

# FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN

## Who Take All Kinds of Chances

### A SERIES OF PERSONAL STORIES

#### DISTRICT CHIEF JOSEPH A. DOLAN

"The most thrilling and anxious moment I have had in the fire service was at a five-alarm fire we had in January, 1903, on Milton pl, off Federal st, when I was lieutenant of Ladder 8, Fort Hill sq.



JOSEPH A. DOLAN,  
District Chief.

"I was raising ladders on the front of a building when the driver of a truck ran up to me and told me that a man and woman were burning to death up

on the fire escape of the fourth floor. I immediately ordered the men to take the 65-foot ladder off, and called on some citizens to assist them. I ran around to the rear and warned them not to jump, as we would rescue them shortly.

"I have never seen a 65-foot ladder carried the same distance and placed in position as soon as that was. There was a large sheet of fire from the second-floor windows shooting out at the time, and the woman's skirts were burning and the man was trying to extinguish the fire with his hands.

"I immediately mounted the ladder and put the fire out in her skirts and then assisted her halfway down, but the fire and heat was so intense that I had to carry her the rest of the way.

"The woman, whose name was Miss York, showed more courage and nerve that night than the average person has. They had been working in a printing plant on the fourth floor, and could not use the stairs or fire escape on account of fire and smoke.

"She and the man came to Fort Hill sq about a week after to thank the men and me for saving their lives."

District Chief Dolan was appointed to the department Nov 23, 1888, promoted a lieutenant Nov 5, 1898, promoted captain March 31, 1905, and promoted district chief Sept 1, 1915, and assigned to the Hyde Park District.