

# Passenger badly beaten aboard ferry

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A convicted murderer who was paroled earlier this year was arrested yesterday morning after assaulting a 59-year-old tourist aboard a ferryboat, according to police.

Willie Summers, a 34-year-old former Staten Island Developmental Center resident who said he had been living on the streets of St. George for the past three weeks, was taken into custody by officers who boarded the ferryboat John F. Kennedy at about 10:20 a.m.

Police were dispatched to the ferry terminal after the captain of the John F. Kennedy radioed that "someone was injured badly and

needs an ambulance. The perpetrator is still on board and there are witnesses to it.'

Martin Honig, a Palm Springs, Calif., man who had been visiting relatives on Staten Island, was using the men's room of the Staten Island-bound ferryboat when Summers allegedly attacked him, according to Officer Joseph Luzzi.

Summers, described by police as a "strapping 6-foot, 2-inch, 180-pounder," followed Honig into the bathroom on the boat's main deck, the officer said. While Honig was using the facilities, Summers reportedly "punched Honig about the face and body, causing extensive injury," according to Luzzi. Police said Honig suffers from a

debilitating arthritic condition.

There were no officers assigned to the boat at that time.

During a similar attack aboard the same boat about 10 years ago, Summers, then a Mariners Harbor resident, was convicted of fatally beating Nicola Infantino, a 76-year-old tailor.

Summers was sentenced to up to 12 years in a state prison and was placed on parole in January, according to police.

Luzzi, along with Officers Matthew Dryer, Daniel Caruso and Richard Grant, boarded the boat as it pulled into a slip at the St. George Ferry Terminal and had the captain pull the boat back out into the harbor.

Once on board, the officers spotted a man who fit the description of the attacker.

"He had just descended the stairs on the New Jersey side of the boat when one of the witnesses recognized him," Luzzi said.

According to Luzzi, upon seeing police, Summers placed his hands out and said: "I'm the guy you're looking for."

As the officers approached Summers, he attempted to run away, police said. After a brief struggle, Summers was subdued and taken into custody, according to Luzzi.

Summers was allegedly carrying \$49 and an address book containing \$20 stolen from Honig, police said. Honig's yarmulke also was recovered at the scene of the alleged attack, Luzzi said.

Summers said he committed

the crime out of "desperation and in order to buy some crack." But Luzzi said Summers has a history of "preying on older, defenseless people." Police haven't determined whether the crime was drug-related, although Summers said he did "some crack and some reefer" before committing the crime.

After identifying Summers as his attacker, Honig was taken to St. Vincent's Medical Center, where he was being treated for a broken jaw, massive contusions to the head and a possible concussion, according to police. He was listed in fair condition last night, a hospital spokesman said.

The suspect was taken to the 120th Precinct stationhouse where he was charged with first-degree robbery and assault, possession of stolen property and resisting arrest, according to the officer. Police said Summers gave a Brooklyn address and is wanted for "two previous violent robberies, coincidentally on the JFK ferry-boat." Summers is suspected of crimes aboard the boat committed on Aug. 9 and Labor Day.

Summers will be arraigned in Stapleton Criminal Court today.

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