

DISTRICT CHIEF McDONOUGH DEAD

Fire Department Official, Noted For His Bravery, Passed Away This Morning in Hospital

Chief Edward McDonough of District 4, Boston Fire Department, well known as one of the most courageous and popular heads in the fire fighting forces, died at 10 o'clock this morning at St Elizabeth's Hospital, Brighton. "Eddie," as he was known throughout the city, entered the hospital March 22 to undergo treatment for ulcers of the stomach. An operation was performed by Dr William F. Dolan and the patient was apparently progressing rapidly towards recovery until complications set in. Sunday, Fire Commissioner Theodore A. Glynn paid him a visit and at that time Chief McDonough was seemingly gaining. Yesterday he began to fail and his ebbing strength was not sufficient to rally him through the crisis of the early morning hours of today.

Famed for Bravery

"Eddie" McDonough was a real fireman and knew how to act in emergencies and as a result gained considerable fame for his meritorious acts of bravery. His efficiency and his self-control in dire moments were characteristics that enabled him to rise quickly from the ranks.

On July 27, 1880, Chief McDonough, one of the youngest district chiefs ever appointed to the Boston Fire Department, was born in the West End. His father, the late Ex-Chief Peter F. McDonough, was a proud daddy, but probably never dreamed that his first born would follow so closely in his footsteps, becoming one of the most noted fire fighters that the city had ever had.

When only a lad of 15, "Eddie" was driver of the chief's wagon. He knew horses and he knew fires and his experience, that proved such a great asset to the department and the business firms of Boston, was gained by earnest efforts and long years of hard fighting and close scrutiny of fires.

Promoted Rapidly

Feb 6, 1903, when he was but 22 years of age, Chief McDonough became a permanent member of the department. March 27, 1914, he became aid to the chief, and three years later, Aug 10, 1917, he was made a lieutenant. Three more years, Jan 7, 1921, saw him appointed a captain, with three more years to wait, Feb 1, 1924, before being made a district chief.

Practically all of Chief McDonough's life in the department was spent in the so-called high-pressure district of the downtown section. For a number of years he was captain of Engine 6 and was a great favorite with his men.

One of the most wonderful rescues in the history of the Boston Fire Department is credited to Chief Mc-



DISTRICT CHIEF EDWARD McDONOUGH
Of the Fire Department

Donough. This piece of work was performed after a dozen men were pulled from the cellar of a tenement house at Jasper pl, in the North End, when they attempted to carry out the unconscious form of John McPhee, a hoseman on Engine 8.

The crews on Elgins 8 and Ladder 1, were called to Jasper pl, about 3 o'clock on morning during February, 1923, from another fire a short distance away. The fire was burning in old wood and rubbish for some time and as the small cellar windows were banked with snow, all the oxygen was soon burned out of the air and the place heavily charged with carbon monoxide gas.

With the failure of the men on the two first companies in to get McPhee out after he had been missed, Deputy Chief Shallow ordered an alarm sounded. Engine 4, the first company in on the alarm attempted to effect a rescue, but their efforts were in vain, and as Engine 6, which was under the command of the then Capt McDonough, a call was sent out for gas masks.

Crawled Around Cellar

No masks were carried on this wagon, but Capt McDonough was ordered into the cellar to get McPhee. Capt McDonough backed down the cellar stairs, crawled around the cellar with his face close to the floor, located the body of McPhee and started to drag it towards the stairs.

As he reached the stairs, feeling himself passing out, he called for assistance. He got the body part way up the stairs and again yelled, with the result that hoseman Holland of Engine 8 crawled part way down and got a hold on McPhee's collar.

As he pulled, McPhee's head became jammed in a turn on the stairs and it was impossible for it to be moved up. McDonough pulled the body out, heard Holland say, "Capt I'm gone," and then passed out himself. He had a death grip around McPhee's waist.

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and when others above succeeded in getting a hold on McPhee they pulled both men out apparently lifeless.

John J. Kelley, now chief of the Seventh District, but then captain of Ladder 1, who attempted to get McPhee before the arrival of Engine 6, was laying lifeless on the street as the other two bodies were laid beside him. The three were taken to the Relief Hospital, where it was hours before the doctors succeeded in bringing them back.

Herolam No Surprise to Curley

When this piece of work was called to the attention of Mayor Curley that day, he asked if such work occasioned any surprise, as it did not surprise him being done by a son of the late Chief Peter F. McDonough, one of the best chiefs the Boston Fire Department ever had.

He further said that the action of Mayor Peters in promoting Chief Peter E. Walsh from the rank of district chief to that of chief of department, was something that he approved, because by so doing a precedent was established that was to be followed in the case of "Eddie" McDonough before his present term expired and no criticism could follow.

At the fire in the Hotel Lenox on Feb 10, 1917, Chief McDonough performed an act that put his name on the roll of merit. At this time, he was a lieutenant and was acting as aid to his father, who was chief of the Boston Fire Department. He had just stepped to the street to report conditions to the chief when cries of people standing about caused both to look up at the building.

