

SIX KILLED BY LIGHTNING FLASH ON LONDON COMMON.

Man and Baby in His Arms Struck Dead.

FATE UNDER TREES.

Three Children on Seat Perish While Singing.

LOVER HURT—GIRL DIES.

Lightning played appalling havoc with human life in London yesterday.

Six persons were fatally struck by lightning on Wandsworth Common while sheltering, and several were severely injured, during the progress of a terrific storm.

It is believed that, though the victims were in two groups, one terrible, blinding flash of forked lightning killed all—a man, a woman and four children.

Pathetic in the extreme was the fate of three children who were struck down while singing merrily with two others beneath a tree. Following a fearful lightning flash, their singing suddenly ceased, and the children were found huddled together—three of them dead.

Two of the other victims were a man and a baby—apparently father and child, for the little one was tightly clasped in the man's arms.

A young man and his sweetheart, who had been for a walk on the common, were among the victims—his fiancée was killed, but he escaped with severe injuries.

The storm, which lasted about two hours, was one of the worst London has experienced for many years. (Photographs on page 1.)

CHILDREN DIE SINGING.

The victims of the lightning on Wandsworth Common comprised two groups, and so far as can be gathered they were all struck down by the same blinding, forked flash, at five minutes past one. They were within a radius of 300 yards.

Under one tree, near the Windmill, just off the Windmill-road, six were struck by the lightning. A man, woman and baby were killed, while another man, woman and baby were injured.

They killed here were:— Florence Grist, twenty-three, of 3, Linders-road, Battersea. Albert Bezza, thirty-one, of 20, Curlew-road, Battersea. Kate Mundy, twenty-one, of 15, Westwick-road, Wandsworth Common.

It is presumed by the police, *The Daily Mirror* understands, that the last two were father and child, for when the two were found the baby was tightly clasped in the man's arms.



HENRY HILLIARD. KATE MUNDY.

The injured were:— Percy West, also of 3, Linders-road, Battersea. Kate Mundy, twenty-one, of 15, Westwick-road, Battersea, and her baby.

These three were taken to Bellingbrooke Hospital, where the man and woman's condition are reported to be very serious.

West and the young woman Grist, who is dead, were sweethearts and had been out together for a walk on the common.

The tree under which these people were killed and injured was itself practically wrecked.

Mrs. Mundy had a baby in her arms when she was struck, but the infant was not hurt either by the lightning or when the mother fell. When Mrs. Mundy was picked up the child was still in her arms.

The second group of victims of the lightning on the common were five very young children, quite tiny mites, who took refuge under a large tree near the Pond, Bellingbrooke-grove.

They were seen playing a game called "ring of roses" beneath a lime tree. As soon as they heard the thunder they stopped their play and huddled together close to the trunk of the tree.

MOTHER'S FRANTIC SEARCH.

A policeman had heard them singing, perhaps to keep their courage up. There was a dazzling flash of lightning, and the singing suddenly ceased.

They fell in a huddled heap, and a constable who dashed to their assistance, together with a civilian, had himself less than a moment before been thrown against a tree by the same flash of forked lightning which struck the children.

They were at once conveyed to Bellingbrooke Hospital, near by, and there Dr. Prior found that three of them were dead. These were:—

George Legge, aged five, and Lizzie Legge, aged four, mother and sister, of 20, Curlew-road, Battersea; and Walter John Hilliard, aged three and a half, of 18, Curlew-road, Battersea.

The injured were:— Emily Budd, aged four, of 24, Winstanley-road, Battersea, and Henry Hilliard, also of 18, Curlew-road, Battersea, and younger brother of the little boy killed.

George and Lizzie Legge were the only children of their parents, whose terrible grief when

they learnt their children's fate was pathetic in the extreme.

The clothing of none of the five children was burned.

Immediately the storm was over dozens of anxious mothers and relatives, assisted by the police, searched over the common, fearing that others may also have been killed or hurt, and there were many happy reunions between parents and their children.

Mr. William Wilkins, of 10, Colonge-road, New Wandsworth, S.W., was actually struck by the lightning flash which killed Miss Florence Grist.

"I was standing about five feet away from the trunk of the tree under an overhanging branch, protecting my two little children from the rain," he said last night, "when I was knocked to the ground.

"I struck my head rather heavily and partially lost consciousness. I was brought to my senses by my children screaming. Fortunately they were not hurt, but merely frightened at seeing their father on the ground.

"On getting to my feet again I saw a man, woman and child lying on the ground apparently dead under a tree a few yards away. The clothes were burned and were smoking.

"There was a wonderful buzzing in my ears like telephone wires being blown about by the wind, but I managed to shout for assistance."

Beyond a shock and a burn behind the ear, Mr. Wilkins is none the worse for his alarming adventure.

"I WANT MY MAMMA."

