



Boston Firefighters DIGEST

Dedicated to the advancement of the moral, economic and social standing of the members of the Boston Fire Department, in keeping with the dignity of their heroic calling.

Vol. 18, No. 10

OCTOBER 1964

Memorial Edition





The Boston Firefighters Digest

Official Publication of
Boston Firefighters Local 718, I.A.F.F.

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All Material for Publication Must Be Received by the
Editor by the First of the Month

(Items received after that date will be held for
next monthly edition.)

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issue.

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409 BROADWAY SOUTH BOSTON, MASS.

Affiliated with
International Association of Firefighters
American Federation of Labor and
Congress of Industrial Organizations
Member of

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Cardinal Cushing's Eulogy

Here is the text of the eulogy delivered by Cardinal Cushing at the firemen's requiem today.

My Dearly Beloved Friends:

During more than 43 years as a priest I have not witnessed a scene like the one that brings us this morning to this cathedral. The bodies of five Boston firefighters, who gave their lives to extinguish a fire that was consuming a vacant building, occupy a place generally reserved for the most attractive ceremonies in the liturgy of the church.

In place of the joy of a wedding ceremony, the inspiration of an ordination, the glory of the consecration of a bishop or the lovely procession of little children, we have the final remains of five public servants who died in the line of duty.

Our hearts are filled with sympathy for the loved ones they left behind. Our lips quiver with prayers for their eternal happiness. Our Church honors them with the best of her funeral ceremonies.

Their confreres of the Boston Fire Department and other firefighters from near and far who, day and night, await the alarms to man the apparatus that may hurry them to unforeseen tragedies, have come to pay them tribute.

Meanwhile a shocked community, that seldom thinks of the dangers of a firefighter's duties, have been aroused from their apathy and indifference and turn to Our Lord in prayer as they recall His words — "Greater love than this no man hath, than that he lay down his life for his friends."

Who were these latest martyrs among the firefighters of the City of Boston?

(1) ROBERT CLOUGHERTY. He came from a firefighters' family. Two of his forbears were chiefs in the Fire Department, two others reached the grade of lieutenants. His father, a present assistant chief, was in charge of operations at the fatal fire that resulted in the death of his son. Having made certain that no additional victims were buried in the debris of that catastrophe he went to the hospital morgue to identify his boy. Only three years ago last January that boy, Robert Clougherty, was appointed to the Boston Fire Department.

Thirteen brothers and sisters, a devoted wife, age 25, and two little children, ages 3 and 2, survive him. May God be with them and through our prayers lighten their heavy cross of bereavement.

(2) LIEUT. JOHN J. GESWELL. He was appointed to the Fire Department on Apr. 27, 1955. Two months ago, after prolonged studies, he was promoted to the rank of a lieutenant. Under normal conditions he would be living today. But it so happened that an officer of Ladder Co. 4 in Roxbury had been hospitalized and Lt. Geswell was detailed on the night of the fire to Ladder Co. 4. His own company, Ladder Co. 26, was not called.

To his bereaved wife, Anna Mae, and his two children, one three years and the other only one year old, we offer our sympathy and prayers. May God be their comfort and consolation. How helpless we are, my dear friends, in the face of sorrow such as this.

(3) Fire fighter JAMES B. SHEEDY. He was appointed to the Fire Department on July 16, 1958 and assigned to Ladder Co. 4.

He lived with his wife and three children at 157 Adams St., Dorchester. His boy, Michael, age 11, is an altar boy at St. Ambrose's Church. He had two other children, James Jr., age 9, and a daughter, Marie, age 4.

Jim Sheedy was brought to the City Hospital unconscious. He was immediately taken to the operating room with serious head injuries. Despite all the efforts of the doctors, with all the modern means of medical science at their disposal, he died. A calm but active individual, he was a dedicated family man.

Despite her grief, his wife Mary did not forget a wish of her beloved husband. Six hours after his death she signed the necessary papers authorizing the donation of his eyes to the Boston Eye Bank. Jim Sheedy gave his all — to his family — to his job — to his neighbor, for even before his death he bequeathed his eyes to some sightless person in the hope that he might see.

At the age of 37 Jim Sheedy is dead and three young children are left fatherless. Please do not forget them in your prayers and in the future plan of their mother for their care and education.

(4) Fire fighter FRANCIS L. MURPHY. He was assigned to Engine Co. No. 24, Quincy and Warren sts., Roxbury, after his appointment to the fire department in 1957. His first assignment was to one of the most difficult and active fire stations in the city.

