

# SCENE OF THE EXPLOSION IS COMPARED TO BATTLE ZONE

shell actually ploughs its way through the roof of the magazine there need be no fear of an explosion."

Several thousand families in Morgan and South Amboy have been rendered homeless. Thousands had no food since last night.

The Gillespie plant covers about 15,000 acres. It cost over \$4,000,000. Nearly 9,000 men and women were employed.

It was reported this afternoon that fragments of bodies had been found on the tracks of the Jersey Central, 1,000 feet from the Gillespie plant.

When the explosions started about 7.40 last night about 2,000 men were at work, and 1,000 men were in the recreation rooms about the grounds.

The blasts were continuous from that time on, including the hour of going to press.

The town of Morgan has been devastated and South Amboy is badly wrecked. All residents have left the latter place and many are leaving Perth Amboy, five miles away. Those who remain are camping in the streets and all places of business have been closed.

Explosions heard during the afternoon, it was stated by company representatives, were box cars loaded with shells to be shipped away from the plant. The shells were 75 and 155 millimeter sizes.

Many small munitions plants sent their workers away at noon because they were told that a terrific explosion was expected late in the afternoon. Representatives of the company discounted these reports, but the workers were sent home nevertheless.

The explosion which wrecked the Gillespie plant is the fourth in six or seven weeks. The last occurred a week ago yesterday when a girl was killed and several persons were injured.

In towns ten and twenty miles away from Morgan the injured are being removed to points further away on account of the increasing intensity of the explosions.

A magazine blew up at 12:06 o'clock and the detonation broke windows in Brooklyn and New York. An Evening World reporter at South Amboy says a great pillar of smoke with a column of flame in its center shot up into the air for about 1,000 feet, then spread out fanlike, streaked with flame. About four seconds later the second of the explosions reached Perth Amboy.

RED CROSS PROVIDES FIRST AID IN STRICKEN TOWN.

The first aid to reach the stricken town was headed by J. W. Faust, Assistant Director of the Atlantic Division of the Red Cross. Steps were rushed to provide food, clothing and shelter for the refugees.

Simultaneously with one of the explosions that rocked the countryside shortly before noon, the steeple of the Second Presbyterian Church at Rahway, N. J., began to sway perilously near to toppling into the street. A quantity of bricks were loosened and fell to the street in a shower.

Persons living opposite and on both sides of the church are in constant fear that the steeple will fall and have left their homes for places of safety. The police established a danger zone around the edifice, allowing no one to pass that way.

Work of removing the steeple will begin at once, according to the police. The slightest concussion or high wind is apt to blow it down, they said.

The explosion which occurred shortly after noon was by far the worst felt in the lower part of the city to-day. Persons on the upper floors of the Woolworth, Singer, Equitable and other skyscrapers in the downtown section reported that this blast actually caused the buildings to rock.

The windows in the upper floors actually rattled with the vibration. Here and there in the swamp filled sections along the East River front windows were reported shaken loose by the explosion and one pane of glass clattering to the street at Fulton and William Streets smashed within a few feet of the throng hurrying north on William Street.

At the Stock Exchange brokers and employees, just winding up the day's business, stopped, startled, as the 12:06 explosion rocked the building.

DOCTORS, BEDDING AND FOOD RUSHED TO STRICKEN ZONE.

Doctors, nurses, mattresses, bedding and food were being rushed to Perth Amboy all morning.

In Metuchen, ten miles from Morgan, every large plate glass window has been broken and many windows in residences have been shattered. The walls in many homes have been cracked and rooms filled with plaster.

The population of Morgan, South Amboy and Perth Amboy is approximately 42,000 persons, the majority of whom are in need of outside help.

William Follmer Morgan, President of the Merchants' Association, wired at noon to the Mayors of South Amboy and Perth Amboy the sympathy of the association and asked for immediate aid.

Warning was then given to everybody to leave the plant. This was done without further pleading. Then it was remembered that the injured had been carried to the company hospital within the grounds. Immediately there was a rush for the hospital by gallant guardsmen, soldiers, doctors and the intrepid motor corps women driving their ambulances.

Through the field of torn-up ground over which they drove legs and arms and torsos of the explosion's victims were passed, for which no stop could be made. But every one of the injured was successfully carried out.

Along the roads to Perth Amboy, to Elizabeth, Newark and to Staten Island the wounded were rushed, made as comfortable as possible in the ambulances. Hundreds of people—men, women and children—were passed fleeing from the danger zone.

