

TWENTY FIREMEN ARE OVERCOME

Driven Out of Buildings at Long Wharf Blaze



SCENE DURING THREE-ALARM FIRE ON LONG WHARF

Two Three-Alarm Fires Cause Losses of More Than \$300,000

While a radio receiver in the burning building gave jazz tunes, Boston firemen waged a fierce battle, suffering from cold and irritating smoke, at a three-alarm fire in the buildings numbered 63 and 64 Long Wharf.

At least 20 firemen were partially

overcome and forced to leave the buildings. After a three-hour fight from the water and land sides, the fire was brought under control, with damage estimated at \$150,000.

Before this fire was completely extinguished three alarms were

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rung for another blaze at Hanover and Union sts, North End.

Both buildings on Long Wharf, which were swept by fire, are occupied by Martin L. Hall Company, coffee importers, and most of the damage was to coffee stock. The second floor of 63 is occupied by Mr and Mrs Charles F. Dannenburg and their son, Charles F. Jr. The elder Dannenburg is a customs guard. The younger is night watchman at Long Wharf.

In their haste to get out of the building the Dannenburgs left the radio in their apartment tuned in.

The buildings are connected by fire doors. They are four-story, stone-front structures.

The first floor of 63 is occupied by L. R. Potter Company, dealers in limes and lime juices, while the upper two floors are occupied by the Hall Company, being used as roasting and storage rooms.

Discovered by Watchman

The fire started either on the third or fourth floor of No. 63, from some cause which could not be ascertained last evening. Thomas Monahan, a wharf watchman, saw smoke seeping from a window near the eaves of this building, shortly before 8 o'clock. He ran to the fire alarm box at Long Wharf and Atlantic av, and sounded the alarm.

On arrival of apparatus, firemen smashed the windows on the third and fourth floors of the building. Flames shot out of all the windows on these floors, temporarily driving the firemen from the ladders.

Fireboat 44, arrived on the first alarm, and took up a position at the end of T Wharf, where it was able to send its streams into the rear of the blazing building. Chief of Department, Daniel J. Sennott, arrived a few minutes after the first-alarm apparatus, and immediately sounded a second alarm.

Towers 1 and 3 took up positions on Long Wharf, in front of the building, and poured tons of water into the third-story windows, until huge torrents were rushing out of the stairways at the first floor. High Pressure Cos 1 and 4 also took up positions in front of the building, and did effective work.

Within 10 minutes after the second alarm it became apparent that more men and more lines would be needed, and Chief Sennott sounded a third alarm. At this point the dense smoke pouring out of the front of the building became so punishing that the firemen were forced to retreat from their ladders. At the same time, the fire and heat were so intense at the back of the building that ladders could not be used there.

First Aid for Firemen

Through a breach on the fourth floor, the flames worked their way into No. 64. Firemen were in this building, and also in No. 62 in the same block, attempting to handle their lines from inside the building. The biting smoke got to these companies and man after man, stumbling around in groggy condition, was relieved and sent outside. At least 20 had to receive first aid treatment before they could resume their efforts.

When the firemen were forced to retreat from their ladders, Chief Sennott ordered ladders raised at the ends of building 63. Then he sent up several companies, bearing roof ladders, and these men climbed over pitched slate roofs, to the top.

They chopped a hole in the roof, to give them an opportunity to use their lines from above. After minutes of chopping, flames leaped through the breach high into the air, and for a time drove the firemen back.

They soon placed their hose lines in action through the hole, with telling effect. All this time, the flames were creeping through the loft from 63 to 64, and finally entered the loft at 65, doing slight damage.

The blaze was under control at 10 o'clock, but the "all out" was not sounded for hours. In estimating the damage at \$150,000, Chief Sennott said all the occupants of the block would probably suffer some loss.