

CAPTAIN JOHN F. WALSH ENGINE 14
FIREMAN DENNIS J. HEALY ENGINE 14
FIREMAN GEORGE B. F. CHRISTMAN ENGINE 14
FIREMAN THOMAS F. HALPIN, JR. LADDER 24
March 26, 1906
BOX 66-44-256 43 DOWNING STREET

The Foreman and three fireman were killed by a falling wall in a fire which started at 12:30 yesterday afternoon in the seven-story factory building at the southeast corner of Bedford and Downing Streets. Foreman Walsh and his men were on the third floor rear of the old building. They were pouring water from the rear windows into the windows of the factory from this point because the heat was too great to permit a battle from the roof. The men were in an old building that had been built over 100 years ago and the mass of white-hot bricks crashed upon it, it crumpled like a house of cardboard and was flattened to the ground, carrying Walsh and his men down in the ruins. Of the six men who went down in the crash two were soon calling for help. Fireman Healy was the first to be pulled out and just barely alive. He died several minutes after being brought out. His body was burned and battered terribly and was buried for over thirty minutes. The collapsed happened around 1:30 in the afternoon and it was late into the night before the bodies of the other three men were pulled out. All had been burnt but were still recognizable. Foreman Walsh was 42 years old and appointed to the Department on March 16, 1891. He was promoted to Foreman in 1903 and assigned to Engine 14. He was placed on the Roll of Merit three times for bravery. He was married and had a family. Dennis J. Healy was appointed in 1903 and had a good record, while Christman and Halpin were each on the job two years. Foreman Walsh was in charge of the companies who went down to the Great Baltimore Fire in 1904.

Source: New York Times, Mar. 27, 1906, Page 1 column 1 & Page 2 column 5, 6, LODD 125, 126, 127, 128

FIREMAN JAMES W. MCCUSKER ENGINE 203
November 4, 1906
BOX 77-44-728 3RD STREET & HOYT STREET, PILGRIM LAUNDRY

Members of Engine 203 were operating on the roof extension of the Pilgrim Steam Laundry Company when the wall of the main building collapsed onto them burying them under burning debris. Fire was thru out the four-story building. Chief Croker arrived at the fire with the third alarm companies and saw the danger the men were in on the roof. He was on his way to get the men off the roof when the back wall fell. Fireman James W. McCusker, age 27, was killed instantly with every bone in his body broken. His body was taken to his home where his wife and four children were waiting for him to come home from work. They had no idea of his death until the Fire Department Chaplain brought the news a short time before the body was delivered to the house.

Source: The Brooklyn Eagle, Nov. 5, 1906, LODD 129

ENGINEER WILLIAM H. RUSH ENGINE 49

November 12, 1906 November 14, 1906

BOX ??? WELFARE ISLAND

RESPONDING TO ALARM FRACTURED SKULL, SEE 4-25-1912 FOR SON'S DEATH

LODD 130

FIREMAN JOSEPH FINGER LADDER 29

December 25, 1906

BOX ??? St. ANN'S AVENUE & E. 138th STREET

Seven firemen were injured in a small accident and one of them, Joseph Finger, driver of Truck 29, probably will die as a result of falling underneath the apparatus. The other men were not seriously injured. Finger was returning from a fire at 271 Ryder Avenue and as the team turned from St. Ann's Avenue into 138th Street the horses bolted. Finger was jerked from his seat, not being strapped in. The wheels passed over him, and at Lincoln Hospital, it was found that he had suffered internal injuries and fractured six of his ribs.

Source: New York Times Dec. 25, 1906, Page 2 column 5, LODD 131

FIREMAN DANIEL J. CAMPBELL ENGINE 32

January 6, 1907

BOX 66-33-76 54 ROOSEVELT STREET

When first reported in the newspapers three firemen of Engine 32 were killed by being buried under the blazing debris of the roof and top two floors of the six-story paper warehouse of the George S. Hills Company at 54 Roosevelt Street. If it was not for the quick action of Acting Chief Binns, who ordered his men out of the building just in time, many more firemen may have perished. Firemen Campbell, Lennon and John J. C. Siefert were outside on the third floor landing and decided they could get to the ground faster by going down the stairs. They had just had entered back into the window when there was a great burst of fire from the floor above, then a rumble and a sound of breaking timbers. Other men on the fire escapes were all tossed to the ground injuring many of them. Once the fire was subdued rescue parties enter the building from the top and started searching for the three missing firemen. Around midnight, two women approached Chief Binns, one dressed in black and the other in regular clothes. They were both looking for Jack Siefert. The Chief stated he thought he was dead in the collapsed. Mrs. Siefert went up to the building looking for him and wanted to help in digging him out. The Chief ordered her home and after sometime she went home. Early the next day the mangled body of Lennon was pulled out of the rubble and not much hope of finding the other two alive. Several hours later a faint noise was heard. All work was stopped and the firemen listen for the noise. What they heard was three taps followed by two taps on a pipe and then a faint hello. The men ran to the spot where the sounds were coming from and yelled "Hello! Is that you boys?" The answer came back saying he was Jack and did not feel like he was hurt but just could not move. The whole department started digging where the sound was coming from and after three hours they were no more closer to finding him then before. Someone started tunneling toward where he thought the sounds were coming from. After several more hours of digging, a light was put in the tunnel and they asked Siefert if he could see it and he answered yes. Shortly after midnight the ruins shifted and everybody thought the rescuers would all be trapped. After thirty-one hours, Fireman Jack Siefert was removed alive from his prison. Fireman Siefert was trapped in a sitting position, his helmet still on saving his head from injuries. Water continually dripped on him to and he would drink from this. His injuries were mostly minor cuts and bruises. Fireman Campbell was found only three feet from Siefert and his head was crushed by a metal stair railing.

