenty minutes. Finally it got so oppressive that I was getting a little dizzy. I was starting for the door of the power-house when the explosion came."

Leak Noticed Before Explosion.

A pipe leading to one of the tanks was broken this morning, according to our information. The gas leaked out and filled the building under the tank was hurled and all the surrounding neighborhood. I have been told that the gas leaked at the Grand Central station, about 8 o'clock that his supply was rapidly running out and it leaked out to find the leak.

Whether the explosion was set off by an electric spark or an open light, we have not found to a certainty. All we men immediately concerned in the explosion are dead."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF THE ACCIDENT SEE PAGE 4.



The motor car of a train backing in to get a gas supply overran its bumper and broke the gas supply pipe. A workman's tool fell across the third rail, causing a spark that ignited the escaping gas.

LIST OF IDENTIFIED DEAD AND INJURED IN EXPLOSION

THE DEAD.

Following is the list of identified dead in the explosion, and the injured who were treated at hospitals:

- GALVOCCI, NICOLÒ, thirty-six years; 329 East One Hundred and Eighth street; laborer.
- JORDAN, PATRICK, laborer, No. 534 East Forty-sixth street.
- LYNCH, E. B., fifty years; Pullman car inspector.
- MARRIOTT, C. 29 East Fifty-fourth street, laborer on New York Central.
- OFFNER, EDITH, twenty-nine, No. 344 East Seventy-second street; stenographer for Cosmopolitan Magazine.
- POPE, MARY B., No. 134 East Fortieth street.
- ROBERTS, CHARLES, forty-eight, No. 484 East Fifty-second street; employee American Express Company.
- STAGG, THOMAS, watchman, New York Central.

THE INJURED.

