



The Company Journal
and "The Feederline"

Fire Department News
Cambridge, Massachusetts
A Class 1 Fire Department

From the desk of
Chief Gerald R. Reardon

Issue #73
Winter 2014

Note:

This edition of the Company Journal/Feederline is an abbreviated edition. It may be missing features normally seen in past issues. Rest assured, those features will return with the Spring 2015 Issue. Thank you.

Good luck

Good luck to all those that took the Lieutenants and Captains exam in November 2014. The hard work is done and it's out of your hands now. Enjoy the holidays with your family!

Christmas Parties

Kids Christmas Party –Sunday December 14, 2014

11AM-2PM
VFW Post Huron Ave Cambridge
Santa will arrive at 12PM
Please bring a wrapped present for your children
Light refreshments will be served

Group 1 and Group 3 Christmas Party was on December 11 at the Marsh Post

Group 2 and Group 4 Christmas Party was on held on December 6, 2015



Photo provided

Group 2 Christmas party was held on December 6. **DFC Paul Sheehan (Division 2, Group 4), DFC Frank Murphy (Division 2, Group 4) and FF Kevin McGonigal-Retired**

What's New



Department photo

CFD Members of Recruit Class #218 pose on academy graduation day on October 10, 2014.



Photo provided

CFD Members of Recruit class #219 pose on graduation day!

SAVE THE DATE! - THE 2015 CAMBRIDGE FIREFIGHTERS RELIEF ASSOCIATION BALL

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2015

More information to follow as it becomes available!

Please share the date with any past members, retirees or any familiar members that may be interested in attending!

Out and About



Photo by Captain Mark Roche, Newton Fire

Cambridge contingent attend the 50th-anniversary Mass at St Francis De Sales Church in Charlestown on October 5, 2014 for the five Boston firefighters killed after a building collapse on Trumbull St in the South End (October 1, 1964 - Box 1671)



Anyone recognize this handsome young (retired) Firefighter? – *Answer at end of newsletter*



Photo courtesy of Dan O'Neill, Boston Sparks Association

FF Steve Capuccio (Rescue Co.1) and Lt. Bob Golden (Rescue Co.1) after the 2nd Alarm Fire, Box 35 at 158 Magazine Street on December 2, 2014



Photo courtesy of Dan O'Neill, Boston Sparks Association

FF Craig Yearwood (Aide to Division 2) and Lt. Dave Pierce (FIU) on Magazine Street

Congratulations

Congratulations to **FF Jeremy Collins (Ladder Co. No. 2)** on his strong performance in the television show Survivor! Even though he did not make it to the end, he played an excellent game and represented the Cambridge Fire Department well by playing with integrity and character! He was a popular member and was well liked. His wife Val also participated in the show.



Photo from CBS

Cambridge Fire Hockey

Shenanigans	Monday, Dec 15,	9:20 PM	Everett
Tuuka Dump	Tuesday, Dec 23	8:10 PM	Everett
Metro Fire	Tuesday, January 06	10:30 PM	Everett
Shanks	Monday, January 12	9:20 PM	Everett
Five Minute Majors	Monday January 19	10:30 PM	Everett
Beer O'Clock	Monday January 26	10:40 PM	Everett
Shenanigans	Monday, February 2	10:30 PM	Malden Forum
Mustangs	Monday February 9	10:30 pm	Everett
PIA	Monday, February 16	10:30 PM	Everett
JHF	Monday, March 2	9:10 PM	Everett
Mustangs	Monday, March 9	10:20 PM	Hockeytown USA
Chiefs	Monday, March 16	10:20 PM	Hockeytown USA

Consider attending a game and supporting the folks that represent the department!



Honor Guard

All Members,

Please see the message below from FF Tim Norton; Ladder Co. 3, Group 3.

Brothers and Sisters,

The Cambridge Fire Department Honor Guard will be undergoing some changes and is seeking members that are interested in participating **on a regular basis**.

We will soon be losing FF Souza to retirement so FF Matt McDonald and myself will be picking up the program.

Presently, we are compiling a list of interested members to **join an honor guard that would set the standard for Fire Department Honor Guards**.

For those that don't know or haven't ever participated in an Honor Guard before this is how we remember and honor the men and women who came before us and shaped the job we have today. **You don't need any experience to join - just a willingness to learn!**

If you are interested in participating in regular training, services and ceremonies please respond to this email with the following: **Full Name, Mobile Phone, Email (preferred) and any experience you have**. Please indicate in the email if you are a veteran and what service you served. To clarify, this is open to all members of the department both active, retired, military or non-military.

Any questions or concerns please direct them to myself.

Respectfully,

FF Norton
L-3/G-3
M.617.909.7190

Quotes of the Day

"Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." – Theodore Roosevelt

"Teamwork divides the task and multiplies the success." – unknown

"Every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it. Autograph your work with excellence."- unknown

"Every accomplishment starts with a decision to try." – unknown

Trivia

This formidable looking piece of equipment had an important job in the glory days of firefighting. Answer at the end of the newsletter....



From the Archives



Photo courtesy of DFC Frank Lee, Somerville FD

Photo of Cambridge Fire Alarm in 1984 giving METROFire a progress report on the 5th alarm at World Tire in East Cambridge. It was the second multiple alarm of the Midnight to 8 tour!

Pictured are: L-R Mike Cullen now Boston FD and (seated facing away) John McCarthy, now Lt Worcester FD, (middle standing) and seated facing camera, now District Chief Frank Lee, Somerville FD.