Source: New York Times Jan. 7, 1907, Page 1 column 7, Page 2 column 1, Jan 8, 1907, Page 1 column 7, Page 2 columns 1,2, &3, Jan. 9, 1907, Page 3 column 3, LODD 132, 133

January 23, 1907
BOX 44-971 16 DIVISION AVENUE

Fireman Thomas McNamara of Engine 166 was advancing the hose lines with the rest of members of Engine 166 in a cottage that was charged with thick black smoke. A defective flue is supposed to have caused the fire. The firemen of Engine Company 166 were sent into the building, which was filled with thick clouds of black smoke, although McNamara was the oldest member in the platoon, he instead on going into the building first. The firemen stooped low so as to avoid the smoke as much as possible but McNamara held firm to the nozzle and forge ahead and farther into the building. Suddenly his comrades saw him stagger and then fall. They knew at once that he was overcome with the thick smoke and dropping the hose, picked him up and retreated to the street. He was placed in an ambulance and taken to a hospital where he was pronounced dead. He was one of the oldest firemen in the department at the age of 63. He leaves a wife and two children.

Source: Brooklyn Eagle, Jan. 24, 1907, Page 18 column 3, LODD 134

FIREMAN ADAM DAMM ENGINE 26
FIREMAN HARRY F. BAKER ENGINE 26

February 26, 1907
BOX 66-22-476 573 8TH AVENUE

Firemen Adam Damm and Harry F. Baker were both overcome by smoke while fighting a fire at 573 8th Avenue. The members of Engine 26 arrived first and went into the basement of the fire building. One by one the men were all overcome by the smoke. Fireman Damm was the first to fall and he was taken out by the Captain of Engine 26 but they made only as far as the stairs before the Captain was overcome. After a while other members of other companies sense something was wrong, went down and everybody knocked out by the smoke. Fireman Damm was carried out but died before an ambulance could take him to the hospital. Fireman Baker was taken to the hospital where he died a short time later. Both had inhaled ammonia fumes.

Source: New York Times, Feb. 27, 1907, Page 1 column 4, LODD 135, 136

CAPTAIN JOHN RYAN ENGINE 80
April 8, 1907
BOX 66-44-805 723 LENOX AVENUE

The Metropolitan power house, covering the whole block between 6th & Lenox Avenues and between 145th to 146th Streets caught fire around 2:30 in the morning. The west wall of the four-story building collapsed spreading the flames to the tenement houses on Lenox Avenue. When the wall fell, it landed on the members of Engine 80 killing Captain John Ryan outright. The rest of the members of Engine 80 all injured and taken to hospital. The fire started in the cornice of the 4th floor and spread very rapidly by the strong winds blowing. By the time companies arrived the building was fully involved. The powerhouse supplies power for most of the surface lines in Harlem.

Source: New York Times, Apr. 8, 1907, Page 1 column 5, LODD 137

FIREMAN FREDERICK MASSERLI ENGINE 245
July 28, 1907 August 2, 1907
BOX 33-362 STEEPLECHASE PARK, CONEY ISLAND

On July 28, 1907, the amusement park Steeplechase Park went up in flames and burned several blocks of buildings, causing \$2 million in damage. Frederick Masserli, a fireman attached to Engine Company 145, on Coney Island, as a driver was the only person seriously injured, according to the police report. He was doing his best in Steeplechase Park to prevent the flames from doing any further damage, when a huge beam fell and struck him on the head. He was rendered unconscious, but was dragged from the ruins by several of his comrades. He had sustained a probable concussion of the brain and a fracture at the base of the skull. He died in the hospital. He lived in Sheepshead Bay and was well known in that section.

Source: Brooklyn Eagle, July 29, 1907, Page 1, Page 6 column 4 & Aug. 3, 1907 Page 1 column 7, LODD 138

FIREMAN JAMES SMITH LADDER 104
September 4, 1907 September 14, 1907
BOX 77-644 41-43 HAVEMEYER STREET

Fireman James Smith was seriously burnt while moving a barrel of benzine from the basement of a five-story double brick apartment building. The basement was being used by a house painter for storage of paints and solvents with the first floor being a paint store. A small fire had started in a pile of paint rags in the basement. After the fire was out the firemen discovered the barrels of benzine and started to remove them. Two firemen, John Kennedy of Engine 212 and James Smith of Ladder 104 were rolling one barrel to the stairs when it exploded. Both men were covered with the burning liquid and fell into a foot of water in the basement. Three other firemen rushed into the basement to rescue the two unfortunates and were badly burned themselves. All five were taken to a hospital where Fireman Smith died ten days later. Fireman Kennedy was thought that he would succumb to his injuries also, but recovered. The fire died out before the firemen could put it out, doing only \$100.00 damage to the basement.

Source: The Brooklyn Eagle, Sep. 4, 1907 Front Page & Sep. 14, 1907, LODD 139

FIREMAN EDWARD D. LAHEY ENGINE 240
SEP. 20, 1907 Sep 25, 1907
BOX 2463 E. 3RD STREET & FT. HAMILTON PARKWAY

Fireman Edward D. Lahey was thrown off the hose tender of Engine 240 as it was turning from E. 3rd Street to Ft. Hamilton Avenue. The company was responding to a fire in Borough Park. Lahey was reaching for one of his rubber boots when he was thrown from the tender as it was turning from E. 3rd Street. He landed on his head and was knocked unconscious, receiving a fractured skull. He died in Kings County Hospital, never regaining conscious. He was 27 years old, single and lived at 455 5th Street.

