

**Gelinas, John**

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**From:** Gelinas, John  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2006 15:49  
**To:** \*All Fire Employees  
**Cc:** \*All ECC Employees  
**Subject:** Company Journal - Issue 37



## **The Company Journal** **and "The Feederline"**

**Fire Department News**  
*Cambridge, Massachusetts*

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*From the desk of*  
**Chief Gerald R. Reardon**

*Issue #37*  
*Friday, 20 January 2006*

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***All Companies Working***

**Four alarms** were ordered from **Box 4-571** for the building fully-involved on arrival at 163 Brattle Street, the former Dr. Land residence. The initial alarm was an Engine 9, Truck 4 still to investigate smoke in the area at 0023 hours on 8 December 2005. Photos below were taken by **F.Lt. Brian Higgins, FF Walter Grace, DFC Dan Turner, and FF John Bell**. Additional photos of this fire and other fires are available in the photo gallery on the CFD website.



- photos above by **F.Lt. Brian Higgins**, Fire Investigation Unit

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- photos above by **FF Walter Grace**, Division 1

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- photos above by *DFC Dan Turner, Fire Prevention*

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**The Morning After - Box 4-571**





**FF David Croak (Engine Company #1)**



**F.Lt. David House (Engine 1, Group 1), DFC John Cotter (Division 2, Group 1), and Chief of Department Gerry Reardon**

- photos above by **FF John Bell** (Engine Company #1)

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Photos below: **Memorial Drive** - Engine 1, Truck 1, Rescue 1, and Division 1 operate at an incident where a small truck collided with a lamp post and overturned. Group 2 was on duty.



- photos above by **F.Lt. Brian Higgins, FIU**

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### **What's New**

During the Middlesex District Annual Award Ceremonies on 15 December 2005, The **Cambridge Fire Department** was presented with The "**September 11th Award**," the **Special Achievement Award for 2005** by

**Middlesex District Attorney Martha Coakley.** The "September 11th Award" was presented to the Cambridge Fire Department for the "contribution and sacrifice to promote fire safety on behalf of the citizens of Cambridge."

In addition to the Cambridge Fire Department, several municipal Police Officers (including members of Framingham and Everett PDs), Massachusetts State Police Troopers, Middlesex Assistant District Attorneys, and Middlesex District Attorney's Office staff personnel received awards. There are 54 communities in the Middlesex District. The population is approximately 1.5 million, in an area of 848 square miles, one of the most densely populated districts in the country. Cambridge is the county seat. As a county, Middlesex County was abolished in 1997. Middlesex now exists as a legal venue and administrative district within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

As reported in a ***Boston Globe*** column by **Sasha Talcott**, the Bank of America in Harvard Square is Bank of America's busiest branch in the country. "The United States averages one ATM every 8 square mile. Harvard Square has at least 50 ATMs in a two-block radius," according to Janis Gebron, the branch manager. David Gosnell, editor of ATM and Debit News, "knows of no other location outside casinos and airports with that many ATMs."

On Friday, 13 Jan 2006, the "**Badge Pinning**" ceremony was held at city hall for all members appointed or promoted within 2005. City officials and family members participated. During the ceremony, **Firefighter Fred Sage** (Technical Services), **Fire Captain Greg Carter** (Squad 4), and **Fire Apparatus Mechanic Steve Lopez** (Tech Services) received the **Barron Family Award** from **Mr. Carl Barron**. This award is given to department members who have demonstrated administrative excellence while carrying out their assigned duties.

### **Congratulations**

Congrats to **FFOP Nathan Jarvi** (Engine Company #5) and his wife, **Corinne** on the birth of **Jordan Theresa Jarvi**. Jordan Theresa was born on 7 Jan 2006 at 0907 hours. She weighed in at 6 pounds, 10 ozs and was 19 inches long. Jordan Theresa joins **Duncan**, age 3 1/2, as the newest member of the Jarvi family.

### **Retirements**

#### **Deputy Fire Chief Thomas P. Stack**

Per G.O. #38 of 2005, effective January 3, 2006, at 1700 Hours, **Deputy Fire Chief Thomas P. Stack** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Deputy Chief Stack was appointed on August 13, 1972 and assigned to Ladder Company No. 2.