Dr. Montgomery Marvin, who was visiting his friend, Mr. Dixon, at 2, Spencer-park, Wandsworth Common, said: "At about 12.30 p.m. we were looking out of one of the front room windows overlooking the common when we heard a loud crash of thunder and saw a man gesticulating wildly.

"We ran out and saw, under the first tree we came to, a woman lying on the ground unconscious. Her clothes were smouldering.

The trees were scarcely shaken by the flash of lightning, the bark being scored.

Thomas Green, son of Fireman Green, attached to the Northcote-road Fire Station, Clapham, who went to the assistance of the children struck by lightning near Bellingbrooke-grove, said last night: "Police-Constable Lawrence and I took shelter under a big tree. Following a terrific flash I heard somebody moaning.

"We went to the spot and saw two of the children lying dead under the seat. We got assistance and I picked up a child who was frothing at the mouth and moaning, 'I want my mammy.' The child died before reaching the hospital. I took the youngest child to the hospital.

"Previous to the fatality the children were singing 'Alexander's Ragtime Band'.

"An old man who was on the seat behind the children was knocked to the ground speechless and was incapable of rendering assistance."

FLOODS STOP TRAINS AND MOTORS.

The worst thunderstorm that has visited London for many years broke over the metropolis after a morning of blazing sunshine.

For more than two hours peal after peal of deafening thunder was heard, and the lightning was unusually vivid; but the feature of the storm was undoubtedly the torrential downpour of rain and hail.

The rain fell as if it had been flung from titanic buckets, and in less than half an hour the streets resembled rivers.

The brook at Hermitage Bridge, which marks the boundary between Croydon and the London County Council area, overflowed and flooded the main road at Norbury for 100 yards, the water reaching to the level of tramway-car platforms.

DRAWING-ROOM FLOODED.

Basements of many houses near Streatham Hill Station were flooded, extraordinary damage being caused by the torrential downpour.

Rushing down half a dozen avenues, the water poured into the high road and, after sweeping away two brick walls of a doctor's garden, poured into the gardens, kitchens and drawing rooms of houses in Killisier-avenue, carrying huge quantities of mud and gravel.

In the low-lying districts of Wandsworth and Earlsfield the River Wandle overflowed its banks,

flooding acres of land and inundating many houses on the river banks.

Riverside houses in Garrett-lane had two feet of water in them, and in some homes chairs were floating.

Towards the close of the storm hail fell, and in the Wimbledon district was the size of small marbles.

Owing to the bursting of a large water main in Norwood-road a number of houses were flooded. The water rose to about 2ft., and for some time the tramway and omnibus services were suspended.

Extraordinary scenes were witnessed as a result of the flood. The roadway was inundated for a distance of over 300 yards, and shopkeepers had to barricade their doors and windows.

As footing-broadway thousands of tons of water fell in a quarter of an hour, and for a hundred yards the Mitcham-road was flooded, the water rushing into houses, shops and cottages.

Thousands of wooden blocks stacked on either side of footing-broadway were scattered right and left by the fury of the gale, and for a considerable time trams, motor-omnibuses and all descriptions of vehicular traffic were held up.

Floods were so deep at Wimbledon Park Station that for nearly two hours trains were held



SCENE AT WIMBLEDON PARK STATION.

up. Electric trains which ran into the floods stopped when water reached the motors.

One of the remarkable effects of the storm was that the fire-alarm began ringing in the fire stations in various districts simultaneously, and caused a general turnout of engines and firemen on false errands.

Call after call came in rapid succession, and every one had to be answered by the attendance of two engines and a hoisted escape.

HAVOC BY LIGHTNING.

Here is a record of the damage done to buildings struck by lightning:—

Chimney pots and bricks torn from house in Teddington near the Baptist Chapel. Tiles of another Tottenham house (Minster-road) all split, many falling into the garden. Concrete wall of garden had large hole torn in it. Down-pipe of the house, a better, struck on left arm.

Roof of house in Kilmoad, Thornton Heath, set on fire. House in Metcham-road, Forest Hill, considerably damaged, and water-pipe melted and drains in the yard uprooted.

Bathroom of house at Crows set on fire. Water-pipe melted, and the fire extinguished by water thus released. House completely flooded.

Chimneys fireplace and shelves destroyed in house in Streeter Hill, Wimbledon.

Chimney stack struck at Bellingham Railway Station. Huge race of stone, weighing 50wt., hurled on the line. This had to be moved before trains could pass. Booking office, roof and the stationmaster's house also extensively damaged.

Joint chimney stack of two houses at Durling-road, Cardiff, were struck and roof damaged.

Small fire follows striking of chimney stack belonging to drapery establishment.

Some two tons of masonry dislodged from Royal Masonic School at Clapham Junction.

