

Subject: Company Journal - Issue 54



The Company Journal *and "The Feederline"*

Fire Department News
Cambridge, Massachusetts
A Class 1 Fire Department

From the desk of
Chief Gerald R. Reardon

Issue #54
Spring - Wednesday, 7 April 2010

Who's New

On 26 Feb 2010, twelve Cambridge Recruits graduated from the 12-week Recruit Firefighter Training Program **Class 186** at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. They are all certified to national standards as Firefighter I/II. The thirteenth member will graduate with Class 187 in June.



Top row: **FFOPs Jose Lora, R. Nicholas Menard, FF Brian Gallant, and FFOP Paul Enos**
Middle row: **FFOPs Kenneth Flibotte, Peter Melo, Jeffrey Keefe, Kyle Schweinshaut, Ian Moynihan, and Silvio Estrada**
Bottom row: **FFOPs Darryn DeGrace, Michael Lencki, and Robert McCarthy**

*- photo above by **Bruce Gauvin** (Massachusetts Firefighting Academy)*

The new members (13 from Cambridge and 1 from Somerville) also participated in a vehicle extrication drill at Phil's tow yard. Engine 3, Truck 1 (with Tactical Rescue 1), Division 1, and Somerville Engine 7 also participated.



Front row: **Michael Lencki, Jose Lora, Silvio Estrada, R. Nicholas Menard, Josue Velney**
(Somerville FD)

Back row: **Robert McCarthy, Jeffrey Keefe, Darryn DeGrace, Kyle Schweinshaut, Peter Melo, Ian Moynihan, Kenneth Flibotte, Paul Enos, Brian Gallant**





- Photos above by **FF Howie Smith** (Truck 1)

What's New



Ladder 5 – the 1991 Pierce/Smeal 105 foot aerial ladder.
This truck is the former Ladder 1.
The picture was taken during one of our recent snow storms.

- photo by **Tara Bithia**

All Companies Working

Box 2-613: A Second Alarm was ordered from Box 2-613, for 41 Magnolia Avenue, a 3-story, wood-frame, OMD on 12 Jan 2010. The box was transmitted at 1214 hours. The “working fire” was ordered at 1225, and the second alarm was ordered at 1229 hours. Seven engines, 5 trucks, 2 squads, the rescue, 2 division chiefs, and staff and support units operated. Group 3 was on duty. **DFC Michael Morrissey** was the IC.



Engine 5 Pump



DFC Michael Morrissey (Division 1) and DFC Stephen Leonard (Division 2)



FF Brian Joyce (Truck 3), **FLt. Bob Bell** (Engine 4), and **FF Jeremiah Hart** (Squad 4)





FCapt. Michael Bruno (Truck 2)



DFC Michael Morrissey (Division 1), Chief of Department Gerald Reardon, and DFC Robert Rossi (Training)



FF Peter Mickiewicz (Truck 1)



Tech Services **Fire Apparatus Mechanics Steven Lopez (M3) and Daniel Lopez (M4)**



FF Daniel Caceres, FLt. Brandon Hugh, and FF Ameer Moustafa (Engine 5)



A/Flt. Shawn Flannagan, (Truck 3), FF Edwin Cruz (Engine 2 detailed to Truck 3), and FF Nathan Dubovsky (Truck 3)



A/Flt. Ken Souza, FF Steve Kelley, and FF Matt Ansello (Rescue 1)



Tactical Aide Dan Maloney (Division 1)



FF Dennis Shine, FF Philip Amenkowicz, and FLt. Brian O'Regan (Engine 2)



FF John Magee (Engine 1)



FLt. Mark Wall (Somerville Engine 3) and **FLt. Tom Kotowski** (Engine 6)



FF Stephan Jeffres, **FF Kevin Pierre**, and **FLt. Earl Howard** (Engine 3)



FCapt. Robert Morrissey (Engine 2), **FF Condorcet Roberts**, **FF Richard Feliciano**, and **FCapt. Michael Bruno** (Truck 2)



FCapt. Stephen Persson (Training), **Auxiliary Fire Capt Doug Boudrow**, **Auxiliary Firefighters Matt Williams** and **Lawrence Li**.

- all pictures above by **FLt. David Walles** (Training)

Box 45-234: A Working Fire was ordered for the fire in the 3-story, OMD at 1 Union Street on 13 Feb 2010. Four engines, 3 trucks, 2 squads, the rescue, and 2 division chiefs operated to contain and knock down this fire. Time of the box was 0823 hours. The Signal 45 was ordered at 0830 hours. Group 3 was on duty. **DFC Michael Morrissey** was the IC.



- photo by **Joe Morrissey**

Mutual Aid to Malden

On 9 January 2010, **Malden** transmitted six alarms from **Box 6-292** for the fire in the 'U' shaped, brick and wood, OMD at 505 Pleasant Street, Malden. Cambridge Engine 5, Squad 2, and Division 1 operated at the fire. Engine 4 covered. The photo below shows Engine 5's pump (with 1000" of hose off) on the Alpha side of the fire building.



Faces of the Fire Service

Box 2-613



FCapt. Michel Bruno, FFs Richard Feliciano and Condorcet Roberts (Truck 2)





Tactical Aide Firefighter Walter Grace (USMC, Division 1 – retired), who happened to be in the neighborhood, responded and assisted in maintaining the Resource and Accountability Board.
Old firehorses



FF Andrew Mello (Engine 4 detailed to Squad 4) and **FF Hugh Devlin** (Squad 4)

- photos above by **Glenn Turner** (Tech Services)

More Faces of the Fire Service

Malden 6-292



FF Nathan Dubovsky (Truck 3 detailed to Engine 5)



FLt. Jeremy Walsh (Squad 2)



FLt. Brandon Hugh (Engine 5)

- photos above by **Ted Pendergast**

Training

Transit Rescue and Extrication - Green Line training

Members recently participated in extrication training on Green Line trolleys at the Riverside MBTA Trolley Yard. Members of Engines 1 and 3, Trucks 1 and 2, Rescue 1, and Squads 2 and 4 cut up old Green Line LRVs in simulated extrication scenarios. A variety of tools was used, including K1200 saw, slice tool, and hydraulic rescue tools.