After graduation from the Gate of Heaven High School in South Boston he entered Boston College. At the outbreak of World War II he left college and enlisted in the Marine Corps where he served through most of the military action in the South Pacific area.

When discharged from the service he re-entered Boston College and was graduated with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

He never married. A widow mother and two sisters are his nearest in kin. May the Sorrowful Mother of Christ intercede for them before the Heavenly throne of her divine Son.

(5) The fifth firefighter who was killed answering his last alarm with four others was LT. JOHN McCORKLE. He was appointed to the Boston Fire Department in December, 1937, following the footsteps of his late father who retired as a district chief after serving for some 40 years in the same Department.

Most of his career as a firefighter was spent in the Roxbury area where he answered the alarms of countless serious fires. Well respected and esteemed, he served as an officer of the Firefighters Union.

Twenty-five years ago Oct. 1st, John and Mary McCorkle were united in marriage which was blessed with four children. The night following his death was to be celebrated by relatives and friends as the Silver Jubilee of his wedding day.

For Lt. John McCorkle that celebration, please God, took place for him in the Kingdom of Heaven.

One civilian was also a casualty of this fire of last Thursday morning. He was known as a "spark", as a man who answered all major alarms and worked voluntarily with the firefighters. His name was ANDREW SHEEHAN, age 25 years. He will be buried this morning from St. Agatha's Church, Milton.

Survived by his mother and father, one brother and three sisters, he graduated from Cathedral High School, Boston, in 1956 and attended Boston College Evening School.

When his death was announced his father remarked: "He died doing what he loved best — fighting fires."

He was known well by firefighters all over the city but especially by men assigned to the South End section of Boston. We pray that henceforth he will be a heavenly spark reflecting the glory and beauty of Almighty God.

Eleven children are left fatherless as a result of this tragedy of last Thursday morning. Nine of them are under 21 years of age and seven are under the age of 12. The citizens of Boston and many others will contribute to any fund that is officially approved to help these youngsters and their mothers.

But please permit me to add — how helpless we are when tragedies of this kind take place. As priests, bishops, cardinals, ministers or rabbis we have little to offer to the families of the deceased. Our only consolation is prayer for these martyrs of duty. An eternal reward awaits them for they gave their lives for others.

That was a perfect act of charity.

There is one lesson we should all learn from the deaths of these heroic men. We are accustomed to take fire fighters and other public servants for granted. Remember, please, whenever we pass a fire house in the future that the next alarm the men therein will answer may be their last.

In behalf of all the members of the Boston Fire Department and other fire fighters represented here today, I dedicate this prayer in memory of their beloved confreres.

Almighty and Eternal God, look with favor upon our petition. Bowed down by grief, yet strengthened by hope we plead for eternal light and peace for the souls of these, our departed comrades, in the fire service.

Through the years, like those we honor today, many of our associates have answered the LAST ALARM.

After lives of noble service to their fellow men, with all the faults attributable to human frailty, they have placed themselves at Thy mercy.

Their lives were generous lives. Never were they known to falter at the call of duty. Our loved ones here, like many before them, through supreme sacrifice have already received Thy benediction:

"Greater love than this no man hath, that he should give up his life for his friend."

The names of glory on our rolls are already numerous, are now embraced by these departed associates who were willing victims of the heroic action demanded of them in the call of fire duty.

We ask Thy blessing upon the members of our department who carry on today according to the fine example and tradition set down for them by those whose illustrious memory we now recall. All that is fine in any public service is to be found in the Fire Department. Hence we ask Thee Lord, to enlighten, defend and preserve against serious hazard, all who offer themselves to the dangers of fire protection.

We plead also O Lord for eternal rest for these, our brothers, who have so unselfishly and nobly passed to their eternal reward. They have honored by their

lives the profession of the Fire Fighter.

Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord, and may the perpetual fire of the Infinite Love shine upon them.

FIVE LOCAL 718 MEN ANSWER LAST ALARM

BY TOM GETHERALL — *Hospital Rep.*

Flames lit up narrow Trumbull Street in Boston's South End shortly after the start of one of the blackest days in the history of the Boston Fire Dept. It was 12:31 a.m. on Thursday, October 1, that the first alarm was struck on Box 1671, and as Ladder 3 arrived the officer reported it a "working fire". Upon his arrival, District Chief John McCarthy found fire showing on the two top floors of this unoccupied former toy factory, and at 12:38 a.m., ordered second alarm. Going to the rear of the building on West Brookline Street, he found volumes of fire endangering surrounding buildings, and at 12:42 a.m., ordered the third alarm.

