

PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

MEMBERS who DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Died	Rank	Member	Company	Badge	Box
April 28, 1903	X-Call Hoseman	Thomas W. Burnham	Engine 2	51	3-64
May 22, 1903	Call Hoseman	Clarence A. Johnson	Engine 3	41	3-64
October 2, 1908	Hoseman	Charles W. Barrett	Engine 1	5	Still Alarm
January 1, 1913	Deputy Chief	William H. Steele	District One	***	Still Alarm
January 2, 1913	Lieutenant	Ralph H. Eldridge	Chemical 1	136	Still Alarm
March 18, 1913	Call Hoseman	Harry E. Harmon	Engine 6	130	2-64
September 4, 1915	Ladderman	Ralph E. Smith	Ladder 4	197	Still Alarm
May 21, 1921	Captain	James C. Kent	Engine 6	112	3-921
May 13, 1926	Lineman	John M. Hardy	Electrical Division	-	85 Spring St
February 17, 1930	Private	Edward F. Fowler	Chemical 1	81	4-1291
May 13, 1932	Lieutenant	Walter M. Jackson	Engine 1	36	2-43
Aug. 22, 1932	Private	Walter P. Webster	Ladder 5	272	2-814
February 24, 1945	Private	Thomas L. Walsh	Engine 8	78	3-922
May 3, 1952	Captain	Frank J. Mullins	Engine 1	2	325
August 27, 1956	Captain	John E. Tolan	Engine 6	10	2-917
July 12, 1960	Private	Thomas G. O'Connor	Ladder 3	53	Still Alarm
November 18, 1970	Lieutenant	William E. Nugent, Jr	Engine 1	44	2-52
January 30, 1972	Captain	John F. Rafferty	Rescue 1	5	EMS Run
March 24, 1980	Firefighter	Joseph C. Cavallaro, Jr.	Engine 1	143	3-53
September 14, 1993	Firefighter	Frank E. Cowan	Ladder 1	246	2-622

(20) PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS - DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

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PERSONNEL WHO DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

On Tuesday, April 28, 1903, Ex-Hoseman Thomas W. Burnham, age 68, badge no. 51, Engine Co. 2, home address 213 Oxford Street, died as a result of being badly burned two days earlier at a General Alarm fire at Box 3-64, at Sturdivant's Wharf. He was a Call Man, whose full-time occupation was cabinetmaker. He retired or resigned from the Department in 1878 at the age of 43, but was apparently pressed into service to help fight the fire.

On Friday, May 22, 1903, Hoseman Clarence A. Johnson, age 47, badge no. 41, Engine Co. 3, home address 232 Brackett Street, died as a result of being badly burned on April 26, 1903 at above incident. He was a Call Man, whose full-time occupation was brick mason.

On Friday, October 2, 1908, Hoseman Charles W. Barrett, age 41, badge no. 5, Engine Co. 1, home address 182 Grant Street, died as a result of an electrical shock of heavy voltage at a still alarm at the Congress Square Hotel, 579-581 Congress Street, at 7:15 PM. He was a Permanent Member of the Fire Department, who had recently given his resignation, and was returning to the occupation of a metal worker, so he could be home more to take care for his sick and invalid wife and their six children, all Under 11 years of age.

On Wednesday, January 1, 1913, Deputy Chief William H. Steele, age 46, home address 9 Myrtle Street, died at 9:00 PM as a result of inhalation of nitric acid fumes from a carboy spill, which occurred in the basement at H.H. Hayes Drug Store, at Middle and Free Streets, at a Still Alarm, at 8:45 AM.

On Thursday, January 2, 1913, Lieutenant Ralph H. Eldridge, age 35, badge no. 136, Chemical 1, home address 109 Pearl Street, died at 4:00 AM as a result of inhalation of nitric acid fumes from the above incident on January 1, 1913.

On Tuesday, March 18, 1913, Hoseman Harry E. Harmon, age 41, badge no. 130, Engine Co. 6, home address 491 Portland Street, died from pneumonia as a result of exposure to smoke at a two-alarm fire at Box 64, Royal Remedy Company, 432 Commercial Street on March 7, 1913. He was a Call Man, whose full-time occupation was a driver for the W.H. Thaxter Company, who were grain dealers.

On Saturday, September 4, 1915, Ladderman Ralph E. Smith, age 31, badge no. 197, Ladder Co. 4, home address 252 Woodfords Street, died shortly after 6:00 PM at Saint Barnabas Hospital as a result of multiple injuries he received from being thrown between the horses and ladder carriage to the street, when the wheels caught in the trolley tracks on Stevens Avenue near Pleasant Avenue in Central Square (Deering Center), while responding to a still alarm with Engine Co. 8 to 100 Revere Street, for a report of a shed fire at 8:40 AM, which was caused by children with matches.