FF Ken Cunningham cuts through side of Green Line trolley.



FLt. David House uses the (ox-acetylene) slice tool to cut through steel trolley wheel.



FLt. Michael Donovan uses saw to cut through steel skin of trolley.



FF Howie Smith uses hydraulic rescue tool to cut into post at the trolley operator's cab.



Engine 1 members: **FF Gary Plunkett, FLt. David House, FF Joseph Hallissey, FF Vinroy Paul and Fire Apparatus Mechanic Steve Lopez (Tech Services - M3)**



FF Kenneth Cunningham, FF Howie Smith, FCapt. Sean White, and FF Michael Dwyer (Truck 1)



FF Matthew Wood (Squad 4), FFs Gary Plunkett, Vinroy Paul, Joseph Hallissey, FLt. David House (Engine 1), and FLt. Michael Donovan (Squad 4)

- photos above by **Tara Bithia**

[Collapse Rescue Training](#)

Members of Engine 1, Truck 1, Rescue 1, and Squads 2 and 4 have been participating in the 80 hour, intensive structural collapse training program. Training started in November and is scheduled into the end of March. Members have worked at sites including the old Everett High School in Everett and at a warehouse on the South Boston waterfront in the old Boston Navy Yard South Boston Naval Annex.

A tip of the helmet to the firefighters and officers participating in this program. Cambridge members have been working alongside brothers and sisters from Boston, Everett, Somerville, Chelsea, Revere, Brookline, and Quincy Fire Departments. This training course has been federally funded through the UASI (Urban Area Security Initiative) and is strictly run according to USAR guidelines. Training modules have included shoring ceilings, walls, and other structures via timbers, cribbing, and air shores; lifting and moving concrete slabs via hand tools, rollers, and cribbing; use of hi-pressure and low-pressure air bags in moving collapse debris; moving vehicles, concrete slabs, Jersey barriers, and steel girders and beams via slings and heavy equipment including a crane; and setting up an A-frame to remove collapse debris. Photos below show one segment of the ongoing training in South Boston.



Group 2: Engine 1 and Rescue 1 members with Instructor





DFC Lester Bokuniewicz (Division 1)





FF Stephen Capuccio (Engine 1)





FF David Croak (Rescue 1)



- photos above by **FF Todd Koen (Squad-Engine 1)**

[More Collapse Rescue Training](#)

The photos below were taken on 10 March 2010 at the South Boston training site. This training segment included shoring and stabilization and breaching of both horizontal and vertical concrete slabs by means of pneumatic jack-hammers and power saws and the cutting of rebar and steel beams by use of cutting torches and hand tools.



Pneumatic jack-hammer for concrete breaching



Pneumatic tool station



Shoring, stabilization, and breaching



Concrete slab breaching station



Concrete cutting saw station



I-beam cutting station



Steel I-beam cutting station



Group 1: Truck 1, Squad 2, and Squad 4 members participating in Collapse Training on 10 March 2010

- photos above by **Tara Bithia**

Out and About

Frozen Fenway



FF Jay Martel and FLt. Brandon Hugh at the Boston Bruins vs. Boston College game at Fenway Park in January.



FLt. Brandon Hugh (Engine 5), **Brandon, Jr.** and **FF Joe Pinto** (Engine 5) at the Boston Bruins vs. Los Angeles Kings game at Boston Garden

[Off the Coast of Aruba](#)

Retirement hasn't slowed down **Deputy Fire Chief Thomas Stack** (Division 1- retired). Here he is giving last-minute instructions to a new generation of divers before taking them on dives to depths of 100 feet off the coast of Aruba. **Patrick Houston** (left) and **Charles Shuman** (right) were on school vacation with their Grandfather, **Chief of Operations Walter Ellis** (retired).



Moray eel



Octopus



Patrick Houston and Charles Shuman

- photos above by **Jan and Tom Stack**

[Cambridge Actively Retired Firefighters Winter Reunion – Port Charlotte, FL](#)



Winter 2010 - Cambridge Fire reunion in Port Charlotte, Florida

Standing: **Ron Ring, John Ruffing, Bob Paone, Dave Scholl, Jim Marcantonio, Dan Flaherty, Bob McKinley, Spike Lawless, Stan Kotowski, Bill Hugh, Morgan Sheaffer, Joe Lawless, and Charlie Budryk.**
Front: **Mike Papsedero, Jack Clark, Harold Grafe, and Ken O'Connor**

- *photo above by Ann Thibodeau*

Protecting the USA



Lt. Paul Mahoney, Jr. (United States Navy - EOD) recently completed a 7 month deployment to Afghanistan.
Paul is now stationed in Sicily.
Paul is the son of **FLt. Paul Mahoney** (Truck 3) and is the nephew of **DFC Gerry Mahoney** (EPAC)

From the archives



Fire at the McNamee Company - Bookbinders of Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1922.

- picture from the collection of **FF Howie Smith** (Ladder 1)



February, 1984: **Fire Captain Jim Rafferty's** last tour of duty was celebrated at the Taylor Square quarters of Engine 8 and Truck 4.

Jim was the Captain of Engine Company No. 8 prior to his retirement.

