

# FIRE ALARMS JAIL INMATES

## Serious One at West End and Several Others.

### Families in Apartments Flee-- Two Fire Chiefs Hurt.



DISTRICT CHIEF JOHN E. MADISON. DEPUTY CHIEF JOHN O. TABER.  
TWO OF THE BOSTON FIRE FIGHTERS WHO WERE INJURED IN  
BATTLES WITH FLAMES LAST NIGHT.

## Succession of Alarms in Short Order And Loss of About \$62,000.

A four-alarm fire on Cambridge st, West End, two still alarms, three other single bell alarms in the business district and an alarm in Roxbury gave the firemen of Boston some strenuous hours last night.

From 6:30 until after 9 o'clock practically all the fire apparatus of the city was on the move, those pieces which were not engaged in the fighting of fires filling in at houses of the actual fire fighters.

Two district chiefs and a fire captain were injured at the fires, which altogether caused damage estimated at nearly \$62,000.

It was a few minutes after 6 o'clock that the first alarm was sounded for a fire in the West End, which for a time threatened the Charles-st Jail, a block of wooden dwellings and a five-story apartment block on Cambridge st. It also tied up traffic

### FIRES OF A NIGHT IN BOSTON, WITH INJURED LIST OF THREE

#### FIRES.

- 6-7:03—Four alarm fire, 347-357 Cambridge st, West End. Damage \$60,000.
- 6:15—Single alarm, 82 Commercial st, North End. Damage \$1500.
- 6:37—Still alarm, 16 Trenton st. Damage slight.
- 6:46—Single alarm, 13 Whitney st, Roxbury. Damage slight.
- 7:08—Still alarm, 23 Moon st, North End. Damage \$100.
- 7:42—Single alarm, 65 Mt Vernon st, West End. Damage slight.
- 8:00—Still and single alarm, 64 Pemberton sq. Damage \$200.

#### INJURED.

- Dist Chief John Otis Taber. Right leg injured.
- Dist Chief John E. Madison. Right side injured.
- Capt Edward Richardson. Right hand severely cut.

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# FIRES CAUSE

## A BIG SCARE

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along Cambridge st, frightened the inmates of the jail and caused \$60,000 damage.

Young Maurice Walsh, the nephew of Sheriff "Honest" John Quinn, heard some glass fall and, looking up at the building 347-357 Cambridge st, the rear of which is separated from the yard of the Charles-st Jail only by a narrow alley, saw smoke pouring from windows in the upper part. He ran to box 1356, corner of Cambridge and Charles sts, and sounded an alarm.

When the first apparatus arrived, in response to this alarm, sounded at 6:07, the fire did not look bad. District Chief John E. Madison himself went into the building and directed his men from the fourth floor.

Flames had run the entire length of the elevator shaft from the basement to the roof of the six-story brick structure, but it was not until nearly 6:30 that Chief Madison ordered a second alarm sounded.

### Flames Mushroom on Top Floor.

The chief remained inside the building. The flames mushroomed on the top floor, where oil and other inflammable material were stored, and broke through the roof before Chief Madison ordered a third alarm, at about 6:45.

With the entire roof ablaze, sparks, blown by a wind of great force toward the Charles-st Jail, and over the roofs of the wooden two-story dwellings on Cambridge st, the fire looked threatening. The bursting of a big hydrant on Charles st, cutting off part of the available water pressure, added to the difficulties of the situation.

Those inmates of the jail in cells permitting a view of the burning building became alarmed, and some made outcries. Sheriff Quinn sent men up to the wooden cupola on top of the jail, with buckets of water, and had it thoroughly wet down.

Numerous lines of hose had been run into the burning building over the front staircase, and from every part of the fifth floor the firemen poured heavy streams at the flames above. A big extension ladder was run up in front of the building and rested on the edge of the roof. Apparently after it was raised plans were changed, however, for it was not used.

When Chief Peter McDonough arrived on the scene, after a fourth alarm had been sounded at 7:03, he ordered the raising of Water Tower 1, in command of Lieut Charles Long. It was standing in front of the building.

There was some difficulty at first in getting a stream of water powerful enough for the purpose, but when at length the pressure was arranged the stream soon battered the flames back.

While directing his men within the building Chief Madison slipped and fell, his right side being injured. A number of the firemen received minor injuries by slipping or by getting in the way of falling glass.