RED CROSS PROVIDES FIRST AID IN STRICKEN TOWN.

mediate advice as to how it could best aid the stricken communities.

The entire machinery of the Atlantic Division of the Red Cross has been applied to the aid of the injured and other sufferers in the devastated towns.

Four of the Coast Guard reported killed in the plant turned up at Perth Amboy at noon. They were H. T. Jeffries, C. W. Pachalk and H. C. Chartier, ordinary seamen, and E. Volzart, carpenter's mate.

The guardsmen were in the storehouse of Unit No. 1 when the magazine, 150 feet from them blew up. The blast wrecked the building they were in and set fire to it. The roof fell in and hemmed them in on one corner. Through the fire and smoke they made their way to a window, smashed it and crawled out. Then they went over to other buildings and drove the people out of them.

A guard has been established two miles from the plant and no one is permitted to pass the lines.

One main building and two units of thirteen original units are all that remain standing of the great munitions plant, one of the officials reported after inspection.

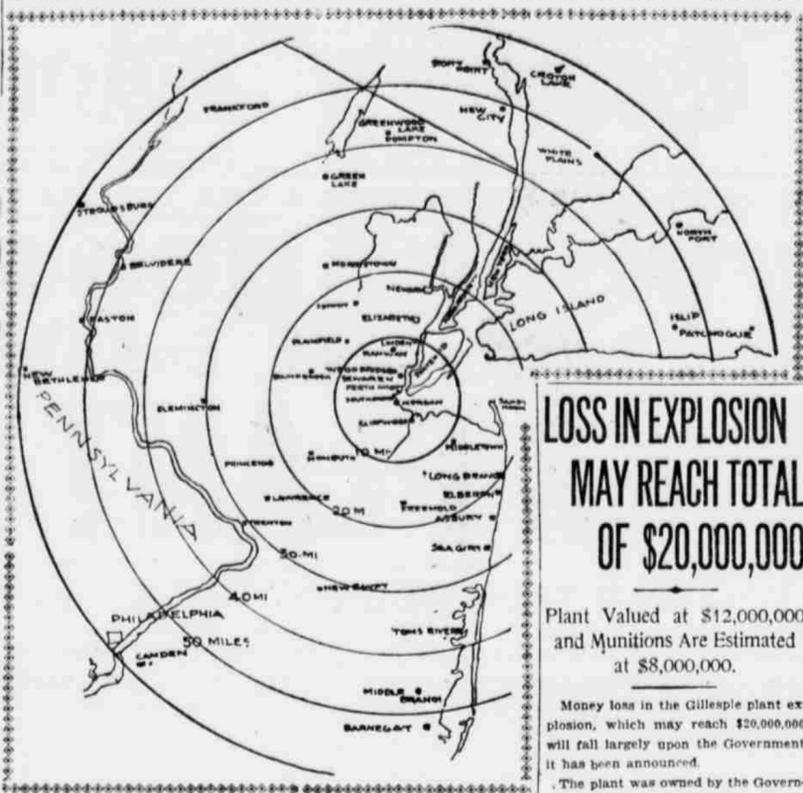
The fifteen bodies recovered were removed to Garretson's Morgue at South Amboy to await identification. One is believed to be that of John Miller of Newark, a laborer at the plant. Eight injured were taken to the hospital at Keyport.

Mayor A. T. Carr of South Amboy highly commended the work of Major Helen Bastedo and her Women's Motor Corps in administering first aid to the injured and removing them to the nearest hospitals. These women workers came to South Amboy early in the morning.

The Girls' Service Club at Long Branch has been converted into a temporary hospital. As soon as she heard the explosion Miss Margaret Christie of the War Camp Community Service made immediate arrangements for the accommodation of at least fifty injured men.

Virtually every store and shop in Perth Amboy and Long Branch sent their motor truck and delivery autos to aid in the removal of the injured. All the military ambulances at Camp Vail were also pressed into service.

## LOCATION OF MORGAN AND DISTANCE ZONES



## LOSS IN EXPLOSION MAY REACH TOTAL OF \$20,000,000

Plant Valued at \$12,000,000 and Munitions Are Estimated at \$8,000,000.

Money loss in the Gillespie plant explosion, which may reach \$20,000,000, will fall largely upon the Government it has been announced.

The plant was owned by the Government and was operated by the Gillespie Company as Government contractors.

It consisted of thirteen units, of which seven had been entirely completed and were in operation, railroad tracks, machinery and valuable equipment.

The value of the plant destroyed has been set at \$12,000,000 by officials of the Gillespie Company.