The following two photos are from the photo albums of **FF Walter Grace (Aide to Division 2)-Retired**



Companies prepare to make entry at a 2nd alarm fire on Morrison Court. Box 797 on October 21, 1989

DFC J. Gelinas (Chief of Operations) had this to add to the photo:

Morrison Ct. was my fire (I was the IC, working in Division 2 at that time). If I remember correctly, the fire started in the basement due to a furnace malfunction and was well advanced on arrival of the FD, extending up into the upper floors. I forget the date but it was during below-freezing weather. It might have been a third alarm but I can't recall that for sure either. The year may have been the late '80s or early '90s. there were so many fires - much of it is a big blur. The box was 797.

What can go wrong? There were several issues at the beginning. Somerville Engine 6 was first-due on the line box. Somerville Engine 6 pump laid in and positioned almost IFO the building. They could not get the apparatus into pump. They had been dispatched to the fire while returning from the shop due to a problem with the pump. The mechanics responded and got the pump into pump. Next-due Cambridge Engine 4 was running wagon only that day. The pump was OOS for mechanical reasons. (These were the days of two-piece companies.) Engine 4 wrapped a hydrant on Gold Star Road and laid down Morrison Ct. to the fire but they could not establish a permanent water supply, in order to flow a 2 1/2" attack line. Next due Engine 8 was ordered to pick up Engine 4's hydrant to supply Engine 4's wagon. That took a few extra minutes. Fourth due Engine 1 was ordered to take the hydrant on Washburn Avenue and to stretch a 2 1/2" attack line via the back yards from Washburn Av. to Morrison Ct. Engine 1's hydrant was frozen. They did get the line into operation but it took a few minutes longer to relocate the pump to a working hydrant to establish the permanent water supply. I don't remember who the pump operator was but he was pretty sharp to find a working hydrant.

In spite of the initial issues, all members from the engines, trucks, and rescue did an excellent job to contain and knock down the fire.

Today we are very fortunate. Apparatus is modern and in great shape, very well maintained, and reliable when needed. The hydrants in the city are well maintained and the public water supply has been greatly improved. Years ago (ancient history it seems) some of the apparatus was old and unreliable.



3 Story wood-frame fire is at Walden Street near Sherman Street, 3 alarms – unknown date

Equipment

In lieu of a Captain's Corner segment, we wanted to share a tidbit of information regarding power saws. Recently, one fire company reported a saw that ran for one group and not for another. There are only a few areas to troubleshoot (or repair within the company) when it comes to maintenance on power equipment within the company.

1. Check/fill fuel
2. Check/tighten spark plug
3. Check and clean air filter
4. Tighten blade

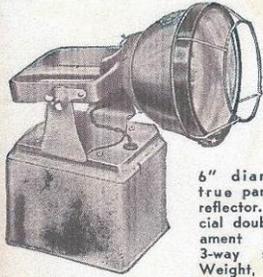
Any other required maintenance should be directed to the motor squad. When checking a saw that won't start, it's either out of fuel, flooded or the spark plug could be loose. However, in this case, the TIP of the spark plug is threaded and vibrates loose – NOT the main plug itself - making for a poor connection – which explains why the saw worked intermittently.



On the left shows the spark plug when the top vibrates off. On the right is what the spark plug should look like with the tip tightened down. To have the best connection, the tip AND the plug need to be tight. Once tight, simply, push the wire back on tightly

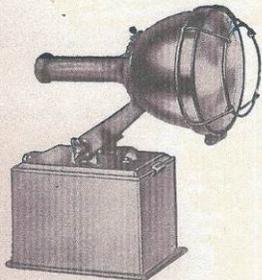
"MASTER-LIGHTS"

•FOR THE CHIEF—TYPE WS HIGH-POWER RECHARGEABLE LIGHT: Mile Searchlight, 250,000 c.p. emergency beam for 8 hours, or 20 hr. worklight per battery charge.



6" diameter true parabolic reflector. Special double filament bulb; 3-way switch. Weight, 11 lbs.

•SUPER-6—FOR THE OFFICERS—TYPE SUPER-6 HIGH POWER RECHARGEABLE LIGHT: Equal in power, burning hours, etc., to the WS but somewhat lighter in construction and does not have

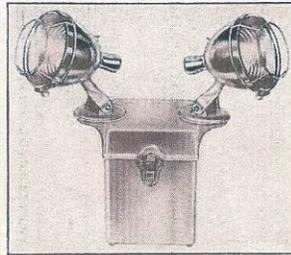


the patented handle that keeps the weight always directly under the fingers. Height, 13 inches. Weight, 10 pounds.

•OSCILLATING BEAM WIG-WAG RED-HEAD—TYPE #06, 6" diameter, and TYPE #08, 8": Put one on every car and truck. CLEARS YOUR SIDE OF STREET, TOO — for safer, faster, quieter runs.



PREVENT PANIC AND DEATH
SAVE LIVES

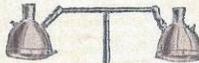


TYPE DUL MASTER-LIGHT
(Automatic)

Road Houses, Factory Rooms, Loading Docks, Theatres, Lodges, Auditoriums, Restaurants.

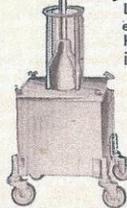
Where continuous light must be maintained. On failure of usual lighting facilities Type DUL lights instantly illuminating 100' diameter circle with each lamp head. With special year-long shelf-life rechargeable battery and manual or automatic control.

