FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN
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FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN

Who Take All Kinds of Chances

A SERIES OF PERSONAL STORIES

LIEUT M. J. DACEY
LADDER 20

"During my 27 years of service in the Boston Fire Department I have had many startling experiences. One in particular was at a fire on North st, 'way back in 1889, my first year in the department

"We got an alarm late one stormy night, and when we arrived at the fire found it had almost eaten the inside of the building out. I finally entered the building and groped my way to the third story, looking for any persons that might be there. It was very dark, and all of a sudden I stumbled on a dead body. Upon feeling around I found three more bodies. The building was so dark one could not see anything before him; alone with four dead bodies in a burning building is an experience I shall never forget.

"Dec 8, 1889, at a fire in No. 23 Harwich st. I rescued a child from burning to death. The fire started on the first floor and was burning through the middle of the house when word was given that there were children on the second floor. It was impossible to reach them by the stairway, so I went on a ladder to the second story, and after searching around in the dark I found a child unconscious in a rear room and brought her safely to the street. A physician restored the little girl to consciousness. For this act I received a silver medal from the Massachusetts Humane Society and was commended in general order.

At a fire at the Star Brewery in Roxbury I had a very narrow escape. We were on the top floor in the hoproom when a hot-air explosion occurred, blowing me 25 feet across the floor, burning my face and eyes so badly that I was totally blind for a number of days. The hair was nearly all burned from my head. I was rescued by other firemen and carried to the street just in time.

LIEUT M. J. DACEY.

"Another exciting adventure I had was on June 22, 1903, when I stopped a runaway horse on Shawmut av near Dedham st. The driver had sustained a broken leg and several broken ribs. He certainly would have been killed had I not succeeded in bringing the animal to a stop. Fire Commissioner John Grady, then district chief, witnessed this act, for which I was commended in general order."

Lieut M. J. Dacey joined the department May 24, 1889; served as private on Engines 25, 3, 12 and Ladder 13; promoted March 2, 1906, and assigned to Engine 43; transferred as lieutenant in charge of Ladder 20 June 26, 1908.

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