

Security Guard Is Held as Slayer of Brooklyn Boy, 8

New York Times - May 5, 1977

By EMANUEL PERLMUTTER

A security guard whose police record includes sexual abuse of a child was charged yesterday with hurling an 8-year-old boy to his death Tuesday night from the roof of a six-story apartment building in Brooklyn.

While the suspect was being booked on murder charges, friends and neighbors of the young victim, Nathan Scharf, wept at the services in the nearby synagogue of Rabbi Isaac Scharf, his father. Mourners at Congregation Chevra Torah Ansher Chessed Vanchel Radishkow said they were outraged that the courts had let the suspect go free after his previous conviction.

Rabbi Solomon Simpson of the Ocean View Jewish Center said at the funeral service: "People should not stand for this. The community must do something."

There was an even more mournful scene at the Lubavitcher yeshiva, where the dead boy was a pupil. When the hearse stopped there on the way to the cemetery, his fellow pupils came out to intone a prayer for the dead.

The suspect, identified as Lawrence Gordon, 32 years old, works as a guard at the building from which the boy was thrown. He is a part-time employee of the Emergency Services Security Company. Tuesday was his night off. He lives at 3054 Brighton Seventh Street in the Sheepshead Bay section of Brooklyn.

Was Seen Talking to Boy

He was picked up Tuesday night outside the building where the body was found. Witnesses told the police they had seen him talking to the boy, who was walking with his bicycle. The police believe Mr. Gordon lured the youngster to the roof of the building.

According to the police, the suspect has been arrested four times and convicted three times since 1972. One of the convictions, in May 1973, was for sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a

His other convictions were in December 1973, for bigamy, and December 1972, for falsifying a report of an incident in which he was involved. He was arrested last November on charges of assault and possession of a weapon, a case that is still pending.

Mr. Gordon did not receive prison sentences for his convictions, but, instead, conditional discharges—which are tantamount to parole.

His arrests and convictions in 1972 and 1973 were under the name of Larry McQuill. All took place in Brooklyn.

The details of his previous arrests and the names of the judges who handled the cases could not be ascertained yesterday.

A spokesman for District Attorney Eugene Gold said the murder charges against Mr. Gordon would be presented to a grand jury tomorrow.

The boy was found lying in the rear courtyard of 2685 East Seventh Street, Sheepshead Bay, just around the corner from his home. He was naked from the waist down, his trousers, underwear and shoes near him. His bicycle was on the roof.

About 50 friends and neighbors, young and old, virtually all of them in tears, attended the noon funeral for the youth. Three rabbis from the Sheepshead Bay and Brighton Beach neighborhoods officiated for their grief-stricken colleague.

One of the dead boy's three sisters, the only other one of the six children who lived with the family, wept uncontrollably as elderly Hasidic Jews in long black coats tried to console her. They also consoled Rabbi Scharf and his wife, who had last seen her son alive at 3 o'clock Tuesday night.

"We are all outraged," said Edward Smith. "Security guards should be checked out before they are hired."

Sam Rosenberg said bitterly, "Our judicial system is to blame."

After the synagogue service, the funeral cortege proceeded to the United Lubavitcher Yeshiva at Ocean Avenue and Avenue H, where the dead boy was a third-grade pupil.

The hearse stopped outside the school building and the coffin was placed on the ground. Fellow students came out and they all joined in "El Male Rahamin," the Hebrew dirge for the dead.

The dead boy and his fellow pupils were to have taken a class trip yesterday to the Bronx Zoo. The trip was canceled.

Young Scharf was buried in Beth David Cemetery in Elmont, L.



Lawrence Gordon after his arrest



Case of Lawrence Gordon



The New York Times/Dan Goodrich

Relatives of Nathan Scharf, the slain boy, look down from balcony of 731 Montauk Court, Brooklyn. The building also houses the synagogue where a funeral service for young Scharf was held yesterday.

Murder Victim Buried

Associated Press - May 5, 1977

New York --Following Hebrew ritual, 8-year-old Nathan Scharf, the son of a rabbi, was buried before sundown on the day following his death.

The boy had been hurled to his death from the roof of a six-story building near his Brooklyn home, allegedly by a building security guard with a prior record of child molestation.

Lawrence Gordon, 32, was picked up for questioning at the scene of the crime Tuesday night and was booked for murder about nine hours later, police said.

Gordon worked at the complex only on weekends, but was a familiar figure with area children, whom he often tried to impress by flashing his guard's badge and handcuffs, according to a police spokesman.

The suspect had been arrested four times in the last five years, for a misdemeanor, bigamy, child molestation and an assault and weapons charge.

He plead guilty to the first three charges. There was no record of the disposition of the fourth charge. Gordon was given a conditional release on all his convictions, a status similar to parole.

