

GUNMEN SHOOT 2, IMPERIL CROWDS

Critically Wound Detective Hero in Brooklyn—Caught After Running Battle

A Brooklyn detective, with four citations for bravery, was close to death last night because he questioned two suspicious-looking men who later became the quarry in one of the city's most dramatic running pistol fights since the prohibition era.

The battle was begun on foot and continued from automobiles that roared and screeched through the busiest section of Brooklyn in midafternoon with at least two dozen bullets scattering pedestrians and motorists in all directions.

When the hunt was over, it was found that the stolen car in which the pair had fled had eight bullet-holes and two flat tires. There was also a bullet hole through the windshield of the police car that clung to the fugitives' zigzagging, two-mile trail.

Detective in Oxygen Tent

The key figure was Detective Joseph A. Miccio, 42 years old, who lives with his wife and three children at 2386 East Twenty-first Street, Brooklyn. He not only has a splendid police record but he won decorations for bravery in World War I. Last night he was in an oxygen tent at Holy Family Hospital with a bullet wound in his left lung.

Two men, seized less than an

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Joseph A. Miccio

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hour after the first shot was fired, were identified as Joseph Palma, 25, of 1723 Lexington Avenue, and Vincent Sallomi, 27, of 617 East 158th Street. They were said to have been released from Dannemora just a few months ago.

The excitement began at 2:30 P. M. when Detective Miccio, a chunky, affable man, was chatting with Patrolman Peter Droner of the Butler Street police station, at Dean and Nevins Streets, when he saw two young men step from a sedan.

"Those two fellows don't look good to me," Miccio said. "I'm going over and have a little talk with them."

He asked the men for their credentials. One started pulling papers from his pockets, but the other, who was later identified as Palma, drew what looked like a pistol to Patrolman Droner.

Two Policemen Wounded

He drew his own pistol and rushed to the scene, first firing a shot in the air. A bullet hit his right hand and the weapon fell to the street. At the same time, Detective Miccio was thrown to the ground in a tussle and shot.

Horrified pedestrians saw the two men leap into a car and speed down Dean Street. At Third Avenue, a block away, Patrolman Charles Kaiser, in a radio car, had heard the shots, and when the sedan whizzed by, he and his partner, William Kole, took up the chase.

At the next corner, both cars swung left into Fourth Avenue and the exchange of shots began. The firing continued while both cars careened through the sluggish traffic around the Long Island Station at which point, many persons enter the subways.

For the next three-quarters of a mile the cars sped along Ashland Place, with the fleeing car pulling away from the police. The sedan took a two-wheeled turn into Myrtle Avenue and apparently went out of control, for it went up on the sidewalk and into a fence surrounding the Navy's housing project.

Bullets Put Into Tires

The car backed up and then apparently headed for Flatbush Avenue. Possibly the fugitives hoped to cross Manhattan Bridge in the dense traffic. But at this point the police put two bullets into the rear tires and the car stopped outside 220 Myrtle Avenue, near Navy Street.

One of the men jumped out and entered the house. The policeman seized his companion, Sallomi, in the car, with an emptied .45-caliber automatic at his side.

Meanwhile, other police cars had reached the scene and the block was surrounded while a squad of police and detectives drew their pistols and entered the four-story tenement.

For a while it looked as though their man had escaped. But while policemen were standing beneath the skylight some plaster fell on one of them. The police then clambered into a cubicle beneath the skylight and pulled out Palma.

The two prisoners were taken to the Bergen Street police station, but no sooner had they arrived there than they were ordered taken to the hospital, where Detective Miccio identified them just before he became unconscious, according to the police.

Later, the owner of the car identified Palma and Sallomi as the men who had forced him from his maroon sedan a block from where the shooting began.

Before the identifications were made, six policemen had offered their blood for Miccio. At the same time an unemployed stevedore in the neighborhood who learned of the detective's condition offered his blood. From him came the first transfusion.

Late last night Palma and Sallomi were booked on charges of felonious assault, robbery and possession of pistols.

A collision between a fire engine and a trolley car a short while before the shooting had brought a large force of policemen to the scene.

Detective Miccio joined the force in 1928 and was made a third-grade detective seven years later. In February of this year he was promoted to second-grade detective. In 1932 he was cited for arresting three hold-up men, and four years later was cited for seizing five hold-up men. In 1938 he arrested three men, all of them armed, in an automobile. A month after he was promoted this year he was commended for arresting a man in a stolen car.