

FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN

Who Take All Kinds of Chances

A SERIES OF PERSONAL STORIES

DISTRICT CHIEF EDWARD J. SHALLOW

"Speaking of close calls, I should say that my closest call was at the Merrimac st fire 18 years ago last February, when, with another member of Truck 17, of which I was then the lieutenant, I was practically snatched from the jaws of death, following the collapse of a roof.

"No. 17 Truck responded to that fire on the second alarm and with Morris Galvin, now lieutenant at Engine 6, I was on the third floor giving the members of Engine Company 7 a lift on their line. When the roof gave away it carried every floor with it.

"The first intimation we had of something wrong prompted Galvin and myself to race for a stairway and we were on it when it was carried down, taking us along.

"We were hurled to the very foot of the staircase and buried under 10 feet of timbers and other materials. Comrades broke a plate glass window, entered the basement and rescued us. How we escaped being struck on the head or crushed about the body by the falling floors was indeed a miracle. The minutes we lay there under the ruins certainly seemed like hours.

"The collapse of that roof killed six firemen and seriously injured many others. Somebody said that I was lucky. I surely was that morning."

District Chief Shallow has been in the service since November, 1888. He is intimately known as "Ned" and his department record is of the highest. As a



EDWARD J. SHALLOW,
District Chief.

private he saw service at Mason st and later at Engine 7 and Ladder 13. In 1895 he was advanced to lieutenant and served with that rank at Trucks 12 and 17. In 1901 he was promoted to captain and given command of Engine 6, later going to Ladder 1.

In August, 1913, he became a district chief and until a few weeks ago, when he was sent to Bulfinch st. had charge of the South Boston District. He devoted many years to service in firemen's associations.