

Blast wrecks kitchen

TWO KILLED BY GAS IN BELFAST

Today

Tides for Bathers
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"Irish Independent" Reporter

A GAS explosion shattered the kitchen of a small Belfast house minutes after two elderly people were gassed as they sat looking at television last night.

The victims of the tragedy were Mr. Thomas Culbert (75), a retired shipyard plater, of 29 Daisyfield St., Shankill Road, and Mrs. Jane Percy (90), his mother-in-law, of 15 Daisyfield St.

Immediately after the explosion, houses on one side of the street were evacuated and a warning given to the neighbours that there was danger of another explosion.

The tragedy was discovered by Mrs. Culbert, the dead man's wife, when she returned home at about 8.50 p.m. Neighbours who heard Mrs. Culbert scream rushed into the house as the explosion occurred.

They received cuts from the flying splinters. Another neighbour was dazed by the blast.

More than an hour after the explosion, fire brigade, police and Municipal Gas Department officials were investigating the cause of the leak. A police cordon was formed at each end of the street.

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