

1135 Convicts Wreck Prison In Fire Riot

Nine Inmates Shot and 5 Police and Firemen Hurt During 2-Hour Battle in Pittsburgh

Torches Applied As Rush Begins

Cells Torn Apart and Bricks Rained Down on Guards as Flames Rage

Special Dispatch to the Tribune
PITTSBURGH, July 18.—The main building of the Western Penitentiary here was wrecked, a dozen smaller buildings connected with the institution were destroyed by fire and four persons, nine of them convicts, were injured to-day when the 1,135 prisoners started a riot and attempted to overpower the guards and escape.

The nine convicts injured were shot by city police, county detectives and prison guards while attempting to fight their way to liberty. Three were so seriously injured that it is declared their recovery is impossible. The others wounded are three city police officials and a district fire chief, who were injured in the rioting, and a city fireman, who was seriously burned while fighting the flames.

The buildings destroyed, all within the great wall that surrounds the penitentiary, were:

Dining room, combination three-story frame and two-story brick; north end destroyed by flames, remainder wrecked by rioting convicts. Wrecking shop, three-story brick; machine shop, three-story brick; broom shop, two-story brick; shoe shop, two-story brick; chapel, one-story brick; large storage house, one-story frame; kitchen, one-story frame; four smaller one-story frame storage houses and two lookout towers on the prison wall, all burned.

Rioting Lasted Two Hours

Virtually all of the prisoners, except fifty women inmates, took part in the rioting. The main building and in the prison yard. It lasted more than two hours and another two hours had elapsed before the firemen had the fire under control. Flames leaped fifty feet above the prison wall.

The injured are:

CAMPBELL, H. C., prisoner, gunshot wounds in body.

CORLEIGH, P. K., struck with brick hurled by a prisoner.

CORCORAN, M. J., policeman, struck by brick hurled by prisoner.

CRAYFORD, George, prisoner, gunshot wounds in shoulder and face; condition serious.

CRYSLER, W. B., policeman, struck by brick.

CHARLES, Charles, negro, prisoner, gunshot wounds in body; condition not serious.

EMIL, Edward, prisoner, shot in body.

HARLEY, H., fireman of Engine Company 45, burned by brands.

HARRIS, William, negro, prisoner, gunshot wounds in body; condition serious.

JOHNSON, Alexander, negro, prisoner, shot; condition serious.

JONES, Daniel, district fire chief, struck with a piece of iron hurled by one of the convicts.

TORNO, Joseph, prisoner, gunshot wound in body; condition not serious.

TRAYMOR, David, prisoner, gunshot wound in face, body and arm; condition not serious.

RENO, Carmelo, prisoner, gunshot wound in left shoulder.

Three Prisoners May Die

Deputy Warden Egan to-night said that Campbell, Harris and Johnson were wounded seriously and probably would die.

While 250 city and county police officials and the full corps of guards were on duty, the rioting was the fiercest in the history of the prison, with the flames to keep them from destroying the main building, where all the convicts were confined after they had been driven from the prison yard. As the flames leaped up from the buildings and licked the window frames of the cells in which they were confined, the prisoners shrieked, cursed, prayed, shouted for help and frequently tore at the bars.

And through it all there was the desperate battle between the hundreds of guards and police on the one hand and the convicts on the other, who were fighting madly for freedom and to escape from the fiery death that threatened them.

The rioting and fire broke out simultaneously, and, according to the prison officials, were part of a plot to empty the great institution of its horde of criminals. But for the alertness of the guards.

(Continued on page four)

Ford Cuts Freight Rates

20 P. C. on His Railroad

D. T. & I. Believed First Line in Country to Announce Voluntary Reduction

COLUMBUS, Ohio, July 18.—The Detroit, Toledo & Ironton Railroad, controlled by Henry Ford, Detroit automobile manufacturer, to-day filed with the Ohio State Public Utilities Commission a new schedule of freight rates providing for a 20 per cent reduction from the present tariff between points on the line.

The schedule is to become effective on August 20. The joint or connecting rates are not affected, the present rate on shipments originating on the Detroit, Toledo & Ironton, but destined to some point on a connecting line remaining the same. The new schedule for point shipment, however, applies to all points throughout the system from Ironton, Ohio, to the Ohio River, to Dearborn, Mich.

This is the first Ohio railroad, and believed to be one of the first in the country to announce a voluntary reduction in freight rates.

Announcement that Mr. Ford proposed to reduce freight rates 20 per cent on view of the fact that on July 1 he established a minimum wage of \$9 a day on the road and abolished all holiday trains, except those transporting milk.

When you think of writing, think of WEBSTER. —Advt.