Deputy Chief Clauss arrived, and finding that flames were threatening to envelope the entire building, ordered a fourth alarm at 12:45 a.m. Companies were still arriving and others laying lines to the fire; ladders had been extended, and lines were being run over them, when suddenly, and without any previous warning, the top part of the front of the building dropped into the street. Screams emanating from this pile of debris gave grim evidence of the suffering of the trapped men, and Chief Clauss immediately ordered a fifth alarm and joined in the rescue operations. This was at 12:54 a.m. As the first group of rescuers started to pull out some of their comrades, a second, but smaller section of the building tumbled, raining bricks upon all in the area.

At 12:56 a.m., the Fire Alarm Office received the terse message from Car 12 at the fire to "send all available ambulances", and the Boston City Hospital was alerted. Extra ambulances were dispatched to the scene by the Boston Police and City Hospital, and were utilized to transport some 18 victims of this tragedy.

He-man Firefighters, tears streaming down their faces, moved brick by brick and timber by timber, in search of their buddies, and as each man was free of the debris, he was gently placed on a stretcher, for removal to the hospital. Many of the men were suffering from rib fractures, burns, cuts and bruises, but for five of our late Brothers, there was no suffering. Four were pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital, and the fifth man, never regaining consciousness, died at 7:00 a.m., shortly after being taken from the neurosurgery operating room.

ADMITTED TO BOSTON CITY HOSPITAL:

Deputy Chief Frederick Clauss — Div. 1 name on Danger List — shock; smoke inhalation; back and leg injuries; pulmonary burns.

FF John Morrissey — Lad. 3 — Name on Danger List — burns neck and face; rib fracture.

Lt. Christopher Fraser, Eng. 3 — dislocated elbow; rib fracture; lacerations of arms, face and neck; burns arms, face, neck and legs.

Lt. John Campbell, Lad. 3 — smoke inhalation, back and leg injuries.

TREATED AND RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL:

Lt. Robert MacInnes, Lad. 3 — Deep laceration palm of hand.

FF George Rushton, Eng. 3 — Contusions right hand and shoulder.

FF John Gaddis, Lad. 4 — Fractured rib and shock and contusions.

FF Frank Enricci, Eng. 24 — Fractured rib; lacerations scalp, hand and legs.

FF Henry Schnieder, Eng. 24 — Contusions spine and right shoulder.

FF John Maher, Eng. 21 — Lacerations right hand.

FF James Fitzgibbons, Lad. 13 — Bruises right arm and right foot.

FF Walter Kabachus, Lad. 13 — Shock and Contusions.

FF William McGoldrick, Hq. — Lacerations of hands.

Our injured Brothers received expert care from the moment they were taken from the debris, and we wish to thank those responsible, namely, the Ambulance crews of the Boston Police Department and City Hospital; the entire staff on the Accident Floor; those on duty in the shortell X-ray Section at BCH; Admitting office personnel; Doctors and Nurses on Wards Surgical 6; Surgical 2; Dowling 4 South, and Medical 3; And a Special Thanks to the Doctors and Nurses on duty in the Neuro-Surgery operating room and on Ward Medical 7, for their tireless work with our late Brother Sheedy.

Our sincere thanks also, to the Nurses on duty in the Nursing Office; to those who were assigned to Special duty on Brothers Clauss and Fraser; to the Students of the Senior Class of Nursing School who responded to the Accident Floor that morning; to the men assigned to the Mortuary; to Boston Police Officer Arnold White on duty in the Accident Floor; to the Security Police and to the members of the Boston Press. All of these people were most cooperative.

This fire and tragedy occurred in a four story second class building, which formerly housed a toy factory, but had been unoccupied for many months. It was 45 feet high, 45 feet deep and 35 feet wide, fronting on narrow Trumbull Street, in a thickly settled area, and surrounded by three and four storied brick and wood homes. A total of 19 Engine Companies, 5 Ladder companies and a rescue Squad responded on the five alarms. The all-out signal was transmitted at 4:38 a.m. four hours and seven minutes after the first alarm, and a fire detail was left at the scene until 6:00 p.m. FINIS . . .

Over the years, the writer has contributed columns to the Digest regarding many various subjects, but none was more difficult to put into words than the contents of this article. Of necessity, many details are missing. In nearly three years as Hospital Representative, we have seen our men come into hospitals suffering from burns, cuts and broken bones — and we have the task of notifying next of kin; but no assignment was harder to carry-out, than that of October first.

