

5. Case of Lieutenant William O. Hawkins, Ladder Company 10, Box 2465, 2:31 A. M., October 21, 1943, 104 Call Street, Jamaica Plain.

At 2:31 A. M., October 21, 1943, the department responded to an alarm from Box 2465 for a fire in the dwelling house at 104 Call Street, Jamaica Plain. Upon arrival of the apparatus, a fire was found on the second floor, involving the kitchen and extending toward a bedroom off the kitchen. Members of the department were informed that some children had been removed from the burning building but that their mother was missing.

Lieutenant William O. Hawkins of Ladder Company 10 entered the house and crawled on hands and knees through the hallway, which was heavily involved with heat and smoke, into the kitchen and thence to a living room just off the kitchen where he found the mother of the children slumped on the floor in an unconscious condition with her head resting upon a chair. Lieutenant Hawkins, still on hands and knees because of flame, heat and dense smoke, dragged the woman to the entrance hall. His action, undoubtedly, saved the woman from being burned to death, and in making the rescue, Lieutenant Hawkins received burns on his hands and right forearm. He was highly commended by the Fire Commissioner in General Orders No. 54, Series of 1943.

Because of his quick action and the extreme personal risk to which he exposed himself during this rescue work, the Board recommends that Lieutenant William O. Hawkins of Ladder Company 10 be awarded the "Walter Scott Medal for Valor" for 1943.