- January 27, 1974                      Ladder Company No. 1
- December 5, 1976                    Acting Lieutenant Engine Company No. 2
- March 13, 1977                        Promoted to Lieutenant Engine Company No. 2
- July 2, 1978                            Ladder Company No. 4
- December 2, 1979                     Engine Company No. 5
- January 10, 1982                      Acting Captain Engine Company No. 5
- May 9, 1982                            Promoted to Captain Engine Company No. 5
- January 2, 1983                        Ladder Company No. 3
- September 16, 1984                    Engine Company No. 5
- May 17, 1987                          Acting Deputy Chief
- July 15, 1987                          Promoted to Deputy Chief
- April 9, 1995                            Division II
- April 7, 1996                            Division I
- March 10, 2002                        Detailed to Training Division

- November 2, 2003                      Division I

Deputy Fire Chief Stack served as Dive Master, commanded Marine Operations, Dive Rescue and Confined Space Unit

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### **Firefighter Frazier S. Proffitt**

Per G.O. #39 of 2005, effective December 27, 2005, at 1700 Hours, **Firefighter Frazier S. Proffitt** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter Proffitt was appointed on March 17, 1985 and assigned to the Cambridge Firefighting Academy.

- May 5, 1985                      Aerial Tower Company No. 1
  - August 27, 1995                Ladder Company No. 3
- 

### **Firefighter Edmund F. Gildea**

Per G.O. #40 of 2005, effective December 27, 2005, at 1700 Hours, **Firefighter Edmund F. Gildea** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter Gildea was appointed on June 18, 1967 and assigned to Engine Company No. 1.

- June 14, 1981                    Ladder Company No. 3
  - June 27, 1993                   Engine Company No. 9
  - December 28, 2003            Fire Headquarters
- 

### **Firefighter John S. Lawless**

Per G.O. #41 of 2005, effective December 27, 2005, at 1700 Hours, **Firefighter John S. Lawless** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter Lawless was appointed on May 5, 1973 and assigned to the Reserve List.

- May 27, 1973                    Engine Company No. 3
  - January 12, 1975                Ladder Company No. 3
  - December 5, 1976               Rescue Company No. 1
  - January 1, 1984                   Engine Company No. 7
  - May 5, 1985                      Engine Company No. 4
  - April 26, 1998                   Fire Headquarters
- 

### **Deputy Fire Chief Stanley T. Kotowski**

Per G.O. #1 of 2006, effective January 13 2006, at 1700 hours, **Deputy Fire Chief Stanley T. Kotowski** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Deputy Chief Kotowski was appointed on August 21, 1966. His assignments were as follows:

- August 21, 1966 Engine Company No. 9
  - November 3, 1968 Engine Company No. 1
  - October 21, 1973 Promoted to Lieutenant Engine Company No. 8
  - December 5, 1976 Engine Company No. 5
  - May 25, 1980 Acting Captain Aerial Tower 1
  - January 4, 1981 Promoted to Captain Aerial Tower 1
  - January 1, 1984 Acting Deputy Chief, Property Officer
  - March 4, 1984 Promoted to Deputy Chief, Property Officer
  - July 8, 1985 Deputy Chief, Division I
  - April 7, 1996 Division II
- 

### **Assignments**

Per G.O. #36 of 2005, effective Sunday, 25 December 2005 at 0700 hours:

**F.F.O.P. Robert J. Crooker** to Engine Company No. 6  
**F.F.O.P. Nathan W. Jarvi** to Engine Company No. 5  
**F.F.O.P. Brian M. Peebles** to Engine Company No. 2



From left to right: **FFOPs Brian Peebles, Robert Crooker, and Nathan Jarvi**

*- photo by Tara Bithia*

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### **Appointments**

Per G.O. #37 of 2005, Effective Sunday, 1 January 2006, at 0700 hours, the following are appointed **Firefighters on Probation** for the Cambridge Fire Department:

**Paul A. Broussard**  
**Justin C. Cully**  
**Kenneth E. Cunningham**  
**Mark E. Davis**  
**Charles L. Donnelly, Jr.**  
**Peter J. Mahoney**  
**Kevin P. Mercer**

**Clemente J. Pinto**  
**David J. Puopolo II**  
**Michael R. Travers, Jr.**  
**Edrice Vincent**

They will report to the Training Division @ 0800 hours on 2 January 2006. They will report to the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, Stow, MA at 0700 hours on 9 January 2006 for 12 weeks of Recruit Firefighter Training.