However, the job was done through the wonderful cooperation and understanding of the Clergy; and our Department Officials; our Local Union members; City Hospital personnel; the Boston Police Department; and the members of the Boston Press.

The grief of the task was eased somewhat, when Assistant Chief of Depart-

ment, Brother John Clougherty, and Local 718 President Martin Pierce showed their high calibre as men, in assuming the duty of notifying next of kin of Brothers Robert Clougherty and John Geswell.

Firefighter Clougherty was the son of the Chief, and Lieutenant Geswell was the brother of President Pierce's wife.

Due to the fact that our own Chaplain was in Europe it was necessary to call upon other Catholic priests, and the writer would be quite remiss if he didn't publicly recognize these beloved clergymen. Many thanks to Rev. Edmund Cheney S.J., who, in addition to giving the last rites of their church to our men at the hospital, also conveyed to Mrs. Sheedy, the sad news of her husband's death. Our sincere thanks to Rev. Kenzel McLaughlin S. J., of Immaculate Conception Church, who carried the burden of sorrow to Mrs. McCorkle and the children. We also express our gratitude to Rev. James Mahoney of St. Ambrose Parish, who graciously informed the young Sheedy children that their father had died a hero.

The intensity of the shock, the sadness and the grief which befell the members of the Boston Fire Department with the loss of five of our Brothers on that fateful morning of October first was reduced somewhat by the realization that no finer tribute could have been extended our fallen comrades, than that which took place in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross.

Box one-six-seven-one was the last alarm for them, and in their memory, we shall continue to do our job as best we know how.

Dignitaries at Cathedral

Attending the Mass were large delegations of the clergy and officials from the state and the city.

Among the state and city dignitaries were: Gov. and Mrs. Endicott Peabody; Joseph Donovan, Peabody's appointment secretary; Mayor and Mrs. John F. Collins; Police Comr. Edmund L. McNamara, Gen. Charles W. Sweeney, Boston Civil Defense Director; Middlesex County Sheriff Howard W. Fitzpatrick and George Swartz of the 100 Club and State Senator Francis X. McCann of Cambridge.

Leading the delegation of firemen into the church were Fire Commissioner Thomas Griffin; Chief William Terrenzi; Deputy Mayor and former Fire Commissioner Henry Scagnoli; Dr. Edward Hommel, Fire Department physician; Dr. James V. Sacchetti, Boston City Hospital; Rev. John Barclay, Protestant Chaplain of Fire Department; and Asst. Chiefs John Howard and James Flanagan.

Monsignori included Rt. Rev. Francis J. Lally, editor of the Pilot; Rt. Rev. Anthony Flaherty, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Charlestown; Rt. Rev. Robert Kickham, director of the Archdiocesan Holy Name Society; Rt. Rev. John P. Carroll, director of the archdiocesan C.Y.O.; Rt. Rev. Francis F. McElroy, pastor of St. Paul's Church, Dorchester.

Also Rt. Rev. Albert Low, superintendent of archdiocesan schools; Rt. Rev. John Watson, pastor of St. Matthew's church, Dorchester; Rt. Rev. James H. Doyle, pastor of St. Peter's Church, Dorchester; Rt. Rev. Edmund F. Hackett of the Holy Cross Cathedral.

Also Very Rev. John O'Connor, provincial of the Jesuit Order and Rev. Stanislaus Jablonski, chaplain of the New York Fire Department, and Rev. Kenneth B. Murphy, director of Rescue, Inc.

More than 50 priests from parishes throughout the archdiocese were also seated within the sanctuary.

OUTSIDE CITIES AND TOWNS ATTENDING BOSTON FIREFIGHTERS FUNERAL OCTOBER 5, 1964

Ashland, Mass.
Arlington, Mass.
Avon, Mass.
Attleboro, Mass.
Augusta, Maine
Beverly, Mass.
Baltimore, Maryland
Billerica, Mass.
Belmont, Mass.
Brooklyn, New York, Holy Name Soc.
Bedford Air Base, Mass.
Boston Fire Patrol
Brockton, Mass.
Braintree, Mass.
Boston Fire Fighters Retired Group
Burlington, Mass.
Boston Navy Yard Federal Firefighters
Boston Sparks Assoc.
Brookline, Mass.
Cambridge, Mass.
Concord Mass.
Chelsea, Mass.
Chiefs Association, New York Fire Department
Chelmsford, Mass.
Dedham, Mass.
Dover, Mass.
Dover, New Hampshire
Everett, Mass.
Falmouth, Mass.
Fall River, Mass.
Gloucester, Mass.
Hartford, Connecticut
Holyoke, Mass.
Holbrook, Mass.
Hanscom Air Base, Federal Firefighters
Hingham, Mass.
Haverhill, Mass.
Hyannis, Mass.
Ipswich, Mass.

