

# Two Buildings Destroyed

Newsprint of Globe  
Stored in One

Firemen Injured;  
Traffic Tied Up

Two buildings near City sq. Charlestown, were totally destroyed, the Hoosac Dock section was threatened and three firemen were injured in a general alarm fire which reared beyond control for nearly two hours late last night and early this morning.

Burning with a fury that lighted up the sky and showered sparks over a wide area, the fire destroyed the Tudor Wharf newsprint storage house of the Boston Globe and wrecked the Old Grist Mill building next door with a total loss that will run into many hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Traffic in Charlestown was tied up for hours and every available police officer could not straighten it out.

The firemen, working under tremendous handicaps, suffered from the cold as they fought a roaring furnace that at times was so fierce that it was feared the entire district would be destroyed.

## Other Paper Available

Though all the newsprint stored on Tudor Wharf was destroyed, the Boston Globe has adequate supplies in other warehouses and in transit. The Old Grist Mill, of which there is only a shell left, was also owned by the Globe Newspaper Company, but was leased to the Potter, Wrightington, Inc. dealers in food products.

The fire was under control at 12:45 a. m. Elwyn H. Allen of Wakefield, watchman at the Tudor Wharf, discovered the fire shortly before 11 o'clock. He gave the alarm by telephoning the Globe over its direct wire to the wharf. While the operator in the Globe building was giving the alarm to Boston fire alarm headquarters, Mr. Allen ran down the dock and pulled a fire box.

## Cause Is Unknown

The cause of the fire had not been determined at an early hour today. Discovered at 11 o'clock by a watchman on Tudor Wharf, the fire had gained such headway by the time the first apparatus arrived that five alarms were quickly sounded, forcing every piece of fire apparatus in the city to move.

Soon covered from head to foot with ice, the firemen first tried to combat the Tudor Wharf fire, but it had gained such headway among the newsprint rolls that they retreated to the Old Grist Mill building. An hour later they were forced to abandon the 5-story Grist Mill building which later collapsed.

# ELEVATED STRUCTURE FRAMES FIRE SCENE



MASS OF FLAMES AS TWO BUILDINGS BURN  
General view of five-alarm Charlestown fire.

Despite the loss to the Boston Globe supply of newsprint, there is enough stock available to insure no interruption in publication.

## Freighter Moved Out

A large freighter, the Cody, tied up at Pier 40 of the Hoosac Docks, had to be taken out into the stream when the flames, leaping high from the roof of the Tudor Wharf building, began to menace the Hoosac section.

Falling walls endangered the firemen, until Chief Samuel Pope decided to abandon Tudor Wharf and concentrate upon the Old Grist Mill and surrounding property. The building at 25 Water st., next door to the Grist Mill, was scorched by the flames and in danger.

Commissioner Joseph Timilty of the Boston Police arrived at the fire shortly after 1 o'clock and saw his men in mass action for the first time.

The police, showered by water, were as nearly covered with ice as were the firemen. In some cases, it was necessary for the firemen actually to chop away the ice before they could get their rubber coats off.

## Out of Control 90 Minutes

For fully 90 minutes after the first apparatus arrived, the fire was beyond control. By the time the fifth alarm had been sounded, it was apparent that nothing could be done to save the Tudor Wharf warehouse with its great bulk of newspaper print, and it was also apparent that the Old Grist Mill building, five stories high, had little chance of surviving.

By midnight the firemen had been forced to abandon Charles River av., which runs in front of Tudor Wharf. Ladders were left under the rush of the flames.

The firemen retreated first to the Old Grist Mill roof and then to the roof and windows of the five-story building at 25 Water st., close to the Grist Mill building.

## Wind Carries Sparks

Changing three times within an hour, the wind showered sparks for hundreds of yards and endangered Pier 40 of the Hoosac Docks. The freighter Cody, tied up at Pier 40, was hastily warped away and into the stream before the flames reached her.

The barge Southern, also tied up at the pier, was pulled away, her sides blackened by the terrific heat of the Tudor Wharf fire.

For an hour after the start, Chief Pope was fearful that the flames would spread to the entire Water-st district of the Charlestown waterfront. He had called in help from Somerville and Medford and was prepared to call for other aid if the wind came up stronger.

## Electric Power Shut Off

Current in high tension wires on Water st., endangered by the possibility of falling walls, was shut off by electric light company employees. Much of Charlestown was thrown into darkness.