Source: Brooklyn Eagle Sept. 21, 1907, Page 1 column 4 & Sept.25, 1907, Page 3 column 5, LODD 140

FIREMAN JOHN J. CAREY #2 LADDER 110
Sep 28, 1907
BOX 77-33-155 95 UNION STREET

Fireman John J. Carey #2 was detailed to Ladder 118 for the day. The company was responding to a second alarm at Box 155, Sackett and Columbia Streets. Ladder 118 coming down Smith Street to make the turn onto Atlantic Avenue collided with Engine 226, which was responding down Atlantic Avenue. Bystanders were yelling to the drivers to stop before the accident. Both rigs were at full a gallop in the driving rain and could not stop on the wet streets. The two apparatus crashed into each other, sending firemen in every direction. Two on the ladder truck were injured and a horse of the engine was killed. Fireman John J. Carey, 31 years old, died of internal injuries on the way to the hospital. The second fireman, Warren Schneider, was suffering from bruises and shock was taken home and recovered. The steamer was placed out of service with a broken wheel. Ladder 118 and the engine's hose wagon continued to the fire. The fire was in the cellar of a grocery store that spread thru the airshaft to all five floors.

Source: Brooklyn Eagle Sep. 29, 1907, Page 1, column 5, LODD 141

FIREMAN THOMAS F. PHILLIPS ENGINE 72
FIREMAN GEORGE A. O'CONNOR ENGINE 72
Jan 10, 1908
BOX 55-361 225-233 4TH AVENUE

The fire started around 7 o'clock on the sixth floor of this 12-story building. At the height of the blaze, the buildings across the 19th Street caught fire. The hotel across the alley had over 200 guests in and was evacuated. On the second floor the members of Fire Patrol 1 and 2 were operating. Engines 12, 16, 18 and 72 were operating at different locations on the fifth floor. The steel girders of the eighth floor gave way, crashing into the basement taking parts of the floors with it. The crews of Engines 12, 16, and 18 were rescued right away. On the other side of the building, the members of Engine 72 were operating when the floors collapsed and they were trapped. A ladder bridge was placed between the hotel and the fire building. All the men got out and when they got down to the street it was learned that Fireman Thomas F. Phillips and George A. O'Connor were still missing. Captain Davin stated he had his hand on O'Connor and was dragging him toward the window when something came crashing down and crushed his hand and forced O'Connor away from him. Lacking in strength Captain Davin had to be rescued by someone else. The members of the Fire Patrol had also been trapped in the collapse and Patrolman John Fallon was reported missing.

Source: New York Times Jan. 11, 1908, Page 1 column 1 and page 2 column 7, LODD 142, 143

FIREMAN MATTHEW MILLER ENGINE 249
 Jan 30, 1908
 BOX 22-644 CANARSIE & SNYDER AVES. (28 E. 38TH STREET)

While returning from a serious fire at 80 E. 38th Street, Flatbush this morning, Matthew Miller, 40 years old of 1417 Bedford Avenue, driver of Engine 149, housed at Midwood Street and Rogers Avenue was hurled from his seat and run over and killed instantly. In an effort to get the engine out of a series of ruts in Carnarsie Avenue, just of Snyder Avenue, where the street is in bad shape. The front wheel of the engine passed over Miller's neck, breaking his spinal cord. From 8 A.M. to 9 P.M., the fireman fought the blaze. The other apparatus had left and Miller, who was somewhat numb from the cold, mounted his engine and swung into Carnarsie Avenue on the homeward trip. He had not driven beyond Snyder Avenue when the front wheels struck a particularly deep rut and the engine stuck there. The three horses were unable to put it out and Miller unstrapping himself, got down to help push the spokes of the wheel. The engine was finally lifted out of the rut in which it had stuck. Miller jumped to his seat and as the horses had gotten a good start he seized the reins and urged them on, not stopping to secure himself with the strap which engine drivers fasten around themselves to prevent just such an accident as happened to him. After bumping over the hollows and ridges for a few feet, the front wheels hit another very deep rut. Miller was hurled from his seat, descending headfirst directly behind the off horse. Two firemen stood beside the front wheel of the engine and tried to catch Miller as he fell, but it was all done so suddenly that he landed on the ground with his neck directly in the path of the wheel and but a few inches away from it. The horses were pulling hard, taking the suddenly loosened reins as a signal for even a great effort and before either of the firemen could get to their heads or pull Miller from his from his dangerous position, the horse had drawn the engine out of the rut and over Miller's neck.

Source Brooklyn Eagle Jan 30, 1908, Page 2 column 1 & Brooklyn Daily Times Jan. 31, 1908, Page column, LODD 144

FIREMAN THOMAS P. EGLINTON LADDER 10
FIREMAN JOHN J. McCONNELL ENGINE 4
 February 4, 1908
 BOX 66-33-84 43 WORTH STREET

Firemen Thomas P. Eglinton, of Ladder 10 and John J. McConnell of Engine 4, were killed when the second and third floors collapsed, carrying fourteen firemen down with it. Engine 4 was on the third floor and Ladder 10 on the second floor. The fire had started around 4 P.M. on the third floor. A heavy safe located in the front part of the third floor went crashing into the basement around 5:40 P.M. Both firemen killed were not dug out and removed until after midnight. McConnell reported to the fire from his meal break. He returned to the firehouse to find his company out and then went to the fire. He removed his helmet and coat from the hose wagon and followed the hose from his engine up to the floor where his company was working. As he entered the third floor, down the floor went under the weight the heavy safe. McConnell's body was found crushed and burned. He was 33 years old, married and lived at 313 E. 43rd Street. Eglinton's body was found later and was not crushed or burned, but was found frozen to death. Eglinton was married and his wife was expecting their first child soon. He lived at 380 18th Street, Brooklyn.