Front row: **Inspector Ed Fowler** (Fire Investigation Unit - deceased), **FLT. Bob Blake** (now Captain - Truck 4), **FF Don Warren** (Division Tactical Aide - retired), **FF Jack Crusco** (Engine 8 – deceased), **FF Rick Alford** (Engine 8 - retired as Captain), **Jim Rafferty**, **Chief of Department Thomas Scott** (retired), **DFC Bill Murray** (retired).

Back row: **DFC Ralph Chapman** (retired), **FF Bill Sullivan** (Truck 4 - retired), **FF Ed MacAskill** (Truck 4 – retired), **FF Lenny Delaney** (Truck 4 – deceased), **FLt. Bob Cauchon** (Truck 4 - deceased), **FF Frank Murphy** (Engine 4 - deceased), **FF Bob Byrne** (Engine 4 – retired), **FF Hilary “Lonnie” Chester** (Engine 4 - retired), **FF Tim Foley** (Division Tactical Aide - retired), **FF Ed Shallow** (Engine 4 – retired as Lieutenant of Truck 2).

Congratulations

Congratulations to **FF Peter Benevides** (Engine 1, group 2) and his wife, **Kelly L. Benevides**, on the birth of **Kennedy L. Benevides**. Kennedy was born on 29 Jan 2010. She weighed in at 7 pounds, 8 ½ ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long.

Promotions

Per **GO #01 of 2010** and Effective **Sunday, February 14, 2010** at 0700 hours:

- Acting Deputy Fire Chief **Edward B. Morrissey** promoted to **Deputy Fire Chief**
- Acting Fire Captain **Thomas F. Cahill** promoted to **Fire Captain**

- Acting Fire Lieutenant **Brian D. Albert** promoted to **Fire Lieutenant**
 - Acting Fire Lieutenant **Paul Marinelli** promoted to **Fire Lieutenant**
-

Retirements

Per **GO #02 of 2010** and effective February 19, 2010, at 1900 Hours, **Deputy Fire Chief Robert Scott** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Deputy Fire Chief Robert Scott was appointed on March 17, 1985.

- May 5, 1985 Engine Company No. 5
 - April 16, 1989 Promoted to Fire Lieutenant, Assigned to Emergency Management
 - December 1, 1989 Engine Company No. 3
 - March 31, 1991 Ladder Company No. 2
 - October 2, 1994 Acting Captain, Engine Company No. 3
 - November 20, 1994 Promoted to Captain, Engine Company No. 3
 - July 20, 1997 Ladder Company No. 2
 - May 2, 1999 Promoted to Deputy Fire Chief, Assigned to Division 2
 - May 9, 1999 Fire Prevention
 - January 16, 2000 Training Division
 - March 10, 2002 Division 2
 - September 13, 2009 Headquarters
-

Per **GO #04 of 2010** and effective March 12, 2010 at 1900 Hours, **Firefighter William J. McGovern** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter William McGovern was appointed on March 6, 1983.

- April 17, 1983 Engine Company No. 5
-

Per **GO #05 of 2010** and effective March 17, 2010 at 1900 Hours, **Firefighter Joseph J. Waddie III** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter Joseph Waddie was appointed on March 17, 1985.

- May 5, 1985 Engine Company No. 8
 - May 13, 1990 Engine Company No. 1
 - June 11, 2000 Engine Company No. 9
 - January 6, 2008 Engine Company No. 8
-

Per **GO #06 of 2010** and effective February 26, 2010 at 1900 Hours, **Firefighter Philip A. Paris** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter Philip Paris was appointed on May 7, 1978.

- July 2, 1978 Engine Company No. 3
 - April 27, 1980 Aerial Tower No. 1
 - September 12, 1993 Engine Company No. 3
 - January 18, 1998 Ladder Company No. 2
 - January 6, 2008 Headquarters
-

Per **GO #07 of 2010** and effective March 6, 2010 at 0700 Hours, **Firefighter Wayne P. Ferguson** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter Ferguson was appointed on April 11, 1993.

- June 27, 1993 Engine Company No. 8
 - September 28, 2008 Engine Company No. 1
 - November 15, 2009 Engine Company No. 8
-

Transfers and Assignments

Per **GO #03 of 2010** and effective on Sunday, March 14, 2010 at 0700 hours:

- **Fire Lieutenant Brian D. Albert** from Engine Company No. 9 to Engine Company No. 3
- **Fire Lieutenant Earl Howard** from Engine Company No. 3 to Engine Company No. 9
- **FF Charles P. Babineau** from Engine Company No. 2 to Engine Company No. 4
- **FF Clemente J. Pinto** from Engine Company No. 3 to Engine Company No. 5
- **FF Stephan B. Jeffres** from Engine Company No. 3 to Engine Company No. 4
- **FF Kenneth J. Hugh** from Engine Company No. 4 to Engine Company No. 3
- **FF Philip J. Dooley** from Ladder Company No. 4 to Engine Company No. 9
- **FF George J. Vendetti** from Engine Company No. 6 to Headquarters
- **FF Justin C. Cully** from Ladder Company No. 2 to Engine Company No. 8
- **FFOP Joseph F. Fournier** from Engine Company No. 3 to Engine Company No. 2
- **FF Brian D. Gallant** to Ladder Company No. 3
- **FFOP Darryn DeGrace** to Engine Company No. 8
- **FFOP Paul C. Enos** to Engine Company No. 4
- **FFOP Silvio S. Estrada** to Engine Company No. 3
- **FFOP Kenneth B. Flibotte** to Engine Company No. 2
- **FFOP Jeffrey C. Keefe** to Ladder Company No. 4
- **FFOP Michael F. Lencki** to Ladder Company No. 2
- **FFOP Jose T. Lora** to Engine Company No. 8
- **FFOP Robert P. McCarthy** to Engine Company No. 8
- **FFOP R. Nicholas Menard** to Engine Company No. 3
- **FFOP Peter Melo** to Engine Company No. 6
- **FFOP Ian S. Moynihan** to Ladder Company No. 4

Status of Firefighter

Per **GO No of 2010** and effective at 0700 hours on March 29, 2010, F.F.O.P. **Joseph F. Fournier** has reached the status of **Firefighter**.

