

## WARDEN IS OVERPOWERED

### Prison Telephone Wires Cut in Advance to Pre- vent Interruption.

#### TWENTY-FIVE MEN IN PARTY

**Frank, Not Yet Recovered from  
Wound Fellow-Convict Gave  
Him, Rushed Away.**

#### 25 TO 70 MEN IN PARTY

**Member of Mob Said to Have  
Shouted They Would 'Put His  
Body on Victim's Grave.'**

#### TRIALS OF NOTED PRISONER

**Since Murder of Mary Phagan He  
Has Been Thrice Sentenced to  
Die, Once Nearly Killed.**

*By Long Distance Telephone to The New  
York Times.*

MACON, Ga., Tuesday, Aug. 17, 3  
A. M.—Leo M. Frank, who was serv-  
ing a life sentence for the murder of  
Mary Phagan, an Atlanta factory  
girl, and whose life was attempted  
last month by a fellow prisoner and  
has since been slowly recovering from  
a slash across the throat that nearly  
caused his death, was kidnapped at  
11:40 o'clock last night from the  
State Prison Farm at Milledgeville.

Twenty-five armed and masked  
men took Frank from the prison  
after overpowering the Warden and  
prison guards, and hustling Frank  
into one of the several automobiles  
that composed their party, set off at  
full speed along the turnpike in the  
direction of Eatonton.

First reports that the kidnapers  
might be friends of Frank were dis-  
pelled when a prisoner said he heard a  
member of the mob shout that Frank's  
body would be placed tomorrow on the  
grave of Mary Phagan at Marietta,  
Ga.

#### **Left No Trail Behind.**

From the moment the party left  
Milledgeville all trace of them has  
been lost so far as officials here have  
been able to learn. Attempts to reach  
Milledgeville by telephone and tele-  
graph showed that every wire lead-  
ing to the State farm had been cut  
to prevent the prison officials giving  
the alarm.

Police officials of this town were  
aroused by news of Frank's departure  
in the hands of the twenty-five, and  
two automobiles, filled with officials,  
hurriedly aroused from sleep, set out  
from here a short time ago. The autos  
took a road toward Atlanta, hoping to  
head off Frank and his captors, should  
those who have the unfortunate young  
man in charge be aiming toward  
Atlanta, the city where Mary Phagan  
lost her life.

#### **Didn't Pass Eatonton.**

The last word received here was that  
no sign of the men had been seen in  
Eatonton, though it was toward that  
village that the flight was begun.  
Eatonton lies about twenty-five miles  
in a northwesterly direction from Mil-  
ledgeville, and it is probably thirty-  
five to forty miles from this city, the  
three towns forming a triangle, with  
Macon at the southern point, Milledge-  
ville at the eastern, and Eatonton at  
the north.

Atlanta is about 103 miles north-  
west of here, and little more than this  
distance from Milledgeville through  
Eatonton. The fact that the autos  
had not been sighted in Eatonton  
made it seem to officials here as  
though the party had cut to the west  
from the main road and were striking  
across country for the more direct  
pike between here and Atlanta. It  
was along this latter road that the  
Macon officials started.

#### **Prison Guards Handcuffed.**

Few details of the kidnapping of  
Frank can be obtained here because

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# KIDNAP LEO FRANK AT NIGHT FROM JAIL

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of the cutting of the wires. So far as is known there were from 25 to 70 in the party that approached the prison farm at 11:40 o'clock. The prisoners, who sleep in a single big dormitory, are required to retire at 8 o'clock, and had consequently been asleep for some time. The room was in darkness.

## Little Hope for Frank's Life.

Not one of the party was recognized by Warden Smith or any of his associates, and no one here has the slightest idea of their identities. It was even suggested at first, as already told, that they might have been friends of Frank who, aroused to his continued danger, even in prison, by the attack on him last month, had determined to release him.

Little credence was given to this belief, however, as Frank was not regarded as having enough or the kind of friends to do such a thing as was done a few hours back. It is feared that Frank may already be dead, or, if not, that his captors are merely carrying him to a place where his lynching may have been predetermined.

Little belief is felt here that he will be seen again alive, and the searchers who left here started as much with the idea of finding his body as of rescuing Frank.

## Covered Guards with Pistols.

The mob was orderly, but worked with quick precision. Eight automobiles took the men to within a short distance of the prison. First all wires from the prison and all except one from Milledgeville were cut.

Five men went to the house of J. T. Smith, the Warden, covered him with pistols, and stood guard over him. Other men went to the house of J. M. Burke, Superintendent of the prison, and held him under cover of their guns.

Practically every other member of the mob then rushed to the stockade gate nearest the dormitory where Frank was being housed. Only yesterday did the physicians discharge him from the hospital, where he had been since being murderously assaulted in the dormitory.

## Quick, Silent Kidnappers.

As on the night Frank was attacked, only two guards were on duty. The mob quickly overpowered Chief Night Guard Hester and the other man on duty, proceeded to the dormitory, and within a few minutes seized Frank and rushed him back to the automobiles.

Those who had been holding Smith and Burke left as soon as Frank was brought out and joined their fellows.

The automobiles were then started in the direction of Eatonton. Nothing more had been heard of them hours after they left.

Only one member of that part of the mob that went to the dormitory talked except for the remark quoted. He gave the commands to the guards, and these were backed up by the arms of the other members of the mob.

In taking the road in the direction of Eatonton the kidnappers would be going almost as straight as possible toward Marietta, which is about 110 miles northwest of Milledgeville.