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WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 30, 1916

**

FIVE CENTS.

MUNITIONS EXPLODE, SHAKING NEW YORK, WILD PANIC REIGNS

Mammoth Storage Plant on Black Tom Island, Near Communipaw, in Flames.

33 JERSEY CITY FIREMEN KILLED BY BLAST, REPORT

Cities Ninety Miles Away Feel Force of Explosion; Reports From Philadelphia and Camden.

PLANT VALUED AT \$7,000,000

Sixty-Nine Carloads of Munitions for Entente Allies, Said to Have Been Ready for Shipment, Believed Destroyed.

NEW YORK, July 30 (Sunday)—Thirty-three Jersey City firemen are reported to have been killed early this morning by a terrific explosion in the plant of the National Storage Company on Black Tom Island near Communipaw, N. J., where they had gone to fight a fire resulting from a terrific explosion just thirty minutes earlier.

In the storage company plant are said to have been enormous quantities of ammunition consigned to the entente allies. The entire plant is reported to have been wrecked. The island appeared at 3:30 o'clock to be covered with a sheet of flame. Access to it is gained from the mainland by a bridge, over which run tracks of the Central Railroad of New Jersey.

Sixty-Nine Carloads of Ammunition.

Sixty-nine carloads of ammunition are said to have been stored in railroad tracks on the island. All of them are believed to have been blown up.

Edmund L. Mackenzie, president of the National Storage Company, said at his home at Plainfield, N. J., at 3:40 o'clock this morning that he had just received a telegram informing him that a great fire was raging in the plant of his company, following an explosion.

The plant of the storage company consists of about twenty-five warehouses and three or four covered piers, one of which is a powder pier, and Mr. Mackenzie explained that there were no combustibles in the warehouses. He expressed the belief from the meager information he had received that the explosion must have been in trains of munitions which had been run to the powder docks, awaiting removal on lighters to ships anchored in the bay. He declared the plant was valued at about \$7,000,000.

Blazing Munition Barges Afloat.

Dr. Joseph Wilson of Immigration Hospital on Ellis Island reported to Manhattan police headquarters at 3:45 this morning that two barges loaded with ammunition lying alongside the dock at Ellis Island were ablaze from stem to stern. He said they had drifted down the bay from the direction of Staten Island. Black Tom Island is about a quarter of the way from Ellis Island to Staten Island. The patients in the Ellis Island Hospital were ordered transferred to another island of the Ellis Island group.

All Manhattan Island was shaken by the explosions. Windows of buildings all over the lower end of the island were shattered.

Thousands Thrown Into Panic.

Thousands of persons swarmed into the streets in all parts of the city from buildings, many of them railway stations, running about in public. Many women became hysterical. Police whistles were blown frantically, but the police themselves did not know what it was all about.

The first explosion was followed by a second, slightly less violent, but which again shook all New York and shattered many more buildings. The thousands who had flocked to the streets after the first explosion were reinforced by thousands more after the second. Men, women and children left their homes in their night clothes. Many declared they had been thrown out of bed by the force of the concussion, which was felt even more severely in the corridors when the windows in their rooms were shattered. Patients in all the city hospitals were greatly alarmed and their attendants experienced much difficulty in quieting

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Panic was most pronounced among the dwellers in crowded East Side tenements, and many of them fled into the streets where they were cut by broken glass.

Police headquarters in Manhattan express the belief that many thousands of dollars' worth of property has been lost in this city by the explosion. It was conjectured that the combinations of results in the financial district might have been so seriously damaged that difficulty would be experienced in opening them.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., July 30.—Operators on duty in the electrical bureau at City Hall here reported that windows in the big building rattled from two distinct shocks from the explosion. Many inquiries came into police stations from residents in the northeastern part of Philadelphia.

Shocks Felt in Philadelphia.

The explosion was felt at Camden, N. J., opposite this city, and at Bristol, Pa. The explosion was also felt in Philadelphia said the shock was plainly felt. Bristol is sixty-six miles from Jersey City and Camden nearly ninety miles.

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But U. S. Refuses Extraor- dinary Precautions When Submarine Is to Sail.

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It is understood that the application for protection was made through the collector of customs at Baltimore, and that Capt. Koenig, the submarine commander, desired a coast guard cutter or naval vessel to escort him down Chesapeake bay and to the three-mile limit. Unless steps are taken to prevent it, the submarine probably will be followed by a fleet of British carrying newspaper correspondents, photographers and sightseers.

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Precautions already have been taken to see that the submarine is not molested at the home's summer home. The reported incursion of a British cruiser between the Virginia capes last week the armored cruiser North Carolina was dropped in the bays, depots and railway stations on the enemy's front.

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"In the Meuse district there was no infantry activity."

"British air directed on French Comines caused losses among the civilian population and did material damage to the railway station."

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