DEPUTY CHIEF CHARLES A. KRUGER DIVISION 2

February 14, 1908

BOX 33-147 217 CANAL STREET

Chief Kruger was leading a group of firemen into the adjoining building to breach a wall and fight the fire from the angle. The fire building at 217 Canal Street was fire stories and the fire had gained great headway before being discovered. Within two hours, the fire was placed under control. Overhauling was taking a toll on the firemen, overcoming many of them. Chief Kruger entered the basement of 215 Canal Street with the men. Working through the maze of boxes and stock, the build up of heat gas became too much. Just as the men started to turn around to leave they heard a splash. Chief Kruger who was in the front had fallen through a trap door into the sub basement that was filled with six feet of water. The Chief's driver went to his rescue by hanging his legs over the trap door for the chief to grab. The chief had grabbed the leg and was trying to hold on but he was losing his strength and soon lost his grip, fell back into the water and drowned. Deputy Chief Kruger was married and left two children behind. The fire had burnt out buildings 213 to 219 Canal Street.

Source: New York Tribune, Feb. 14, 1908, Page 8 column 1 & Feb. 15, 1908, Page 3 column 5 & 6, LODD 147

FIREMAN CHARLES E. PARKS ENGINE 43

November 8, 1908

BOX ??? ????

RESPONDING TO ALARM, THROWN FROM HOSE WAGON

LODD 148

FIREMAN HENRY HANSON LADDER 112

December 14, 1908

BOX 712 719 HANCOCK STREET

Henry Hanson, a fireman attached to Hook and Ladder 62 (112), was killed yesterday by falling from the fire escape of a four-story apartment house at 719 Hancock Street, Brooklyn. A fire from an unknown cause was discovered in the cellar and smoke poured up the shaft to the roof. All the tenants got out of the building in safety. Hanson, with other firemen, was sent up the rear of the building, and while he was trying to step from the fire escape to the second-floor window he lost his balance and fell to the stone flagging in the courtyard.

Source: New York Times, Dec. 15, 1908, Page 13 column 4, LODD 149

BATT. CHIEF MICHAEL E. C. GRAHAM BATTALION 35
 February 14, 1909
 BOX 33-195 FOOT OF N. 12TH STREET & KENT AVENUE

Fire visited the canning department of the Standard Oil Company's Pratt Oil works plant. The complex was located on Kent Avenue from North 12th Street to Newtown Creek and along the East River. The fire building was two stories high and measured 75 feet wide, 100 feet along the water with a 75 by 300 foot long building and pier abutting it going into the East River. This building was used to pack cans of oil, naphtha and benzine, then placed in cardboard boxes and shipped overseas. It is the most dangerous part of the operations and the building was away from the other buildings. Battalion Chief Graham, with the members of Ladder 108, had been operating near the front door of the building. The fire started around 10 o'clock at night and after two and half-hours the front wall collapsed injuring all the members of Ladder 108 and the Chief. His back and both legs were broken when he was hit by thick blue stone cornice from the upper floors. He died the next morning.

Source: Brooklyn Eagle, Feb. 15, 1909, Page 1 column 7 & Page 2 column1, LODD 150

FIREMAN CHARLES E. MEADOWS ENGINE 262

August 13, 1909
 BOX 44-197 FLUSHING AND 3RD AVENUES

Engineer Charles E. Meadows, 34 years old, of 142 Newell Street, Brooklyn attached to Engine Company No. 162 of the paid fire department, located in Main Street, Astoria, lost his life. His company was answering a false alarm that came from a box located in the old Bowery Bay Road and Steinway Avenue, Long Island City, shortly before 12 o'clock last night. Hanging on the engine in his accustomed place, when the apparatus reached Flushing and 3rd Avenues on its way to the point of the alarm, Meadows noticed a bolt working loose on the engine. Holding fast with one hand, he swung around and attempted with the other to replace the bolt, when a sudden jolt of the engine wrenched loose his hold and he was hurled to the street. His comrades stopped and picked him up and he was left in their care, while the engine continued its wild run. They found that Meadows had received a fracture of the skull and was dead when they arrived.

Source: Brooklyn Eagle, Aug. 14, 1909, Page 1 column 4, LODD 151

FIREMAN FRANCIS V.A. MAHER LADDER 110

April 26, 1909 December 23, 1909
 BOX 213 BOND STREET & 3RD STREET

Fireman Francis V. A. Maher was killed when he was thrown from the apparatus while responding to an alarm at 3rd Avenue and Baltic Street. Heading up Bond Street at a full gallop the rear wheel separated from the truck. Fireman Maher was dragged a distance before being thrown from the rig. The driver had already applied the brakes when it hit an electric pole injuring the rest of the crew. Fireman Maher was suffering from internal injuries, a dislocated

hip, and two broken legs. He suffered almost eight months before scrumming to his injuries. The fire was extinguished before the fire department arrived.

SOURCE: Brooklyn Eagle, Apr. 26, 1909, LODD 152

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FIREMAN JOSEPH H. WHITE ENGINE 16

March 28, 1910

BOX 365 1ST AVENUE & 23RD STREET

Joseph White of Engine 16 was run over at 1st Avenue and Twenty-third Street by his own engine yesterday afternoon. He died ten minutes later in Bellevue Hospital. White had failed to strap himself to the seat when he left the engine house and when the wheels of the fire engine struck a deep rut he was pitched forward between two of the galloping horses. The wheel of the engine passed over his body. The fire was at 325 1st Avenue in a grocery store. White was only 28 years old, unmarried and appointed to the Department on October 21, 1903.