Hole a foot square made by thunder bolt. Thunder bolt crashes through roof of a house in Saddlewood, Wandsworth. It passed into a first floor room, making a hole about a foot square. Gas pipe broken and the gas ignited. Fire extinguished with difficulty by Mrs. Grimson, occupant of the house.

The east end of St. Mark's Church, Lewisham, was struck by lightning, a large stone cross and coping stone being shattered and thrown in all directions.

BOMB EXPLODED IN WEDDING CHURCH.

St. George's, Hanover-square, Damaged—Furies at St. Paul's.

CHAINED TO CHAIRS.

Yet another famous church in London has been damaged by a bomb.

A serious explosion took place late last night in St. George's, Hanover-square, the church where the wedding of so many well-known people have been solemnised.

Three stained-glass windows and three pews were damaged and the pew in front of the lectern was blown down.

Firemen on entering found the church full of a dense white smoke, and in a wrecked pew several pieces of candle and a woman's Dorothy bag.

The pew was occupied at evening service by a woman who wore a check dress. On an envelope were the words, "A protest against the torture of women."

It was Anti-Suffragette Sunday yesterday. Wild women, attempting demonstrations, found that they had to cope with equally wild opposition provoked by the recent outrages of the Furies.

This is a diary of the day:—

Shrieking women chained to seats in St. Paul's Cathedral during afternoon service were gagged and roughly handled by worshippers.

Hostile crowd tried to duck women speakers in White Stone pond, Hampstead. Police rescue women.

Suffragette meeting in Hyde Park broken up by angry mob. Police protect speakers.

Many churches round London are being guarded night and day.

FURIES GAGGED IN ST. PAUL'S.

Wild women caused riotous scenes without precedent in St. Paul's Cathedral yesterday afternoon, when the Lord Mayor and his Majesty's Judges attended the Hospital Sunday service.

Screams first came from a suffragette when the anthem began, and members of the congregation at once tried to silence her.

Police stationed in readiness in the aisles found that the woman, who was uttering one continuous scream had chained herself to a wooden bar connecting a row of chairs. It was thus either necessary to remove the whole row of chairs or to saw through the plank.

A saw was fetched, and while the choir were proceeding with the anthem the plank was sawn in halves.

While the woman screamed, other women near her tried to hinder the work of her removal and also began to shout.

Chairs were upset, women yelled at the top of their voices and two women flung themselves on the floor and kicked and struck at everyone. Clothes were used to gag some of the more noisy demonstrators.

Members of the congregation helped vigorously to eject the women, two of whom were literally pulled by their necks over the tops of chairs and put into the street.

SAVED FROM DUCKING BY POLICE.

For the third Sunday in succession a meeting of suffragettes near the White Stone pond, Hampstead, was broken up by a violent crowd.

A large crowd assembled, and after continually interrupting the speakers rushed the platform. There were only seven or eight policemen on the spot, and reinforcements were sent for from Hampstead.

Shouting and boating, the crowd carried the platform bodily towards the pond.

In the nick of time a woman-speaker was rescued from the crowd by the police.

"DUCK THEM IN THE SERP."

Suffragette speakers were again attacked by a hostile public in Hyde Park yesterday.

The hoisting of a suffragette flag on a platform caused an ugly rush by the crowd.

The speakers were pushed off the platform, the flag broken, and had it not been for the police, who quickly came to the rescue, one man speaker would have been very roughly handled. A strong police cordon was drawn round the platform, but owing to the threatening attitude of the audience mounted police broke up the meeting, and the speakers were escorted from the Park, followed by a large crowd shouting "Duck them in the Serp."

PELTED WITH FLOUR AND EGGS.

Here are some more of the suffragette's week-end trials:—

Weekly meeting at Palmer's Green held by Mr. Denton, Mrs. Parkes, and a number of women, broken up by crowd, who pelted speakers with flour and eggs.

Suffragette stall in Leicester market-place attacked, firelighters and matches thrown at the stallholders. Eggs and flour thrown at male and female suffragettes during meeting by Danish Labour.

Procession to Olympia Horse Show broken up by police.

Reigate Hill cricket pavilion was burnt down by suffragettes on Saturday.

TO-DAY'S WEATHER.

Our special weather forecast for today is:—Variable breezes; blue and very warm to cloudy and close with thunders again in usky places.

Lighting-up time: 9.15 p.m. High-water at London Bridge: 7.17 p.m.

LONDON OBSERVATIONS: Holborn Circus, City, 6 p.m.: Barometer, 29.95in., rather steady; temperature, 67deg.; wind, variable, light; weather, sunny morning, thunderstorm in afternoon.

See passages for moderate to strong.

The suffragettes (male variety) were very glad of the protection of the police whose whins they have so often kicked. The picture, taken yesterday, shows mounted men charging the crowd in Hyde Park, who repeatedly rushed the speaker off his feet.—(Daily Mirror) photograph.)