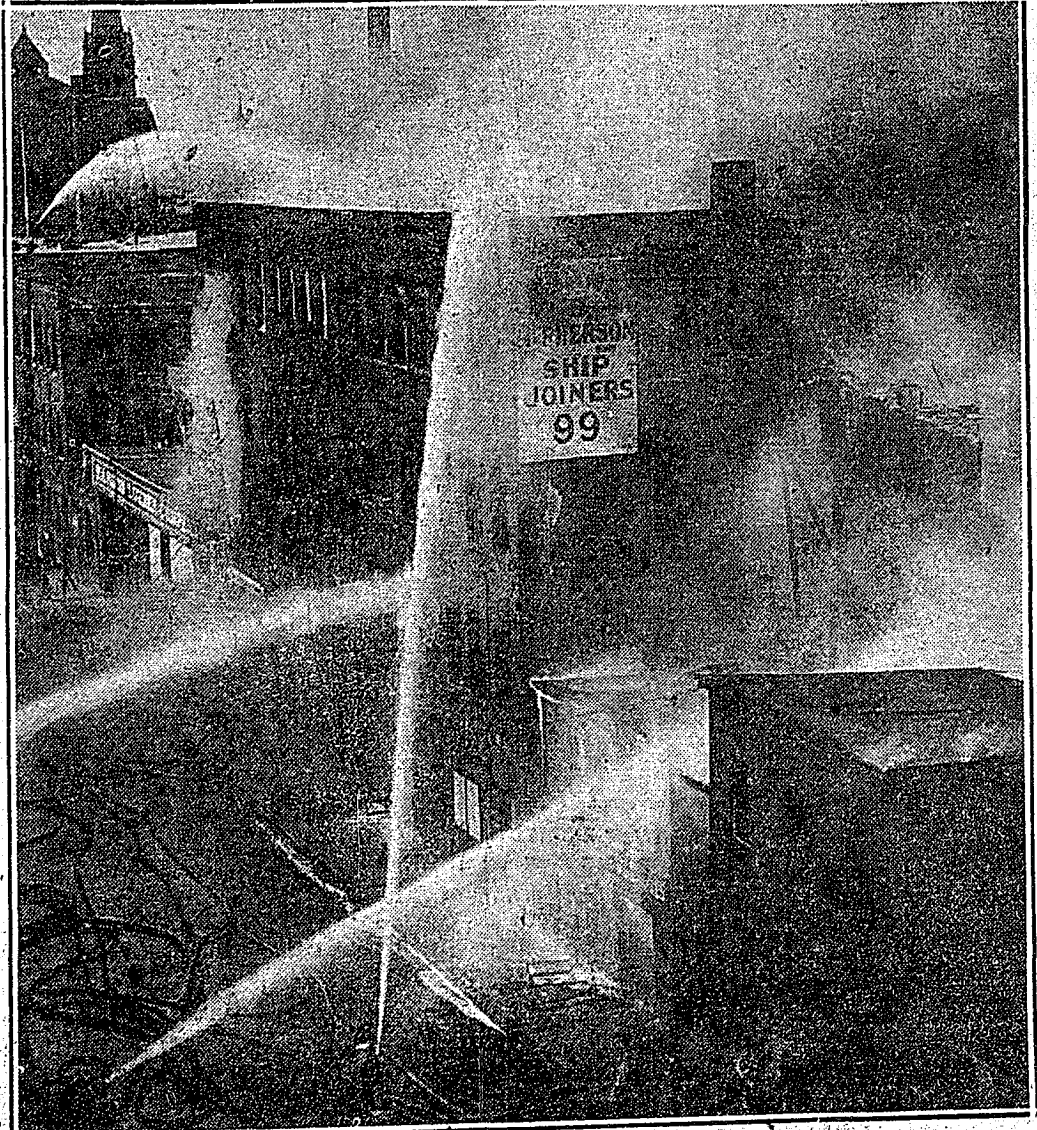


FIVE-ALARM \$150,000 FIRE DRIVES OUT 100

Women and Children Carried From East Boston Homes as Flames Sweep Along Border and Liverpool Sts



FIGHTING THE FIRE FROM BORDER ST.

Lumber Plant Buildings Burn, Firemen Hurt

12 Structures Ablaze, Four Horses Saved

Originating from what is believed to have been a mild explosion in the rear of the two-story wooden building, 93 and 95 Border st, East Boston, fire, shortly after 4 yesterday afternoon destroyed a three-story brick building, badly gutted five others, including two dwelling

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houses, set fire to a half a dozen other homes and buildings and for a time seriously threatened to wipe out the lower end of the Noddle Island District. The loss is placed at \$150,000.

More than 100 persons, mostly women and children, were forced to flee from their homes as the flames with lightning rapidity swept from one building to another. The blaze had all the earmarks of a conflagration and only after five alarms, which summoned the greater part of the Boston Fire Department, was the progress of the flames checked.

In all 21 engine companies, including three fireboats and five ladder companies, augmented by engine companies from Chelsea, gave battle to the flames, under the command of Asst Chief Henry Fox, who was in charge in the absence from

the city of Chief Sennott. The latter was attending the Fire Chiefs' Convention at Pittsfield with Commissioner Glynn.

Acts of Bravery

Individual acts of bravery were performed by police attached to Station 7 and by firemen. They ran through the several tenements in the path of the fire and assisted to the street scores of panic-stricken women and children, who half suffocated by the dense smoke in their homes were afraid to run the gauntlet.