Commendations:

CAMBRIDGE FIRE HEADQUARTERS
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

March 17, 2010

GENERAL ORDER NO. 08, SERIES OF 2010

TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER

RE: **Member Commendations and Unit Citations for actions at Still Alarm, Incident #8005720 for 402 Rindge Avenue on 5 March 2010**

On the recommendation of Fire Lieutenant James M. Gomes, Jr. of Squad No. 4, the following members and units are commended:

Members

Acting Fire Lieutenant/EMT Edmund J. Friel, Jr., Firefighter/EMT Renrick Clarke, and Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew F. Mello, all of Engine Company No. 4

Units

Squad No. 4: Fire Lieutenant/Paramedic James M. Gomes, Jr. and Firefighter/EMT Kevin P. Mercer (Rescue Company No. 1 detailed to Squad 4)

Professional Ambulance Paramedic Unit No. 1: Paramedic Travis Jones and Paramedic Andrew Kahn

On the evening of Friday, March 5, 2010 at 2347 hours, Fire Alarm received a call regarding a pregnant female. Due to a language barrier, there was difficulty determining the exact nature of the call. Fire Alarm dispatched Engine 4 and a BLS unit to 402 Rindge Avenue. Upon Engine 4's arrival, Fire Alarm was informed that the delivery was imminent. At that time, Squad 4 was dispatched. Engine 4 proceeded to the apartment and found a mother on the floor with an unresponsive baby beneath her on a carpeted floor. Engine 4 (Acting Lt. Friel, FF Mello, and FF Clarke) quickly assessed the situation and went to work. A/Lt. Friel and FF Clarke prepared to cut the umbilical cord. A/Lt. Friel cut the cord while FF Mello continuously suctioned the child. Both of these actions produced a strong and vigorous cry. The baby's skin color was still pale, so A/Lt. Friel, FF Mello and FF Clarke provided "blow-by" oxygen which soon produced a pink color to the baby's skin.

At this time, Squad 4 (FLt. James Gomes and FF Kevin Mercer) and Professional Ambulance Paramedic Unit 1 (Paramedic Travis Jones and Paramedic Andrew Kahn) arrived and assisted Engine 4 with the baby's care. The baby was dried, warmed, and stimulated, all of which provided positive results. The initial apgar score was 9. The Pro members helped the mother deliver the placenta and monitored her for any complications.

When mother and baby were stabilized, the uncle of the child asked to perform a Muslim prayer announcing the child's arrival.

Mom and baby were then transported to the Mount Auburn Hospital's Labor and Delivery floor by P1 with Squad 4 on board. A five minute apgar revealed a score of 8, while continuous "blow-by" oxygen was given enroute. Mother and child were placed in Labor and Delivery room 2 with a full report given to the obstetrician and nurses. It was determined that the baby was a beautiful, healthy, little girl, weighing 6 pounds 15 ounces. The father was profoundly touched by the rapid response, excellent and compassionate care that was given to his wife and daughter. Engine 4 (A/Lt. Edmund J. Friel, Jr., FF Renrick Clarke, and FF Andrew F. Mello) should be commended for their actions.

Upon this recommendation of Fire Lieutenant James M. Gomes, the above members are commended. Their life-supporting actions were in the highest tradition of the Cambridge Fire Department. The members of Squad No.4 and Professional Ambulance Paramedic Unit No. 1 are also cited for their professional actions in this teamwork effort to provide the highest level of medical care to our citizens. Additionally, Fire Lt. Gomes is cited for his leadership and coordination at this incident.

Per Order,

Gerald R. Reardon
Chief of Department

CAMBRIDGE FIRE HEADQUARTERS
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

March 17, 2010

GENERAL ORDER NO. 09, SERIES OF 2010

TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER

RE: **Commendation of Firefighter Reneau Cherant of Engine Company No. 2 for actions assisting the victims of the earthquake in Haiti**

Firefighter/Paramedic Reneau Cherant of Engine Company no. 2, relying on his skills as a paramedic and as a Cambridge Engine Company No. 2 firefighter, responded to Haiti to provide medical care to the earthquake victims in Haiti. Firefighter Cherant, volunteering his time and skill and assuming his own expenses, worked with the SANTE FANM AK LA FANMI organization to help provide medical services to the injured people in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

FF Cherant specifically provided his services at The Service Community Clinic in Petion-Ville and two other local clinics in Port au Prince. FF Cherant was in Haiti for a week, and in that time treated hundreds of patients in difficult, post-earthquake conditions. He treated people with a variety of medical issues including dehydration, hypotension,

physical and psychological trauma, and pregnancy. Firefighter Cherant treated infants and children, as well as adults.

Firefighter/Paramedic Cherant's work ethic and his dedication to help people in distress are a credit to the City of Cambridge and the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter Reneau Cherant is commended for his actions, which are in the highest tradition of the Cambridge Fire Department.

Per Order,

Gerald R. Reardon
Chief of Department

Through the Lantern Lens



Through the Lantern Lens

by Mose Humphrey

Many companies come and go to headquarters daily for equipment, fuel and supplies and pass by Memorial Hall without realizing a serious (and almost fatal) fire occurred there years ago. Many think that Memorial Hall is a church, but it is actually a multi-use building built by Harvard to honor those students and teachers that were killed during the Civil War.

