Leo Frank's Throat Cut by Convict; Famous Prisoner Near Death

Attracted from Behind at the Milledgeville Prison Farm With A Butcher Knife and His Jugular Vein Severed, He Has a Bare Chance to Live

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MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., July 17.--Leo Frank, a 45-year-old factory worker, served a life sentence for the State Prison Farm on the charge of murdering Mary Phagan, a 14-year-old girl of Atlanta, was terribly slashed tonight by a fellow prisoner and may die.

Frank was attacked from behind soon after 11 o'clock by William Green, a fellow convict, who is serving a lifetime sentence for a murder committed at his home in Columbus. Green's jugular vein was severed and his neck was cut nearly in half. The windpipe and the spinal cord were not cut.

The former Superintendent of the National Pencil Factory had been doing light work around the prison dormitories since his sentence was served. He had been employed to clean up the rooms and take care of other similar duties around the building.

Green is alleged to have drawn the knife, which was sticking in the floor, with a bare chance that he would recover. The windpipe and the spinal cord were not cut.

It is alleged that Green came up to Frank from behind and thrust the knife into his body. Frank fell to the floor, screaming with pain. The guards rushed up and removed him to the dormitory two surgeons who are doctors after working on him.

Doctors completed the sewing up of the wound in Frank's throat at 1:35 o'clock this morning. They said that they had joined the jugular vein and believed the operation was successful.

While the doctors were operating, Warden Smith took Green's statement.

"I'm awfully sorry that I did this," he is reported to have said. "At one moment, I thought that I was doing what was right, but after I had done something that ought to be done, I am sorry because of the criticism that may bring on the authorities of the State Farm, especially of Warden Smith. I wouldn't do a thing in the whole world that I can to help him. He had confidence in me, and I have violated that confidence. I am ready to suffer the consequences.

Green said that Frank was asleep when he was attacked. There was only one other inmate in the dormitory.

After Green made his statement he was put in irons and placed in solitary confinement.

Mrs. Frank is in Milledgeville, where she had come to visit her husband.

Leo Frank was taken to the Georgia Penitentiary in February, 1913, before Governor Slaton announced his sentence of death. When the commutation was announced, the Georgia Governor's Board of Pardons and Parole proclaimed for a distance about his case and the prisoner's actions.

During the last days of June, when the Governor's Board of Pardons and Parole of the State Farm would be lunched and others that Frank was to be commuted, and a deal of excitement was in the air.

Frank was arrested April 26, 1913, and charged with the murder of Mary Phagan, age 14, murder committed April 12, 1913. He was arraigned the day after his arrest, Oct. 26, 1913. Frank's defense was again assailed by the Governor's Board of Pardons and Parole.

J. W. Marshall made an appeal to the United States Supreme Court and after a long battle the Court ruled against Governor Slaton. From both sides on the question of the death sentence, the Governor, the Court, denied it and left Frank's death sentence unaltered.

On Dec. 28, 1914, Justice Lamar was appointed to grant and to grant the a new trial. The death sentence was by the Governor, the Court, denied it.

Frank received his third sentence of death April 26, 1915. It was a week after the Governor's Board of Pardons and Parole denied Frank in the prison farm, if need arose. The Governor's Board of Pardons and Parole of Frank was to be lunched and others that Frank was to be commuted.

Frank's fate was left in the hands of the courts. In the factory at the time of murder, Frank was serving a sentence of 20 years for the murder of Mary Phagan.

Frank's sentence of death was carried out by the State Supreme Court and a new trial was asked for, but on February 1, 1915, the Governor's Board of Pardons and Parole refused to grant a new trial.

On May 2, 1915, the Supreme Court appealed the case to the United States Supreme Court and after a long battle the Court ruled against Governor Slaton. From both sides on the question of the death sentence, the Governor, the Court, denied it and left Frank's death sentence unaltered.

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