Source: New York Times Front Page, March 29, 1910, LODD 153

FIREMAN JOHN F. FECHER ENGINE 7

April 23, 1910

BOX 87 70 DUANE STREET

The members of Engine 7 entered the building to open the iron shutters on the windows. Once on the second floor landing Fireman John F. Fecher dashed up to the third floor as the stairway collapsed. Assuming that Fecher would open the shutters and escape onto the fire escape, the rest of the men retreated back outside and went to work. As for Fecher, his run for life was full of agonizing pain. Everything around him was blazing, and smoke closed in around him, slowly benumbing his senses. He shouted for help, but there was no one to hear him. No one will ever know how many times he fell, then struggled up, and staggered on toward a window. Now his clothing took fire from the heat, and as he stumbled on, he beat at the little flames with his hands. His face was burned black and his voice was finally burned silent. He reached a window looking down on the Manhattan Alley side. The huge iron shutter was heavy, and no one will ever know the agony attended his labor to open it. Finally he did open it and stood for moment, a flaring figure, in the open window. The firemen of Engine 12, who had raced to the Manhattan Alley at that moment and begun to get ready for action, saw him. To the flaming figure standing in the window, they yelled to hold a minute, and they would turn the water on him. He hesitated half a second and then pitched forward to the pavement. His skull was fractured and several bones were broken. There was not a big crowd here. They gathered around the dying man. Several firemen of Engine 12 stopped to look at the huddled figure, but did not know he was a fireman or what had happened to him. "Why, he must have been the Negro watchman," they said. Then the ambulance came and took him away to the hospital. In removing his clothes there they found his badge and learned from that who he was. Fecher died at the hospital.

Source: New York Times Apr. 24, 1910, Front page, LODD 154

FIREMAN JAMES F. BARRETT LADDER 22

May 13, 1910

--- IN QUARTERS
FELL DOWN POLE HOLE

LODD 155

Rev. 6-24-99

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FIREMAN TIMOTHY COTTER ENGINE 6
FIREMAN WILLIAM F. HEALEY ENGINE 10

June 6, 1910

BOX 66-22-24 110 – 116 WASHINGTON STREET

Over a dozen firemen who went up ladders to the top floor were caught in a backdraft, injuring many. The trapped men were unconscious by the heavy smoke and had to be rescued by other firemen. Fireman Timothy Cotter along with other members of Engine 6 went up to rescue the trapped men. One by one, the down firemen were brought to safety. Once the fire was under control, the men entered the 4th floor to find Cotter lying face down and dead. The smoke overcame him. Fireman Healey lost his life while working under orders on the same floor as Cotter. Healey had been sent to relieve on the nozzle. He was the last to obey the order to retreat and became confused in the dense smoke, apparently mistaking his direction. He was also overcome by smoke. Healey, 35 years old, was married and left five children behind. Cotter was 30 years old.

Source: New York Times Front-page June 6, 1910, New York Herald, June 7, 1910 Page 5 column 7, Fireman Herald, July 2, 1910, Page 11 column 1, LODD 156, 157

FIREMAN DANIEL A. HART ENGINE 89

October 27, 1910

BOX ??? ????

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With regret the death of Fireman 1st grade Daniel A. Hart, Engine 89, is hereby announced to the Department; funeral will take place from his late residence No. 508 East 83rd Street, at 9.30 o'clock A. M. on the 31st instant. Interment at Calvary Cemetery.

Source: Department Order No. 204, Section 1, issued on October 28, 1910, LODD 158

FIREMAN ANTON JIRANEK ENGINE 215

January 6, 1911 January 7, 1911

BOX Verbal 103 JAVA STREET

Anton Jaranek, 25 years old fell 20 feet while rescuing a cat from a tree. The cat had been stuck in the tree since the night before when a dog chased it up the tree. Fireman Jaranek had went out on the branch to get the cat when it broke due to the weight. Both the cat and Jaranek fell 20 feet in front of a crowd of 200 on-lookers. He was taken to the hospital suffering from a

fractured right collarbone, fracture to the base of the skull and internal injuries. He never regained consciousness and died the next day.

Source: Brooklyn Eagle, Brooklyn Eagle, January 6, & January 8, 1911, LODD 159

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FIREMAN LEO HACKBARTH LADDER 32

January 11, 1911
BOX 75-2904 3825 3RD AVE
FELL FROM 5TH FLOOR

During a fire in the cellar of the five story tenement house, 3827 3rd Avenue, last night, Leo Hackbarth, of Hook & Ladder 32 fell from the fifth story of the building and landed on a one-story frame extension. He was taken to Fordham Hospital by Dr. Cary, who said he had spinal and internal injuries, from which he would probably die. The fire started in a wood-bin in the cellar and consumed twelve wood-bins and a pile of rubbish. Firemen extinguished the blaze as soon as they arrived, but the smoke poured up through the building in dense volume and twenty families living in the house went into the street until it cleared. Captain Hooch had ordered Hackbarth to go through the building and open all the windows. It is supposed he must have fallen while opening the rear windows, distance of 35 feet.

Source: New York Tribune, Jan. 12, 1911, Page 3 column 5, LODD 160

FIREMAN STEPHEN T. RAY, JR. ENGINE 59

March 5, 1911 March 6, 1911
BOX 22-535 W. 138TH STREET & MADISION AVENUE

It became the duty of Malcolm Ray, a police lieutenant at the Tremont Avenue station in the Bronx, to notify his family, as part of his official business. While in charge of the precinct yesterday afternoon, he was told that his brother Stephen Ray, a fireman attached to Engine Company No. 59, had been run over by the tender while responding to an alarm and so seriously injured that he will probably die. The ire was in a tenement house at No. 2160 Madison Avenue. As the tender swung around a corner, it slid into a hydrant. This threw Ray off, and the rear wheel passed over his chest. He was hurriedly taken to the Harlem Hospital in the apparatus, and it was found that his collarbone and several ribs had been broken. The physicians said that he has edema of the lungs and slight chance of recovery.