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FIREFIGHTERS' PAL JOINS THEM IN DEATH

A Requiem Mass was sung in St. Agatha's Church, Milton on the morning of October 5th, for the late Andrew "Andy" Sheehan, who died as a result of injuries received at the Trumbull Street Fire. "Andy" followed in death, some of his pals, some thirteen hours after being crushed by debris, while doing what he liked best — helping Firefighters.

"Andy" first came in contact with Firefighters while attending classes at Cathedral High School, from which he graduated in 1956. He was a frequent visitor at the house of Engine 3 and Ladder 3 during the past ten years, and was known as a well-mannered youth.

At twenty-five years of age, he was employed as a car salesman, and just two months ago, purchased an advertisement in the Digest telling his friends to contact him at the Lawrence Pontiac Company in Milton.

We extend to his grieving mother and father, and to his brother and three sisters, our deepest sympathy in the loss of this young lad, who on so many occasions, proved himself a real pal of Firefighters.

In Line of Duty — Box 1671

Lt. John McCorkle



Appointed — Dec. 10, 1937

Promoted — Jan. 12, 1949

Died — October 1, 1964

Assigned to Engine Company Twenty-four

27 Years Service — 53 Years of Age

Survived by his widow, Mary, and 4 children

**Joanne, 23 years; Louise (Mrs. George McManus), 21 years; John J., Jr., 18 years;
and 14 year old Elizabeth**

COMMISSIONER PAYS TRIBUTE

As we of the Boston Fire Dept. look back to that tragic day of October 1, 1964, when words were inadequate to express our feelings and our sorrow, we find that even today, that same barrier faces us.

What can we say to those who are left behind? How do we express sorrow to those who are experiencing the greatest of sorrows. How do we convey that their great loss is also our great loss — that these fine men — heroes in every sense of the word — meant so much to us. It is most difficult. They will forever be in our prayers and our thoughts.

In His Infinite Plan, God has seen fit to bring to His Heavenly Home, Fire Lieutenant John McCorkle, Fire Lieut. John Geswell, Firefighter Francis Murphy, Firefighter James Sheedy, and Firefighter Robert Clougherty. His Eminence Cardinal Cushing and other theologians have told us that the perfect Act of Charity accomplished by these men has brought them safely to their Eternal Reward, for "Greater love than this, no man hath".

We do not question God's Wisdom. To us their death may be untimely for them. As good Christians we accept, but we are deeply aware of our personal loss. May their attainment of Heaven provide motivation in our lives which will allow us to join them when God so desires, and may the prayers of these men — our friends — our comrades — who are now so near to God — help in this respect.

As Commissioner of the Boston Fire Dept. I wish to acknowledge with grateful appreciation the sorrow expressed by so many in our community and throughout the Nation for our departed firefighters. To the religious and civic leaders, to the general public, and to firefighters from everywhere who journeyed to Boston to participate in our final tribute to these men. My sincere thanks. You came in numbers that have no precedent — in a demonstration of respect unique in the history of our Country. Never has that invisible bond which unites all firefighters — been so evident — or more perfectly demonstrated — never has it been so deeply appreciated.

May I also extend my sincere thanks to the members of our Dept. who handled the multitude of details for the final tribute to our beloved members. To all my never ending gratitude. They and the entire Department have the respect and admiration of all for the display of a loyalty and devotion during this sorrowful period that could not be surpassed. Insofar as is humanly possible, the heavy burden of sorrow which fell on five devoted families, has been eased. This is the mark of true brothers, true friends. In the Boston Fire Dept. it will always be this way

Thomas Griffin

Fire Commissioner

CHIEF PAYS TRIBUTE

The recent tragic fire at Box 1671 grievously shocked the entire department and in fact its terrible impact was felt nation wide. Here was the type of fire which every firefighter dreads and one never knows when it will strike. The wonder of it is, God forbid, that similar tragedies do not happen more often. Ours is indeed a hazardous profession. Because of this a firefighters first act of bravery is performed when he enters the ranks of fire force.

How can mere words describe our feelings on the loss of these men who gave up their lives on the fireground. They were our comrades and members of our closely-knit family. The funeral eulogy of our beloved Cardinal had great emotional impact and it was comforting to know that their reward here after was assured.

