

THE LAST ALARM

LINE OF DUTY DEATHS OF THE F.D.N.Y.

THE STORIES

FIREMAN ROBERT WINTRINGHAM ENGINE 1
August 14, 1865 August 24, 1865
7th DISTRICT FRONT STREET & MAIDEN LANE

After the Tender of Engine 1 had stretched in, and returned to the Engine, this was at the hydrant on Front Street near Pine Street. The horse became frightened and ran away. When in Front Street near Maiden Lane the driver Robert Wintringham was thrown from the seat. The tender then passed over him and broke both of his legs. He died in City Hospital.

Source: the "Casualties and Deaths in the Uniformed Force" book, FDNY Page 1

FIREMAN GEORGE BELL ENGINE 8
October 29, 1865 November 8, 1865
2nd DISTRICT FOOT W. 42ND STREET & NORTH RIVER

Fireman George Bell of Engine 8 died while working at a fire in a coal yard at the foot of W. 42nd Street. He inhaled gas from the burning coal and was taken to home to recover. He died on November 8, 1865.

Source: the "Casualties and Deaths in the Uniformed Force" book, FDNY Page 1

FIREMAN THOMAS IRVIN ENGINE 4
December 2, 1865
BOX 5 14 STATE STREET

Fireman Thomas Irvin of Engine 4 was killed when the front of this building fell. In the building were bales of cotton that expanded from the water bursting the walls out. It is supposed the Fireman Irvin was struck with one of the iron shutter, as his body was cut in half. The lower limbs were found about twenty feet from his head and trunk.

Source: the "Casualties and Deaths in the Uniformed Force" book, FDNY Page 1

FIREMAN DOMINICK SICOT ENGINE 4
November 9, 1865 Dec 14, 1865
7th DISTRICT 14 WATER STREET

Fireman Dominick Sicot of Engine 4 fell from the roof of 16 Water Street. He was with his company on the roof using a hose, throwing water into the fire building. He fell in the rear of the building and was taken to City Hospital where he died.

Source: the "Casualties and Deaths in the Uniformed Force" book, FDNY Page 1

FIREMAN PETER H. WALSH ENGINE 5
May 21, 1866
BOX 43 ACADEMY OF MUSIC, E. 14TH STREET

The fire had started in the restaurant portion of the theater and spread to the stage. The flames were discovered around midnight and had been burning for some time. The pipe of Engine 5 was on the stage, entering from the 14th Street side of the building. After remaining there a few minutes, a puff of hot air and fire burst through the building, this compelled the men to retreat. The Company followed the hose line out of the building. All got out except fore Captain Waters and Fireman Walsh who were burnt to death while on the stage of the Academy of Music. Their remains were found on the afternoon of the 22nd, "Burned into shapeless crisps".

Source: the "Casualties and Deaths in the Uniformed Force" book, FDNY Page 2, NY Times, May 22, 1866, Front page.

FIREMAN MILES L. SWOARBY LADDER 10
August 27, 1867
BOXES 5 & 121 108 BROAD STREET

Fireman Miles L. Swoarby of Ladder 10 walked off of the roof of this building. When he was found in the rear of the building, he was already dead. He fell a distance of 65 feet.

Source: the "Casualties and Deaths in the Uniformed Force" book, FDNY Page 3

CAPTAIN MICHAEL SNYDER ENGINE 38
March 18, 1868 April 16, 1868
8th DISTRICT IN QUARTERS

The team of horses pulled the steamer injured Captain Michael Snyder of Engine 38. The horses were not entirely hitched to the steamer when the front doors were opened and the horses started out the doors. Captain Snyder attempted to stop them only to be knocked down and trampled by the horses. This 11:00 P. M. run to Westchester County proved to be a false alarm.

Source: the "Casualties and Deaths in the Uniformed Force" book, FDNY Page 4

CAPTAIN JAMES WHALEN ENGINE 6
October 6, 1869
BOX 46 248 PEARL STREET

Captain James Whalen was killed while proceeding to this fire. He was driving the engine's team and when in Cedar Street east of Broadway, the engine hit a piece of timber. The timber was planted in the street for derrick purposes for the construction of the Equitable Building. Captain Whalen was bounced out of the seat and fell under the engine. He was dragged a considerable distance and when found had expired. It is supposed his head was crushed between the pump of the engine and the pavement.

Source: the "Casualties and Deaths in the Uniformed Force" book, FDNY Page 5

BOX 323 247-249 W. 28TH STREET

Lieutenant Thomas Roberts of Engine 14 was killed while proceeding to this fire while riding the front seat of the tender. At 7th Avenue between W. 25th and 26th Streets, he dismounted to proceed his apparatus. As his feet touched the ground he fell and one of the tender's wheels passed over his body, killing him instantly.