As soon as the Hoosac Docks became endangered, a detail of firemen was sent inside the dock to wet down the hundreds of bales of cotton stored there. Dock employees, joining with the firemen, helped wet down the roof with company hose.

## Fireboats Respond

The city's two fireboats responded on the multiple alarms, concentrating on preventing a spread to the Hoosac Docks and to the Charlestown bridge.

Tudor Wharf, one of the oldest docks in the city, was two stories high and about 300 feet long on the Charles River-av side, with a width of about 60 feet. The flames soon ate into the upper stories of the Old Grist Mill, working downward from

the roof. For a time the firemen were able to use the windows of this building to fight the flames at Tudor Wharf, but the roof of the fire soon became too dangerous.

Frank W. Rourke, general superintendent of the Boston & Maine Railroad, commended Fire Chief Samuel Pope early this morning for his work on the "best fire-fighting job which I have seen in a long while. Chief Pope worked untiringly to keep the fire out of the Boston & Maine property and what damage there may have been is slight."

## Grist Mill Roof Fired

The roof of the grist mill caught quickly and soon the three upper stories were afire. An hour later the upper floors had collapsed.

Chief Samuel Pope, fighting the biggest fire since he became head of the Fire Department recently, came on the second alarm. District Chief Philip Tague of Charlestown, first official on the scene, saw that the entire district was threatened and ordered the multiple alarms.

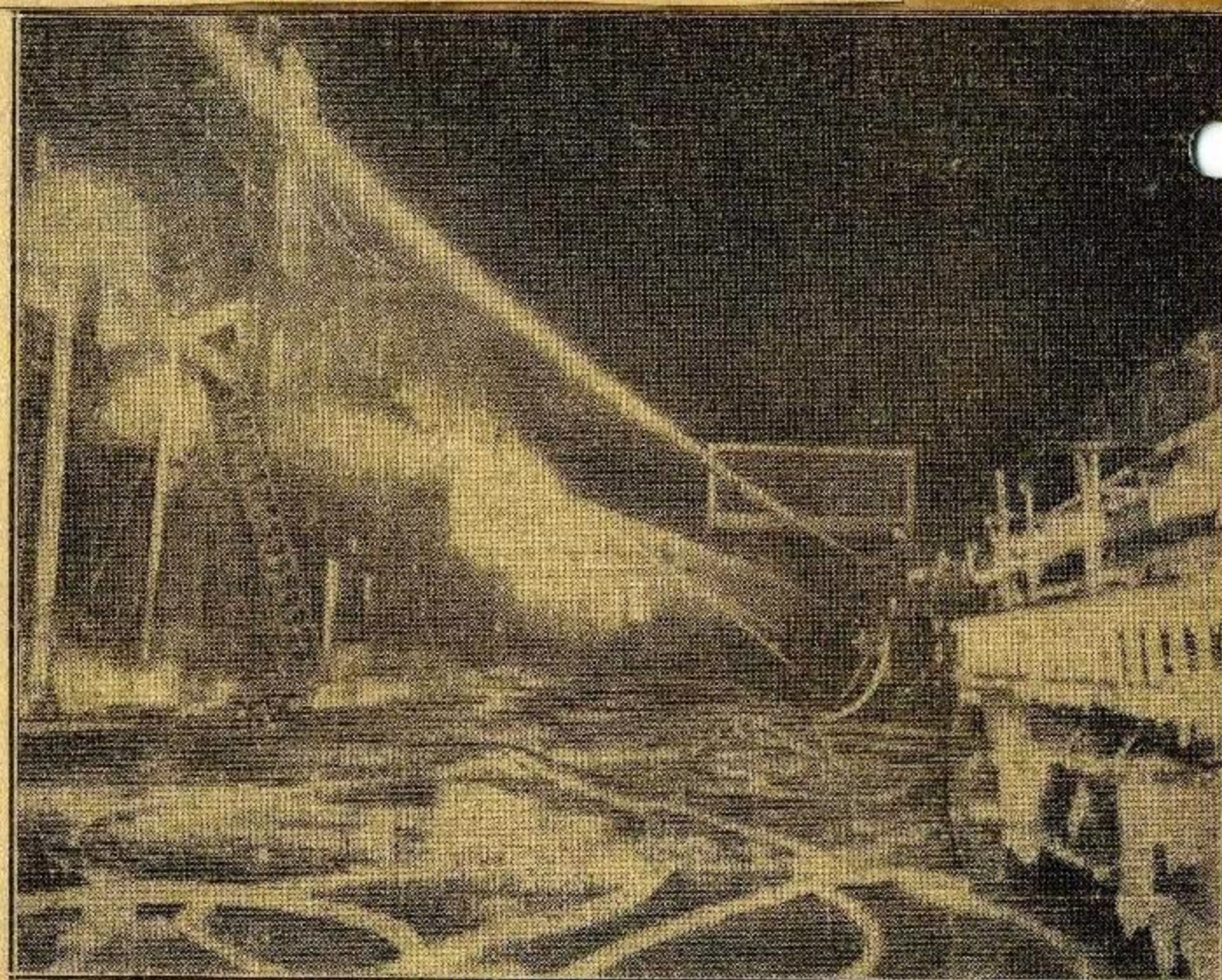
Capt John Mullen of Station 15 sent out every available police officer, and called for additional help from the intown stations. Danger of falling walls on Charles River av., in front of Tudor Wharf, was so great that the police ordered every person away except working firemen.