Source: New York Herald Mar. 6, 1911, Page 4 column 2, LODD 161

BATT. CHIEF WILLIAM DELVIN BATTALION 4

September 20, 1911 September 24, 1911
BOX ??? 506 BROOME STREET

Blinded by smoke, Battalion Chief William Devlin, in charge of the 3rd Battalion, last night fell from the roof of a two-story building at 506 Broome Street. At St. Vincent's Hospital, the surgeons said he might die from internal injuries. The fire started in the stock room of the Lion Knitting Works, which occupied the second floor of the building. The firemen were handicapped by the dense smoke, which pushed from the windows. Chief Devlin ordered them to chop a hole in the roof. He led the way to the roof by passing through an adjoining

building. He was several feet in advance of his men when they heard him shout and fall on the roof of a small storm shed. When they picked him up, he was unconscious. Devlin, who lives in Stapleton, Staten Island, was made a Battalion Chief only a few weeks ago. For many years, he has been stationed in the downtown section of Manhattan. He was 42 years old, a member of the department for seventeen years, a widower and left five children behind. He lived with his sister since his wife died three years ago and lived at 889 Jewett Avenue. His last words were " Let my men know that their Chief never flinched, even in the face of death."

Source: New York Herald, Sept. 21, 1911, Page 1, column 2 & New York Herald, Sept. 25, 1911, Page 7 column 5, LODD 162
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CAPTAIN JAMES A. HAGEN ENGINE 207

November 3, 1911

BOX 24 62 WATER STREET

Captain James A. Hagen fell through the skylight of the Veneer Barrel Company at 62 Water Street. The Captain's motto was "I will not send my men where I will not go myself." Hagen was on the roof with his men in dense smoke when he tripped over the baseboard of the skylight, which sent him through it. He fell 30 feet and struck some beams on the way down, fracturing his skull. Death was instantaneous. He was in the Department for 10 years and rose through the ranks quickly. He was to celebrate his third wedding anniversary in two days. Beside his wife, he leaves behind a 16-month-old daughter. He was 34 years old.

Source: Brooklyn Eagle, Nov. 1, 1911, LODD 163

LEIUTENANT JOHN F. TIMMONS LADDER 105

December 23, 1911

BOX 279 213 ADELPHI STREET

Lieutenant John F. Timmons received fatal injuries while working at 213 Adelphi Street. For 20 minutes he could not be located any place on the fire ground. Another search was conducted when a groan was heard in a shaftway between the two building. His unconscious body was lifted out the shaftway by ropes. He had entered next door, went to the roof, and was crossing over to the fire building when he fell in the shaft. He landed on his head and died in the hospital a short time later.

SOURCE: Brooklyn Eagle, Dec. 24, 1911, LODD 164

BATT. CHIEF WILLIAM J. WALSH BATTALION 2

January 9, 1912

BOX 55-24 BROADWAY & CEDAR STREET

Battalion Chief William J. Walsh was killed when the floors of the Equitable Building collapsed. He led a group of fourteen firemen up a ladder to the fourth floor to search for victims that were trapped. Several men had already jumped from the upper floors. Once the fourth floor was search the men started for the third floor. The fire was licking the fourth floor, as there was also a rumbling sound as of crashing floors overhead. Chief Walsh's eye caught something on the floor, to make him loitered a second while his men were on the way down. He told his men "Go ahead Boys, I can take care of myself". There was a crash, followed by many other crashes and seething and whipping flames, which made the fourth floor a furnace within a few minutes. Walsh was last seen half way down the on stairs between the fourth and third floors. Whether he tripped and fell or whether a part of the upper floor overhead fell on him will perhaps never be known. The other fourteen men escaped from

the from a third floor window. He was married and had a daughter. The Equitable Building fire an \$18 million dollar loss and six killed. Firemen with hacksaws, cut for two hours trying to free workers behind iron bars. Because of this, a heavy rescue company would be organized with special tools in 1915. In addition, it was first time Brooklyn Companies responded into Manhattan to help put a fire out.

Source: New York Times Jan. 10, 1912, LODD 165

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FIREMAN GEORGE FARRELL #2 ENGINE 26

February 13, 1912

BOX 66-476 8TH AVENUE & 38TH STREET

George Farrell, a fireman attached to Engine Company 26, is dying in Roosevelt Hospital from injuries received at a fire in 324 W. 43rd Street last night. Farrell was dragging hose up the stoop when he fell and the back of his head crashed against the sidewalk.

Source: New York Herald Feb. 14, 1912, Page 6 column 2, LODD 166

FIREMAN HENRY J. KAISER ENGINE 231

April 3, 1912 April 6, 1912

BOX 848 LIVONIA AVE & WILLIAM AVENUE

A back draught's sudden blast swept four firemen from a fire escape at a Brownsville fire today and sent them tumbling in a heap to the street. Three of the four sprang up alacrity and regained their helmets. The fourth, a young fireman only two years with the department, lay white and inert. The unconscious fireman was Henry Kaiser, 26 years old, of Engine 131. He was married with two children. Under the ministrations of his fellows, he failed to respond, and he was unconscious when placed in an ambulance and taken to the Bradford Street Hospital. He had pitched downward two stories like a plummet and landed on his head. The fire, which may cost Kaiser his life was one of the fiercest Brownsville, has seen in a long time. It ate the core out of a four-story brick factory building. The property loss will total \$60,000.

Source: Brooklyn Eagle, LODD 167

BATT. CHIEF JOHN RUSH BATTALION 5

April 25, 1912

BOX ??? HUDSON STREET & CHRISTOPHER STREET

SEE 11-12-1906 FOR FATHER

After having driven an automobile faster than any one else ever did in this city, Battalion Chief John Rush lost his life yesterday in a collision between his rig and a truck standing at the curb in Hudson Street near Christopher Street. The crash hurled the chief violently to the pavement. He was taken to St. Vincent's Hospital where he died without regaining consciousness. Rush, who was in charge of the 5th Battalion with headquarters at Spring and Hudson Streets, left the firehouse and was going to his home at 281 W. 11th Street. With him was his driver, John Harvey, but Rush drove the rig himself. In attempting to pass a truck, the rear wheel of the light wagon caught the side of the truck. The jolt frightened the animal Rush was driving and it started north in Hudson Street. Despite his efforts, he was unable to stop the

maddened animal. As they reached, Christopher Street Rush saw a number of children about to cross the street. Realizing that it would be impossible for him to cross in front of them, he put all his weight on the reins and succeeded in forcing the animal's head around to the side. The wagon tipped perilously, but seemed to right itself, while the horse continued its mad run. The right wheel caught in the tracks and slid along for a few feet. It seemed as if the chief's efforts had been in vain. But, finally the horse was pulled over and the wagon followed but tipped. The children were saved from being run down, but both men were thrown heavily to the street. The Chief died two hours after arriving at St. Vincent's Hospital.

