

"John E. Fitzgerald Medal"

DISTRICT CHIEF JOSEPH F. KILDUFF of Districts 9-10

At 3:50 P.M., March 11, 1949, the department responded to an alarm from Box 3135 for a fire in the dwelling house at 54 Langdon Street, Roxbury. Upon arrival of the department, fire involved the entire kitchen of the second floor and was extending through windows to the rear wooden piazza and to the third floor.

District Chief Joseph F. Kilduff of Districts 9-10 was informed by the occupant of the second floor, who was in the street, that her infant child was in the second floor of the burning dwelling house. District Chief Kilduff attempted to gain entrance to the second floor by the front stairway but was unable to do so on account of heat, heavy smoke and gases. He immediately proceeded to the rear stairway and thence to the second floor under difficult conditions. After a search, he found the child on the floor in a bedroom. He carried the infant to the street where mother and child were placed in a police ambulance and removed to Boston City Hospital.

As District Chief Kilduff was the first member of the department to arrive at the scene of the fire, his prompt action and the risk to which he exposed himself during the rescue work undoubtedly saved the infant from serious injury or death.

He was highly commended by the Fire Commissioner in General Orders No. 18, series of 1949.

The Board of Merit, consisting of the Chief of Department, and the Deputy Chiefs, is pleased to recommend that District Chief Joseph F. Kilduff be awarded the, "John E. Fitzgerald Medal".