

Thirteen Others Injured by Powder Explosion on Warship.

THE GUN CHARGE IGNITED

Boston, July 16.—By the explosion of a case of powder in the hands of a gunner in the after superimposed turret of the battleship Georgia, in Massachusetts bay, eight men were killed and 13 injured. Not one of the persons in the turret escaped injury. The dead: Lieutenant Casper Goodrich, New York.

William J. Thatcher, chief turret captain, Wilmington, Del.

Faulkner Goldthwaite, midshipman, Kentucky.

W. J. Burke, ordinary seaman, Quincy, Mass.

G. G. Hamilton, ordinary seaman, South Framingham, Mass.

W. M. Thomas, ordinary seaman, Newport, R. I.

George E. Miller, ordinary seaman, Brooklyn, N. Y.

William F. Fair, ordinary seaman, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Injured: Midshipman John T. Cruz, Nebraska; Frank S. Chiapp, North Adams, Mass.; boatswain's mate, Charles Hassell, New York, gunner's mate, Orley Tagland, Richard, Minn., chief yeoman; J. G. Thomas, ordinary seaman, Brooklyn, N. Y.; S. L. Rosenberg, ordinary seaman, Philadelphia; Edward J. Walsh, ordinary seaman, Lynn, Mass.; John O. Mallick, ordinary seaman, Cleveland, O.; John A. Bush, ordinary seaman, New York; L. O. Meez, ordinary seaman, Berea, O.; H. L. Gilbert, ordinary seaman, Southwick, Mass.; John A. Fone, ordinary seaman, Trenton, N. J.; Charles Leich, ordinary seaman, Frankfort, Ind.

Three of the injured, Lieutenant Goodrich and Seaman Fair and Walsh were in a very critical condition when brought into the hospital and it was announced that their injuries would prove fatal. Lieutenant Goodrich and Seaman Mallick jumped overboard immediately after the explosion, with the apparent motive of ending the terrible suffering from their burns. Both of the desperate men were quickly rescued by uninjured comrades. Goodrich died in the hospital.

The accident happened while the men were engaged in target practice, together with other vessels of the battleship squadron of the Atlantic fleet. The powder had just been taken from the ammunition hoist to load an eight-inch gun. It was seen to be burning and in an instant exploded in the very face of the loader of the gun. No damage was done to the vessel, as the powder was not confined.

How the powder became ignited is not known, but the theory held at the navy yard is that it was set off by a spark from the smokestack of the warship. After the accident the Georgia headed for the Charlestown navy yard. There the dead and injured were taken ashore, the wounded men being conveyed to the naval hospital at Chelsea.

The guns in the forward turret had finished eight rounds of practice, and the guns of the after turret had fired one round. Two cases, as the big 100 pound bags of powder are called, had just been sent up through the ammunition hoist and were in the arms of the loader. The loader stood at the breach of one of the eight-inch guns, all ready to insert the charge. At this instant the turret was seen to be smoky, and two men, who stood near the loader saw a black spot on the bag, indicating that the charge had ignited and was smouldering. The loader discovered the spot at the same instant and threw himself forward on his face, at the same time shouting a warning to his turret mates.

The other men who had seen the spot were Elch and Hansell, and they also threw themselves on the floor.

Before the other men in the turret could understand what caused the loader's cry of warning, there was a blinding flash as the burning powder exploded. Flames, smoke, and nauseous gases filled the little superstructure in which more than a score of men were confined. As the powder was not confined there was no report, nor did the vessel suffer any injury, but every nook and cranny of the turret was filled with flame. The loader, who was, of course, nearest the powder, was terribly burned, as was every other man in the turret.

Blinded by the smoke and flame, choked by the acrid, penetrating gaseous fumes, and maddened with pain, the men screamed in agony. Some staggered blindly up the ladder to the hatchway in the top of the turret, while others crept along the turret floor, begging piteously for assistance.

Lieutenant Goodrich and Seaman Mallick became crazed, staggered up the iron ladder to the top of the turret and then threw themselves headlong into the sea, in a despairing effort to choose a death by drowning in preference to death by slow fire.

When the smoke of the burning powder had cleared away, the shipmates of the unfortunate men rushed to their assistance, and tenderly the suffering sailors were lifted out of the fire-blackened turret and quickly conveyed to the ship's hospital, where their burns were dressed by the surgeons.

In the meantime Lieutenant Goodrich and Seaman Mallick had been rescued by a launch that was returning from an inspection of the target.

Dies After Stepping On Nail. Catsaqua, Pa., July 15.—Having stepped on a nail at the Crane Iron works last week, Fred J. Dech, a young carpenter, died of lockjaw.

UNHURT BY 7000-FOOT FALL

Airship Lost Gas, But Aeronaut Turned It Into Parachute.