According to the Harvard Crimson newspaper dated March 30, 1904 "*A small fire due to overheated ovens, broke out about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon in the basement of Memorial Hall. Sparks were drawn up the ventilating shaft and set fire to its interior. Before the engines arrived, however, the flames were completely under control. The only damage done was to the ventilator and some electric light wires.*"

Presumably due to the fire in March – in June, 1904 the Crimson also reported "*It has been decided to erect permanent fire escapes on Sanders Theatre. They will be made of wrought iron and will be built into the walls in the same positions as the wooden steps which were erected for the performance of Hamlet. Owing to the unsatisfactory plans which were at first submitted, the fire escapes have not yet been put in position. The contract, however, calls for their completion by Friday.*"

However, the most newsworthy fire occurred on September 6, 1956, when the top portion of the tower was lost in a fire that was reportedly ignited by a welder's torch during maintenance. This fire in the bell tower was caused by workers re-flashing the roof. At the time, the building was partially sprinklered in the theater and basement only. The clock tower was 175 feet tall.

Box 48 was struck and upon arrival of fire crews, fire was showing from the top and sides of the tower. Ladder 1 set up their aerial and Engine 5 assisted Ladder 1 with throwing a 45 foot pole ladder to the building on the Broadway side. It was also claimed that due to unstable ground, Ladder 1 partially tipped over with the aerial resting against the building, nearly knocking a firefighter on the aerial to the ground. Because the ladders would not reach, Engine 5 and Rescue 1 took a 150 foot hauling line to the room with the round window and dropped the hauling line to the ground ladder to get a hose line into the higher part of the tower. The hose line was put into use cooling the ceiling and spraying burning embers in the ventilation shaft. It became apparent that access to the clock tower where the fire was burning was virtually impossible. The hose line burst several times from the high pressure needed to overcome back pressure/elevation and the lines were replaced and put back into operation.

Unbeknownst to the crew, the fire had dropped below them trapping Engine 5 and Rescue 1. The Rescue had all-service breathing masks, but the engine had no breathing equipment – normal at the time. The crews hunkered in the room trying to come up with an escape plan – as the visibility went to black and the heat became unbearable, some considered sliding down the fire hose, or jumping out the windows to the ladders far below while others took turns getting fresh air at the open window. Amazingly, Ladder 1 maneuvered a 35' ground ladder up their aerial to the roof and attempted to throw the ladder to another window from the flat roof. Luckily, the supports for the counter weights for the bells were damaged and they failed, dropping through the ceiling and floor, moderately venting the room. The crews were able to see a partially complete catwalk along the outside wall and were able to walk (or run) single file out to a fire escape where they were able to get out before the room became engulfed in flames. The fire was eventually brought under control. Companies that responded included Engine 1, Engine 4, Engine 5, Engine 6, Engine 8, Ladder 1, Ladder 3, Ladder 4 and Rescue 1.

So despite the claims by the “Unofficial Hah-vid Tour” seen passing by headquarters during the sunny, warmer months *“that their beautiful building was almost destroyed, even though the fire station was right across the street”*, it could have been far worse. On the contrary, we managed to save their precious building despite almost losing many firefighters during the course of it!

*Parts of the story were excerpted from Connie O'Brien's book “**Where it was Hot.**”*



From the Archives



Ladder 1 1987: **FF Tom Casey** (Ladder 1), **FLt. Bob Morrissey** (deceased), **FF Dan Harrington** (now Engine 6), and **FF Gerry Mahoney** (now DFC – EPAC)
This picture was taken at Somerville Box 3-426 on 27 Feb 1987.

- photo by **Bill Noonan** (Boston Fire - K7)

Cornerstone Baptist Church Box 5-72: This 5-alarm fire occurred on 1 November 1979. The site at the corner of Massachusetts Av. and Cogswell Av. is now a hi-rise condo building.

- Box 72 was transmitted at 0403 hours
- 2nd alarm at 0417
- 3rd alarm at 0436
- 4th alarm at 0456
- 5th alarm at 0503

Division 2 Deputy Fire Chief Leo Cremins was the IC. This was Chief of Department William Cremins's last fire.





Aerial Tower 1, the 1971 Sutphen



Engine 1's wagon, the 1000 gpm, 1977 American LaFrance 55' Sqr operating on the Alpha Side



Auxiliary Firefighter **Gerry Mahoney** (Engine 11, Now Deputy Fire Chief – EPAC)
The Auxiliary Engine 11 Officer in the background is **Joe O'Hare, Jr.** (now a Paramedic Supervisor with Boston EMS)

- photos above by **Bill Noonan** (Boston Fire K7)

Signal 10-15

The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of **Firefighter Walter F. Seeley** of Engine Company No. 7 - retired. Firefighter Seeley was appointed to the Cambridge Fire Department on 29 March 1970. His assignments were as follows:

29 March 1970	Engine Company No. 6
2 January 1983	Engine Company No. 7
5 May 1985	Headquarters

FF Seeley retired on 1 August 1990. He died on 14 January 2010. He was born on 8 July 1939. Firefighter Seeley was a veteran of the United States Air Force.

We regret to announce the death of **Mr. Gilbert S. Silvestre, Jr.**, Cambridge Fire Alarm Operator – retired.