EMERGENCY LIGHTS FOR HOSPITALS, CONTROL ROOMS AND KEY POSITIONS



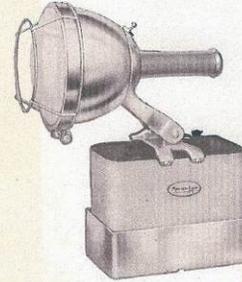
HOSPITAL
MASTER
LIGHTS :

No operating room is adequately equipped unless it has a self-contained battery light such as Master-Lights. 85% of all operating room light failures result from bulb, wiring or switch faults BETWEEN THE WALL PLUG AND THE LAMP FILAMENT. The Master-Light is entirely independent of outside electrical current, yet gives ample light and long, trouble-free service. Single or double head, with dry or rechargeable battery having year-long shelf-life. Large casters roll easily. Telescopic height and universal joint adjustments. Type DHL



MASTER-LIGHT
MAKERS

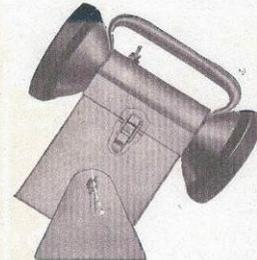
•TYPE F5: Uses dry cell Hotshot type of battery. Otherwise like the Super-6.



•FOR THE MEN—TYPE G-23: Watchmen and Firemen's Light. Rechargeable battery. Saves many dollars in dry batteries annually as watchmen's light. Two-filament



bulb, one for all night service and other for firemen, police, and watchmen's emergency uses. Weighs only 76 oz. Third-mile-range. With or without carrying strap.



•TYPE T&T 2-WAY with one red and one white light. Beam and red reflectors. Uses two No. 6 or telephone type dry cells. 1/5th mile range. Focusing knob. Sturdy rustproof steel case.

CARPENTER MFG. CO., CAMBRIDGE 39, MASS.

Please mention FIRE ENGINEERING when writing advertisers

In Issue #59, Summer of 2009, we listed many manufacturers from Cambridge that contributed to the fire equipment business. Carpenter Manufacturing was also one of those. Located at 29 Sidney Street, this was one of their advertisements from 1944.

Through the Lantern Lens



Through the Lantern Lens

by Mose Humphrey

Excerpt from the City of Cambridge Fire Report, 1857:

HORSES OF THE DEPARTMENT.

There are twenty-one horses permanently employed in the department; each engine station requiring the use of three, and each hook-and-ladder station the employment of two. There is also one horse connected with the Telegraph Department; and there is also one attached to Supply Hose Carriage No. 1. Dur-

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FIRE DEPARTMENT.

ing the past year, several of the horses have been under the care of the veterinary surgeon; and when any are afflicted with sickness, or are suffering from strains or lameness, other horses have to be hired to take their places, involving an expense, which must of necessity be borne. One of the horses connected with Truck No. 2 was severely injured by coming in contact with the pikes in the ends of the ladders; but by skilful veterinary service, and the diligent care and attention of his driver, the horse recovered from his injury, and is now performing his duty. On occasions of heavy snow-storms, extra horses have to be hired to assist the permanently employed horses in the dragging of the apparatus. These extra horses are retained until such time as it would seem advisable to dispense with their services.

It will be necessary, the coming year, to make some changes in our stock of horses, as it is not deemed prudent to continue the use of a horse in the service when he begins to exhibit a slackened speed or an affected respiration.

Our horses should be superior in every way to the ordinary draught horse; for we expect of them a quick performance of labor, which, in nine cases out of ten, would break down horses employed at other work. It is not for the interest of the city to buy a cheap horse; and while I would not recommend the payment of fancy prices, yet I would pay a price which would secure the possession of animals capable of doing the work required, which, as I said before, must be done quickly.

Condolences to:

Lt. Matthew Wood; Squad Co. 4 on the passing of his Mother,
Mrs. Dolores Wood

Firefighter Donald Johnson; Engine Co. 8 on the passing of his Mother,
Mrs. Jean D. Johnson

FF Daniel O'Brien; Engine Co. 4 on the passing of his Uncle,
Eugene K. O'Brien

Also the son of the **late Deputy Fire Chief Cornelius J. O'Brien**,
and Brother of **Cambridge Police Officer Timothy O'Brien**

Deputy Fire Chief Stephen Leonard on the passing of his Mother,
Mrs. Helen Leonard

Firefighter Frederick Donahue; Engine Co. 9-Retired and
Firefighter James Donahue; Ladder Co. 2-Retired
on the passing of Fred's Daughter and James Sister,
Mrs. Cheryl Ann (Donahue) Salemi

Firefighter James E. Fitzgerald Jr.; Aide to Deputy Chief-Retired on the passing of his Wife,
Mrs. Ruth Fitzgerald

Firefighter Edward B. Morrissey; Ladder Co. 2-Retired, on the passing of his wife,

Mrs. Frances (Pat) Morrissey

Also Mother of

Deputy Chief Edward B. Morrissey Jr.; Division 1
Captain Robert Morrissey; Engine Co. 4
Chief of Department Brian Morrissey; Nashua, NH Fire Department