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### **Commendation**

Per G.O. #35 of 2005, Group Commendation for actions at Fourth Alarm Box 4-571, Incident #05005454, 163 Brattle Street, at 0023 hours on Thursday, 8 December 2005:

The **Members of Group 4** are commended for their professional actions at the above incident. Arriving at this well-advanced building fire in the early morning hours of 8 December 2005, companies rapidly and effectively established multiple water supplies and protected the severely threatened exposure buildings. Through the efforts of this highly motivated and well-trained fire force, this major fire was contained to the building of origin. Although the original fire building was destroyed, fire extension to exposure buildings was quickly knocked down and contained.

Arriving on scene with the building of origin fully involved, with exposures threatened, and with flying brands falling over the neighborhood, this fire had the real potential to consume a large part of West Cambridge. Only through the actions of the members operating at the fire was this fire contained and the neighborhood saved.

In addition to the Cambridge companies operating at the fire, the members of the **Belmont, Brookline, Somerville, and Watertown** fire companies operating at the fire are also commended for their actions in this team effort. Again, the use of mutual-aid companies proved invaluable in protecting the City of Cambridge. The members of the Emergency Communications Center, the Auxiliary Fire Department, and Fire Department Staff and Support Units are also commended for their assistance.

The Incident Commander, **Deputy Fire Chief Francis Murphy III**, is specifically commended for his professional actions at this fire. Leading his men and women in this successful battle to protect the people of Cambridge, Deputy Fire Chief Murphy, without hesitation or trepidation, deployed fire companies and personnel to combat this potential conflagration. His planning and strategy, without question, saved this West Cambridge neighborhood from destruction by fire. The actions of Deputy Fire Chief Murphy and the members operating at this fire again fulfill the Mission Statement of the Cambridge Fire Department, "to protect the lives and property of the people of Cambridge from fires." Under grueling conditions and in intense heat from the fire combined with bitterly cold weather, Deputy Fire Chief Murphy and all Members operated in the highest tradition of the Cambridge Fire Department and are commended for their actions.

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### **Toys for Tots**

Once again Cambridge Firefighters joined with the US Marine Corps Reserve in the annual Toys for Tots Drive. On Monday December 19 a 30' box truck filled with toys for needy children headed to the Marine Corps Reserve Facility in South Boston. Assisting **Fire Captain Gerry Mahoney** in the effort is l to r Fire Department **Mechanic Steve Lopez, Ed Nolan** of International Truck in Medford, and **Fire Lieutenant Jeff Howard** of Engine 2.



- photo by **F.Captain Gerry Mahoney, LEPC**

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### ***Out and About***

Another good reason why people shouldn't park in front of hydrants: Companies recently operated a van fire IFO 12 Howard Street where the van was parked in front of the hydrant. Group 3 was on duty. The fire occurred on Veterans Day, 11 November 2005. Cambridge PD issued a citation for obstructing the fire hydrant before the van was towed.





- photos above by **Fire Lieutenant Jeremy Walsh, Squad #2**

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Photo below: **Cambridge Police Detective Jim Dwyer** recently pulled the pin, retiring after 30 years of service. Detective Dwyer was the CPD partner to the Fire Investigation Unit. Standing with Jim are **Ryan Epps** (Firefighter Somerville Engine Company #2) and daughter, **Patti**. Jim's son, **Michael**, is a firefighter assigned to Ladder Company #1. Wife, **Peg**, is an ECC Supervisor.



- photo above by **F.Lt. Brian Higgins, FIU**

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**From the Archives**



**Captain Paddy Quill**

Paddy Quill is the grandfather of **Firefighter Don Burke** (Ladder Company #2 - retired). Paddy was a volunteer firefighter in the Winchester Fire Department in the early 1900s. The photo above is from the collection of FF Don Burke and was taken around 1910.

