

NEW YORK'S BRAVEST

Eight Decades of Photographs from the Daily News

New York's Bravest Eight Decades of Photographs from the Daily News

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A portion of the proceeds of this book will be donated to the New York Firefighter's Burn Center Foundation. Started in 1975 by members of the FDNY, and run by volunteers, the center provides much-needed funds for research, care, equipment, and a children's camp for the Burn Center at New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

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"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

–John 15:13



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Eight Decades of Photographs from the Daily News

edited by Shawn O'Sullivan

essays by Patrice O'Shaughnessy

PICTURING HEROES

Patrice O'Shaughnessy

The love of the job is bigger than any company, or battalion, or division. It's bigger than the whole Fire Department. It is kindled within each firefighter. The worse the situation, the stronger they get. The more tragic the sacrifice, the more soaring their resolve.

They emerge from fire cradling a baby, or carrying an old man, faces blackened and sweat-streaked, helmets sheathed in ice in winter. They peer somberly above air masks—but their eyes twinkle just a little in reassuring boldness.

They crawl through smoky blackness, march through searing heat, perch at the top step of multi-story ladders, dive into the Hudson River at night, and slither into mangled cars. They rarely maintain contact with those they help; saving a life is part of the job. As one fire captain put it: "Pull them out, send them to the hospital...that was all that was really expected." And people accept it as a matter of course that if a fire broke out, there would be someone to come save them.

Firefighters are an indelible part of the city's fabric, bound by courage and a zest for life. Maybe that is because they have seen death in all its horrible forms, even before September 11. It was then that the world realized what most New Yorkers have always known: in ways great and small, day in and day out, they were—they are—the Bravest.

Dedication page: Firefighter at the scene of a three alarm fire in RIchmond Hill, Queens. Apr. 23, 2002

Willie Anderson

Andrew Savulich

Previous page: Captain
Michael Dugan of Ladder Co.
123 raises a tattered Old
Glory, a symbol of fortitude
and determination for fellow
firefighters and all New
Yorkers in the immediate
hours and days following the
unprecedented chaos and
destruction resulting from the
attack on the World Trade
Center. Sept. 11, 2001



Opposite page: Cameramen are on hand at Bellevue Hospital to see Hook and Ladder No. 16's Pooch visiting her buddy Patrick Murphy, a fireman who fractured his legs slipping in the firehouse on East 67th St. while answering an alarm. Jun. 29, 1931

John Tresilian

Firefighters focus on two suspicious blazes at 521 and 525 West 133rd St., set within hours of each other. Dozens of people were evacuated.
Oct. 15, 1995