Young Scharf, son of Rabbi Isak Scharf and a third grade student at United Lubavitcher Yeshiva, was buried Wednesday afternoon.

His scratched and battered body, nude from the waist down, had been found about 8:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Suspect in Killing of Rabbi's Son Ordered to Undergo Mental Tests
New York Times - May 6, 1977

Suspect in Killing of Rabbi's Son Ordered to Undergo Mental Tests

By Max H. Seigel
New York Times - May 6, 1977

Lawrence Gordon, the part-time security guard charged with hurling the 8-year-old son of a rabbi to his death from the roof of a six-story apartment house in the Sheepshead Bay section of Brooklyn, has been ordered to Kings County Medical Center for psychiatric examination. The order followed his arraignment late Wednesday night.

It was the second time the 32-year-old man had been sent to Kings County for observation following an arrest involving a child. In May 1973, under the name of Lawrence McQuill, he was seized by the police of the 77th Precinct and charged with sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a 10-year-old boy. He denied his guilt while in the hospital, was found fit to stand trial and later pleaded guilty before Judge William H. Booth in Brooklyn Criminal Court.

Judge Booth, who had before him two favorable confidential reports regarding Mr. Gordon's behavior, agreed to discharge the defendant on the ground that he continued psychiatric treatment at a clinic at the Downstate Medical Center. The reports had quoted the clinic director as saying Mr. Gordon had been responding very well to treatment and had been making excellent progress. One of the reports noted that he had a job at the Manhattan Beach Jewish Center and was seeking a job with the Transit Authority.

Judge Booth, in granting a conditional discharge, warned Mr. Gordon that any brush with the law would land him in jail for a year, and stipulated that the psychiatric treatments at the Downstate Medical Center continue.

At his arraignment Wednesday, several police officers disclosed that the suspect had been a police buff for some time. "He's always hanging around cops," one officer said.

People who live near the Gordon home, at 3054 Brighton Seventh Street, said he often told children in the neighborhood he was a policeman, showing his guard's badge and handcuffs.

Mr. Gordon declared in Criminal Court that he was unemployed. And the Empire Protection Service of 1361 Flatbush Avenue, which had employed him as a night guard on weekends, confirmed this yesterday. "We let him go last Monday," said Frank Beatty, owner of the agency, "because of a staff shakeup, not because of any complaints about his behavior."

Mr. Beatty said that Mr. Gordon's record had been checked when he was hired, "but there was nothing under Lawrence Gordon—they had plenty of stuff under Lawrence McQuill, but unfortunately we didn't check that."

State licensing law requires that a protection agency must submit fingerprints on a new employee within 24 hours of hiring for a security check with state and Federal law-enforcement agencies. State officials said last night that they were investigating whether Mr. Gordon's fingerprints and those of others hired by the Empire Protection Service had been properly submitted.

Police records show that under the McQuill name, Mr. Gordon had been arrested seven times since 1968. In two assault cases the victims refused to press charges; in two other cases, involving possession of narcotics and arson, the charges were dismissed; and in the remaining three there were conditional discharges.

The child hurled to his death, Nathan Scharf, was the youngest of six children of Rabbi and Mrs. Isaac Scharf.

'77 Conviction in Murder Set Aside As Result of January Court Ruling; Appeal Being Considered

By Joseph P. Fried
New York Times - July 30, 1980

The murder conviction of a man who at first confessed to killing an 8-year-old boy by hurling him from a Brooklyn roof in 1977 was set aside yesterday by a New York State Appeals Court and a new trial was ordered.

Man	Guilty in	Slaying	of	Child
The	Associated	Press	February 19,	1982

A Brooklyn jury yesterday visited a rooftop from which the 8-year-old son of a Hasidic rabbi was thrown to his death, then returned to the court and quickly found the defendant guilty of murder.

The defendant, Lawrence Gordon, who was a security guard in the apartment complex where the boy was killed, could get up to 25 years to life in prison when he is sentenced March 15.

It was the second murder trial for Mr. for Mr. Gordon. whose first conviction was reversed in 1980 on the grounds

that a confession has been obtained improperly without his lawyer present.

The victim, Nathan Scharf, was found dead, naked from the waist down, on May 3, 1977, in the rear of 2685 East Seventh Street in the Sheepshead Bay section of Brooklyn.

The State Supreme Court jury of six men and six women went by bus to the scene yesterday morning, accompanied by the trial judge, Justice Richard Goldman; an assistant district attorney, Eric Bjornby, and the defense attorney, Richard Hannah.

The judge said a recent court ruling had made such visits to the scene permissible if both the defense and prosecution agreed.

Mr. Gordon, who was 32 at the time of the killing, had been convicted of crimes on three occasions. One of the convictions, in 1973, was for sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a child. His other convictions were for bigamy in 1973 and for falsifying a report of an incident in which he was involved in 1973.