Grandmother of **Firefighter Edward B. Morrissey III; Ladder Co. 3**

Aunt of **Deputy Chief Michael Morrissey; Division 1**

Great-Aunt of **Firefighter Daniel O'Brien; Engine Co. 4**

To the family of Mrs. Bernice Reagan

Widow of the **late Daniel J. Reagan; Chief of Department-Retired**

Mother of **Lt. Daniel J. Reagan III; Cambridge Police Department**

(Lt. Reagan was appointed to the Cambridge Fire Department in March 1983)

Stats and Fires

FY 2014/2015 RUN TOTALS

	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	SBTTL	TOTAL
Engine 1	232	199	209	188			828	828
Engine 2	301	274	294	296			1165	1165
Engine 3	124	142	119	129			514	514
Engine 4	155	126	141	108			530	530
Engine 5	160	155	154	141			610	610
Engine 6	121	115	123	102			461	461
Engine 8	121	101	86	103			411	411
Engine 9	104	79	70	76			329	329
Truck 1	200	171	165	177			713	713
Truck 2	109	83	92	108			392	392
Truck 3	183	192	198	176			749	749
Truck 4	162	131	131	105			529	529
Rescue 1	209	172	218	213			812	812
Squad 2	305	274	297	276			1152	1152
Squad 4	141	147	150	127			565	565
Division 1	177	128	164	153			622	622
Division 2	151	109	103	116			479	479
HazMat 1	3	4	1	4			12	12
Spec & HQ Units	26	19	18	15			78	78
Mutual Aid Units	61	15	20	8			104	104
TOTAL	3045	2636	2753	2621	0	0	11055	11055

FY 2014/2015 Incident Totals								
	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	SBTTL	TOTAL
Responses	3045	2636	2753	2621			11055	11055
Incidents	1317	1162	1223	1162			4864	4864
Division 1 incidents	705	674	709	655			2743	2743
Division 2 incidents	612	488	514	507			2121	2121
Building fires	5	11	7	4			27	27
Inside fires	67	61	68	72			268	268
All fires	83	66	81	80			310	310
EMS	497	498	554	509			2058	2058
Elevator Rescue	16	7	10	11			44	44
Hazardous materials	23	14	22	17			76	76
CO emerg	5	0	7	6			18	18
Electrical hazards	54	28	35	39			156	156
Malicious false	23	19	19	11			72	72
Malfunction	171	144	141	113			569	569
Unintentional	137	145	87	129			498	498
Bomb threats/susp	40	17	32	25			114	114
Bomb/expl removal							0	0
Structure collapse			1				1	1
Total Multiple Alarms	1						1	1
2nd Alarms							0	0
3rd Alarms							0	0
4th Alarms							0	0
5th Alarms							0	0
9th Alarms	1						1	1
Working Fires	1						1	1
HM Lev 1 "Working"							0	0

FY 2014/2015 "Code 111" Building Fire TOTALS

	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	SBTTL	TOTAL
Engine 1	3	2	1	2			8	8
Engine 2	2	10	5	2			19	19
Engine 3	1	2	1	1			5	5
Engine 4	2	1	1	2			6	6
Engine 5	4	7	5	1			17	17
Engine 6	4	7	3	2			16	16
Engine 8	2	1	1	2			6	6
Engine 9	3	0	0	2			5	5
Truck 1	4	7	3	3			17	17
Truck 2	2	2	2	0			6	6
Truck 3	4	9	5	2			20	20
Truck 4	3	1	1	2			7	7
Rescue 1	4	8	4	3			19	19
Squad 2	2	7	4	2			15	15
Squad 4	4	6	1	3			14	14
Division 1	3	9	6				18	18
Division 2	3	2	1	2			8	8



Photo courtesy of Dan O'Neill, Boston Sparks

Command Staff at the 2nd alarm fire - Box 35, for 158 Magazine Street on December 2, 2014.
L-R, **Assistant Chief G. Mahoney**, **DFC P. Sheehan (Division 2)** and **DFC P. Donovan (Fire Prevention)**

FY 2014/2015 - Working Fires/Multiple Alarms					
Date	Box	Assignment	Address	Size-up	fire location
27-Jul-14	9 - 344		Allston St.		
	Box @ 0322	E2,6,5 - T3,1 - R1, SQ2 - D1	151,153,155,157	3 sty wf (blt 1920)	throughout
			159	3 sty wf (blt1903)	throughout
	2nd @ 0328	E1,3,9 - T2 - SQ4 - D2	163	2 1/2 sty wf (blt 1854)	throughout
			147	3 sty wf	slight
	3rd @ 0332	E4,8,Som3 - T4,Som1 - SomC3			
	4th @ 0339	Eng: WatE1, BelE1			
		Truck: BosT15 - Chf: Bos Dist4			
			Response was	27 Engines	11 Truck Co's
	5th @ 0339	Eng: WalE2, BosE51, ArIE2			
		Truck: Brookline T2		DFC M. Morrissey	was IC
	6th @ 0400	Eng: Bos E10,E22, WalE1, NewE1			
		Truck: Waltham T2			
	7th @ 0406	Eng: MalE1, MedE5,SaugE1			
		Truck: Medford T1			
	8th @ 0409	Eng: LogMspE5, RevE1, LexE4			
		Truck: Malden T1			
	9th @ 0435	Eng: WinE4,LynE9,MeIE2			
		Truck: Chelsea T1			
	A/O @ 1655				
29-Jul-14	"45" - 691		1688 Mass. Av.	1 sty b@w	flr#1
	Box @ 1808	E8,1,4 - T4,1 - R1, SQ4 - D2		restrnt -taxpayer	
	"45" @ 1819	E9 - T2 -SQ2 - D1		built 1940	
	A/O @		DFC Sheehan	was IC	

