

Fireman Dies After Fall From Ladder at State-St. Blaze

A fireman was killed and damage estimated at \$75,000 was caused by a four-alarm fire which ravaged the upper two floors of a five-story granite building at 201 State st., early yesterday morning.

Knocked from his perch on a ladder opposite the fifth floor by falling debris, fireman John J. Moriarty, 45, of Engine 8, a World War veteran and former police officer, of 580 Tremont st., fell nearly 50 feet, landing on the turntable at the base of the extension ladder on the fire truck. He died en route to Boston City Hospital from a fractured skull, fractured spine and other injuries. Moriarty resided with his widowed sister, Mrs. Mary Mahoney, at 580 Tremont st., South End.

Fireman Killed

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Fireman Killed, \$75,000 Damage in Spectacular State-St. Blaze

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The fire, starting from an undetermined source in a storeroom of the Thompson-Winchester Company on the fifth floor, was discovered at 3:10 a. m. by patrolman Eldridge Adair. The blaze burned with unabated fury for nearly an hour before firemen brought it under control. Additional alarms were sounded in rapid succession by Chief Samuel J. Pope because of the danger to adjacent buildings in the congested business area.

Flames Visible From Afar

Firemen were hindered by a series of hot air explosions which blew out scores of windows on the upper floors. Great tongues of flame leaping nearly 50 feet in the air were visible from all sections of Metropolitan Boston.

Military authorities at the Charlestown Navy Yard and the South Boston Army Base, observing the reflections of the flames in the early morning sky, at first assumed the blaze was sweeping docks and storehouses along Atlantic-av. waterfront and offered to send their respective fire fighting forces to help combat the blaze.

A heavy pall of acrid smoke enveloped the downtown business area and drifted slowly over the harbor. Sections of the roof and several wall partitions in the upper floors collapsed from the ravages of the flames.

Great quantities of hotel and restaurant supplies, the property of the Thompson-Winchester Company, were destroyed. Because of war production priorities on much of the material, the supplies could not be replaced, company officials said.

Chief Pope said police and fire department arson squad officials and operatives from the state fire mar-

merly known as the State Street Building.

Moriarty on Force 17 Years

Hoseman Moriarty, 49-year-old member of the Bowdoin-sq. fire station, had been on the force for the past 17 years.

He was born in Caherdaniel, County Kerry, Ire., July 22, 1882. Coming to Boston at the age of 17, he was employed by the Boston Elevated Railway. During the first World War he joined the Coast Artillery and served for 18 months in France. He was then appointed to the Boston Police Department and served until his appointment to the Fire Department Sept. 14, 1925. He was assigned to Engine 6, Bowdoin sq., Sept. 26, 1932.

Surviving are four sisters: Mrs. Mahoney, with whom he resided; Mrs. Bridget Kavanagh of Roxbury; Mrs. Ellen Sullivan of Newport, R. I., and Mrs. Katherine Sheehan of Waterville, County Kerry, Ire.; and a brother, Thomas Moriarty, a New Zealand police inspector.



JOHN J. MORIARTY, fatally injured fireman.

shal's office would begin a routine investigation to determine the cause of the blaze. The building, the rear of which faces Central st., was for-

The funeral will be held Wednesday morning, with a 9 o'clock mass of requiem at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. Burial will be in St. Joseph's Cemetery, West Roxbury.



FIREMAN MORIARTY'S FATAL FALL of 50 feet from ladder while fighting State-st. blaze is shown in this photograph.