

July 21-1944.

Statement of Stephen Allen of 88 Buckingham St.

I went to the circus on Harbour St. on Thursday July 6, 1944. I got there about 2 P.M. I first bought a general admission ticket, # 012216, and when I got into the main tent, I bought a reserved ticket which was in row 12 section Y, seat 14, this section was located on left side in rear part of circus tent, I was in third seat from side, where chute was located in exit. I was watching the lion and bear act in cage, directly in front of me the act was about over and the last bear was being pushed through the chute, when suddenly I happened to look towards the main entrance, when I saw fire which was on main tent, right over side wall. This fire when I first saw it was about 2 feet wide and was between the bleacher seats and reserved section on south side of tent, near main entrance. As soon as I saw this fire, I yelled, Fire, Come on, I spoke to another woman and a child who was with her and spoke to her, I said Hurry up. I got up from my seat and grabbed the little boy and walked down a few steps, by this time everyone was yelling and screaming and running, with the little boy I had, I jumped over the chute where lions and bears had gone through, I landed on other side of chute and ran out this exit where the chute was. There was a space of about 10 or 12 feet to get through the exit where chute was. After I got out of main tent I turned around and by that time the main tent was all burned up and pieces of tent were coming down like pieces of paper. I ran out through the bushes and came out somewhere near the ticket wagon in the front part of the grounds. The firemen were then all coming in with fire trucks. As I came out of this exit everything seemed to be clear in front of this exit. I hurt my right wrist when I jumped, as my hands slipped through the bars of iron grating of chute. I did not see any water pail or any fire hose or anyone putting water on the fire as I came out of exit.

Signed Steven Allen.

Statement taken by Det. Sergt. C. J. Cunningham at home of Stephen Allen, 88 Buckingham St.
7-21-44.

Allen, Stephen