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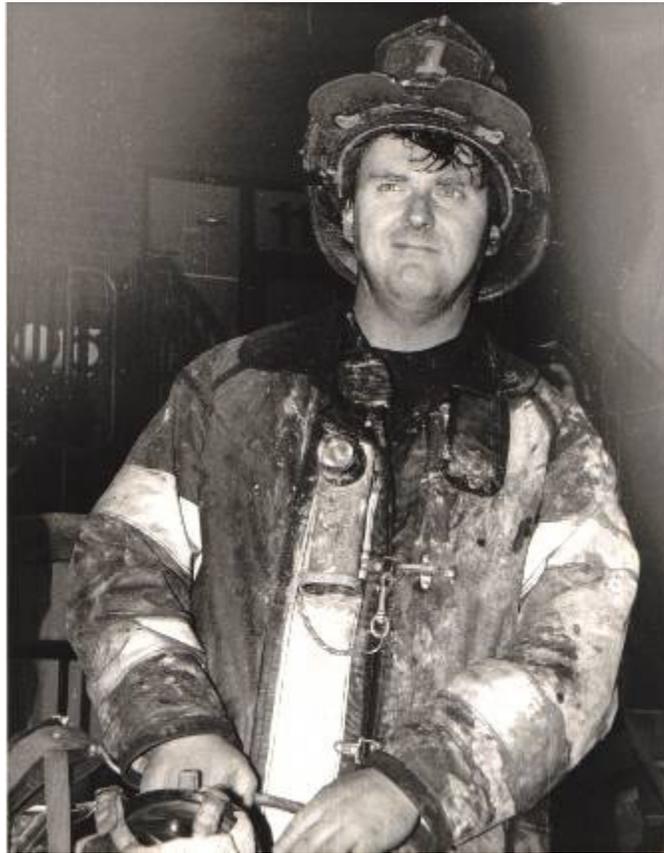
***Have things really changed that much? - Photos from Fowler's Files***



Occupation: Sidney Street, late 70s - The members of Rescue Company #1 - Group 4  
From left to right: **Fire Captain Bill Cantwell** (retired as DFC, Fire Prevention), **FF Bill Hugh** (now F.Lt. Ladder #2), **FF Rich Dahl** (now retired), **FF Jim Bergin** (now Engine #4), **FF Bob Bell** (now F.Lt. Engine #5.)



Aerial Tower Company #1 (Ladder Company #1) using an old spare Pirsch truck, mid 80s  
**Fire Lieutenant Bob Morrissey** (now retired), **FF Gerry Mahoney**, driver (now Fire Captain, LEPC), **Firefighter Dan Harrington**, at pedestal (now Engine #6), and **FF Tom Casey**, tillerman (Ladder #1).



Ladder Company #1 - early 90s - **FF Paul Sheehan** (now Captain of Engine #8)



"Tally-Ho" fire on Massachusetts Avenue in Central Square - 1960s?

There were two separate fires in this block, one a long-duration, 5-engine working fire and the other 3-alarms. **Chief William Sullivan** was the IC for one and **Chief William Cremins** was the IC for the other. More information on this fire will follow in the next issue.

- photos above by **Edward Fowler**

*During his time in the Cambridge Fire Department, Fire Inspector Edward Fowler took thousands of pictures of the men and women of the Cambridge Fire Department (and surrounding Departments) in action. Some of his photos are shown above.*

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### Letters

January 9, 2006  
Grove Street  
Belmont, Massachusetts 02478

Chief, Cambridge Fire Department

Dear chief,

Yesterday four of your men really helped me out of a bad situation. I was walking across Cambridge Common on my way to church. My foot hit ice and down I went! Before two minutes had passed, there were men in uniform helping me up. They were the biggest angels of mercy I could imagine. David McCaffrey walked me over to the door of the church where my husband was waiting, wondering what had happened to me. (Firefighter McCaffrey had me on one arm and my purse on the other.)

Leaving us with good instructions about the Emergency Room at Mt. Auburn Hospital, he was picked up by the rest of Ladder One and off they went.

I am extremely grateful to my "Angels."

Sincerely yours,

Martha Jacoby

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4 December 2005  
Watertown, MA

Fire Chief Gerry Reardon and Staff,

You all have done so much and I am so grateful. Everyone of you meant so much to Jim. Thanks, again.

Verna and family

*Editor's note: Verna Harrington is the wife of Jim Harrington (DFC Fire Prevention - retired) who passed away in July of 2005.*

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### ***Condolences***

- Condolences to **Fire Captain Michael Bruno** (Tower Ladder Company #2) on the death of his father, **Chester Bruno**.
- Condolences also to **Fire Captain Joe Dynan** (Engine Company #3) on the death of his mother, **Eleanor T. Dynan**.
- Condolences to **Fire Captain Stephen Persson** (Training) on the death of his mother, **Janet Persson**.