Promotions

GENERAL ORDER NO.35, SERIES OF 2014

TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER

SUBJECT: **Promotions**

Effective Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at 1700 hours:

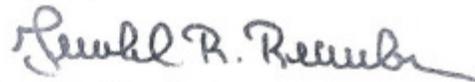
Acting Deputy Fire Chief Peter A. Donovan to Deputy Fire Chief

Acting Fire Captain James Gomes Jr. to Fire Captain
Acting Fire Captain Patrick E. Haggerty to Fire Captain

Acting Fire Lieutenant Philip M. Amenkowicz to Fire Lieutenant
Acting Fire Lieutenant Andrew F. Mello to Fire Lieutenant
Acting Fire Lieutenant Vinroy Paul to Fire Lieutenant

Please see that each member is present for a reading of this notice.

Per order,



Gerald R. Reardon
Chief of Department

Assignments/Transfers

GENERAL ORDER NO. 30, Series of 2014

TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER

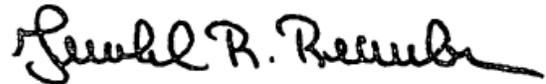
Subject: ***STATUS OF "FIREFIGHTER"***

The following Firefighter on Probation (F.F.O.P.) has reached the status of Firefighter, effective September 1, 2014 at 0700 hours:

Timothy P. Norton II

Please see that each member is present for a reading of this order.

Per order,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald R. Reardon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chief of Department
Gerald R. Reardon

GENERAL ORDER NO. 31, Series of 2014

TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER

RE: **Transfers and Assignments**

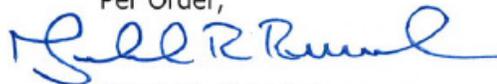
Effective Sunday, October 12, 2014 at 0700 hours:

FF Paul Burke from Engine Company No. 6 to Ladder Company No. 1
FF Margaret E. Carrigan from Engine Company No. 2 to Engine Company No. 4
FF Tyler D. English from Engine Company No. 6 to Engine Company No. 2
FF Nathan W. Jarvi from Engine Company No. 6 to Engine Company No. 1
FF John S. McEachern from Engine Company No. 1 to Engine Company No. 9
FF Bryan B. O'Neil from Engine Company No. 6 to Engine Company No. 1
FF Ariel Rodriguez from Engine Company No. 2 to Engine Company No. 3
FFOP Terrence M. Coogan from Engine Company No. 3 to Engine Company No. 5

FFOP Anthony S. Brooks to Ladder Company No. 3
FFOP Stephanie A. Crayton to Engine Company No. 6
FFOP Stephen J. Crowley to Engine Company No. 2
FFOP Anthony J. Cyrus to Engine Company No. 3
FFOP Leonard J. DiPietro to Engine Company No. 6
FFOP Thomas C. Harris III to Engine Company No. 1
FFOP Kevin S. Kenney to Engine Company No. 2
FFOP Damien Mahaffey to Engine Company No. 6
FFOP Ryan J. Marifiote to Ladder Company No. 3
FFOP Ryan A. Meehan to Ladder Company No. 1
FFOP David M. Pereira to Engine Company No. 5
FFOP Jon W. Powers to Engine Company No. 5

Please see that each member is present for a reading of this notice.

Per Order,



Gerald R. Reardon
Chief of Department

GENERAL ORDER NO. 33, Series of 2014

TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER

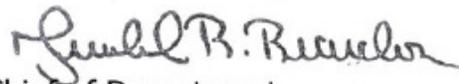
Subject: ***STATUS OF "FIREFIGHTER"***

The following Firefighters on Probation (F.F.O.P.) have reached the status of Firefighter, effective October 20, 2014 at 0700 hours:

Shane M. Brown
Terrence M. Coogan
Blake A. Crist
Daniel T. O'Brien
Matthew D. Pires
John F. Presutti Jr.

Please see that each member is present for a reading of this order.

Per order,



Chief of Department
Gerald R. Reardon

GENERAL ORDER NO. 34, Series of 2014

TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER

RE: **Assignments**

Effective Sunday, November 2, 2014 at 0700 hours:

F.F.O.P. Shayne W. McDonald to Engine Company No. 8

F.F.O.P. Mark A. Nazareno to Engine Company No. 8

F.F.O.P. Daniel A. Nugent to Ladder Company No. 1

F.F.O.P. Patrick K. Sullivan to Engine Company No. 6

Please see that each member is present for a reading of this notice.

Per Order,



Gerald R. Reardon
Chief of Department

Retirements

GENERAL ORDER NO.32, SERIES OF 2014

September 25, 2014

TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER

SUBJECT: **Retirement of Firefighter Robert H. Degou
Effective, September 25, 2014 at 1700 Hours**

Effective September 25, 2014 at 1700 hours, Firefighter Robert H. Degou retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter Robert Degou was **appointed on March 6, 1983.**

- April 17, 1983 Engine Company No. 8
- March 4, 1984 Engine Company No. 5
- May 5, 1985 Rescue Company No. 1
- May 13, 1990 Engine Company No. 4
- January 7, 1990 Engine Company No. 1
- March 10, 1991 Engine Company No. 3
- September 12, 1993 Ladder Company No. 2
- January 19, 2014 Fire Headquarters

Firefighter Degou has faithfully served the citizens of Cambridge.

