

FORTY-FOUR YEARS A FIREMAN.

Distinguished Record of Lieut Henry P. Pitcher Of Engine 34, Brighton.

Henry P. Pitcher, the popular lieutenant attached to engine 34, Western av, Brighton, has rounded out 44 years of service in the department.

The life of the lieutenant has been a most eventful one. He has had many interesting experiences, and his acts of bravery were not allowed to pass unrewarded.

June 29, 1840. He came to this country when 16 years of age. When in the city but a short time he acquired the trade of carpenter and followed it until he joined the fire department. In December, 1858, he entered the service and was enrolled a member of American engine company 2, with which he served until the civil war broke out, when he displayed his love for his adopted country by enlisting. On April 19, 1861, he joined Wigham's rifles, one of the first three-year companies formed. The company was mustered into service May 21, 1861, and proceeded to fortress Munroe, where it joined the 3d and 4th Mass regts, and they were afterward known as the 29th.

He participated in the battle of Big Bethel and was severely injured while endeavoring to move a piece of artillery. His injuries necessitated his withdrawal from the regiment, and when he received his discharge it was accompanied by a letter, signed by his commanding officer, which stated "that he was the bravest man in the regiment." After his discharge he returned to Boston and had an operation performed for his injuries.

Again he enlisted, Sept 24, 1861, in Co C. U S engineer corps, remaining in the service three years.

He returned to the fire department again in the latter part of 1864 and served with credit for several years, when he was given leave of absence and took a visit to the old country. While in London he saved the lives of four persons at a fire on St George's road, on May 19, 1869. For his brave act he was presented with a silver medallion by the royal society for the protection of life from fire.

A short time later he returned to this country and resumed his duties in the fire department. For several years he served as a call member on engine 13, but was given permanent appointment Sept 3, 1884. He was not long in showing that he was competent and reliable and on Jan 13, 1890, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and was transferred from engine 13, Cabot st, Roxbury, to engine 10, River st, West End. For more than five years he remained with the West End company. On Aug 6, 1895, he was transferred to hose company 5, North Grove st, as officer in charge. His stay at the hose company was very short, however, as he received his transfer to engine 34, Western av, Brighton, Nov 29, 1895.

At present he is the acting captain of his company, owing to the absence of the captain on account of sickness. Lieut Pitcher is a member of many fraternal organizations and lives in the Brighton district.



PHOTO BY
F. GREEN.

LIEUT HENRY P. PITCHER

Of Engine Company 34, Brighton. 44 Years in the Service.

For a number of years he was attached to a hard-working in-town company. While doing fire duty in the city proper he worked at scores of large fires and received much praise for his work.

In the Brighton district, where he has been on duty for over seven years, he is very popular. The men speak highly of him.

Lieut Pitcher was born in London.