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### ***Hazardous Materials Task Force Training***

In the "**suit day**" segment of the 40-hour HazMat Task Force refresher training program coordinated by **DFC Rossi**, task force members review and practice suit compatibility and donning procedures. Members participated in a series of exercises while wearing fully-encapsulated suits. **Massport Fire-Rescue** also participated in this training.















Dedication! The new Captain of HazMat Engine Company #3, **Joe Dynan**, came in on his day off to supervise his men and women and to participate in the HazMat suit training drill!

- photos above by **Tara Bithia**

## Honor the Unsung Heroes

### - Michael Daly

Sunday, January 1st, 2006 - *New York Daily News*

As we neared the New Year, FDNY Lt. Jim McCaffrey forwarded to yours truly a letter he received from his brother, a U.S. Army Green Beret serving in Iraq.

In the letter, Army Sgt. Maj. Kevin McCaffrey describes a briefing he attended the day of what the national media treated as one of the big stories of 2005, the Dec. 13 execution of one-time gang leader Stanley (Tookie) Williams in California. The letter says in part:

"I sat in on the daily briefing held here, in Baghdad. One of the features of the briefing is the Chaplain's portion, where they stop to honor the Hero of the Day. This is an individual soldier, sailor, airman or Marine killed in the war who gets a brief moment of respectful silence from the personnel in attendance. Normally, a picture of the individual is displayed, along with name, age, unit, etc. That particular day, the Hero was Lance Cpl. David Mendez Ruiz, a young Marine. I wrote it down so I wouldn't forget it. He was the youngest of eight children, a naturalized citizen who had come to the United States from Guatemala at the age of 6. He waved goodbye to his family on the Fourth of July of this year for his second tour of duty in Iraq. He was killed in action 15 Nov. 05.

"Nowhere, except probably in his hometown and a handful of military periodicals, was his death brought to the attention of the American people. I was so furious after seeing the shameful national media spend days bemoaning the loss of a convicted killer of four when fine young men and women such as this are never even mentioned that it took me until now to write...."

A check of the clips indicates Kevin McCaffrey is exactly right; precious little was written about the death of 20-year-old Mendez Ruiz save for in the newspaper in his hometown of Cleveland, Ohio. The Plain Dealer reported

he was killed by an improvised explosive device in Al Amiriyah. His funeral service began with the Guatemalan national anthem, followed by the "Star Spangled Banner." His friend Brandon Joffre recalled he loved basketball, snowboarding - and being a Marine.

"God had a plan for David's life, and David served him well," Joffre was quoted telling the mourners.

As Mendez Ruiz was not a New Yorker and there was no "news hook" - such as being the 2,000th fatality - his loss went without notice here. We can scarcely pay adequate attention to our own dead as they come one after another.

And, those who receive due homage are too quickly forgotten. How many of us remember Ramona Valdez, the Marine from the Bronx whose first job as a teen was at the Statue of Liberty? Or William Wayne White, the Marine from Brooklyn whose mother now sits home with a notebook, writing words her son seems to speak to her from above?

All those who made the supreme sacrifice were in Kevin McCaffrey's heart as he concluded his letter: "Please keep these unheralded American Heroes in your thoughts and prayers as we continue the struggle. As the Chaplain says on a daily basis, 'May God bless him and make his memory to be eternal.'"

Meanwhile, one of Jim McCaffrey's former FDNY comrades fell so ill in December his grandson was given compassionate leave from combat duty with the Special Forces in Iraq. Army Sgt. Ronnie Bucca returned to spend two precious weeks with his grandfather, retired Battalion Chief Bart Mitchell. Bucca's father, fire marshal Ronald Bucca, died on 9/11 alongside Jim McCaffrey's brother-in-law, Battalion Chief Orio Palmer.

The younger Bucca was due back in early January anyway, so the Army decided there was no sense in him returning to Iraq for such a brief time. Mitchell died on Christmas Eve with the comfort of knowing his grandson would not be heading right back into harm's way.

At the wake, some of us who saw Bucca standing in uniform by Mitchell's open coffin wondered if the elegant old firefighter had saved one more life, if the grandfather's death had kept the grandson from becoming one of those ill-fated soldiers who end up in the wrong place at the wrong time, just as their tour nears an end.

On this first day of 2006, young Bucca returns to duty, but not to Iraq, at least for now. Those who remain there include Kevin McCaffrey, who asks us to keep in our thoughts and prayers the fine Americans who never got to see this New Year's Day.