Knife Wound in Boy's Heart

Stitched Together by Surgeon

Doctors Cut Through Two Ribs to Reach Organ and One Sews While Other Holds It in Hand; Lad "Feels Fine" Afterward; Stabbed Accidentally

Frank Farino, sixteen years old, of 553 Union Street, Brooklyn, is in Holy Family Hospital in that borough recovering, it is thought, from a knife wound which pierced his heart. Four stitches were taken in the heart muscle and three in the covering. Dr. Frank Leder performed the operation, assisted by Dr. Joseph M. Downer and Dr. George Doyle.

The boy is employed as a paper sorter by Joseph Marrone at 179 Jerusalem Street. His job is to cut the ropes with which bales of paper are bound and sort the contents of the bales. He uses a knife with a 17-inch blade and his first care on reaching the shop in the morning is to put a keen edge on the blade.

He was getting the knife ready yesterday morning when it slipped from his grasp and, propelled by the whirling motion, turned to the end and buried itself in his chest. Some of his fellow employees extracted the knife and asked Frank if he wanted a doctor. He said he didn't think he was hurt much, but the bleeding ought to be stopped, he thought.

Amateur efforts to staunch the flow of blood were unavailing and an ambulance was called. Frank was astonished when Dr. Carrabba, the ambulance surgeon, told him it looked as though the knife had reached his heart.

This juncture was verified at the hospital and the boy was placed on the operating table. To make an aperture big enough to reach in and raise the heart, two ribs were cut. One of the surgeons held the palpitating bit of muscle in his gloved hand while another bent over the table to complete the operation.

It was possible to take three stitches only when the heart was contracted, and although only four were necessary in the heart muscle, it took fifteen minutes to complete the stitching.

Frank was surprisingly strong and bright when he came out of the other. He said he felt fine and asked for a drink of ice water.

Asphalt Blaze Sweeps Bay; 50 Ships Menaced

Factories and Piers Worth Millions Also Endangered by Explosion and Fire in Warner-Quinlan Plant

Damage Is \$1,000,000

Flames Finally Controlled After All States Island Apparatus Is Mobilized

LINDEN, N. J., July 18.—Fire which started at 2 o'clock this afternoon when two tanks filled with crude asphalt oil blew up in rapid succession on the plant of the Warner-Quinlan Asphalt Company here was under control shortly before midnight.

The burning oil had spread earlier in the night over the waters of Staten Island Sound and close to the shore of Staten Island. Millions of dollars' worth of property, represented by manufacturing plants and piers were for some time in grave danger of being reached by the burning oil, as were fifty vessels of the United States Shipping Board.

The damage so far is estimated at \$1,000,000 and is confined to the plant of the asphalt company. No one was seriously injured, although many persons were made sick by the fumes from the fire. Every one for miles around was mobilized to keep the fire from spreading.

Apparatus Ineffective

Fire apparatus from Elizabeth, Linden, Rahway and Perth Amboy stood around for hours unable, because of the intense heat, to more than play water ineffectually on the blaze from a distance of several hundred feet.

Two fire trucks from the Standard Oil Company's plant at Bayway were sent to help and three truckloads of chemical extinguishers were utilized against the flames.

The Shipping Board vessels, lying at anchor off Arlington with skeleton crews, had to get away hurriedly to avoid being scorched by the burning oil which was moving should the burning oil approach too near them.

Smoke from the fire spread over the country for eight miles to the location of Elizabeth. At 9:30 firemen had prevented the flames from spreading to other plants in the vicinity, although they had been unable to keep the burning oil out of the Sound.

It was not until 11:30, however, that the heat abated sufficiently to permit the firemen to get close enough to the fire to attack it successfully.

Five Tanks Explode

The first tank exploded about 2 o'clock. The second exploded shortly after it. Two more tanks caught fire about 10 o'clock. There were fifteen tanks on the plant. Five of them were burned. Seven still were also burned. There were twelve still left. The tanks contained from 8,000 to 10,000 barrels of crude asphalt oil each, and the stills held 5,000 barrels each.

In addition to the five tanks and the enormous quantities of asphalt and seven stills, the administration and workshop building, a two-story brick structure, was wrecked by the explosion and the fire that followed. All the bridges over the creeks on the plant were destroyed.

The tanks were from forty to ninety feet in diameter and stood in a row of the field and the stills were on the north end. So great was the heat generated that the Home Defense Force was called in to action to keep hundreds of persons who came on foot and by motor from the surrounding districts.

The possibility of the fire were enormous. The Grasselli Chemical Company's plant is near the burning tanks. Also near by is the \$3,000,000 refinery which is being constructed by the Sinclair Consolidated Oil Refining Company.

The danger to the Shipping Board vessels was announced late to-night to have been mitigated by the work of two fireboats, which had checked the course of the oil on the water.

The fire, while under control, is still burning, and will continue, it is believed, until it burns itself out.

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