## Box Cars Utilized

Box cars, parked on the Boston & Maine Railroad tracks along Water st. were used as points of vantage for the firemen as they retreated from Tudor Wharf.

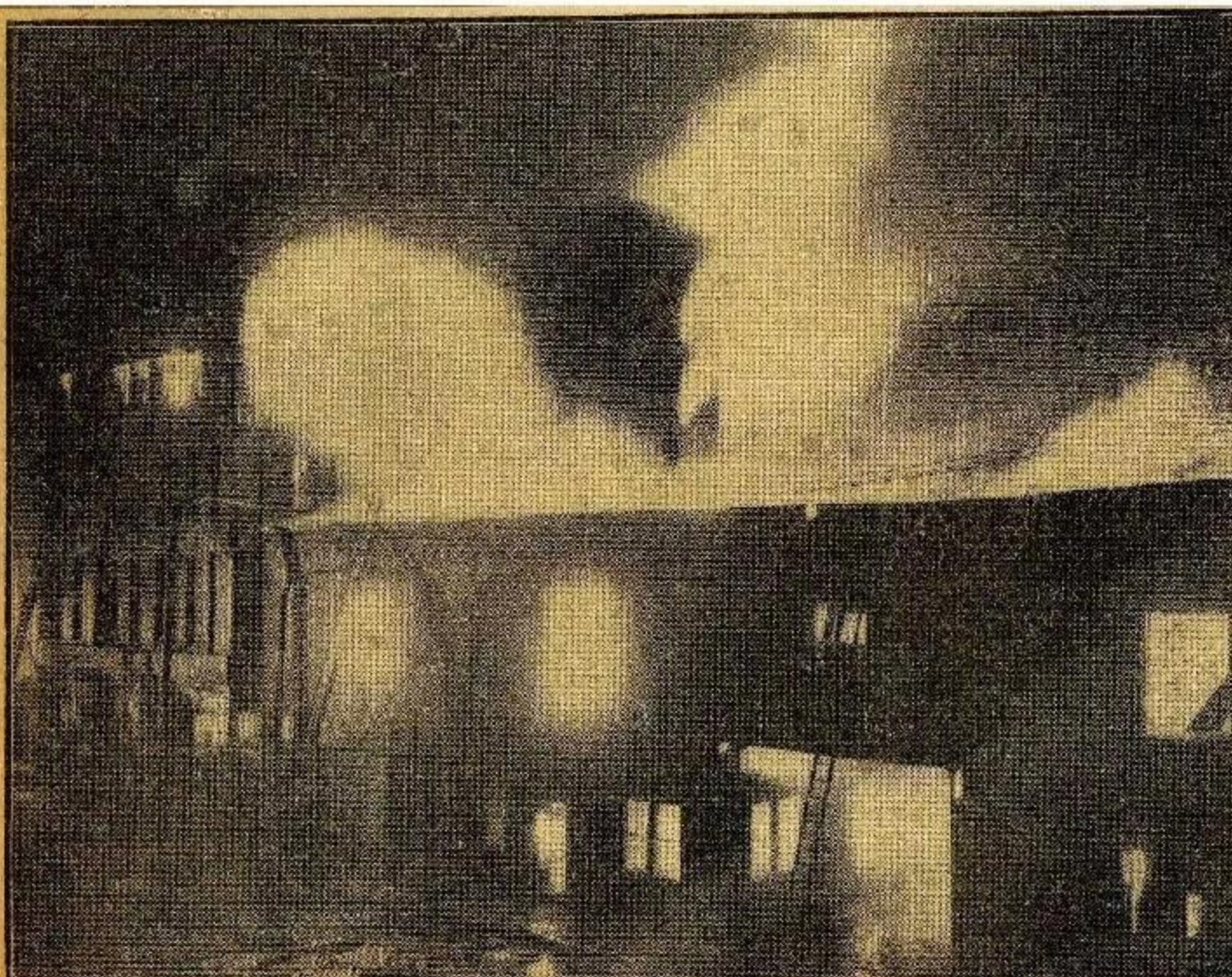
Traffic on both bridges to Charlestown was completely tied up, while a crowd estimated at 10,000 watched from the railings. Traffic in City sq came to a dead halt, with automobiles held up for blocks in every direction.