*This **Michael Daly** column from the New York Daily News of 1 January 2006 is reprinted with permission.*

### **Stats and Fires**

During the month of **November, 2005, Engine 2** was the busiest company with **233 runs**. Engine 5 finished with 166 and Engine 1 with 134 runs. **Truck 3** finished the month with 178 runs, Truck 1 with 137 runs, and Truck 4 with 136. **Rescue 1** finished the month with **158 runs**. **Division 1**, the busier division, finished with a total of **143 runs**, while Division 2 responded to 104 incidents. **Squads 2 and 4** completed November with **219 and 146 runs** respectively. There were 943 emergency incidents during the month, which generated 2457 emergency responses. There were 9 building fires, 39 inside fires, and 46 fires of all categories.

During the month of **December, 2005, Engine 2** was again the busiest company with **233 runs**. Engine 5 finished with 171 and Engine 1 with 169. **Truck 3** finished the month with 182 runs and Truck 1 made 172 runs. **Rescue 1** finished the month with **158 runs**. **Division 1** finished with a total of **162 runs**, while Division 2 responded to 107 incidents. **Squads 2 and 4** completed December with **220 and 143 runs** respectively. There were 975 emergency incidents during the month, which generated 2570 emergency responses. There were 7

building fires, 39 inside fires, and 47 fires of all categories.

**Box 4-571: A Fourth Alarm** was ordered on 8 December 2005 for the fire at 163 Brattle Street, a large 3 story, wood-frame, dwelling, vacant and under renovation. Arriving with the building fully involved and seriously threatening exposures, and flying brands covering much of the area, companies quickly established water supplies, protected exposures, and established flying-brands patrols. The initial alarm was the Still for Engine 9 and Truck 4 to investigate smoke in the area at 0023 hours. The box was transmitted at 0025. The Working Fire and 2nd alarm were ordered by **F.Lt. David McKinley** (Engine 9) on arrival at 0029. The Third was ordered at 0034 by **DFC Frank Murphy** (Division 2) and the Fourth by DFC Murphy at 0039 hours. Twelve engines, 4 trucks, 1 rescue, 2 squads, 2 division chiefs, and staff and support units operated. Group 4 was on duty. Several firefighters received injuries from falls on the ice. DFC Frank Murphy was the Incident Commander

A **Level 1 Working** was ordered for **Box 246** at 2202 hours on 8 December 2005 for the chemical spill and reaction at 3 Ames Street, MIT Bldg #18. Chemicals involved were diethyl zinc, dimethyl mercury, and dimethyl cadmium. The HazMat Task Force operated to contain the spill and mitigate the incident. Group 3 was on duty. **DFC Michael Morrissey** was the Incident Commander.

### Annual Stats - Calendar Year 2005

## Cambridge Fire Annual Totals - Calendar Year 2005

	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Bldg Fires</i>
Engine 1	1957	59
Engine 2	2783	55
Engine 3	1374	31
Engine 4	1588	24
Engine 5	1953	69
Engine 6	1386	52
Engine 8	1227	25
Engine 9	1010	28
Truck 1	2131	76
Truck 2	1270	43
Truck 3	2035	67
Truck 4	1697	31
Rescue 1	2288	71
Rescue 2*	880	22
Squad 2**	1768	41
Squad 4**	1272	36
Special Units	351	
Division 1	1765	73
Division 2	1409	41
Mutual Aid Units	265	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30409</b>	

Incidents	11,985
Div 1 Incidents	6671
Div 2 Incidents	5314
Responses	30,409
EMS	4917
Building Fires	110
Inside Fires	407
All Fires	538
HazMat	242

Working Fires	8
2nd Alarms	7
3rd Alarms	1
4th Alarms	1

Notes:

\*\* Squads 2 and 4 were placed in service on 1 May

2005.  
 \* Rescue 2 was placed OOS on 1 May  
 2005.

### **Retirees**

Join the Retired Firefighters Breakfast Club. The club meets at 0730 hours at Andy's Diner (across from Engine 4's house) in North Cambridge. Call John O'Donoghue at 781-483-9217 or e-mail him at [jod3502@aol.com](mailto:jod3502@aol.com) for dates and information. Stay in touch. Have breakfast with good company.