Condolences to:

- **Deputy Fire Chief Gerry Mahoney** (EPAC) on the death of his mother-in-law, **Mrs. Dorothy F. Amerault**.
 - **Firefighter John Bell** (Rescue 1) on the death of his wife's grandfather, **Mr. Rufus Clark**.
 - **Fire Captain Charles Murphy** (Engine 9) on the death of his aunt, **Enes Donnelly**. Mrs. Donnelly is the mother of **State Senator Kenneth Donnelly**.
 - **Fire Lieutenant Michael A. Donovan** (Squad 4) on the death of his father, **Mr. Alfred J. Donovan**
 - **Firefighter Adam Shuman**, (Rescue 1) on the death of his brother-in-law, **Cambridge Police Officer Joseph J. Savioli** (retired)
 - **Firefighter Howard Smith** (Truck 1) on the death of his uncle, **Mr. Robert Conway**
 - **FCapt. Robert Morrissey** (Engine 2), **DFC Michael Morrissey** (Division 1), and **DFC Edward Morrissey** (Division 1) on the death of cousin, **Donna Morrissey**. Ms. Morrissey was the daughter of **FLt. Lawrence Morrissey** (Engine 7 retired), and the niece of **FF Edward Morrissey** (Truck 2 – retired) and **FLT. Robert Morrissey** (Truck 1 – deceased).
 - **Chief of Operations John Gelinas** on the death of his aunt, **Mrs. Leona O'Connor**.
 - **Firefighter Robert J. McNamara** (Engine 3 - retired) on the death of his wife, **Marie D. McNamara**. Mrs. McNamara is the sister-in-law of **FLt. Alan Beggelman** (Engine 8 – retired).
-

Letters

The following two letters were received concerning the 12 Jan 2010, 41 Magnolia Av. fire at Box 2-613. Several ferrets were rescued by Fire Department members.

Harvey
Cedar Terrace
Hilton, NY 14468

City of Cambridge Fire Department
Cambridge, Massachusetts

To the staff and supporters,

There's nothing random about your acts of kindness. We are so thankful for you.

You haven't heard it enough, so .

Thank You

Master Toby, Busy Izzy, Tick and Tock too.

19 Jan 2010
Rochester, NY

Dear Firefighters:

I'd like to express my gratitude for the successful job in Cambridge on Magnolia Ave. last week.

I'm sorry firefighters were injured and hope all are well on the road to recovery.

I am a ferret owner and involved in rescue and support of shelters. These 4 furkids, Stevie, Bandit, Carmella, and Rudy are making a good recovery with support of many across the country. I suspect you have heard or will hear from many regarding the rescue of the residents and their pets.

Ferret lovers have a bond as strong as that of firefighters and law enforcement. Their ability to move mountains is awesome.

Thank you for the extra effort to find the last little lives inside affected by this fire.

Best to you always – Stay safe

Cathy Ryan
Rochester, NY.

Waltham Fire Department
175 Lexington Street
Waltham, MA 02452

January 11, 2010

Chief Gerald Reardon
Cambridge Fire Department
491 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Chief Reardon:

I would like to thank you and the members of your department for the sympathy and support shown to the Bergeron family and this department during the wake and funeral of Firefighter Robert J. Bergeron

The men and equipment supplied by Cambridge Fire Department to the City of Waltham allowed all of our on duty members to participate in the process of honoring Firefighter Bergeron. Your efforts and those of your men helped us through a trying time.

Sincerely,

Richard Cardillo

Chief of Department

The following was received via e-mail:

Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 10:41 AM
To: Reardon, Gerry
Subject: Thank you for fire prevention work

Dear Chief Reardon,

This is just to let you know that recently I was concerned about the lack of a fire door at an apartment building in Cambridge where my son, a graduate student, lives on an upper floor, in a building containing dozens of students. I contacted Lieutenant Towski in your Fire Prevention office and he got on it very fast. Within a few days, my son told me that work was already underway to install a door. As I have some background in emergency management, I was aware of the dangerousness of an open stairwell. So, I very much appreciate this quick work by Lt. Towski and by your department.

With thanks,

Ernest Sternberg
Ranch Trail West
Amherst, NY 14221

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety
Department of Fire Services
Stow, Massachusetts 01775

March 4, 2010

Dear Chief Reardon:

It is my distinct pleasure to commend the outstanding manner in which Captain Frederick Ikels and Firefighter Craig Yearwood represented the Cambridge Fire Department working with Cambridge Students and CEA TV. The Massachusetts Association of Safety and Fire Educators and the state Department of Fire Services in conjunction with the MA Property Insurance Underwriting Association and the Shriners Hospital recently sponsored a YouTube Burn Awareness Video Contest for high school students. The professional demeanor and good solid information provided by these two men during the taping stand as a fine example to all who watch and are characteristic of the best traditions of the Cambridge Fire Department.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mieth
Public Education Manager
Office of the State Fire Marshal

The following was received via e-mail:

04 March 2010

To: CAPT Lawrence Brogan
Cambridge Fire Department
Department
Engine Company 4

LT Carroll
Cambridge Fire
Ladder Company 4

From: CAPT Mary Jo (O'Dwyer) Majors, NC, USNR
Dudley Street
N. Cambridge, MA 02140

Subj: Note of appreciation from a grateful North Cambridge resident

Dear CAPT Brogan and LT Carroll,

The purpose of this note is to give you and your firefighters a note of appreciation from a very grateful resident.

I found out from the department's main office that you are both in charge respectively of Engine 4 in Porter Square and Ladder 4 on Garden Street.
(Captain, I do not have LT Carroll's business email address so I would appreciate your sharing this note with him.).

I am a Captain (O-6) in the US Navy Nurse Corps, still perform monthly reserve duty, and had returned home a few years ago to live in the home where I, as well as my mother's family, grew up.

I know what it is like to respond to emergencies (whether real or false alarms) and I wanted to be sure to take the time to pass on my thanks to your engine company and the ladder company for doing what you all do the best!

Incident:

On Sunday, 2/14/10, at 2244, the smoke alarm on my first floor was triggered and it was communicated via my ADT security system to the fire department dispatch.

The smoke alarm went off due to some smoke generated from some popcorn kernels that began to burn while cooking in the microwave that was near the smoke alarm in the kitchen.