- AMOROS, D. J., twenty-four, No. 15 East Eleventh street, contusions; attended 444 home.
- ABRAMSON, YETTA, fifty-one years; fractured skull, internal injuries; Bellevue Hospital.
- BARNETT, ROSE, No. 57 Lexington avenue, cuts. Stayed at Children's Nursery.
- BARRY, JOSEPH, No. 306 East One Hundred and Seventy-ninth street, fractured left arm, internal injuries; Emergency Hospital, Grand Central station.
- BIERNE, JAMES, twenty-seven, No. 123 East Thirty-ninth street; New York Hospital.
- BOWDEY, JOHN, No. 48 West Nineteenth street, scalp wounds; Emergency Hospital, Grand Central station.
- BORDEN, JOHN, 48 West Nineteenth street, cuts; New York Hospital.
- BOWE, JOSEPH, No. 27 East Fifty-sixth street; contusions; Bellevue Hospital.
- BRAZILL, CHRISTOPHER, No. 978 Second avenue, Presbyterian Hospital.
- BREAZELLE, MISS C., No. 115 Lexington avenue; Presbyterian Hospital.
- BRYAN, JOHN L., No. 27 Park avenue; Flower Hospital.
- BUTLER, DAN, repairman New York Central, burns, cuts; Flower Hospital.
- CAMPBELL, EMILY, forty-two, No. 24 Lexington avenue, cuts. Attended and sent home.
- CAMPBELL, WILLIAM, thirty-eight, No. 28 East Forty-ninth street, cuts; Bellevue Hospital.
- CHRISTMAN, LOUISE, twenty, No. 52 West Forty-eighth street, cuts about face; Presbyterian Hospital.
- COLLINS, THOMAS, No. 28 East Seventy-sixth street, cuts and burns; Emergency Hospital, Grand Central station.
- COYNE, MICHAEL, twenty-five years, No. 24 East One Hundred and Twenty-ninth street; lacerations; attended and home.
- CROUGHAN, Mrs. L. J., twenty-five, No. 27 West Fifty-third street, cuts and lacerations; Flower Hospital.
- CUNNINGHAM, JOHN, 52 years; 420 Sixth avenue; seriously burned; Flower Hospital.
- CURTIN, MAURICE, No. 208 East Forty-ninth street, scalp wounds; Emergency Hospital, Grand Central station.
- DOLYNE, MISS L., 125 East Fiftyfifth street, contusions; Flower Hospital.
- DAVIDSON, WILLIAM, power-house employee; attended and home.
- DOBIN, MISS O., No. 15 East Fiftyfifth street; Flower Hospital.
- DOHN, IRENE, 15 East Fiftyfifth street, contusions; Bellevue Hospital.
- DUNN, JAMES, No. 140 Corcoran avenue; contusions; Bellevue Hospital.
- DUFFY, WILLIAM J., battalion chief; hospital, Grand Central station.
- MARENACHES, ANTHONY, No. 23 East Forty-fifth street, cut about face; Emergency Hospital, Grand Central station.
- MATHESON, NORMAN, badly burned; Emergency Hospital, Grand Central station.
- MNAMARA, MARY, eighteen, No. 116 East One Hundred and Sixth street; Bellevue Hospital.
- MGRATH, FRANK, No. 213 Sumner street, power-house employee; attended and home.
- MOENROE, JAMES, 34 years; 347 East Sixty-fifth; leg injuries; Flower Hospital.
- MORAN, —, No. 54 East Fiftyfifth street; Flower Hospital.
- GOULLLET, MARY, 52 West Fortieth street—Presbyterian Hospital.
- MUROS, DORA, 15 East Fiftyfifth street—Cuts, attended and home.
- MURPHY, LOUISE, twenty-eight, No. 127 Main street, Long Island, scalp; Flower Hospital.
- NEVIN, ELIZABETH, No. 58 Lexington avenue, scalp wound; Bellevue Hospital.
- EVANS, ETHEL, forty-three, No. 2 West Thirty-second street; lacerations; head and body; Flower Hospital.
- FITZGERALD, THOMAS, twenty-six, No. 183 Stanley avenue, Yonkers, lacerations; Babies' Hospital.
- FOGARTY, JOHN, 21 East Forty-seventh street; New York Hospital.
- FRANK, H., 84 Prospect avenue, Bronx; Flower Hospital.
- FRICK, JUSTINE, 35 West Fortieth street, forty-nine years—Attended and home.
- FRITZ, MARIA, fifty-three, No. 653 Lexington avenue, cuts; attended and home.
- FRICK, MARGARET A., thirty years, 560 Lexington avenue; contusions of face; attended and home.
- FITZPATRICK, GEORGE, No. 81 Park avenue, scalp wound; attended and sent home.
- GALLAGHER, LAWRENCE, thirty-six, No. 58 Lexington avenue, internal injuries; Bellevue Hospital.
- GILLMAN, MARY, twenty, No. 290 East Forty-seventh street, cuts; Presbyterian Hospital.
- GRAPE, MAX, No. 217 Fifth avenue, scalp wound; Emergency Hospital, Grand Central station.
- GROSS, MATILDA, twenty-four, No. 324 West Thirty-eighth—Scalp wounds; Flower Hospital.
- HARRIN, ANDREW, twenty-five, No. 222 East Forty-ninth street; internal injuries; Flower Hospital.
- HARRIS, WILLIAM, patrolman East Fifty-fifth street, shock and contusions; attended and home.
- HARRISON, W. J., No. 87 Park avenue, Bellevue Hospital.
- HAWKES, MISS BELLE, thirty-five, No. 150 Lexington avenue—Internal injuries; Emergency Hospital, Grand Central station.
- HAWTHORNE, CHARLES, No. 128 Clay avenue, scalp wound and burns; Emergency Hospital, Grand Central station.
- HEINEMAN, CHRIS, fifty-five, No. 160 Lexington avenue, attended and home.
- JAMESON, RICHARD, twenty-one, No. 12 East Fiftyfifth street; cut and lacerated; attended and home.
- LANG, PATRICK, No. 34 Third avenue, scalp wounds; Emergency Hospital, Grand Central station.
- LYONS, GEORGE, 152 East One Hundred and Twenty-eighth street, cuts, Bellevue Hospital.
- LYNAN, JOHN, No. 18 Willis avenue; contusions, scalp wound; Bellevue Hospital.
- LUTTMAN, THERESA, thirty-four years, 39 East Forty-second street; fractured skull and shoulders; Bellevue Hospital.
- MADDEN, PATRICK, One Hundred and Sixty-second street and Myraos avenue, contusions; Emergency Hos-