### **Mark Your Calendar**

Upcoming Events:

### **Annual Cambridge Firefighters MDA Golf Tournament**

**CAMBRIDGE FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 30 IAFF  
 Annual Golf Tournament to Benefit**

***MDA***



**CAMBRIDGE FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 30 IAFF  
 Annual Golf Tournament to Benefit**

***MDA***

**Monday May 15, 2006  
 8:00am Shotgun Start  
 Sheraton Colonial  
 Wakefield, MA**

**\$125.00 per golfer ~ \$500.00 per team  
 Make checks payable to  
 Cambridge Firefighters Local 30**

***Fee includes***

**Green fees and carts, Continental Breakfast, Barbecue,  
 Prizes for players**

**On Course Contests**  
**Hole-in-One, Closest to Pin, Longest Drive**  
**Cambridge Firefighters Local 30 IAFF MDA Golf Tournament**

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Players:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Cambridge Firefighters Local 30

Return check and registration to:  
Gerry Mahoney

**NOTE: Registrations must be received by March 15, 2006!**

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**Spike Lawless Retirement**

Retirement Testimonial **For John " Spike" Lawless**

Montvale Plaza

54 Montvale Ave., Stoneham

May 17, 2006

**Cocktails 6-7pm Dinner 7pm**

**\$25.00 per ticket**

Group 3 working

Contact: Brad Tenney L4-G2 617-930-8833

John Shinkwin D2-G4 617-875-9986

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**IFBA Convention**

The annual convention of **The International Fire Buffs Association** will be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts in **August of 2007**. The convention site will be the Royal Sonesta Hotel.

### ***Annual Firefighters Ball***

The 118th Annual Ball of the Cambridge Firemen's Relief Association will be held on Saturday, **6 May 2006** (group 3 on duty) at the Burlington Marriott Hotel. Note the new Spring date! Who knows, it might be a nice warm spring night. Full details will be available at a late date. If there are any questions, call FF Dan Maloney, Division 1, group 3 at 617-354-5666.

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### ***America's Heroes***

#### **Captain Cassin Young, United States Navy**



Captain Cassin Young  
- USN photo

#### ***Captain Cassin Young - the man***

**Cassin Young** was born in Washington, D.C. on 6 March 1894. Following graduation from the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis in June of 1916, he was assigned to the Battleship *USS Connecticut*. He later served aboard submarines and was the commanding officer of two submarines, *R-23* and *R-2*. His later staff assignments included Naval Communications; the Office of the Commander Submarine Divisions; Battle Fleet; and Naval Academy.

As a Lieutenant Commander, he served on the battleship *New York* from 1931 to 1933. From 1935 to 1937, he was the commanding officer of the destroyer *Evans*. Following his promotion to Commander, he commanded Submarine Division Eleven, based in New London and Groton, Connecticut. Subsequent to this assignment, he was assigned as commanding officer of the repair ship *Vestal*.

On 7 December 1941, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, the *Vestal* was moored alongside the battleship *Arizona*. When the *Arizona* was blown up during the attack, Commander Young was blown overboard along with many members of his crew. The *Arizona* was a sinking, blazing inferno with much of her crew entombed inside. The *Vestal* was also on fire and was taking on water from several direct hits. The crew of the was in the process of abandoning ship. Having been blown into the water, Commander Young swam back to his ship and climbed back aboard. He stopped the "abandon ship," telling his men, "You don't abandon ship on me." Under Commander Young's direction, the crew got the fires under control, got the ship underway, and started picking up survivors of the *Vestal*, the *Arizona*, and other ships in the area. He beached the vessel on the opposite shore so as not to sink and block the channel. Commander Young was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions at Pearl Harbor.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Young was promoted to Captain and was given command of the heavy cruiser *San Francisco*. During the battle of Guadalcanal on the night of 12-13 November 1942, Captain Young was killed by shell fire on his ship from three Japanese ships. For conspicuous gallantry in the face of the enemy, he was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross. The destroyer *USS Cassin Young* was named in his honor.

### ***USS Cassin Young, DD-793 - the ship***

*USS Cassin Young*, a Fletcher class destroyer, was built by Bethlehem Steel in San Pedro, California and was commissioned on 31 December 1943. She was initially assigned to the Central Pacific and was involved in combat action first in April of 1944, attacking the Japanese in the Caroline Islands. *USS Cassin Young* also participated in the invasions of Saipan, Tinian, and Guam. She participated in several actions in October of 1944 in the Battle of Leyte Gulf. *USS Cassin Young* rescued 120 men from the carrier Princeton when the Princeton was attacked and sank on 24 October 1944. Throughout the Pacific, *Cassin Young* continued to provide carrier escort duty and provide support fire for American troops engaged in amphibious assaults and battles.