Source: New York Tribune, Apr. 26, 1912, Page 16 column 4, LODD 168

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FIREMAN WILLIAM F. STANTON ENGINE 203
October 23, 1912
BOX 77-936 ATLANTIC AVENUE & HICKS STREET

Fireman William F. Stanton of Engine 203 was killed while responding to 62 Hamilton Street. The Company was in with Engine 224 while Engine 203's quarters were being rebuilt. Coming down Hicks Street, the hose tender turned the corner onto Atlantic Avenue. The front wheel slide on a manhole cover, whipping the back of the hose wagon into a telephone pole. Fireman Stanton was caught between the pole and wagon. The wagon was not damaged and the uninjured men continued to respond to the fire. Patrolman Patrick Stanton, his brother, was on patrol duty on the corner and discovered his brother was dying. He was taken to the hospital where he died of internal injuries. He was 35 years old and member of the department since September 25, 1902. He was only married three years and had a 2-year-old son and a 7-month-old daughter.

Source: Brooklyn Eagle, Oct. 23, 1912, LODD 169

FIREMAN WILLIAM MAURER #2 ENGINE 218
November 2, 1912
BOX 77-578 IN FRONT OF QUARTERS

Fireman William Maurer #2, was awoken around seven in the morning to sound of Box 578. He slid the pole, climbed up on his driver's seat of the engine and started the horses running toward 99 Evergreen Street. Maurer had forgotten to tie himself to his seat and the powerful horses were pulling him out of the seat. The strength of the horses was just too much for Maurer and he was pulled out of the seat where he fell to the ground. The steamer's left wheels passed over his body, killing instantly. He was married with an 8-year-old son and a 5-year-old daughter.

Source: Brooklyn Eagle, Nov. 2, 1912, LODD 170

CAPTAIN CHARLES BASS ENGINE 79
January 9, 1912 November 16, 1912
BOX 55-24 BROADWAY & CEDAR STREET

Captain Charles Bass, commander of Engine Company No. 4 at the time of the Equitable Life Assurance Society Building fire last January, died in a Hartford, Conn. sanitarium last Saturday as a result of injuries he received while fighting the fire. Captain Bass lived in West 160th Street. A widow, a son and a daughter survive. Fireman James G. Brown of Hook and Ladder 1 was designated as the wearer of the Bonner medal for his valiant rescue from

Equitable Building of Captain Charles F. Bass, whom he found unconscious with a fractured skull on the third floor of the building. Brown bore the Captain through fire and smoke to a window where the men of Hook & Ladder 1 passed him down to the street. Captain Bass was listed on a list of injured persons from the fire.

Source: New York Times Jan. 10, 1912, Page 3 Column 7 & 8, Nov. 19, 1912, Page 5 Column 6, Feb. 9, 1913, Section 3, Page 9 Column 1, LODD 171

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BATT. CHIEF WILLIAM J. DUFFY BATTALION 8

May 5, 1913

Box ??? ?????

COLLISSION WITH TROLLEY CAR A YEAR EARLIER

LODD 172

FIREMAN BRERETON E. JOHNSON BOAT 77

August 13, 1913

BOX 44-139 FOOT OF PENN STREET L.I.C.

A fireman was killed and another probably fatally injured at a \$150,000 fire which early yesterday swept the 10th Street side of the Standard Oil Company's big plant at Hunter's Point. Four alarms soon after 5 o'clock brought out a large force of fire fighters, but the flames could not be checked before the reached 9th Street and partly consumed the company's pier. Bertram Johnson, of 437 Amsterdam Avenue, Manhattan, was almost instantly killed when a high-pressure nozzle on the fireboat **Abram H. Hewitt** was torn from the deck and hurled upon him. The pressure through the nozzle was estimated at 276 pounds to the square inch when the accident occurred.

Source: New York Tribune, Aug. 13, 1913, Page 14 column 5, LODD 173

ENGINEER JOHN B. BARGET ENGINE 234

October 5, 1913

BOX 77-359 IN QUARTERS

Engineer John Barget died after being caught by the front wheel of the steamer and was killed instantly. He was lighting the boiler when his foot some how was caught in the wheel,

throwing him under the rear wheel. They were responding to a fire at 681 Herkimer Street. He leaves a widow and four children.

SOURCE: Brooklyn Eagle, Oct. 6, 1913, LODD 174

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FIREMAN JEREMIAH LEONEY LADDER 106

November 24, 1913 November 27, 1913
BOX 99-566 MEEKER AVENUE & VAN DAM STREET

Fireman Jeremiah Leoney died from the injuries he received while fighting a fire at the Lignum Chemical Works at Meeker Avenue and Van Dam Street in the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn. The building where the fire started made finest sort of material for a blaze. It was packed with tons of sawdust used for packing and manufacturing purposes. This stuff burned fiercely and fifteen minutes after the first blaze was discovered the building was a raging furnace. The men of Engine Companies 216, 238, and 215 were stationed in front of the building on the Vandam Street side. The walls were bulging perceptibly, but the men remained there, as it was the best quarter from which to fight the flames. Leoney and Walter Weatherson, both of Truck 106, were handling a line of hose together. Suddenly the wall above them seemed to quiver and the firemen gave a warning shout and leaped for shelter. The two men dropped their hose nozzle and turned but found their escape cut off by a fire engine. The moment they lost in dodging this obstacle proved fatal, for the bulging wall gave way and pinned them down. Strangely enough, the first portion was but small 30-foot section and it was this, which struck them down. Fireman Leoney died in St. Catherine's Hospital on Thursday afternoon. Leoney sustained a fractured skull and a broken shoulder. He leaves a wife, Mary and three boys.