On Saturday, May 21, 1921, Captain James C. Kent, age 60, badge no. 112, Engine Co. 6, home address 19 Sherman Street, died at 2:10 PM as a result of injuries suffered at a General Alarm fire at Box 3-921, Deering High School, 522 Stevens Avenue. Captain Kent was swept from a ground ladder and buried beneath a pile of bricks when the roof fell in, knocking out the cornice above the front center of the building.

On Thursday, May 13, 1926, Electrical Division Lineman John M. Hardy, age 23, home address 1446 Forest Avenue, died shortly before 8:00 PM at Maine General Hospital of a head injury, resulting from a fall from a ladder eight hours earlier at 85 Spring Street, while changing some fire alarm wires on a building.

On Monday, February 17, 1930, Private Edward F. Fowler, age 33, badge no. 81, Chemical Co. 1, home address 85 Market Street, died at home of chronic bronchitis, an illness of more than two years, as a result of cold and exposure to smoke at a General Alarm fire at Box 4-1291, at the Winslow Pottery Company, 253 Forest Avenue on October 24, 1927. He had been off-duty on sick leave since the fire.

On Friday, May 13, 1932, Lieutenant Walter M. Jackson, age 47, badge no. 36, Engine Co. 1, home address 125 Pearl Street, died at Maine General Hospital of Heart Disease. He had been taken to a hospital for exposure to smoke at a two-alarm fire at Box 2-43, at the Sacknoff Block, 147 Commercial Street, at the corner of Silver Street on February 21, 1932, and had not returned to duty since the fire.

On Monday, August 22, 1932, Private Walter P. Webster, age 56, badge no. 272, Ladder Co. 5, home address 180 Pearl Street, collapsed and died shortly after 1:31 PM of a heart attack, resulting from overexertion and heat, while working on the roof of a building at a two-alarm fire at Box 814, at # 2b Monroe Place.

On Saturday, February 24, 1945, Private Thomas L. Walsh, age 39, badge no. 78, Engine Co. 8, home address 349 Woodfords Street, was killed instantly shortly after 2:00 AM, when he was crushed beneath a brick wall, which fell out as the result of an explosion while fighting a three-alarm fire at Box 922, at the Stevens Avenue Armory, at 780 Stevens Avenue.

On Saturday, May 3, 1952, Captain Frank J. Mullins, age 62, badge no. 2, Engine Co. 1, home address 55 Morning Street, descended an aerial ladder, then collapsed and died from a heart attack, while fighting a single-alarm fire at Box 325, at 17 Cove Street, shortly after 10:16 PM.

On Monday, August 27, 1956, Captain John E. Tolan, Age 46, badge no. 10, Engine Co. 6, home address Sterling Street, Peaks Island, died shortly after 9:33 AM, while fighting a two-alarm fire at Box 917, at 96 Highland Street. The cause of death was determined as "heart ailment aggravated by smoke inhalation and asphyxia".

On Tuesday, July 12, 1960, Private Thomas G. O'Connor, age 43, badge no. 53, Ladder Co. 3, home address 249 Vaughan Street, died at Maine Medical Center in the afternoon as a result of multiple injuries he suffered from a collision between Engine 4 and Ladder 3 at the intersection of Spring and Brackett Streets, at approximately 6:00 PM the previous day. Both trucks were responding to a still alarm on Orchard Street to check on a report of smoke in the area.

On Wednesday, November 18, 1970, Lieutenant William E. Nugent, Jr., age 47, badge no. 44, Engine Co. 1, home address 25 Sawyer Street, died in the morning of a heart attack. He had been hospitalized on July 25, 1970 as a result of smoke inhalation at a two-alarm fire at Box 52, at 45-49-51 Parris Street, with three buildings on fire. He had not returned to duty since this fire.

On Sunday, January 30, 1972, Captain John R. Rafferty, age 59, badge no. 5, Rescue Co. 1, home address 13 Eastern Promenade, collapsed and died early in the morning in Rescue 1, while returning to the station from Maine Medical Center from an emergency call dealing with a teenage girl drug overdose.

On Monday, March 24, 1980, Firefighter Joseph C. Cavallaro, Jr., age 26, badge no. 143, Engine Co. 1 home address 24 Jordan Avenue, South Portland, died shortly after 2:31 AM, as a result of burns and asphyxiation, while fighting a three-alarm fire at Box 53, The Phoenix Nightclub, at 83 Oak Street.

On Tuesday, September 14, 1993, Firefighter Frank E. Cowan, age 44, badge no. 246, Ladder Co. 1, home address 6 Autumn Lane, Yarmouth, died at home of a heart attack. He had previously suffered a heart attack at a two-alarm fire at Box 622, The Kabob-N-Curry Restaurant, at 629 Congress Street on January 5, 1993, while performing ventilation functions on the roof of the building.

Since 1903, (20) Portland Fire Department Personnel Have Died In The Line Of Duty.