In January, 1945, *Cassin Young* operated against Formosa, Indochina (Vietnam), and southern China and supported Marine operations on Iwo Jima and Okinawa. On 1 April 1945, *Cassin Young* supported the Marine invasion of Okinawa, and following shore bombardment, was assigned to radar picket duty. On 12 April 1945, she was under massive attack by Japanese planes. She shot down six kamikaze planes but one hit the mast of the ship and exploded. One American sailor was killed and 59 were injured. Again at 0326 hours on 30 July 1945, *Cassin Young* was attacked by a single kamikaze which crashed into the starboard side of the main deck. Twenty-two men were killed and 45 were wounded.

*Cassin Young* was decommissioned on 28 May 1946 but was recommissioned on 7 September 1951 to serve following the Korean Conflict. In 1952, *USS Cassin Young* underwent a complete overhaul at the Charlestown Navy Yard for service in Korean waters and in the Atlantic and Mediterranean. She was decommissioned again on 29 April 1960. Since 1981, *USS Cassin Young* has been on display at the Charlestown Navy Yard as part of the National Park Service Naval Historical Park. The *USS Constitution* is also displayed at a pier opposite the *Cassin Young*.

### ***USS Cassin Young Statistics***

Launched: 9 September 1943

Commissioned: 31 December 1943

Length: 376 feet, 6 inches

Beam: 39 feet, 6 inches

Draft: 17 feet, 9 inches

Displacement: 2050 tons

Armament (1950s): Five 5-inch/38 caliber guns; ten 40 mm guns; hedgehogs; Mk 9 depth charges; Mk 32 homing torpedoes; and Mk 15 anti-ship torpedoes

*Medal of Honor citation of Commander Cassin Young (as printed in the official publication "Medal of Honor, 1861-1949, The Navy", page 285):*

"For distinguished conduct in action, outstanding heroism and utter disregard of his own safety, above and beyond the call of duty, as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. Vestal, during the attack on the Fleet in Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, by enemy Japanese forces on 7 December 1941. Commander Young proceeded to the bridge and later took personal command of the 3-inch antiaircraft gun. When blown overboard by the blast of the forward magazine explosion of the U.S.S. Arizona, to which the U.S.S. Vestal was moored, he swam back to his ship. The entire forward part of the U.S.S. Arizona was a blazing inferno with oil afire on the water between the two ships; as a result of several bomb hits, the U.S.S. Vestal was afire in several places, was settling and taking on a list. Despite severe enemy bombing and strafing at the time, and his shocking experience of having been blown overboard, Commander Young, with extreme coolness and calmness, moved his ship to an anchorage distant from the U.S.S. Arizona, and subsequently beached the U.S.S. Vestal upon determining that such action was required to save his ship."

#### References:

- Historical Naval Ships Visitors Guide - USS Cassin Young: <http://hnsa.org/ships/young/htm>
- Department of the Navy - Naval Historical Center: <http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/pers-us/uspers-xz/c-young.htm>
- Boston National Historic Park, National Park Service - Charlestown Navy Yard:

[http://www.nps.gov/bost/Cassin\\_Young.htm](http://www.nps.gov/bost/Cassin_Young.htm)

- NavSource Online - Destroyer Photo Index: <http://www.navsource.org/archives/05/793.htm>



USS Cassin Young

- photo from the collection of Vernon Cook, USN retired

"As the season is now fast approaching when every man must expect to be drawn into the field of action, it is highly necessary that he should prepare his mind, as well as everything necessary for it. It is a noble cause we are engaged in, it is the cause of virtue and mankind, every temporal advantage and comfort to us, and our posterity depends upon the vigor of our executions ....But it may not be amiss for the troops to know that if any man in action shall presume to skulk, hide himself, or retreat from the enemy, without the orders of his commanding officer, he will be *instantly shot down*, as an example of cowardice."

- **General George Washington**, Cambridge, Massachusetts, March, 1776  
address to the troops prior to the taking of and possible invasion of Dorchester Heights (South Boston)



### **Information**

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

**E-mail list**

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

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**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!**



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