

# The Boston Globe

## September 28, 1950

### Fireman 'Beaned' in Argument Over Burning Rubbish

A 40-year-old Boston Fire Department lieutenant was struck on the head with a 24-quart aluminum kettle in a Hyde Park restaurant last night when an employee of the cafe became enraged over the lieutenant's orders to extinguish a rubbish fire in the rear of the establishment.

Victim of the assault was Lt Vincent D. Vitale, of 57 Tampa st., Mattapan, attached to Engine 48, Hyde Park. He was taken to City Hospital, and released following treatment for gashes on the right ear and right side of the head and cuts of the hands. Six stitches were required to close the cut on Vitale's ear.

Police immediately put out a broadcast for a former South End and West End man on a charge of felonious assault.

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### FIREMAN

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According to the story told police by Lieutenant Vitale, he went to the Hyde Park restaurant, 1243 River st., to investigate a telephoned report of a fire and resultant obnoxious fumes.

The fire official discovered a rubbish fire in an incinerator



LT VINCENT VITALE... 'beaned.'

in the rear of the restaurant and checked with the employee about it.

#### Fire Was a "Hazard"

Lt Vitale said the restaurant's permit for burning rubbish had expired, that the fire constituted a hazard to property, that the location of the incinerator was too close to the building itself and finally that the fire laws forbid the burning of rubbish after dark.

He told police that when he called the employee's attention to these violations the latter gave him an argument.

"Then I ordered him to put it out," Vitale told police. "He went into the restaurant, got a small amount of water and threw it on the blaze, muttering under his breath. He only partially extinguished the rubbish fire.

"So I ordered him to 'Come on, put it all out'."

At this point, Lt Vitale said he turned his head away from the employee and was suddenly struck over the head with a heavy kettle. Vitale was knocked to the ground stunned. As he started to get up seconds later, he said, his assailant made a lunge towards him and snarled, "I'll kill you." Vitale jumped back, but instead of carrying the assault further the employee turned and ran.

The assailant's identity was furnished by the proprietor of the restaurant, Angelo Niki of 63 Hillside st., Hyde Park.

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## November 22, 1950

### 6 Months for Hitting Fireman

George V. Ghika, 36, dishwasher, of Tremont st., South End, was sentenced to six months in the House of Correction yesterday after he admitted striking Lt Vincent D. Vitale of the Boston Fire Department over the head with a 24-pound saucepan when he was ordered to extinguish a fire in the rear of a Hyde Park restaurant Sept. 27.