# Spectacular Scenes as Flames Destroy Two Big Buildings in Charlestown



TANGLE OF LINES, ICE AND LADDERS  
At the five-alarm fire in Charlestown late last night. Note the hoses running over the street, the water being played against the burning building, the ice-covered ladders against the building and the ice-covered apparatus at the right.

Box	Time	Loss
1281	12:23-20	Kilby street, city; First People's Trust, owner; Massachusetts Bonding & Insurance Co. occupant \$300
2871	12:28	Washington street, Boston Elevated Railway Co. owner 25
1283	1:25	Hanover street, North End; Franklin Savings Bank, owner 300
4169	2:30	False
1343	2:44	Needless
2187	4:12	457 Columbia road, Dorchester; Adelaide Clark owner and occupant 1000
2333	9:15	333 Brankline avenue, Back Bay; James Rockwell, owner; Arthur A. Johnson, occupant 400
1645	10:25	False
6166	11:10	15 Shelby street, East Boston; Sophia Sabino, owner and occupant 15
P. M.		
235	3:00	Needless
3556	4:27	Needless
228	5:00	False
1847	5:08	False
2374	5:43	False
7121	5:54	False
1281	7:00	15 Hanover street, South Boston; automobile; Onley brothers, owner 8
1350	9:48	215 Hanover street, South Boston; Sea-men's Friend Society, owner 80
1350	9:48	354 Columbus avenue; Robert Hickson, owner 1500
4112	10:30	False
29	10:39	False
56	11:04	False
448	11:05	False
8th	11:13	Charles River avenue, Charlestown; Old Grist Mill Company and others, owners \$500,000



FLAMES RACE THROUGH BUILDINGS IN CHARLESTOWN

Photo shows blaze racing through the buildings just before the collapse of the roof of the old Grist Mill grain storage building on the left. On the right is the Boston Globe storage warehouse which was entirely destroyed.

# SEVEN ALARMS TAX FIREMEN

Two in Addition to Five in Charlestown

A total of seven alarms taxed Boston firemen this morning. Five alarms, the highest number that can be sounded in Boston and the equivalent of a general alarm, were sounded for the Charlestown fire.

While apparatus was massed there, two single alarms were sounded for fires also close by the waterfront.

Just before 1 o'clock fire was discovered on some pilings of an abandoned pier at the foot of Hanover street. It was believed flying embers from the Charlestown fire ignited the pilings. Firemen made quick work of this blaze.

At the time engines were responding to this fire, an alarm came in for a fire on the side of a freight car at 15 Clinton street. A nearby locomotive was pressed into service to haul the car from the siding where it had been left 15 minutes before. Oil had been smeared on the side of the freight car. Firemen called the blaze suspicious. The concern to whom the car had been delivered is involved in labor trouble.