The night of October 1, 1964 will be emblazoned in the hearts and memories of firefighters for many years to come. The heroic work of the survivors who narrowly escaped death themselves was tremendous in their complete lack of concern for their safety — half dazed — many suffering injuries — pouring and digging through the rubble to aid their stricken comrades while the remains of the wrecked wall still threatened over head.

There is something unique about a fire fighter whether he comes from a town, village, hamlet or large city. There is a close bond of kinship or comradeship — One department's trouble becomes the concern of all the others — Why? Possibly it is because a fire fighter has to face the possibility of death so often.

This intangible bond was demonstrated in all its power when over 1,400 firefighters from cities and towns throughout the nation and from Canada assembled with our 1,400 off duty firefighters to pay homage to our departed comrades in a tribute probably unsurpassed in the history our city. The tremendous outpouring of firefighters, state and city officials and the public at large must have been a source of real consolation to the families of our departed comrades in demonstrating that the sadness and grief that dwelled in their hearts was shared by all.

While nothing can replace the lives of those heroic men who gave their lives, it is comforting to know that everything humanly possible is being done to ease the shock and grief for their loved ones in both a spiritual and material way.

The manner in which the personnel of the Boston Fire Department has reacted to this tragic blow form the moment it occurred has reflected great credit on the department and in the Truest tradition of its remarkable history.

Sincere thanks and appreciation are expressed to the Relief Association, the Executive Board and all other members of the department who gave unstintingly of their time, efforts and energy throughout the trying period which affected us all.

William Terrenzi

Chief of Dept.

A TOUR OF DUTY — FIRE ALARM

A tour of duty at Fire Alarm Headquarters is sometimes routine but, more often than not, each tour has something exceptional that makes it stand apart from the other. No one tour can ever be taken for granted no more than we are assured that each and everyone of us shall see tomorrow. We are a closely knit unit within the framework and operations of the Fire Department and although some of us may never have occasion to enter some of the stations we do get to know our brother members via our telephone switchboard. Some of us have shared in the joyous occasions of our members and too, have felt with them in their deep personal tragedies. We are honored in having the privilege of being the only group to be so close to the firefighter and his family. An honor of which we are deeply and justly proud.

A tour of duty: 12:00 A.M. to 8:00 A.M., October 1, 1964. Box 6192 at 12:12 A.M.; received and transmitted. All out received; this alarm is recorded with no undue incident occurring. At 12:31 A.M. box 1671 is received and transmitted, this alarm being the 12,861 alarm since 12:00 A.M. on January 1, 1964. The first report received is, "smoke showing" a report such as this has each operator look to the assignments for this might be a "worker" or even greater. This seems to stand still and for us the atmosphere becomes electrifying. "Car X to Fire Alarm" answered, "Working fire box 1671." This is it, apparatus is dispatched certain notifications are made. "Car X to Fire Alarm, strike second alarm, box 1671." More apparatus is dispatched and further notifications made. Within minutes subsequent alarms are requested until we have reached and sounded the 'Fifth' alarm. The alarm which spells a major fire and with it brings something of the unusual. A terse request is received, "Car X to Fire Alarm," "Send all available ambulances." This order chills to the very marrow of the bone and our hearts become heavy when we sense the beginning of a tragedy. Who is injured? Is it people who might of been within the building or our brother members who are fighting this conflagration? "Car X to Fire Alarm," "Have the Department Chaplain go direct to the Boston City Hospital." This indeed is the dreaded answer to what has been uppermost in our hearts and minds and to those who must be listening to our radio transmissions. Someone of our members has been injured and we feel, seriously. Soon we are receiving telephone calls of not one but two, then three, four or more members who have possibly answered their last alarm. More calls received of many more injured members being rushed to the Boston City Hospital. We cannot be sure, we stand and gaze in shock at one another and each silently prays that none of this is true. As the hours pass the tragic knowledge becomes more certain that we have indeed lost five of our brother members at this alarm. Apparatus returning to their respective quarters are silent and sad in making or receiving their reports. Many ask if what they have heard is true? Are there any more? What can be our answer, for nothing is official and

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In Line of Duty – Box 1671

Lt. John Geswell



Appointed – April 27, 1955

Promoted – August 5, 1964

Died – October 1, 1964

Assigned to Ladder Company Twenty-six

9 Years of Service – 40 Years of Age

**Survived by his widow, Mary, and two children
Denise, 3 years of age and 1-year old John, Jr.**