We wish Firefighter Degou much happiness and good health in his retirement.

Please see that each member is present for a reading of this order.

Per order,



Gerald R. Reardon
Chief of Department

Letters



October 28, 2014

Captain Patrick Haggerty
Ladder Company 3
378 Massachusetts Ave,
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Captain Haggerty:

Thank you for supporting the 2014 MIT Joint Pass in Review ceremony. Our midshipmen and cadets, along with their families and our unit staffs, were deeply appreciative you and your company could join us. It was great to have the large American flag displayed from your fire truck as part of our ceremony.

Thank you for your support of MIT's ROTC programs and our future officers and leaders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SMB', written over a horizontal line.

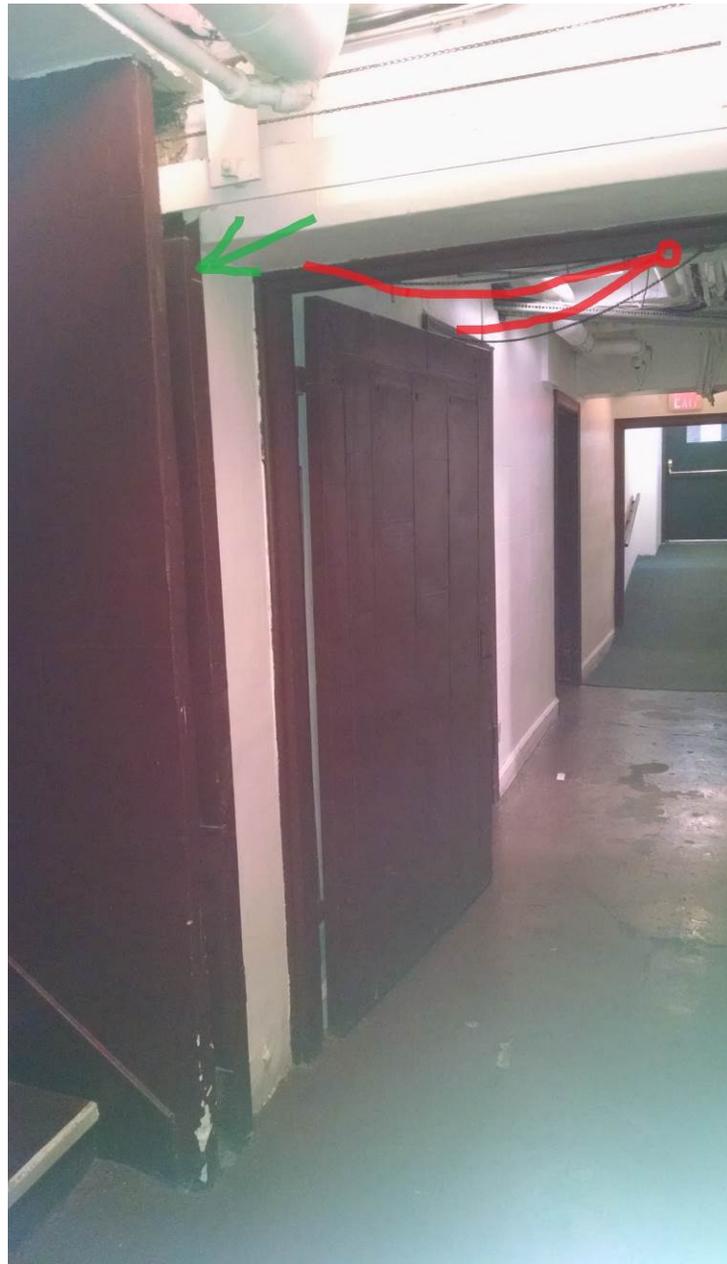
Steven M. Benke
Captain, United States Navy
Visiting Professor of Naval Science

Safety

Many of the older multi-family buildings in Cambridge were built in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Their decorative and functional equipment reflects the design and engineering of the era.

While at 1820 Mass. Ave recently on a separate call, we discovered horizontal, sliding fire doors that are actually quite common in many older buildings. Released by a fusible link during a fire, they were meant to contain the fire, or as we call it today, "compartmentalize". However, many lack proper maintenance.

The green arrow shows the pocket where the standard sliding door is stored (similar to a “pocket door”) that slides along a horizontal track. In this case, the fusible link has a dual purpose. When the heavy sliding door closes, it also pulls on the chain through a pulley (outlined in red) and closes a swinging door at the same time. So the “action” of one fusible link actually closes two doors.



Due to years of neglect, this door would most likely not close even if needed. However, we must always be aware that if doors are properly maintained and operating, they could potentially close behind on crews advancing during firefighting, rescue or ventilation and are heavy and difficult to move should we need a hasty exit. This door on the first floor would most not likely budge due to the paint and dirt buildup, or lack of maintenance on the door roller.



Of Interest...

Ode to a Firehouse

By Karen Dempsey – blog from Brain, Child – the magazine for thinking mothers. Nov 19, 2014

Remembering and reflecting upon the daily visits to the neighborhood firehouse



Photo John Parise

“Oh, they’re putting up lights,” nine-year-old Liddy says as we walk past Station Four, her hand loosely holding mine. Several firefighters are working to untangle the glittering strings they hang every November. Watching, I realize how long it’s been since we paid much attention to this place that was once an everyday destination for us.

“Do you guys remember how much time we used to spend there?”