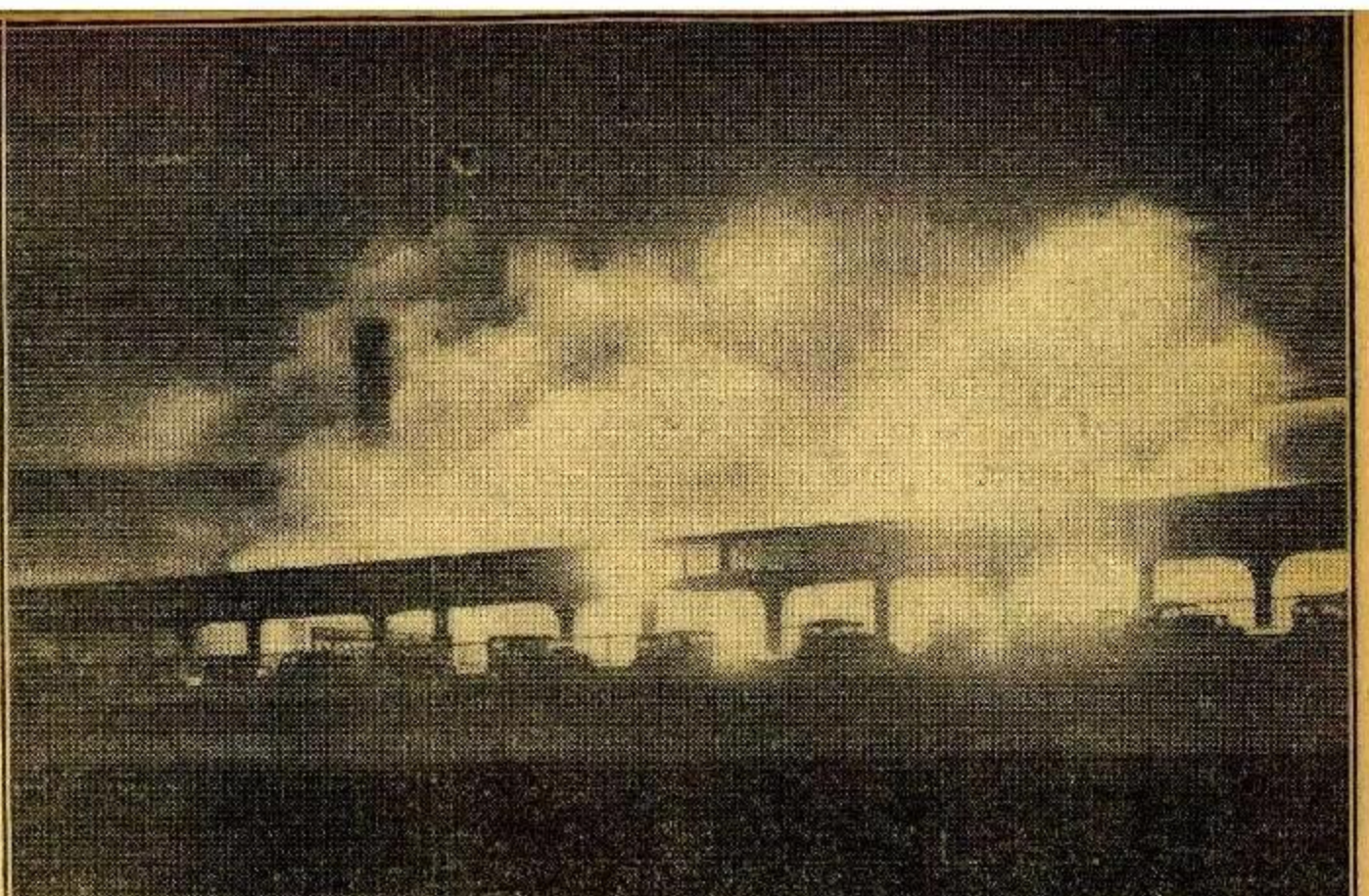
# HUNDREDS DRENCHED WATCHING FLAMES

Hundreds of persons watching the Charlestown blaze from the Charlestown bridge were drenched to the skin last night when high winds carried the streams of water, forced under pressure from the fireboats below the bridge, up over the bridge rail.

The victims were packed in so tightly that it was some time before they could escape. The cold wind quickly changed the water into ice and shivering victims sought refuge in open restaurants and drug stores to thaw out.

# LAST FIVE-ALARM FIRE ON JULY 27

The last time five alarms were sounded for a fire in Boston was on July 27, last summer, when an early morning blaze destroyed a lumber yard, a coal shed, and several wooden buildings on Albany street in the South End. Previous to that the last five alarm fire was on April 15, 1928, when the Back Bay railroad station burned down.



FLAMES RACING OVER THE ELEVATED

This view of the five-alarm fire in Charlestown last night shows the Elevated framed in the light of the immense blaze. The huge flour mill in the vicinity of City square burned like a mighty torch and firemen fought the blaze from the water and from the land.



Mass of smouldering ruins left in the wake of Charlestown's five-alarm blaze which felled four firemen and caused damage estimated at \$500,000. Fanned by strong winds, the flames roared through a big paper warehouse, the old

Grist Mill, and a flour storage warehouse, and for a time threatened the entire City square section of Charlestown. All through the cold night, courageous firemen fought the stubborn blaze.