- pital, Grand Central station.
- MARENACHES, ANTHONY, No. 23 East Forty-fifth street, cut about face; Emergency Hospital, Grand Central station.
- MATHESON, NORMAN, badly burned; Emergency Hospital, Grand Central station.
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- LUTTMAN, THERESA, thirty-four years, 39 East Forty-second street; fractured skull and shoulders; Bellevue Hospital.
- MADDEN, PATRICK, One Hundred and Sixty-second street and Myraos avenue, contusions; Emergency Hos-

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Loft 5 Stores

FIRST OFFICIAL REPORT GIVES NO EXPLANATION

Vice-President and General Manager A. A. Smith, in charge of all the construction work in the Grand Central Station, made the following report to W. C. Brown, President of the New York Central, at 10 o'clock:

"About 8:30 this morning an explosion occurred at the sub-station building, Fiftyfifth street and Grand Central yards.

The battery house was blown to pieces. Several men were killed and quite a number injured. Ambulances were ordered from every hospital in the city.

"Power house C was considerably damaged and one of the operators in the tower was slightly cut.

"Yard 2 still out of service and unable to say when it can be put in service again.

"Trainmaster Luby had an arm broken.

"At 8:48 A. M. a steam engine took gas tanks and other equipment away from vicinity of the sub-station building.

"Up till 9:30 there are probably four dead and forty injured.

"Cause of the accident has not yet been ascertained."

At the office of President Brown it was said that the plant that exploded was an emergency plant, which has been constructed to cater to passenger trains. None of the incoming trains run on the side of the yard near the plant. There were no outgoing trains at the time of the explosion. The outgoing trains run within a few feet of the plant.

BIBLE STUDENTS INJURED IN THEIR TRAINING SCHOOL

There were 150 students in the different classrooms of the Bible Teachers' Training School at Lexington avenue and Forty-ninth street when the explosion occurred. Fifty were severely cut by flying glass and plaster as windows in the eight-story building were blown in and the plaster ripped off the walls and ceilings in every room.

A mad panic occurred and there was a rush to the street, which was checked by Dr. W. W. White, President of the institution, and some of the cooler heads among the students, who barred the exits.

Doors were blown down in a number of rooms and gaspings wrenched from their connections.

Ten private physicians were summoned to attend to the injured, some of whom are said to be in a serious condition. At least a score of the students had to have their cheeks and limbs stitched.

The building was soon filled with gas escaping in great volumes from every pipe, and the gas company rushed its men to the building to cut off the supply.

The institution is across the street from the place of the explosion.

Six of the students were so badly injured that they had to be taken to hospitals.

A number of the students, young men and women from all over the country and some from abroad who are training for missionary work, were at breakfast on the ground floor when the explosion occurred. Dr. White and his family were breakfasting on the top floor. Flying glass cut Dr. White's face, but paying no attention to his injuries he rushed downstairs and took charge of the situation.

After the first panic had been quieted the students were permitted to leave the building.

CITY EMPLOYEES PAID TODAY

Comptroller Prendergast's Semi-Monthly Plan Helps for Christmas.

The Finance Department, in accordance with the order of Comptroller Prendergast, is today paying off all city employees, excepting those on the lists of the Board of Education and Board of Water Supply, for services rendered during the first half of this month. About \$2,000,000 will have been distributed by midnight.

The Comptroller's action in the matter was determined upon in order to try out the practicability of semi-monthly salary payments.

ALMANAC FOR TODAY.			
Sun. rise,	5:20	set,	4:35
Moon. rise,	4:35	set,	11:57
High Water,	10:05	Low Water,	4:10
High Tide,	10:05	Low Tide,	4:10
Gov. of the Island,	10:05	Gov. of the Island,	4:10
High Gate,	11:57	High Gate,	4:10

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DIED.
BEGGIN, suddenly, Dec. 17, PATRICK H. BEGGIN.
Funeral from late residence, 109 W. 54th st., Tuesday, Dec. 20, 9:30 A. M., thence to St. Gregory's Church, 15 A. M. Interment Calvary.

HELP WANTED—MALE.
Solely interested Italian; convincing; fair; wanted by the Long Beach Company, 225 Fifth avenue, New York. Apply in person to Foreign Sales Manager.