

FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN

A SERIES OF PERSONAL STORIES

CAPT F. J. SHEERAN ENGINE 19

"Any member of the Boston Fire Department who has spent 20 years or more in the service could, if he so desired, tell stories enough to fill a good-sized book; but as a general rule the boys look on narrow escapes from death as being a part of the day's work.

"I was for a number of years on what is termed the firing line, located in the downtown district. I remember responding to a four-alarm fire in a building on Sudbury st used for mechanical purposes. When our engine reached the fire the smoke was coming out in volumes.

"We carried our line inside and were doing good work when the heavy shafting began to fall all around us. We were ordered out and had just reached the street when the roof and floors fell with a crash. Had we remained in our position a few moments longer it certainly would have meant sure death for us.

"At a fire in the Somerset House, West End, a few years ago I went into the cellar with one of my comrades and brought out the janitor, who had become unconscious. The cellar was burning fiercely and we had a hard job to reach him. He was burned so badly that he died in a short time.



LIEUT FRANK J. SHEERAN.

"I shall never forget the thrill I got some years ago when we were responding to an alarm from box 705. Going down Staniford st the driver collapsed in his seat and the horses started to run wild. I crawled over the suction pipe and got control of the horses and held the driver in his seat. Commissioner Wells and Deputy John Grady (now commissioner) witnessed this act and commended me for it."

Capt F. J. Sheeran joined the department in 1892, was made lieutenant in October, 1904, and captain in 1907.