Source: the "Casualties and Deaths in the Uniformed Force" book, FDNY Page 5

FIREMAN MATHAIS HEWES LADDER 4

November 22, 1867 December 4, 1870

BOX 368 647-649 W. 48TH STREET

Fireman Mathais Hewes of Ladder 4 was injured while mounting the ladder truck. He caught his head between the side of the apparatus and a mailbox on the southwest corner of 8th Avenue and W. 48th Street.

Source: the "Casualties and Deaths in the Uniformed Force" book, FDNY Page 3

FIREMAN JACOB EDLER ENGINE 16

March 18, 1871 March 27, 1871

BOX 548 2ND AVENUE & 38TH STREET

Fireman Jacob Edler was killed while driving the tender of Engine 16. Ladder 7 was standing on the railroad tracks in 2nd Avenue near E. 38th Street. Engine 16 went up the Avenue on the same track and ran into the rear part of the truck. Fireman Edler was struck with the point of the 42-foot ladder and thrown to the pavement, causing a compound fracture of the right leg. One of the engine's horses was injured, the pole broken, and the brace of the seat bent. The 42-foot ladder also broke.

Source: the "Casualties and Deaths in the Uniformed Force" book, FDNY Page 7

FIREMAN EDWARD BURKE ENGINE 4

June 22, 1872 June 29, 1872

BOX 36 18-20 LIBERTY STREET

Twenty-one members of Engines 4,6 and Ladders 1,8,10 and an Assistant Engineer were all burnt during the overhauling by an explosion of chemicals. Fireman Edward Burke died from his injuries.

Source: the "Casualties and Deaths in the Uniformed Force" book, FDNY Page 15/16

FIREMAN JACOB STEIGER ENGINE 23

September 6, 1872 September 8, 1872

BOX 622 W. 65TH ST. & NORTH RIVER

He was burned by kerosene oil exploding while working this fire.

Source: the "Casualties and Deaths in the Uniformed Force" book, FDNY Page 16

ASSISTANT ENGINEER GEORGE A. ERLACHER BATTALION 2

January 17, 1873 February 9, 1873

BOX 38 183 WATER STREET

Assistant Engineer George A. Erlacher was thrown from tender while responding to the above location. At Peck Slip & Water Street the tender of Engine 12 upset by running on a pile of ice. Assistant Engineer Erlacher in command of the 2nd Battalion who was riding on the tender was thrown off and fatally injured by striking his head on the curbing of the sidewalk. The driver of the tender received a broken shoulder.

Source: the "Casualties and Deaths in the Uniformed Force" book, FDNY Page 18

FIREMAN JAMES PLUNKET ENGINE 23

September 24, 1873 October 24, 1873

BOX 587 1224 2ND AVENUE

Engine 23 was responding to an alarm at 1224 2nd Avenue. On 59th Street and 6th Avenue the engine struck a large stone in the street upsetting the engine. Fireman James Plunket was driving the engine and was thrown from engine.

Source: the "Casualties and Deaths in the Uniformed Force" book, FDNY Page 22

FIREMAN JOHN O'NEILL LADDER 4

August 16, 1874

BOX 585 8TH AVENUE & W. 57TH STREET

While proceeding to this alarm Fireman John O'Neill was running in front of the rig. When at 8th Avenue and W. 57th Street, he stumbled and fell. The forward wheels of the truck passed over his body killing him instantly.

Source: the "Casualties and Deaths in the Uniformed Force" book, FDNY Page 27

BATTALION CHIEF WILLIAM H. NASH BATTALION 4

FIREMAN WILLIAMS HUGHES ENGINE 9

FIREMAN PHILLIP J. MAUS LADDER 6

September 14, 1875

----- E. BROADWAY & CANAL STREET

At 10:50 A.M. William H. Nash Chief of the 4th Battalion and a detail of men were exhibiting to some visitors from Patterson, N.J. an aerial ladder (Scott Uda Ladders) in the square at the junction of East Broadway and Canal Street. When the ladder was raised Chief Nash went to the top section. Fireman Phillip J. Maus of Ladder 6 and Fireman William Hughes of Engine 9 followed him closely. When Chief Nash was 98 feet from the ground, the ladder broke at the 3rd section, caused by defective wood of which it was built. The three above named men were dashed to the pavement below, horribly mangled and they expired immediately.

Source: the "Casualties and Deaths in the Uniformed Force" book, FDNY Page 33