

FRANK SURVIVES ASSASSIN'S KNIFE

**Jugular Vein Partly Severed by
Convict's Attack, but He Is
Expected to Recover.**

SLASHED WHILE HE SLEPT

**Assailant, the Murderer of Two
Men, Asserts That He Was
Not Prompted to the Act.**

FRANK BRAVE IN CRISIS

**Not Afraid to Die, and Begs That
Assailant Be Forgiven—Gov-
ernor Plans investigation.**

Special to The New York Times.

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., July 18.—Leo M. Frank, whose throat was cut by William Creen, a fellow-convict at the Georgia Prison Farm here, late last night, the jugular vein being partly severed, is believed to have a good chance for recovery. It was feared for a time that he would die from loss of blood, but the hemorrhage was checked in quick time, and now the attending physicians says the wounded man has something more than a fighting chance for his life.

Frank was reported late tonight as resting well. He had regained his normal pulse. Two trained nurses have been employed to care for him.

The attack on the famous life prisoner was sudden, savage and unprovoked. The assailant, a murderer who has killed two men, also is serving a life sentence.

Frank was quartered at night in a dormitory with about one hundred other prisoners, and occupied a bunk about forty feet from one of the two doors to the large room. Creen's bunk was the fourth from his. No prisoner is allowed to leave his place without permission from one of the two guards stationed at the dormitory at night.

Seized Frank by the Hair.

Shortly after 11 o'clock Creen called out for permission to get up, and it was granted. He started down the line of bunks toward the one occupied by Frank. As he reached it he seized Frank by the hair and delivered one blow with a butcher knife, which he had concealed. A guard rushed to the bunk and prevented Creen from striking again.

Among the prisoners who rushed to Frank's aid were two physicians, one of whom also was serving a life term for murder. They gave first aid and treated the wound until Dr. Guy Compton, the prison physician, was summoned from his home, half a mile away. The three men took twenty-five stitches in Frank's neck. Dr. H. J. Rosenberg, the Frank family physician, arrived from Atlanta today with two nurses. He said that while the patient's condition was serious, he had a good chance for life.

Mrs. Frank was in Milledgeville at the home of J. M. Burns. She was not told of the attack until after the physicians had finished their work. She became hysterical, but later was calmed and was taken to the prison hospital.

The cut extends from the front of the neck around the left side to almost the middle of the back of the neck. Neither the windpipe nor the spinal cord is hurt, but the jugular vein is partly severed. The physicians' greatest fear tonight was that some of the stitches might slip. There is danger, also, of a new rupture from a coughing spell.

In trying to fight off his assailant Frank got gashes in both hands from the knife, but these wounds are not serious.

After his wounds had been dressed Frank turned to the physicians and asked: "I am I going to die?"

"We don't know," replied Dr. Compton. "You are in a serious condition and will have to be quiet."

Not Afraid to Die.

"If I am going to die," replied Frank, "I am not afraid. Nothing stands between me and God. I hope that the man who attacked me will be forgiven."

Frank knew of the demonstrations against the action of Governor Slaton in commuting his sentence and also of threats to take him from the prison farm by force. Those who reached his side first after he was wounded believe he had all this in mind when he said: "I guess they have got me now."

Everybody who has been at Frank's bedside has commented on his calmness and fortitude. For some time he thought he was going to die, but throughout he maintained marked courage, never uttering any complaint.

Frank's constitution, which stood him in such good stead throughout his fight for life in the courts, seems unimpaired. He was somewhat worn down when brought to the State Farm, being probably sixty pounds lighter than when arrested, accused of the murder of Mary Phagan, but he had taken on flesh since his arrival here and was getting strong and robust through 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 asked the prison doctors again today if they thought he would live.

"You have a good chance," he was told. Frank smiled.

"Don't punish the man who attacked me," he said. "I have nothing to fear. 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 later, "I am going to live. I must live. I must vindicate myself."

Life Saved by Murderer.

Dr. Rosenberg, Frank's Atlanta physician, complimented the prison doctors, saying their prompt action saved Frank's life. Dr. J. M. McNaughton, who is serving a life term for murder, is being congratulated for the part he played. It was he who rendered the first aid, clamping the gushing vein and stopping the hemorrhage. Dr. McNaughton says Frank surely would have died to death in five minutes. He is much pleased over saving the life of his fellow prisoner.

Creen, Frank assailant, appears composed as he lies on a cot in the big dormitory with his legs chained to a concrete post. The report that he had been placed in a dungeon is untrue; there are no cells in this prison.

According to Creen's own statement he has killed two men. One of these was Tobe Reese, whom he killed eight years ago. Of that crime he was acquitted on a plea of self-defense. He killed O. S. Kitchens three years ago, and for that crime received a life sen-

Continued on Page 4.

The New York Times

Published: July 19, 1915

Copyright © The New York Times

FRANK SURVIVES ASSASSIN'S KNIFE

will be conducted by the Georgia Prison Commission, the same body that refused to recommend that Frank's death sentence be commuted to life imprisonment.

Continued from Page 1.

tence. Before that trial he was examined by a lunacy commission, which pronounced him sane.

The man is 45 years old. He was born in Memphis, Tenn., but has lived in Georgia for twenty-five years. He was sentenced from Columbus, Ga., and has a wife there.

Creen asserted that there was no conspiracy. He said that he had an inspiration to kill Frank, and plotted alone to kill him. He told of aiding in the butchering of hogs Saturday morning, of hiding in his clothing a butcher knife made out of a file, and of carrying it to bed with him. It was with this weapon that he attacked Frank.

The assailant admitted that he had talked with other convicts about 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.

Read Only the Bible.

Supt. Smith said that Creen had not been permitted to read newspapers or anti-Frank literature. He read only the Bible, said the Superintendent.

"The Bible was furnished to him at the library," said Mr. Smith. "He studied it whenever he had an odd moment. He seemed to be getting religion. I knew that Creen was a bad man, but I 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 any 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."

Superintendent Smith deeply regrets the attack. He has been on a great strain since Frank was placed under his care. He says the attack emphasizes the need of a place for dangerous convicts at the prison farm. He has several such prisoners now, and these he has to keep chained to prevent them from committing acts of violence.

An investigation of the attack probably