

MORRO CASTLE HERO DENIES BOMB CHARGE

Rogers Takes Stand in Bayonne Case to Defend Himself

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George W. Rogers, former Bayonne patrolman and hero of the Morro Castle disaster, took the witness stand here today and denied he had attempted to take the life of Lieutenant Vincent J. Doyle, in whose hands a bomb exploded at Bayonne police headquarters last March.

Rogers is accused of having delivered a package containing an explosive device in the form of a fish tank heater to Lieutenant Doyle, his immediate superior in the Bayonne police radio bureau, with a note instructing Lieutenant Doyle to attach the appliance to an electrical outlet.

Under examination by his attorney, former State Senator Alexander Simpson, Rogers said he neither made nor delivered the bomb that caused Lieutenant Doyle the loss of three fingers, and he denied having written or sent the note of instruction. He testified that he did not have a fish tank heater in his home.

The defendant left the stand at the request of Common Pleas Judge Thomas H. Brown, before whom the case is being tried without a jury, and copied the note on the typewriter that belonged in the police radio room. He typed out a second

copy as Judge Brown dictated, and then the court impounded the two notes and the original, without saying what he intended to do with them.

The note read: "Lt. Doyle—This is a fish tank heater. Please install this switch in the line cord and see if the unit will work. It should get slightly warm."

The trial was adjourned until tomorrow morning, when Rogers will be cross-examined.