In addition to this is the value of munitions, either awaiting shipment or in course of manufacture. This is said to have represented close to \$8,000,000.

Enormous shipments to France last month largely decreased the amount of stock on hand; otherwise the loss would have been much heavier.

## HEROISM OF WOMEN WORKERS CREDITED WITH SAVING MANY

The heroism of women physicians, nurses, ambulance drivers and other women workers, is credited with having saved many lives.

Under bursting shells, virtually under battle field conditions, these women worked calmly, speedily, efficiently. Public officials of the damaged towns expressed unbounded admiration especially for the courage and coolness of Major Helen Bastedo and other members of the Women's Motor Corps.

Through the greater part of the night these women drove their cars and ambulances through the district around Morgan, skilfully circling the obstacles that piled up in the darkness, going wherever they were needed and giving no heed to danger. Girls whose nearest approach to war before had been in conveying officers about Manhattan suddenly found themselves under fire, and showed no sign of excitement.

Major Bastedo, after the first rush of first aid work, established headquarters at Perth Amboy at the Packer House and organized the later stages of the rescue work from there.

Miss Lucy M. Ryder, superintendent of the New York Infirmary, No. 321 East 15th Street, organized a corps of nurses who left at 12:30 this afternoon for Sewaren, the nearest point to which relief units could be taken. Miss Ryder was aided by Miss Cicely Campbell and Mrs. Henrietta M. Day. A second relief expedition similar to Miss Ryder's was organized to follow.

Refugees reaching Perth Amboy were loud in their praises of those who had extended aid to them. From neighboring towns they were provided with food and supplies and on all hands money was offered them. They declared that they could not speak too highly of the work done by the girls of the Motor Corps of America, who were the first to be among them last night.

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The scene of the explosion and adjacent territory resembles a French town evacuated by the Germans. Great gaps in the earth, ruins of buildings and mounds of debris are reminders of the big plant.

Relatives of the employees made frantic efforts to rush by the guards to reach their kin inside the lines while shells were bursting along the roads.

A shell blew the head off one man talking to a guard. The guard threw his hat and was unable to learn anything of him. He was connected with the West Shore Railroad for thirty years and took the superintendency six weeks ago.

NEARBY TOWNS SEND PHYSICIANS, NURSES, AMBULANCES.

Surrounding towns did all they could to relieve the suffering and aid the refugees. Hospitals in Perth Amboy, Newark, Elizabeth, Rahway, Freehold, New Brunswick and other towns, sent ambulances, doctors and nurses. A first aid station was established at a safe distance from the fires.

The force of the first explosion rocked the plant of the Tottenville Copper Company on Staten Island and threw the night crew into a panic. From various floors and buildings the workers began to rush to the exits.

## REFUGEES REACH NEW YORK; MARTIAL LAW IN FORCE AS STRICKEN FAMILIES FLEE

Trains, Ferries and Street Cars Packed—Many Walk on Jersey Highways.

Refugees began arriving in New York this afternoon from points in New Jersey and adjacent hamlets and towns which have either been destroyed or endangered by the Gillespie explosion. Hundreds were arriving by train at Jersey City, while many came by ferry from Staten Island. They reported that Tottenville, Staten Island, had been ordered evacuated by the military authorities and that practically every window in Perth Amboy had been destroyed and many of the houses seriously shaken.

In South Amboy, a few miles from the Gillespie plant, refugees reported a large number of foreign munition workers had been isolated in the town by the impossibility of their removal by train, and a number of Red Cross autos had been despatched to bring them out.

In the surrounding territory many houses have been destroyed by shells. Refugees arriving in New York and adjacent towns carried what few articles they could save, and reported that the death list would be much heavier than early reports indicated.

The entire section involved is virtually under martial law and the military authorities have taken complete charge.

On the Lincoln Highway and other roads to Newark, Elizabeth and Rahway, there was all day a stream of automobiles, motor trucks and horse-drawn vehicles conveying refugees and some of their possessions to points of safety. Some of the people propelled their most precious goods along on handcarts and several boys were seen driving dogs attached to small carts.

People along the way took into their homes those who asked shelter, but most of the refugees pushed on toward the cities. Coffee and sandwiches were given to the fleeing families without charge at farmhouses and the home in small settlements.

The driver of one motor truck carrying twenty-four persons said he did not know where he was going.

"We only want to get out of here, that's all I know or care," he said.

Thousands of refugees poured into Perth Amboy while one explosion after another filled them with terror. Carrying babies, cats, dogs, parrots and canary birds in cages, they arrived in autos, trucks, wagons and every kind of vehicle that could be

pressed into service. The exodus started shortly before midnight.