### Occupants of Apartments Flee.

The first three floors of the building, from 349 to 353 Cambridge st, are occupied by the Glenbrook Wine Company, the first floor being used as a salesroom and the second and third floors for storage and refining rooms.

The fourth, fifth and sixth floors are occupied by the Jones, Bertsch Company, dealers in lighting fixtures; while on these floors at 357 are located the Yardley Bronze Company and the Massachusetts Thread Company.

The fire apparently started on the fourth floor, near the elevator shaft, through which it ate its way both up and down to the roof and cellar. Except on the top floor, where the flames spread slowly in every direction, the fire confined itself to the shaft and the immediate vicinity.

On the top floor the fire found excellent material in the combustible oils. It got a good start in the rear, where it was discovered, and then worked its way to the front of the building. On the way the flames took a sling at the roof and bursting through made a spectacular blaze.

Occupants of the adjoining apartment house, with an entrance at 357, nine families, whose homes were filled with smoke and seemed for a time doomed, were driven out. From the rear it seemed almost certain that the roof of this structure would catch.

The occupants of the apartment house are W. A. Harlow and F. Cunningham on the first floor; J. O'Connor and P. Gaffney, second floor; John J. Man-

nix and P. Newell, third floor, J. Albert Riley on the fourth, and P. Noonan and James McGowan on the top.

To the east of the burning structure, toward which the wind now and then tossed clouds of sparks, stands a row of low wooden buildings. The roofs of these and of the second row, situated in the rear in Cambridge ct and Cambridge pl, were targets for the sparks which rained down.

Mr and Mrs Joseph Vincent, with a family of six, who live at 343 Cambridge st, James Hughes of 337 Cambridge st, Richard Phillips and Mrs Ellen Carter, who with her four children live in Cambridge pl in these wooden buildings, managed to remain throughout the fire, although it appeared as though the houses would catch. Fortunately, however, accompanying the rain of live sparks there fell a heavy shower of water from the big streams which were being shot upward at the flames from within and without the building.

### District Chief Taber Injured.

The flames made steady headway until the tower was brought into play.

In the meantime, while the greater part of Boston's fire-fighting men and machinery were either at or on their way to this fire, Engine 35 and Protective 3 were summoned on a still alarm to 16 Tremont st, where the awning over the store of H. A. Winship Company was ablaze. It was put out with \$5 damage.

A more serious blaze, at which District Chief John Otis Taber was injured, was discovered by a citizen at 82 Commercial st, on the top floor of the 4 1/2-story brick building occupied by Martin F. Stinson Company, manufacturers of corsets. The citizen sounded an alarm from box 1251.

Shortly after, an alarm was sounded from box 1244 for a \$100 blaze in the attic of the four-story dwelling, 22 Moon st, near North sq.

Instead of sending this out as a bell alarm, which would have made it a second alarm for box 1251, Fire Headquarters sent this out as a still alarm. Engines 13 and 15 and Ladder 22 were sent to this fire. The apparatus which responded to the Commercial-st alarm found a stiff blaze in progress, and damage estimated at \$1500 had been caused before it was extinguished.

Just as Tower 1 was giving the death blow to the big blaze on Cambridge st an alarm was sounded from box 1372, Mt Vernon and Hancock sts. A chisel and several pieces of apparatus were detached from the brigade fighting the Cambridge-st fire, and sent to 65 Mt Vernon st, where it was found that a slight fire had been caused by crossed electric wires, but had been put out with a bucket of water.

District Chief Fox of Charlestown, who with his men was "covering" the West End, was called upon to respond to an alarm from box 1262, while the regular West End firemen were still busy at the big fire.

Reporters returning from the West End fire smelled smoke as they turned into Pemberton sq, and investigating found a blaze in the attic at 64 Pemberton sq, a four-story brick structure, occupied by a restaurant, lawyers, artists, etc. They telephoned a still-alarm, and as soon as Chief Fox arrived he ordered a bell alarm. The damage at this blaze is estimated at \$200.

The most serious accident of the busy evening happened here, when Capt Edward Richardson of Engine 15 had his right hand cut almost in twain by falling glass.

The other bell alarm was sounded from box 219. It was for a chimney fire in the three-story wooden dwelling at 13 Whitney st, Roxbury.