
**Chicago Federal
Building Bombed:
Four Persons Killed, 75 Injured:
Haywood There at Time:
Structure Containing
Landis' Courtroom Damaged:
Force of Blast Terrific:
Infernal Machine, Carefully Timed,
Said to Have Been Deposited at Adams Street
Entrance at Busiest Period of Day
[event of Sept. 4, 1918]**

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CHICAGO, Sept. 4 [1918].— A bomb exploding in the entrance of the Federal building this afternoon killed four persons and wounded 75 others.

The list of dead follows:

William H. Wheeler, mail clerk.

J.B. Ladd, a sailor from the Great Lakes Naval Training Station, whose home was in Salina, Kansas.

E.R. Kolkow, a postal clerk.

Miss Helen Michike, of Chicago.

The blast was attributed to the Industrial Workers of the World by Philip J. Barry, acting chief of the local Federal investigation bureau.

Raids Follow Promptly.

While the city police were rushing the wounded to hospitals, Federal agents hurried from the building and made two raids on Industrial Workers of the World headquarters. Nine men were bagged at these places and a woman escaped in a nearby office building. Her identity is being kept secret.

The explosion wrecked the entrance of the building and shattered every window in the first three floors of two buildings across the street.



The courtroom of Judge Kenesaw M. Landis, where 95 IWW leaders were given prison sentences a few days ago, is on the sixth floor of the Federal building.

Haywood in Building.

William D. Haywood, “uncrowned king” of the IWW, was in the building at the time of the explosion. With his lawyer he was plan-

ning to seek a writ of error to stay the execution of the 20-year prison sentence given him.

He deplored the outrage and admitted he thought the IWW would be blamed, but denied emphatically that any member of the organization had committed the act.

Haywood plainly felt the building tremble with the detonation of the bomb and heard the glass crash in the dome of the structure and the cries of the injured. He appeared clam and did not leave the Deputy Marshal's office.

Blame for Act Expected.

"It is unfortunate that this thing happened at this time," he said feelingly. "I know that the IWW will be blamed, but I am convinced in my own heart that no man of my organization was in any way connected with this matter. It would be insane for an IWW to commit such an act at this time."

One of the men being sought in connection with the explosion is Peter Dailey, of St. Paul, Minn., who was placed on trial with the IWW members, but was later released by Judge Landis because of his physical and mental condition.

The bomb, which is believed to have consisted of at least three wire-wrapped steel cylinders charged with high explosive, was carried into the Adams Street entrance of the building during one of the most busy periods of the day.

Bomb Hidden in Suitcase.

Concealed in a suitcase and connected with a time fuse, the device was deposited behind a radiator unnoticed by the passing throng. Nearly a hundred persons were in the corridor at the time, at the stamp windows, writing desks, and letter registry division.

The explosion came at 2:10 o'clock. The force of the blast tore the radiator from its fastenings and hurled it 20 feet into the street, where it struck and killed a passing horse, smashed the desks, uprooted great slabs of marble from the walls and ground the woodwork into splinters.

Flying debris cut into shreds several war posters and canvas banners stretched across the front entrance, and filled the street with plaster, stone, and broken glass.

Directly across the way every pane of glass in the first three floors of the Commonwealth-Edison and Marquette buildings was blown in upon the occupants of the offices, stores, and restaurants. Many of the injured were cut by these flying fragments.

All those in the corridor where the explosion took place were hurled to the floor and their cries soon filled the building and halted the first panic-stricken rush of the uninjured to escape from other entrances.

The streets outside were soon roped off by policemen and firemen and ambulances and requisitioned automobiles began the work of rushing the victims to nearby hospitals.

Within half an hour a detail of sailors from the Great Lakes Naval Training Station and a detachment of Home Guards with fixed bayonets took up the task of keeping back the crowds.

Act of Reprisal Alleged.

“This outrage, in my opinion, was inevitable as an act of reprisal on the part of the IWW,” declared an official after a hurried investigation, “following the sentencing of nearly 100 of their members. We are certain that the IWW committed this deed.

“I believe that the bomb was composed of nitroglycerin. Several arrests have been made and we are questioning the prisoners as fast as we can. All persons known to be of radical thought will be brought in for examination.”

Frank K. Nebeker, chief prosecutor of the Industrial Workers of the World case, declined a plea made today in a conference with Attorney Vanderveer, who defended the defendants, for his consent to a low appeal bond for the convicted men.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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