One woman, Mrs. Angela Lazano, who lives on the top floor of the three-story wooden dwelling house, 89 Liverpool st, almost across the street from the oncoming flames, refused to leave. She cuddled her six-months-old baby Louise in her arms, and looked on unconcerned as firemen with heavy water lines stood on the roof over her and fought the fire. The house was filled almost to suffocation with smoke but Mrs. Lazano didn't so much as complain. The baby slept through the confusion.

District Chief Michael Silva and members of Engine 9 and Ladder 2, were the first to arrive at the fire, followed shortly by Engines 40 and 5. Chief Silva saw that the fire was too much for his companies to handle and he immediately ordered a second and third alarm.

Huge tongues of flame were belching from the rear of the two-story build-

ing, 93 and 95 Border st, occupied by New-England Drug Mills. This part of the burning structure adjoined the wooden barn and yards of the Manson Lumber Company, where thousands of dollars worth of lumber was stored.

Wind Drives Flames

Driven by a brisk Northwest wind the flames spread rapidly to these buildings and then into the three story brick building at 97 to 103 Border st, occupied by the Federal Wharf Machine Company, the Border Paint Company, Picture and Frame Company, and the office of the lumber company.

Chief Silva placed his available companies in strategic positions about the burning buildings and they fought like Trojans until help arrived from the city proper.

Sixth Deputy Chief Henry J. Power, formerly a district chief in East Boston, made a record trip from Fort Hill sq, across the ferries. He quickly ordered the fourth alarm and when Asst Chief Fox arrived he sounded the fifth alarm.

By this time the fire had made tremendous headway. It ate its way through the wooden barn of the lumber company and jumped across to the two-family wooden dwelling house, 85 Liverpool st and the three-story dwelling house, 87 Liverpool st. By this time, however, the occupants were out, and over town companies reporting at the fire beat out the fires. The former house was badly gutted.

Women and Children Saved

Patrolmen Eldredge, Hines and McNamara rushed into the house and carried to safety Mrs. Louis Mano and her four children, Albertino, 3, Orlando, 3, Peadonl, 5, Aliva, 2. From the upper apartment of the same house, they assisted to the street Mrs. Albert Spaney and her four children.

About the same time firemen rushed into the house at 87 Liverpool st, and led to safety Mrs. Joseph Monteiga, her son, Joseph, 7, and baby girl, Antonia. They were cared for by friends nearby. Mrs. Mary McCarthy, 60, living at 101 Liverpool st, was taken out by firemen. Everybody living in the three-deckers from 85 to 107 Liverpool st was obliged to flee.

The northwest wind sweeping across the open harbor from Charlestown fanned the flames and swept lighted sparks onto the roofs of nearby homes and buildings, starting a half-dozen fires. One set fire to the roof of the three-story dwelling occupied by William J. Ferguson, at Emmons and Paris sts, several blocks away. Another landed on the roof of the building occupied by the Gem Theatre, practically next door to the quarters of Engine 9 and Ladder 2. They were extinguished by chemical lines.

Walls of Building Collapse

About 6:15, after the fire had been underway an hour, the back walls of the three-story brick building on Border st collapsed with a deafening roar. Assistant Chief Fox noticed them sagging sometime before and had ordered his companies out of the way, with the result that no one was hurt. Shortly afterwards the front walls gave way, the bricks falling harmlessly into Border st.

When the rear end of the structure went down it loosened a 40-foot boom, which dropped like a giant cannon into the lumber yard. The escape from injury of members of Engines 9 and 50 is considered remarkable. The hose wagons with deck guns were fighting the fire at this point and would have been crushed like so much paper had the boom hit them. Instead, it fell harmlessly between the wagons.

Both of these companies suffered greatly from the smoke and heat. Capt. Thomas Flynn of Engine 9 was twice overcome by smoke, but he refused to quit. He stuck with his men until they were relieved. Members of Engines 11 and 38, working on Liverpool st, also did commendable work, as did Engines 40, 5, Chemical 7 and Ladders 2 and 21.

Fireboats 31, 44 and 47 tied up at the Atlantic Works and the Burton & Furber coal wharf. They were obliged to run individual lines of 500 feet, but once they got them into action they literally knocked the buildings down. A volunteer crew of workmen from the Atlantic Works also handled an effective line from the Border-st side.

Four Horses Rescued

Four horses were rescued early in the fire when the barn of the lumber company burst into flames. This work was accomplished by employes and nearly cost them their lives.

Driver Kelly of Engine 5 was hit by

one of the hose lines and was knocked completely across Border st, sustaining injuries to his left shoulder and arm which required treatment at the East Boston Relief Hospital. Several firemen suffered burns and sprained arms, but they were treated at the fire by Dr. McCarty of the Boston City Hospital who responded with three ambulances.

Fr. Joseph Burns and Fr. Cornelius Foley of the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer were at the scene early. They assisted women and children to safety and stood by ready to aid those who might be injured.

Capt. James F. Hickey of Station 7 personally directed the policemen, keeping the crowds out of range of the fire in order to give the firemen plenty of room to work. Assisting him were Sergeants Lewis, Hurley and McNealy.

The Manson Lumber Company, owned practically all of the property destroyed, with the exception of the two dwellings at 85 and 87 Liverpool sts.