Brennan shrugs and smiles. “Kind of.”

Liddy was born when Brennan was just eighteen months old, a toddler on the go. While Liddy needed to nap and eat and snuggle, Brennan needed to be on the move. We went to gymnastics and music and story times and play groups. None measured up to his favorite outing, which was free, always open, and located just a few blocks away.

Rain, snow, hail or sleet, we would make our way over, with Brennan stomping through puddles, crunching over snow or, on lazier days, riding in back of the double stroller. If we were very lucky, someone might call out, “Hey buddy!” through the wide bay doors. “Come on in.” Then Brennan might get to hold a heavy helmet, wrestle with a huge pair of boots or even get a boost into the enormous front seat, where he would sit wide-eyed and dazzled by the array of switches and buttons. Once, one of the guys teased Brennan about his spot behind Liddy in the stroller. “Your sister’s got you stuck in the cheap seats again,” he laughed. “That’s what we’re calling you from now on. Cheap Seats.”

If the truck was out on a call, Brennan would stand on the sidewalk dejectedly, willing it to return. “Ahh,” he would sigh happily if we caught them coming back, with all the pomp and flash involved in getting their truck backed in to its resting place.

Our visits always ended with Brennan happy and satisfied, and worn out with the excitement. And with me thinking about how far a small act of kindness could go, offered quietly alongside everyday heroics. Like my own memory from decades before, when paramedics were attending to my grandmother after she’d had a stroke. I stood with my younger sister on our grandmother’s porch, trying to feign an adult’s expression of calm, only to have a fireman walk up the steps in his heavy gear and fold me in a hug.

It’s hard for me to believe nearly ten years have passed since those walks over to the firehouse. I’m not sure how much he remembers of those visits, but they remain vivid for me, and one stands out in particular. It was the time we happened upon Brennan’s heroes in action as they put out a fire in an abandoned triple-decker just a few blocks from our house. I felt a little self-conscious about letting Brennan gaze out over the scene like it was entertainment, so I kept him back a ways, telling him we wouldn’t stay long.

Then one of the firefighters who was gathering up a line called out, “Hey, I know that guy!” To my embarrassment, and to Brennan’s delight, he had recognized us.

“We spend a lot of time at the fire station,” I explained, red-faced, to a laughing neighbor.

After an enthusiastic wave, the firefighter moved on to get the work done and I tugged at Brennan and told him it was time to get going. “Your friends will be leaving soon too,” I told him. “Heading to the firehouse. But we’ll see them tomorrow, I’m sure.”

America’s Heroes – Hugh Bonner Medal

Editor note: Only a small number of Firefighters ever get the privilege to “make a save.” Even rarer are those that make two rescues on two different days – much less in one year! We have included TWO rescues that FF Musacchio made during 2013.



FF Vincent Musacchio, Ladder 23 received the Hugh Bonner Medal/Honor Legion Medal for a rescue he made on May 31, 2013 in the Bronx. Later that year he made another rescue in September 2013 and was also awarded the Walter Scott Medal.

Appointed to the FDNY on March 7, 2004. Previously assigned to Engine 62. He is an instructor in the Fitness Unit. Resides in Yorktown Heights, New York, with his wife, Ashley.

FF Vincent A. Musacchio was working a day tour in Ladder 32 on the morning of May 31, 2013. When the alarm rang out for Box 3671 at 1043 hours, with a report of a structural fire, all thoughts of the retirement party he was planning to attend that night were vanquished. FF Musacchio was assigned the outside vent position as the company responded and heard Engine 62, the first-arriving unit, transmit a *10-75* for a working fire at the Box.

Heavy smoke was billowing from all three floors as members pulled up in front of the private dwelling and FF Musacchio noticed that there also was heavy smoke pushing out from the rear of the building. Grabbing a 24-foot extension ladder and his tools, the Firefighter made his way through a similar building next door and into the rear yard.

When he arrived at the rear of the building, he witnessed two men screaming for help. One of them was badly burned on his neck and back because he had been inside and self-evacuated from the fire building. The other man was screaming that his father was still trapped inside. FF Musacchio quickly informed the Incident Commander, Battalion Chief Christopher Rearer, Battalion 27, and his Officer, Lieutenant James Caddigan, Ladder 32 covering, of the trapped occupant and requested medical assistance for the burn victim. The Firefighter sized up the situation: There was heavy fire and smoke pouring from the rear door and two rear windows that would prevent anyone else from getting out and making it nearly impossible for him to enter.

Absorbing this information, Lieutenant Caddigan and the forcible entry team tried to enter the front of the fire building to reach the victim, but they were forced back by the heavy volume of fire and smoke blocking their way. When FF Musacchio heard this, he knew that the only chance the victim had was for him to remove him from the rear.

Crawling under the flames lapping over his head and in zero visibility in the cluttered premises, FF Musacchio made a quick sweep of the living room area, but was forced out by the intense heat. Grabbing a garden hose in the rear yard, he directed one of the men to use it on the fire, while he entered a second time to search. He made a partial search of the left side of the bedroom as far as he could reach, but the garden hose was no match for the roaring inferno and, again, he was forced to exit the blaze.

Mustering all his strength and courage, FF Musacchio again entered the highly charged atmosphere, this time working along the right side of the bedroom in hopes of reaching the victim. Finding the bed, he gave it a quick sweep, as the fire was burning him and heating the air in his self-contained breathing apparatus. Realizing that no one could survive under these horrible conditions for long, the rescuer pushed on and his sweep of the floor area was rewarded with the discovery of an adult male, face down between the bed and a dresser. Transmitting a *10-45* signal to let everyone know he had reached the victim, FF Musacchio began to drag the man toward the rear and safety.

