

# ROGERS, SEA HERO, JAILED IN BOMBING

Morro Castle Radio Operator  
Gets 12 to 20 Year-Term  
for Bayonne Plot

## COURT EXCORIATES HIM

Says Attack on Police Superior  
Was 'Just Short of Murder'  
and of 'Diabolical Nature'

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The iron nerve with which George W. Rogers faced death four years ago to flash an S O S from the radio room of the liner Morro Castle did not abandon him today when he was sentenced by Judge Thomas H. Brown in Special Sessions Court here to serve twelve to twenty years in State's prison for attempting to kill Lieutenant Vincent J. Doyle, his superior officer in the Bayonne Police Department, with a home-made bomb.

A thin smile appeared on Rogers's face as the court pronounced sentence and said the defendant had been convicted of a crime "just short of murder." The judge spoke at least twenty minutes, during which the smile played on Rogers's lips, but his face was ashen.

"This was a crime of a diabolical nature, only to be executed by one with the mind of a fiend," Judge Brown said. "There is no doubt in my mind that the finger of guilt points unerringly to you. It had been said that you were the victim of a frame-up on the part of the Bayonne police. There was nothing in the testimony adduced to show this."

### Rogers Comforts His Wife

As he was being led from the court room Rogers paused in front of his wife and patted her comfortingly on one hand. Tears welled in her eyes. He was remanded to the Hudson County jail to await transfer to the State's prison in Trenton.

Rogers, the chief radio operator of the Morro Castle, who returned home after the disaster to be hailed as a hero, was later appointed a patrolman in the radio repair division of the Police Department. Lieutenant Doyle, commander of the division, lost three fingers of his left hand and suffered severe injuries to his left leg on March 4, when a bomb concealed in an electric fish tank heater exploded at police headquarters. It was testified that Rogers was with Doyle when the latter opened the package containing the heater, which was accompanied by an anonymous note giving directions on its use.

Rogers was suspended and arrested a few days after the incident. The trial before Judge Brown was held without a jury at the request of the defendant. The State contended that Rogers attempted to kill Doyle to obtain Doyle's job.

Before pronouncing sentence the court, pausing now and then to consult notes, gave a brief biography of Rogers. Rogers was sent in his youth to an institution in California for being "unruly," the judge said. At the institution, Judge Brown continued, Rogers was charged with "an unnatural offense against a young boy."

### Defendant Later Went to Sea

Rogers later went to sea. He was arrested in New York for the theft of \$2,000 worth of radio merchandise, for which restitution later was made, the judge declared, but cited "another mixup involving \$500 worth of merchandise."

Adolph Kern, chief of the probation office here, disclosed today that Rogers denied he was responsible for the Morro Castle fire when questioned at the probation office. Rogers refused, however, to comment when questioned regarding an explosion in 1920 at the United States naval base at Newport, R. I. He suffered an injury to his eyes in the blast and was honorably discharged soon after the explosion.

Dr. Charles E. Clark, psychiatrist at the New Jersey State Hospital for the Criminally Insane, who was asked by Judge Brown after the conviction of Rogers two weeks ago to examine the defendant, stated in a short report made public this afternoon that Rogers "has a psychopathic personality, without psychosis."