DETECTIVE KILLED IN BATTLE ON IRT

Wounded Suspect Seized—Youth Shot in 2d Incident

An off-duty detective was shot dead and two persons were wounded last night in a gun battle that began aboard an almost deserted subway car in Brooklyn.

Earlier, on a subway car in Manhattan, a shooting caused near panic among 40 passengers.

The detective was Donald Rolker, 42 years old, of 4011 Avenue J, Brooklyn. He was shot four times by one of three men who had tried to rob him. The detective wounded one of his assailants in the leg.

According to the police, Detective Rolker was aboard the first car of an IRT Lexington Avenue line train as it pulled into the last station, at Nostrand and Flatbush Avenues. He was on his way home from duty at the West 54th Street station house in Manhattan.

As the train pulled into the station, the police said, three men demanded the detective's money. Mr. Rolker reached for his gun and the bandits opened fire. The detective fired, hitting one man, before he crumpled to the car floor.

Men Dash to Street

The three men ran from the train when the doors opened a moment later. They dashed upstairs and tried to commandeer a taxi.

When the driver, Martin Mael, 30, of 582 Fairview Drive South, Brooklyn resisted, he was shot through the left side. Mr. Mael is in critical condition at a hospital.

Several patrolmen in the area heard the gunfire, and the wounded man, later identified as Allen McNeil, 19, of 192 Sands Street, Brooklyn, was arrested a short distance from the Nostrand-Flatbush intersection. Several other suspects were later seized and questioned.

The police said the train and subway .platform were almost empty because of the late hour. The shooting occurred at 11:20 P.M.

Mr. Rolker had been on the police force since 1946. He was promoted to detective in 1948 and to first-grade detective in 1953. He held a commendation for having rescued a demented man from the roof of a hospital in 1948.

Youth Shot in Quarrel

In the other incident, a 16-year-old youth was shot in the stomach during an argument over the possession of an overcoat. The shooting occurred shortly after 8 P.M. in the sixth car of an eight-car northbound IND Eighth Avenue train as it neared the Canal Street station.

When the youth was shot, passengers jostled one another as they ran to the doors, trying to get to adjoining cars. As the train pulled into the station, they bolted for the side doors and fled to the platform.

According to the police, a fistfight broke out between the youth, Oneil Keitt, of 59 West 124th Street, and George Johnson, 36, a male nurse, of 827 St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn.

The passengers glanced nervously at the two as they fought. Then Keitt, the police said, stunned Johnson with a blow to the head, and Johnson allegedly pulled a revolver and fired once. The passengers bolted for the end doors of the car.

A moment later, the train pulled into the station, the side doors opened and the passengers ran out. Johnson and Keitt wrestled briefly on the platform, and then Johnson broke away and ran up the stairs, the police said.

Keitt staggered up the stairway and collapsed in front of 32 Avenue of the Americas. Johnson, the police said, hailed a cab about a block away and asked to be taken to the Brooklyn.

Suspicious because Johnson's eyebrow was bleeding, the cab driver, Eric J. White, 23, of 5 West 95th Street, at first refused to drive to Brooklyn, but Johnson persuaded him.

After driving a block, Mr. White heard sirens. He pulled alongside a radio car and told the patrolman about his fare. Johnson was arrseted and taken to the police station.

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