I was so surprised that it triggered the alarm that I tried to cancel the alarm with ADT but they could not.

I then heard the fire sirens and saw the truck outside my house!

I know that your departments have an outstanding reputation as responding quickly but it seemed like 'lightening speed' to me that night!

I had never been home to witness a smoke or fire alarm at the house and was in awe of the super readiness response! Congratulations on such superb action!

The firefighters entered my front porch, I met them at the door, explained the problem, and it was obvious to all as the burnt popcorn smell had permeated to the front of the house by that time. Situation was cleared.

I apologized to them for what happened and they were so kind and gracious and thankful that it was not something more serious that had triggered the alarm.

I cannot tell you enough how very embarrassed I was/am that this had happened, and that I caused your firemen and equipment to be taken away from the fire houses and from their availability to respond to other fire alarms that might have come in during this time.

I caused your resources to be used for a minor incident and I do apologize for that.

I know what it is like to serve 'in uniform' as I have been doing this for 41 years. You and your firefighters certainly are a very special group of men and women in uniform!

You serve the citizens of our city and put your lives on the line every day, and probably not always thanked enough for what you do.

Therefore I would like to do something special to extend my appreciation to the firemen at both the engine and ladder companies.

I would be very grateful if both of you would contact me, via my email or my cell phone, and give me the best phone numbers to contact you both so that I could find out how to make this thank you happen at your firehouses.

In the meantime, please pass on my appreciation and my apology again to the Fire Fighters that responded to the alarm that night.

Very respectfully,
CAPT Majors

Editor's note: Engine 4 and Truck 4 were assigned to the above incident, I# 09008346 at 2243 hours on 14 Feb 2010.

Members operating at the incident were:

*Engine 4: **A/LT. Kenneth Hugh, FFs Charles Babineau and Hugh Devlin***

*Truck 4: **FLT. Thomas Carroll, FFs Lawrence Pacios and Edrice Vincent***

Belmont Fire Department
Headquarters
299 Trapelo Road
Belmont, Massachusetts 02478

March 8, 2010

Chief Gerald Reardon

Cambridge Fire Department
491 Broadway
Cambridge, Ma 02138

Dear Chief Reardon:

On behalf of myself, the Town of Belmont, and the Belmont Fire Department, I would like to personally offer my thanks to you and your Department for helping make the dedication of the Firefighter Roland A. Weatherbee Fire Headquarters an enormous success. It was thanks in large part to the Cambridge Fire Department being able to

provide station coverage during the event, thereby allowing our on-duty crews to participate. Please extend my personal thanks to the crews of Engine 9 and ladder 4.

The dedication gave the community a chance to truly understand the effect that Rollie's sacrifice has left on his family, the Belmont Fire Department, and all others that were touched in his life and subsequently in his passing. Thank you for making this day so special to Rollie's family and friends.

Your support of this great event is very much appreciated and will always be remembered.

Sincerely

David L. Frizzell
Chief of Department

Earthquake in Haiti

Thanks to **Firefighter Paramedic Reneau Cherant** (Engine 2, group 1) who volunteered to serve and provide medical care to victims of the recent earthquake in Haiti. The following is Firefighter Cherant's narrative about his mission to Haiti.

I am back from my journey in Haiti. First, I want to thank you for the coverage. It was a great experience for me and the other volunteers, it was seven of us that went to help the victims in Haiti; we brought 30 pieces of luggage that had medical supplies, medications, clothes, diapers, formulas and our personal belongings. The first day, we went to a camp that had about two hundred and fifty tents, we saw a lot of people that needed help with rebandaging an old area that was bandaged since the day after the earthquake, people with hypotension, pregnant females that needed consultation, put in IV's and gave fluid to some people that were dehydrated, people complaining of abdominal pain, headache and infections. We revisited that camp the next day and saw more people who needed help.

We also visited an orphanage that had kids that lost their parents in the earthquake; babies that were sick with fever, diarrhea and vomiting, they were also sharing cribs and bottles. We visited the downtown area of Port au Prince, a lot of collapsed buildings and houses and while driving in some areas, we had to put up our windows because the smell of dead bodies was very strong. At night they had some streets that cars could not drive through because people were sleeping in the street. Their houses were not stable enough or they thought another earthquake was coming. It was sad when it was time to leave because I know they are going to need more help, but I was glad that I had the opportunity to help out.

FF Reneau Cherant was officially commended per General Order # 09 series 0f 2010 for his extraordinary efforts.

The photos below show FF Cherant's work and some of the people he treated.





America's Heroes

Lieutenant Colonel Joseph J. McCarthy, USMC



Joseph Jeremiah McCarthy was born on 10 August 1911 in Chicago, Illinois. On 19 February 1933 he enlisted in the **United States Marine Corps** Reserve in Chicago, serving for 8 years and rising to the rank of 1st Sergeant. On 22 Feb 1940, Joseph McCarthy became a member of the **Chicago Fire Department** and one month later was assigned to **Truck 11**, located at 9 East 36th Place in a house built in 1886. Truck Company 11 was the busiest truck company in the City of Chicago at this time. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, he reenlisted in the Marine Corps. In the summer of 1942, he was promoted to Second Lieutenant and was assigned to the Fourth Marine Division.

He was sent overseas in January of 1944. While deployed, he took part in the Roi-Namur, Saipan-Tinian, and Iwo Jima campaigns. He was awarded the Silver Star for heroism as commanding officer of George Rifle Company of the Second Battalion, Twenty-Fourth Marines, Fourth Marine Division on Saipan in 1944. He received the Purple Heart with Gold Star for wounds received in action on Saipan and Iwo Jima.

