

PRISONERS SHOOT GUARDS AND ESCAPE

One Turnkey Killed, Another
Mortally Wounded at the
Camden County Jail.

TWO WOMEN INVOLVED

Supposed to Have Furnished Re-
volver and Planned Escape
of Alleged Murderer.

Special to The New York Times.

CAMDEN, N. J., July 17. — Isaac Hibbs, a turnkey, was murdered and Joseph Ellis, another turnkey, mortally wounded when two prisoners escaped tonight from the Camden County Jail. The shooting was done by Wilson Ashbridge, who was awaiting trial for wife murder, and George E. Thompson, charged with forgery. Both men have so far eluded the police.

Two women, one of whom is a friend of Ashbridge, are believed to have provided the revolver and planned the escape. Neither of them has been found, but the authorities hope to arrest them before many hours.

Supper had been served and the prisoners were being ordered into their cells by Hibbs, who stood outside the locked door of the cage. Ashbridge approached the door of the cage, saying:

"Ike, here is something I want to give you."

Hibbs apparently thought it was a letter to mail and opened the door. As he did so the paper Ashbridge held over a revolver fell to the floor and the prisoner ordered Hibbs to throw up his hands. At this moment Thompson ran up, calling on Ashbridge to shoot. For a moment Ashbridge hesitated, and Hibbs put his hand to his hip pocket to draw a revolver.

"Shoot quick or the game's up!" shouted Thompson.

Angered by Ashbridge's hesitation, Thompson seized the weapon and shot Hibbs in the chest, then in the stomach. By this time Hibbs had drawn his pistol, but before he could shoot he fell dead.

Calling to the other prisoners that the first man who gave an alarm would be shot, Ashbridge and Thompson searched the clothing of the dead turnkey for the keys to the outside door, but failed to find them. Running down the corridor to where Ellis, the second and only other turnkey, was sitting in the jailer's room, Thompson called upon him to open the outside door.

"Kill him!" shouted Ashbridge to Thompson, who had the revolver, but Thompson had received numerous kindnesses at the hands of Ellis, and apparently did not want to injure him.

"If you don't open the door, I'll shoot," Thompson said, but Ellis started to grapple with him.

Snatching the pistol from Thompson's hand, Ashbridge shot three times at Ellis. One bullet entered his shoulder, a second his hip, but still Ellis tussled for possession of the weapon until the third bullet penetrated his stomach and he fell to the floor, calling for help.

Ashbridge and Thompson took the key and escaped, taking the precaution to lock the door to prevent Ellis from following them. This also probably prevented a general jail delivery.