

"Case of District Chief James F. Sheehan of District 4 et al., at fire, box 4123, 3 alarms, 11:37 A. M., September 24, 1935, Building 34, Navy Yard, Charlestown.

During the progress of the fire in the cellar of the building, the smoke and heat became so intense that the members of Rescue Company 3, who were operating a water line, were forced to retreat. Although the members were equipped with gas masks, conditions became so severe that they were unbearable. It was soon discovered that two members of this company, namely, Hoseman Hugh W. Lynch and Hoseman Robert E. Keane (detailed to Rescue 3 from Engine 31) were missing. The following-named members:

District Chief Michael J. Aylward, District 2,
Aide to Deputy Chief Daniel J. Denehy, Ladder 8,
Ladderman John J. Brown, Ladder Company 24,
" William F. Linehan, Ladder Company 24,
" John C. Murphy, Ladder Company 24,
" William A. Moore, Ladder Company 24,
" Mark A. Skiffington, Ladder Company 24,

entered section of cellar and located Hoseman Hugh W. Lynch of Rescue Company 3, who had been overcome and partly stunned by the hot air explosion that occurred. The search for and removal of Hoseman Lynch was accomplished under severe smoke and heat conditions.

After Hoseman Lynch had been removed to street, District Chief James F. Sheehan of District 4, equipped with a gas mask, entered fire section and followed along line of hose searching for Hoseman Robert E. Keane, whom he found unconscious on the cellar floor. Crawling on his hands and knees, District Chief Sheehan succeeded in dragging Hoseman Keane some fifteen feet, when he was assisted by District Chief Michael J. Aylward of District 2, Aide to Deputy Chief Daniel J. Denehy of Ladder 8, and Ladderman William F. Linehan of Ladder 24, in removing Hoseman Keane from cellar to the street, these members having again entered the cellar shortly after District Chief Sheehan. All these members were equipped with gas masks, as it was humanly impossible at this time for anyone to exist in this section of cellar unless so equipped. The rescue of

Hoseman Keane was performed under extremely hazardous conditions, due to the exceptional heat and smoke, and except for the prompt and efficient action of these men, it is doubtful if Hoseman Keane's life could have been saved.

In addition to being overcome, Hosemen Lynch and Keane were severely burned about ears and hands. They received emergency treatment at the Naval Dispensary and were later removed to the hospital.

After a thorough review of the rescue work at this fire, and because of the heroic and valuable services performed by the members of the Department hereinbefore mentioned, the Board respectfully submits the following recommendations:

1. That the name of District Chief James F. Sheehan be placed on the Roll of Merit of the Department.
2. That the following-named members be awarded a Special Commendation:

District Chief Michael J. Aylward, District 2,
Aide to Deputy Chief Daniel J. Denehy, Ladder 8,
Ladderman William F. Linehan, Ladder 24.