The sight of a man, who later proved to be J. J. Collins, a riding instructor, hanging from a sheet lowered from an upper window startled them: Collins was swinging back and forth in the 55-mile gale that was blowing and many turned their heads so that when he dropped, they would not see him.

The elder McDonough turned to his son and said, "Get him, Eddie."

Brought Man to Safety

Without the least thought of his own safety, Eddie ran through the door of the hotel, following the line of the Engine 10 crew, who were battling the flames in the halls and stairways. They tried to stop him, but Eddie kept going until he reached the floor near where Collins was hanging. The long run and dense smoke nearly caused him to collapse, but he staggered to an open window and luckily found that he was only a short distance from his man. He reached Collins and brought him to safety.

On May 27, 1901, while acting as driver for his father, who was then district chief of the North and East Ends, he made a sensational stop of the runaway horse of Chief Cheswell. The horse was about to dash into a crowd of people, when Eddie brought him to a standstill.

While driving the automobile of the chief through Charlestown on Feb 6, 1918, Chief McDonough jumped from the car and stopped the horses of Chemical 3 which had bolted and dashed down the street.

Jan 1, 1924, he rescued a number of horses, which were caught in a burning stable at the Junction of Dunstable and Rutherford and Worthingham Aves. Dist. Chief McDonough is survived by his wife, Mary C. (Maguire) McDonough; two sons, Edward, 18, and Robert, 14; his mother, Mrs. Mary L. McDonough; two sisters, Misses Loretta and Florence McDonough, a school-teacher, and two brothers, Lieut Frank McDonough of Tower 1, and William McDonough, an instructor in the Sherwood School.

Arrangements for the funeral are being made and will take place from his home, 87 Soley st, Charlestown.

The news of the death of Dist. Chief McDonough was received by his host of friends throughout the entire city and in the Fire Department with expressions of deep regret and sorrow.

COMMISSIONER PAYS HIGH TRIBUTE TO MCDONOUGH

When informed of the death of District Chief Edward McDonough, Fire Commissioner Glynn was visibly shocked. After checking up the information he issued a statement in which he paid high tribute to the officer.

The commissioner said: "The death of Chief Edward McDonough is a great shock to me. He was one of the youngest district chiefs in the Boston Fire Department, and was an example of what a young man can accomplish by application and devotion to duty. He inherited his taste for fire duty from his late father, a former chief of the Boston Fire Department. By application to duty and study, Chief McDonough passed through the various ranks in the Boston Fire Department at ages which were unprecedented in the history of the department. He was appointed as a chief's driver in October, 1896, when he was only 15 years of age, at a time when all chief officers had drivers who were not members of the department. As soon as he reached the age limit he was appointed to the department on Feb 6, 1903. On March 27, 1914, he was appointed aid to chief of department; to lieutenant, August 10, 1917; to captain, January 7, 1921, and to district chief on Feb 1, 1924.

"His record in the Boston Fire Department was a glorious one, marked with acts of meritorious conduct and a strict sense of the duty of a fireman. Among many other commendations he was placed on the roll of honor of the Boston Fire Department for an unaided rescue of a man at the Hotel Lenox fire on Feb 10, 1917. At this fire Chief McDonough, then a lieutenant, climbed through heat and smoke, on the inside of the building, to the 10th floor, and rescued a citizen who was trying to get from floor to floor, on the outside of the building, by means of an improvised lifeline consisting of bed sheets tied together. At the time of the rescue he held the sheets, in an exhausted condition and ready to give up, when rescued by Lieut McDonough.

"After a thorough investigation by a board of officers of the Fire Department, Chief McDonough's name was placed on the roll of honor. This act

illustrates the character of the man, and is significant of his career as a faithful servant of the city of Boston. He was faithful to a trust, a splendid and well-respected officer, a thorough student of fire fighting and fire prevention. He enjoyed the confidence of his superiors and love of those under him. I deeply regret his passing and feel that the Boston Fire Department has lost a valuable member."

Fire Commissioner Glynn stated that as soon as arrangements for the funeral were announced the Boston Fire Department would plan its tribute to Chief McDonough in accordance with the wishes of his family.

John R. Murphy Expresses Sympathy

Former Commissioner John R. Murphy this afternoon expressed much sympathy when he heard the news of McDonough's death, saying: "During my last administration, when Eddie McDonough was aide to his father, the chief of department, I had an opportunity of learning exactly what kind of a man he was, both personally and as a fireman, and can say that he was of the highest type. A deep student of fire fighting and one of the best in the profession."

Ex-Chief Peter E. Walsh said: "As captain of Ladder 2, Engines 28-35 and Engine 6, under my command, Chief McDonough proved himself an able and efficient fireman, both mentally and physically. A deep student of fire fighting and an obedient officer. His loss will be one greatly felt by the Boston Fire Department."