

# FRANK'S CONDITION STEADILY IMPROVING; GOOD CHANCE TO RECOVER, SAY DOCTORS

## William Creen Declares That He Alone Plotted Famous Prisoner's Death

Frank's Family Physician Says That Prompt Attention of Prison Doctors Saved Patient's Life. Thinks Frank Will Get Well—Two Trained Nurses on Duty.

**"I'M GOING TO LIVE. I MUST LIVE.  
I MUST VINDICATE MYSELF,"  
DECLARES FRANK TO DOCTOR**

**Creen Had No Quarrel With His Victim and  
Read No Anti-Frank Literature — Admits  
Talking About Case to Fellow-Convicts, But  
Shoulders All Blame—Creen Is Chained to  
Concrete Post.**

Milledgeville, Ga., July 18.—(Special.)—Leo Frank, with his throat cut almost halfway round, is resting easily late tonight in the hospital ward of the prison farm here, and the indications are that he will recover. With normal pulse and a temperature of 99 he is in no immediate danger, according to the prison surgeon, Dr. Guy Compton, but it will be several days before chances of a relapse have passed.

Frank, who has been conscious since he was attacked, is optimistic and displays considerable fortitude. "I am going to live. I must live. I must vindicate myself," he declared. His wife is constantly at his bedside and this afternoon he was visited by her brother, M. Marcus, and Dr. H. J. Rosenberg, the family physician.

### **CREEN TAKES ALL BLAME FOR ATTACK ON FRANK.**

William Creen, the life-term convict who admits cutting Frank's throat, declares that there was no conspiracy among the prisoners to kill Frank. He says that he alone plotted Frank's death, claiming that he had "an inspiration" that he should do so.

Dr. Guy Compton says that the prognosis is favorable for Frank's recovery. The jugular vein was ligated and anastomotic circulation has successfully set up in the deeper and surrounding blood vessels. In case no infection happens from the weapon of the would-be assassin, a knife used in cutting salt pork, and no rupture of vessels occurs from blood pressure or coughing spells, everything will probably go well with Frank and the wound will heal by first intention.

In fighting off his assailant, Frank got gashes in both of his hands from the knife. The wounds are not bad, however.

### **DR. ROSENBERG THINKS FRANK WILL RECOVER.**

Dr. Rosenberg, Frank's Atlanta physician, arrived at noon. He also thinks Frank will recover. He complimented the efforts of the prison doctors, saying their prompt services saved Frank's life.

Dr. McNaughton is being congratulated for the heroic part he played, for it was he who rendered the first aid, clamping the gushing vein and stopping the big hemorrhage. Dr. McNaughton says Frank would surely have bled to death in five minutes. He is much pleased over saving the life of his fellow prisoner under such dramatic and tragic circumstances.

### **CREEN IS CHAINED TO CONCRETE POST.**

Bill Creen appears quite composed as he lies on a cot in the rear of the big dormitory with his legs chained to a concrete

post. The report of his being in a private cell or dungeon is untrue, for there are no cells in this prison.

According to Creen's statement he has killed two men, Tobe Reese, eight years ago, being acquitted on a plea of self-defense, and O. S. Kitchen, three years ago, for which he was given life sentence. Before the trial he was examined by a lunacy commission, which pronounced him sane. Dr. L. M. Jones, superintendent of the state sanitarium, was on the commission.

Creen weighs 165 pounds, has dark hair and mustache, brown eyes, is 6 feet tall, was born in Memphis, Tenn., lived in Georgia 25 years and has a wife who works in the Eagle-Phoenix factory.

He says he has been reading only the Bible.

### MRS. FRANK PROSTRATED BY THE TRAGEDY.

Mrs. Leo Frank is broken down and badly fatigued from the harrowing experience of last night. She, too, thinks her husband is on the road to recovery. She shudders when she thinks of the narrow escape he had. She declares her husband is the most wonderful man in the world to endure what he has with such patience and heroism.

Everybody who has been around Frank's bedside comment on the calm fortitude exhibited by him almost in the very face of death. For some time he thought he was going to die, but throughout showed courage, never giving away to pain nor uttering any protest. He reiterated his declaration of innocence, saying if he had to die he had no fear of death and he hoped his assailant would be forgiven.

Warden Smith deeply regrets the tragedy. He has been on a great strain since Frank was placed under his care. He hasn't had a good night's sleep in weeks. He says the happening of last night emphasizes another need at

the prison farm—a place of detention for dangerous convicts. He has several such prisoners now that he has to keep chained to prevent them from committing acts of violence. Creen is another problem to handle.

### FRANK'S CONSTITUTION IS HOLDING OUT.

Frank's strong constitution, which was noticeable throughout his fight for life in the courts of Georgia and the higher courts, is still holding out. He was a frail man when he was brought to the state farm, probably sixty pounds lighter than when he was first arrested accused of the murder of Mary Phagan. But he has taken on flesh since his arrival here. He was getting strong and robust, working much of the time in the open air with other convicts, hence the great loss of blood that he has suffered has not caused a complete collapse. He is weak, but he has nerve.

Frank has asked the prison doctors again if they thought he would live.

"You have a good chance to recover," he was told today.

Frank smiled. "Don't punish the man who attacked me," he said. "I have nothing to fear. There is nothing between me and God. I will be able to prove to the world that I am innocent of the crime of which they accuse me if they give me a chance."

"Doctor," he said late this afternoon, "I am going to live. I must live. I must vindicate myself."

The weather is very hot, the temperature having reached 98 yesterday and again today. Frank stands the heat remarkably well, however, and he has a light, airy room.

Two trained nurses from Macon, Miss McCormick and Miss Parker, were brought here in an automobile this morning to care for Frank. Two noted Macon doctors hurried here shortly after the cutting, to be of assistance in dressing the wounds, if possible, but prison doctors had completed dressing the wounds before they arrived.

### NO CONSPIRACY TO KILL FRANK.

William Creen, the life-term convict, who admits that he cut Frank's throat, was questioned again today by prison authorities to ascertain if there was a conspiracy to kill Frank.

Creen asserted that there was no plot. He said that he had the inspiration that he should kill Frank and plotted alone to kill him. He told of aiding in the butchering of hogs on Saturday morning, how he had hidden a butcher knife that had been made

out of a big file in his clothing, carried it to bed with him and then how he attacked Frank as the latter slept.

Creen admitted that he had talked with convicts on the Frank case, but said that they had not influenced him in any way. He took all the blame for the crime on his own shoulders, and said that while he thought at the time that he was doing right he now regretted his act.

Superintendent Smith said this afternoon that Creen had not been permitted to read newspapers or anti-Frank literature.

Creen read the Bible," said the superintendent. "The Bible was furnished to him at the library. He studied it whenever he had an odd moment. He seemed to be getting religion. I knew that Creen was a bad man, but never dreamed that he would attack a fellow convict. I had instructed the guards not to pick a quarrel with him, as it might result seriously."

"Did Creen have a quarrel with Frank?" he was asked.

"No, absolutely not," said the superintendent. "They appeared to be friends. That is why the attack is all the more shocking."

Mrs. Frank left her husband's bedside at 11 o'clock tonight after an all-day vigil. She went to the home of Captain Burke, superintendent of the farm, to spend the night.

"Mr. Frank's condition is favorable," she said. "We are encouraged."

Mrs. Frank added that she was too tired to collect her thoughts to talk further.