Springfield, O., July 15.—While operating an airship at a height of 7000 feet here, Gall Robinson, a Buffalo, N. Y., aeronaut, had a thrilling experience. The propeller of his airship was accidentally thrown against the gas bag, which was cut open, letting the gas escape. The gas took fire and the machine began to fall. Robinson then climbed quickly to the top of the propeller, which "up-ended," the balloon forming a sort of a parachute, which caught the air, letting the machine and its operator descend slowly to the ground. The accident was witnessed by several thousand persons, and women and children were panic-stricken because of a fear that Robinson would be dashed to death.

Robinson's only injury was a slight cut on the head.

SHORTAGE MAY BE HEAVY

The Collector of Bordentown, N. J., is Missing.

Bordentown, N. J., July 15.—John F. Atkin, of Philadelphia, counsel for Dr. L. C. Leedom, the absent city collector, returned from New York, where he went in an effort to obtain an interview with his client regarding the report that he is \$10,000 short in his accounts with the city. Mr. Atkin is inclined to take a very different view of Dr. Leedom's absence from that of the residents of Bordentown, who are charging that the collector has absconded. Mr. Atkin charges that the spreading of the rumor is only a piece of politics aimed at Dr. Leedom by his political enemies.

The committee in its statement asserts that as the result of the investigation made it was learned that Dr. Leedom's shortage would probably amount to \$10,300.

TORTURED BY BURGLARS

Frank Smith's Tongue Slit and Feet Slashed By Thieves.

Buffalo, N. Y., July 16.—Because he would not deliver to two burglars the keys of his employer's house, Frank Smith, 45 years old, a coachman in the employ of John Gehm, a wholesale meat dealer, was horribly tortured and left for dead by his assailants. Smith slept in a room above the barn at the rear of Gehm's house. He was awakened shortly after midnight by two masked men, who demanded the keys of the house. Smith refused to give them up, and the burglars began a series of revolting tortures. Smith's tongue was slit with a knife and the soles of his feet were slashed in a score of places until he became unconscious. The men then threw Smith down the stairs, where he was found. One arrest was made. Smith is in a critical condition.

EX-SUITOR SUES FOR GIFTS

Jilted Man Demands Return of Diamond Ring and Jewelry.

Bridgeton, N. J., July 15.—Because Miss Julia Most, a popular young society woman and amateur actress, rejected her suitor, Frank M. Tidmarsh, who had wooed her for several years, she will be compelled to take the leading role in a drama of love in the Cumberland county courts.

Tidmarsh and Miss Most were to have been married in the fall. The young woman failed to return a fine diamond ring and other articles of jewelry which Tidmarsh gave her, and he obtained a writ of replevin.

Miss Most will fight the case and has engaged counsel. Tidmarsh also is represented by an attorney.

Doesn't Sell Beer, Baby Drinks It.

Middleboro, Mass., July 16.—Mrs. Caroline Lemmo, up in court for violating the excise law, explained why she ran a beer bill of \$28 a week. "My baby, 7 months old, drinks three bottles a day," she said. "I drink a keg a day and my husband drinks the rest. We don't sell it, we drink it." Her husband earns \$9 a week and the court couldn't understand how they could afford so much beer. Mrs. Lemmo was fined \$75.

Killed By Exploding Engine Piston.

Johnstown, Pa., July 15.—Harry Shaffer, a machinist, was killed, and Jacob Huebner was horribly mangled by an explosion of an engine piston in the Gaulten mills of the Cambria Steel company. The piston, with water and the heat of the blacksmith's furnace, at which the men were repairing the piston, generated steam which caused the explosion. Shaffer lived a short time, and Huebner's condition is critical.

Human Brick, Once Musician, is Lost.

Pittsburg, July 16.—A brick is lost somewhere between Boston and this city. The brick is made out of the ashes of Herman Unger, musician, who killed himself in Boston recently. He left a will that he should be cremated and made into a brick, which was done. The remains were to be shipped to a friend here. They haven't arrived.

Hurl's Girl Over Precipice.

Pittsburg, July 13.—Enraged because she had only 25 cents, a footpad, who held up Miss Bessie Neill, 19, beat the young woman and then threw her over a precipice. Her life was saved by a tree.

Rattlesnake Bite Kills in Few Hours.

Norfolk, Va., July 13.—The 14-year-old daughter of John Bull, of Newmarket, while playing in a clump of bushes, was bitten by a rattlesnake and died in agony a few hours later. Physicians resorted to every known means to save her.

"Yes," remarked Farmer Corntessel, "my boy Josh gets a good deal of fun out of automobiling." "But he doesn't own a machine." "Of course not. He's one of the county constables."

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