

FIRE HERO WINS NEW HONORS

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Ex-Lieut Roosevelt Will Have New Stories to Tell When He Returns From France

This is the story of a Boston man who refused to be buried inactive with a big war on.

During the past few months there has appeared in the papers reference to a former Boston fireman with our New England lads abroad. And from them a Globe man was able to get a clue to the whereabouts of a pal. Ex-Lieutenant Thomas W. Roosevelt of Engine 5, North End.

He is across the water. And behind

his trip is a story of nerve and grit. "Tom" Roosevelt was born in England and at 11 shifted for himself, spending the next nine years knocking about at sea, finally settling in Boston.

Here he took advantage of the educational facilities, passed an examina-



EX-LIEUT THOMAS W. ROOSE.

tion for the Fire Department and joined the force. And he was with busy companies. To him fell his share of dangers and he never dodged them.

When the City of Bangor was burned on the water front, and one of his comrades was knocked into the water from an upper deck, Roosevelt went after him without waiting to shed rubber coat and boots. So did another fireman, and Councillor Lewis W. Sullivan.

At a fire in the North End he was gassed so badly that he went to the hospital. It was not the first time. It affected his mind and at times he was very ill. The writer visited him more than a year ago and the specialist stated he was just on the border line of insanity; a prompt appeal to Mayor Curley gave Roosevelt the chance to retire and save his mind.

Out in the quiet of the country his nerves got better, his mind came back to normal and he was again a well man. The blast of the bugle called him.

Having been an aid to Gen Cole when the latter was Fire Commissioner, Roosevelt applied to him and was mustered into the service. From time to time he has been doing things abroad that brought him into notice among his fellow-soldiers and the facts have trickled through.

He has not been writing many letters, but when he comes back, if he survives, he will be able to pen some interesting stories, because in addition to his fire-fighting abilities he has written stories and published a book of verse.

In his last letter he says he has adopted a couple of French orphans, and his friends think he may also bring back a wife to care for them.