On 21 February 1945, when Japanese defenses held up his company's advance across the island, he fearlessly led an attack across hostile terrain to annihilate a series of enemy emplacements. On 21 February 1945, as a captain, he earned the Medal of Honor on Iwo Jima, while leading an assault team across exposed ground to wipe out positions holding up the advance of his company. For his "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life" at that time, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. "I was scared all the time," McCarthy said later. "Any man tells you he wasn't scared was an imbecile. But you dealt with it." On 5 October 1945, in ceremonies at the White House, **President Harry S. Truman** presented the medal to Captain McCarthy. President Truman told McCarthy, "I'd rather have one of these than be President."

In 1949, McCarthy drove from Maine to North Carolina visiting the families of 26 Marines who had been killed in action on Iwo Jima. He told the families that each one of them had been just as brave as he was, just not as lucky. On 17 March 1959, McCarthy was honored as the Grand Marshal of the City of Chicago's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Following World War II he remained in the Marine Corps Reserve, retiring in 1971 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In civilian life, he resumed his duties as a Chicago Firefighter assigned to Truck 11. Following his discharge from active duty on 28 Jan 1946, he was reinstated from Military Leave of Absence and was promoted to Supervisor of Ambulances of the Chicago Fire Department. During his watch as Supervisor of Ambulances, the number of Chicago Fire Department ambulances increased from 4 to 33. The level of emergency medical training of members and services to the public greatly increased. Joseph J. McCarthy may be the only Firefighter recipient of the Medal of Honor.

Joseph J. McCarthy died on 15 June 1996. Following a funeral at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, he was buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia. Colonel McCarthy's Medal of Honor is displayed at the City of Chicago Quinn Fire Academy.

Historian **Bill D. Ross** wrote about McCarthy in 1985:

"McCarthy was thirty three; overage for a company commander. He was Irish and he looked it: husky, red complexioned, pug nose. Superior officers sometimes found his manner abrasive, but unlike many Irishmen, he wasn't talkative. He was, in fact, laconic and tight-lipped. "I don't like malarkey or bull," the Chicagoan often said. But Joe McCarthy knew the uncompromising business of battle; he had the Silver Star for leading his company up a savagely contested hill on Saipan and his men called him "the best damned officer in the Marine Corps."

Medal of Honor citation of Captain John Jeremiah McCarthy, USMCR

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Commanding Officer of a Rifle Company attached to the Second Battalion, Twenty-fourth Marines, FOURTH Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces during the seizure of Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, on 21 February 1945. Determined to break through the enemy's cross-island defenses, Captain McCarthy acted on his own initiative when his company advance was held up by uninterrupted Japanese rifle, machine-gun and high velocity 47-mm. fire during the approach to Motoyama Airfield No.8. Quickly organizing a demolitions and flame-thrower team to accompany his handpicked rifle squad, he fearlessly led the way across 75 yards of fire-swept ground, charged a heavily fortified pillbox on the ridge of the front and, personally hurling hand grenades into the emplacement as he directed the combined operations of his small assault group, completely destroyed the hostile installation. Spotting two Japanese soldiers attempting to escape from the shattered pillbox, he boldly stood upright in full view of the enemy and dispatched both troops before advancing to a second emplacement under greatly intensified fire and then blasted the strong fortifications with a well-planned demolitions attack. Subsequently entering the ruins, he found a Japanese taking aim at one of our men and, with alert presence of mind, jumped the enemy, disarmed and shot him with his own weapon. Then, intent on smashing through the narrow breach, he rallied the remainder of his company and pressed a full attack with furious aggressiveness until he had neutralized all resistance and captured the ridge. An inspiring leader and indomitable fighter, Captain McCarthy consistently disregarded all personal danger during the fierce conflict and, by his brilliant professional skill, daring tactics, and tenacious perseverance in the face of overwhelming odds, contributed materially to the success of his division's operations against this savagely defended outpost of the Japanese Empire. His cool decision and outstanding valor reflect the highest credit upon Captain McCarthy and enhance the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service."



Lance Corporal Joseph C. McCarthy

Unrelated to Lt. Colonel Joseph J. McCarthy, **Lance Corporal Joseph C. McCarthy** gave his life for his country on 6 Sept 2004 while assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA engaging the enemy in Anbar Province, Iraq. McCarthy, age 21, in his second deployment to Iraq, was one of seven Marines killed on 6 September 2004 as a vehicle bomb was detonated near a United States military convoy outside Fallujah. United States Marine Lance Corporal Joseph C. McCarthy is one of America's heroes.

References

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Little, Ken and McNalis, John, *History of Chicago Fire Houses of the 19th Century*, Chicago, IL, 1996.

Thanks also to **Fire Captain Pat Maloney** (Chicago Squad 2) and **James Regan**, *Starr Tech-Chicago*, for their assistance.

Information

Please submit any information, photographs, or narratives for inclusion in the **Company Journal**.

E-mail list

If any retirees or friends of the Cambridge Fire Department wish to be added to the **Company Journal** e-mail list, send us the e-mail address!

Websites

Visit the Cambridge Fire Department website at www.Cambridgefire.org

Check out Cambridge Firefighters Local 30's website at <http://www.cambridgelocal30.org/>

Visit the Cambridge Retirement Board website at <http://www.cambridgeretirementma.gov/index.asp>



“A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both.”

- President Dwight D. Eisenhower

REMEMBER THE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING IN OUR ARMED SERVICES
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
THEY ARE PROTECTING OUR COUNTRY, OUR LIBERTY, AND OUR FREEDOM.
THANK OUR VETERANS!



**Brothers and Sisters,
STAY BRAVE!**

**STAY VIGILANT!
STAY SAFE!**

-jjg

*John J. Gelinas
Chief of Operations
Cambridge Fire Department
491 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02138*