

FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN

Who Take All Kinds of Chances

A SERIES OF PERSONAL STORIES.

DISTRICT CHIEF ALLAN J. MacDONALD

"About 14 years ago I came the nearest, to my knowledge, of saying Amen to this good old world; that escape gave me a thrill never to be forgotten.

"I responded to an alarm for a fire in the Estes Building on Summer st, opposite the South Station. At that time I was lieutenant of Ladder 17. Joseph A. Hanton, now lieutenant of Chemical 4 and myself were ordered to the roof to open the ventilators.

"After a hard struggle, groping our way through the smoke over several stairways, we finally succeeded in reaching the roof. We had been on the roof but a few moments when fire burst out from all the top windows, almost enveloping us in flames.

"We knew it would be impossible to shoot the aerial ladder up to us on account of the flames leaping high in the air, so we groped our way around the roof on hands and knees and finally found a bridge that ran from the top floor of the burning building to the New England Building across the way.

"We managed to reach this bridge and get over to the other side just in time to save our lives. Had we been a few minutes later, escape would have been impossible. This incident gave me something to remember for a long time afterward."

District Chief MacDonald has been in command of the Charlestown district



ALLAN J. MacDONALD,
District Chief.

since his promotion to district chief Aug 2 last. He was appointed to the service as a call member in 1887. He served at Ladder 4 as a private for several years, being promoted to lieutenant Aug 28, 1896. He served at several companies as lieutenant, doing his best work at Engine 15 and Ladder 17.

Feb 6, 1903, he was promoted to captain and shifted to Engine 36. A few months later he was given charge of Ladder 18, remaining there until his promotion to district chief.