Source: Brooklyn Eagle Nov. 24, 1913, Page 1 column 2 & Nov. 28 Page column, LODD 175

LIEUTENANT THOMAS MITCHELL LADDER 22

November 28, 1913
--- IN QUARTERS

When Lieutenant Thomas Mitchell of Hook & Ladder 22 started down the brass pole from the third floor of his company's quarters at 766 Amsterdam Avenue. He lost his balance and fell to the second floor, suffering injuries from which he died an hour later in the Knickerbocker Hospital. Mitchell was 51 years old and lived at 118 W. 101st Street.

Source: New York Times, Nov. 29, 1913, LODD 176

FIREMAN THOMAS J. MCMANUS ENGINE 40

December 16, 1913
BOX 66-33-653 366 AMSTERDAM AVENUE

Fire swept so rapidly through a five-story apartment house at 366 Amsterdam Avenue early yesterday morning that three persons were killed and four injured. Among the dead was Thomas J. McManus, a fireman attached to Engine Company 40. He lived in the building and was overcome while trying to rouse his mother. His effort was in vain for she was killed, as well as her daughter, Miss Mary McManus. The fire started on the second floor in the main hallway.

Source: New York Tribune, Dec. 17, 1913, Page 4 column 6, & 7, LODD 177

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FIREMAN JOHN B. DORAN ENGINE 156
June 25, 1914
BOX 88-383 1560 CASTLETON AVENUE

Fireman John Doran was killed and four other members of Engine Company 156 and a small boy were injured last night when an auto apparatus crashed into a tree in front of 1560 Castleton Ave., W. Brighton, Staten Island. The apparatus which was purchased two weeks ago, ran wild on the way to a fire which did \$10 damage at Port Richmond. Doran, who has been a fireman eighteen years, was crushed between the rear of the machine and the side of the house. His skull and almost every bone in his body were broken. Nathan Miller, eight years old, was sitting on the porch of his home when the engine crashed into it. Doran sat on the front seat and was hurled into the porch. He was still breathing when pulled out of the wreckage, but died as he was being taken to St. Vincent's Hospital. He had a wife and children.

Source: New York Tribune, June 26, 1914, Page 1, column 5 & New York Times, June 26, 1914, Page 5 column 8, LODD 178

FIREMAN JAMES W. THOMPSON ENGINE 68
April 27, 1915
BOX 2-433 OGDEN AVENUE & 161ST STREET
RESPONDING TO ALARM COLLISION WITH TROLLEY CAR

Fire engine No. 68, with three big horses, started down the steep hill in Ogden Avenue, the Bronx, at 165th Street last night, responding to an alarm at 162nd Street and Ogden Avenue. The pavement was wet with rain, the rubber tires skidded and the heavy engine got beyond control of Fireman William H. Thompson, the driver, who was strapped in his seat. At Jerome Avenue, which is the same as 161st Street, the horses plunged head-on into the side of a trolley car well filled with passengers. Thomas was crushed to death, five passengers and two firemen were injured and two fine horses lost their lives. Thompson was 48 years old.

Source: The New York Herald, Apr. 28, 1915, Page 1 column 4, LODD 179

FIREMAN JOHN DUFFY #3 ENGINE 83
September 6, 1915 September 7, 1915
BOX ??? E. 138TH STREET & CYPRESS STREET
FRACTURED SKULL, RESCUING CHILD FROM HOLE

In trying to help a boy who fell into an excavation at 138th Street, near Cypress Avenue, yesterday, Fireman John Duffy, of Engine Company No. 83, fell twenty-five feet into the excavation. His skull was fractured. Aaron Steinburg, twelve years old, of No. 609 East 138th Street, escaped with lacerations of the scalp. Both were taken to Lincoln Hospital, Duffy is in a serious condition. John Duffy died the next day in the hospital from his injuries. He lived at 3825 Eagle Avenue in the Bronx.

Source: New York Herald, Sept. 7, 1915, Page 5 column 6 & Sept. 8, 1915, Page 4 column 7, LODD 180

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FIREMAN MICHAEL D. CURTIN ENGINE 60
NOV. 6, 1915 Nov 15, 1915
BOX 2-336 245 WILLIS AVENUE

Fireman Michael D. Curtin died on November 15, 1915 after being poisoned by smoke in the basement of 245 Willis Avenue on November 6. After returning to quarters, he complained that he was not feeling well and was sent home where he died. He lived at 494 E. 139th Street.

Source: LODD 181

FIREMAN MATHEW J. WARD ENGINE 65 DETAILED TO LAD. 21
Dec 26, 1915
BOX 461 BROADWAY & 36TH STREET

Snow, rain, sleet, hail, thunder and lightning and a furious gale which for a while exceeded 88 miles an hour swept over the city yesterday, causing nine deaths and widespread damage. In the height of the storm a seven-ton motor hook and ladder truck about thirty feet long crossed Broadway in 36th Street on its way to a fire. A southbound Broadway car of the torpedo type, its windows crusted with snow and sleet suddenly loomed out of the snow clouds and struck the truck near the middle hurling twelve firemen to the street. All by three were thrown upon the plank roadway over the new subway construction. The three were caught between the car and the truck. The collision had turned the truck partly around with the nose of the car wedged into the ladders. One of the firemen, Matthew Ward, detail from Engine 65, who had been riding near the middle of the truck was caught in the first crash and injured so severely that the ambulance surgeons told his mates to send for a priest. Ward died a few hours later in the hospital.

Source: New York Times, Dec. 26, 1915, Page 1 column 1 & Page 14 column 1, LODD 182