At Perth Amboy the refugees found a large part of the population ready to flee from the town, because of warnings that far worse explosions might be expected.

Schools, churches, the Y. M. C. A. and even parks in Perth Amboy were filled with refugees for whom there was no room left in the homes of Perth Amboy that were thrown open to them.

The Jersey Central Railroad ran specials in and out of Perth Amboy as fast as they could be taken through. The ferry to Tottenville abandoned its schedule and carried the refugees away as rapidly as the boats could make their trips back and forth.

Some of the refugees were in negligence, covered with raincoats and blankets. Others managed to carry away enough clothing and household valuables to make them envied among the sufferers.

Relief Headquarters for the Red Cross were established in the Board of Trade Building in Perth Amboy, under direction of Alexander Wilson. John S. Ellsworth is in charge of the canteen service.

As soon as the serious nature of the accident was learned by Supt. Lucy M. Ryder of the New York Infirmary for Women and Children, she organized a relief corps which left at noon for Sewaren, N. J., which is about eight miles from the Gillespie plant. Miss Cicely Campbell and Mrs. Henrietta M. Day accompanied Miss Ryder. A second relief corps started at 2 o'clock.

The Perth Amboy high school was given over to influenza sufferers and other sick people driven from their homes. A volunteer nursing corps under Miss Eleanor DeGraft of Plainfield, N. J., is attending the sick.

In the parks and other open spaces bewildered women and children camped on the grass. Some of them were lucky enough to be able to carry away bed clothing and those who have them spread blankets and quilts on the grass. Others are lying on the bare ground.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church has had a number of hundreds of the homeless and the Salvation Army and Y. M. C. A. have undertaken emergency relief work.

Many of those in the streets were children, wandering aimlessly about waiting to be joined by their parents, from whom they were separated in the flight.

Mary Gryniewicz, fourteen years old, and her brother, twelve, were searching for their parents, two brothers, a sister, her husband and baby, all of whom started out in one party from South Amboy.

Thomas Walter, ten years old, with the little brother was seeking for other members of their family.

They were playing pinocch in the recreation room," he said, "and the dance hall some of the men and women were dancing when suddenly every light in the building went out. There was a brief lull, and then an explosion which was a terrific crash beneath us. We saw Unit No. 11 fairly rock, and then for an hour came crash after crash.

The people rushed around in panic. They were diving into cellars, hiding behind corners, rushing here and there in the darkness like the bottom of lunatics. Then there was quiet—no explosions for another hour—when the bell opened up again like the artillery preparation of the whole Allied army."

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## BLAST AND FIRE DUE TO ACCIDENT, SAYS GILLESPIE

Company President Absolves Employees of Plant From Carelessness.

T. A. Gillespie, President of the T. A. Gillespie Shell Loading Company wrecked by the explosion, today made the following statement:

"The explosion and fire which followed was purely an accident. It was not due to carelessness on the part of any one and there is no suspicion of German work. There is no ground to the fear expressed over a large quantity of TNT. It is safely buried under a big hill far out of the danger zone."

Mr. Gillespie was at the New Packer House at Perth Amboy, looking after the injured who were taken there. He added that the plant was turning out 32,000 shells of all calibre each day and asserted that of the seventy persons employed in the unit where the fire started only twenty have so far been accounted for.

All the officers of the stricken corps arrived at the scene of the disaster soon after the first explosion, according to F. G. Holdsworth, Vice President of the Gillespie Company, contracting engineers, with offices in the Hudson Terminal Building.

In the immediate territory of the Gillespie plant are the California Loading Company, the Oliver plant, a plant of the Du Pont Company and several smaller United States Government plants. Hope for the units which housed the nine-inch shells was given up at 11 o'clock this morning, following the two explosions at 10:10 and 10:25, when the three and six inch units were enveloped in the wake of destruction.

Seventy-five survivors of the explosion who live in Greater New York arrived at the New York office of the Gillespie Company, No. 59 Church Street, shortly before noon to-day. These officers of the company dined out food and silver pieces to enable the men to get to their homes. All their belongings had been lost in the panic which followed the first crash.

They were all nervous and moved about as if in fear. They were for the most part men of foreign extraction. Among them was a former member of the World's composing room force.

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Even bread and butter and jam don't tempt me, says Bobby as long as I can have POST TOASTIES (MADE OF CORN)

## RELIGIOUS NOTICES

WEST END Presbyterian