

FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN
DISTRICT CHIEF MICHAEL J MULLIGAN
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FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN

Who Take All Kinds of Chances

A SERIES OF PERSONAL STORIES.

DISTRICT CHIEF MICHAEL J. MULLIGAN

The impression most deeply engraved in my memory comes from a fire in a cigar factory on Fulton st in the Fall of 1883. The late District Chief M. F. Walsh and I were on the third floor cutting a line of hose when the chairs that were nailed to the ceiling fell, cutting us off.

We found it impossible to get back to the rear window where we entered. Fire was gradually coming through a wooden partition, the floors and chairs were covered with varnish and shellac. Walsh crawled ahead and found a window, which he broke with his fire axe. In addition to our dilemma there were iron bars on it.

I found another window, which I broke with a chair; outside was a prospect of a steep, ice, which we both managed to steady ourselves until a ladder was raised by Ladder 1. From the dense smoke and heat in there I very nearly fainted. Those moments seemed hours until we got a breath of air.

"Another incident that I won't readily forget occurred at a fire on Atlantic av in a fish curing shed; the late Capt H. J. Hart and I had taken a line of hose on top of a pile of large fish boxes to

play water in through a window facing the dock.

"A few moments after getting the



MICHAEL J. MULLIGAN,
District Chief.

pressure the boxes swayed backward, and before we could recover ourselves

we landed in the dock. Fortunately, in some way, the nozzle closed enough to prevent its thrashing around and striking us while in the water.

Capt Hart received a badly cut head and lacerated neck, my nose was broken by a falling fish box while I was in the water; I also exhibited two excellent black eyes from it; my father, a few days after the incident couldn't be convinced that I received those colored optics at a fire. Chief Regan felt as my father did until later on.

"Those two incidents remain as thrilling with me as though they were yesterday."

Chief Mulligan was appointed March 28, 1885, served 21 years in the downtown district, was promoted to lieutenant in February, 1893; to captain in July, 1897; to district chief March 2, 1906. He was born in Brooklyn, N Y, in June, 1857.