By the time FF Musacchio had reached the rear door and transferred the victim to waiting medical assistance, the engine company had water on the fire and alleviated the conditions enough for him to enter one more time and make sure there were no other victims. Emergency Medical Technicians rushed the victim to the hospital.

Without a hose-line in place, FF Vincent A. Musacchio completely disregarded his own safety and withstood the grueling heat and smoke three different times in a determined effort to bring the victim to safety. For his bravery, courage and tenacity in reaching and removing the man from the blaze, the FDNY is proud to award the Hugh Bonner Medal and Honor Legion Medal to FF Vincent A. Musacchio.—*JT*

Walter Scott Medal - September 14, 2013

As everyone knows, firefighting is a very dangerous, but rewarding profession. Many Firefighters can have a long, outstanding career without ever making a successful rescue. Timing and being in the right place are critical to many heroic rescues. Such was the case at a fire in the Bronx when FF Vincent Musacchio was in position to attempt a rescue of a trapped man. He faced a tough challenge, but proved he was able to overcome any and all obstacles.

On September 14, 2013, at 0605 hours, the Bronx Communication Office received a phone alarm for a building fire. This information was transmitted to local units, including Ladder 32. FF Musacchio was aware that early-morning fires in occupied multiple dwellings generally are an indication that people are trapped and in need of assistance.

While en route, Ladder 32 was alerted by the dispatcher of a serious fire at this location. The members of this unit were prepared for any assignment given to them. Through company drills and other training, they were taught to expect the unexpected. Shortly after arrival and operating at this fire, the unexpected occurred.

The fire building is a six-story, non-fireproof, Class 3, 75- by 100-foot, occupied multiple dwelling. On arrival, members were confronted with a smoke condition on various floors throughout the building. Additionally, fire was venting out an apartment window on the fifth floor and a heavy smoke condition was noticed pushing out of other windows of this fire apartment. At this time, the first-arriving units notified the dispatcher to send additional units because of the serious conditions encountered.

As Ladder 32 members entered the building, fleeing occupants informed Captain Patrick Tracy that people were still in the fire apartment. The Captain, along with his forcible entry team of FFs Musacchio and Ryan Blackwell, rushed up the smoke-filled stairway to the interior door of the fire apartment. After forcing open the apartment door, this rescue team was met with a heavy fire condition in the kitchen area, high heat and zero visibility due to the smoke.

They quickly donned their self-contained breathing apparatus because of the hazardous conditions in the interior hallway. At this time, the engine's charged hose-line was not yet in place, so they attempted to hold the fire in check with the unit's water can, while FF Musacchio searched the apartment for trapped occupants.

Sensing the urgency and without the protection of a charged hose-line, FF Musacchio crawled past the spreading fire, searching each room until he came to the rear bedroom. He crawled around this very hot and smoke-filled bedroom, knowing that there was a good chance that an occupant would be located in this area. He came upon a bed and while sweeping it and touching the bed, FF Musacchio found an unconscious male adult. He notified his Officer in command and then began the arduous task of attempting to remove this victim as quickly as

possible to lessen his injuries. FF Musacchio dragged and then carried the victim toward the front entrance of the apartment. As he got close to the spreading fire, the Firefighter used his body as a shield to protect the victim. Once outside the apartment and in the safety of the interior hallway, he handed the victim off to waiting EMS personnel. Regrettably, the victim ultimately expired.

FF Musacchio used his courage, tenacity and dedication to overcome all obstacles to effect this rescue. For his initiative,bravery and heroic actions, without the protection of a charged hose-line and without regard for his own safety, the Fire Department is proud to honor FF Vincent A. Musacchio with the Walter Scott Medal.--

Trivia answer(s)

#1 - The photo was of FF John “Spike” Lawless and his wife Eileen on their wedding day.

#2 - The photo of the fire equipment was a simple weight, or “anchor” if you will - used to keep the horses from pulling the steamer away at the fire scene. As soon as possible, the horses were unhitched and taken to a safer area – but in the meantime, they were weighted down and covered with blankets to protect their skin from hot sparks and embers from the fire box of the steamer meant to extinguish fires! Seen below is an example in a photo taken recently at the Bare Cove Fire Museum in Hingham, MA



From the Tailboard...

We wish everyone a happy holiday season and our best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year!



Information

Please submit any information, photographs, or narratives for inclusion in the **Company Journal** to hsmith@cambridgefire.org or Hmaxims@aol.com

E-mail list

If any retirees or friends of the Cambridge Fire Department wish to be added to the **Company Journal** e-mail list, send us the e-mail address!

Websites

Visit the Cambridge Fire Department website at www.Cambridgefire.org

Check out Cambridge Firefighters Local 30's website at <http://www.cambridgelocal30.org/>

Visit the Cambridge Retirement Board website at <http://www.cambridgeretirementma.gov/index.asp>

**REMEMBER THE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING IN OUR ARMED
SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
THEY ARE PROTECTING OUR COUNTRY, OUR LIBERTY, AND OUR
FREEDOM.
THANK OUR VETERANS!**



**Brothers and Sisters,
STAY BRAVE!
STAY VIGILANT!
STAY SAFE!**