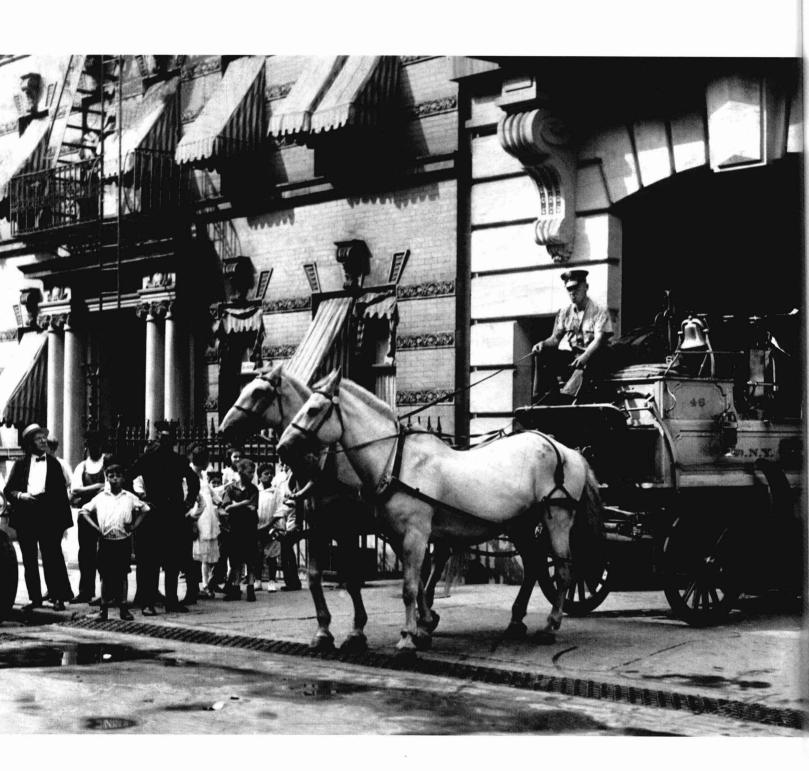
Mike Albans

In 100 minutes on that day, the New York Fire Department suffered the greatest loss it has ever witnessed, sacrificing 343 of its brethren, most of whom were killed in the stairwells of the towers. Both towers were aflame, and undaunted, defiant, they entered the buildings and climbed. Some may have gotten as high as the 55th story, searching each floor on the way up to make sure no one was left behind in the massive evacuation. They were following the example of their patron saint, St. Florian, who, according to legend, boasted to the Romans attempting to burn him to death, "I will climb to heaven on the flames."

Daily News photographers were there as the twin towers came crashing down, and by the end of the day they had captured thousands of images of horror, heartbreak, and humanity. They stood fast to document the unfolding disaster, as people jumped from windows, concrete thundered down, and a dust cloud enveloped lower Manhattan. They preserved for all time glimpses of the greatest rescue effort in the nation's history, and the recovery of hundreds of the dead.

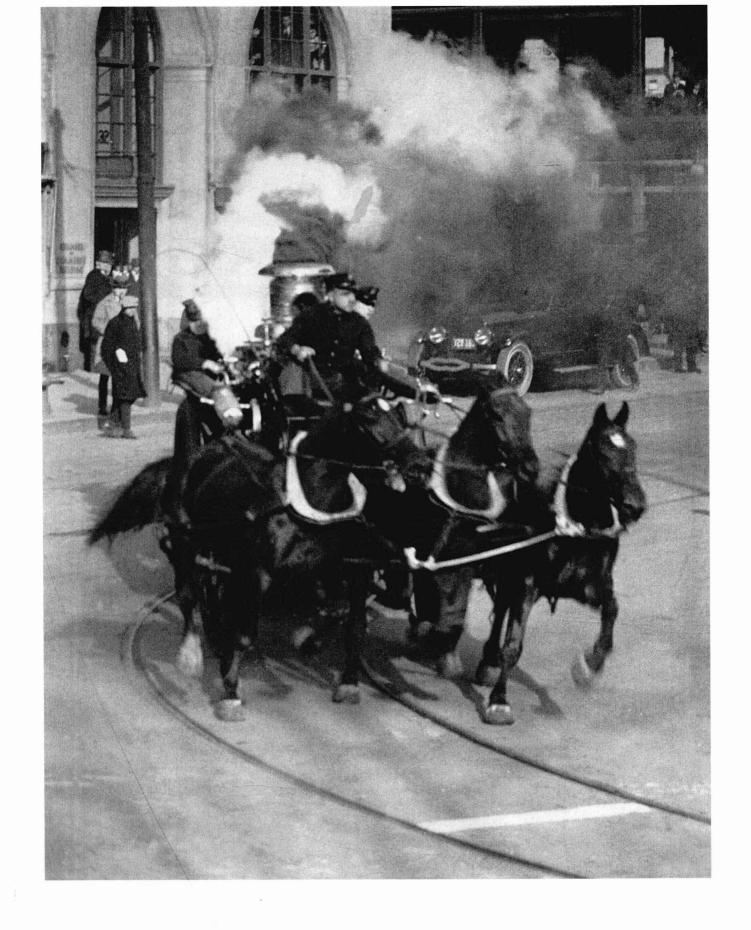
Sharing a special bond with the FDNY that began more than 80 years ago with the paper's inception as a pioneer of photojournalism, Daily News "shooters" have always been in the thick of things, telling firefighters' stories in pictures that make readers cry or gasp, and in better times, chuckle or smile in relief.

Behind many a hero there was a photographer dogging his steps. The life and death drama of fighting fires kept readers of "New York's Picture Newspaper" in thrall. Toting their cameras, photographers climbed tower ladders, balanced on ledges, and leaned over rooftops to capture the moment. In the early days, Daily News photographers took their pictures dressed in coats, ties, and hats (unlikely attire for a fire), and lugged big, boxy Speed Graphic cameras, the likeness of which became the logo of the paper. A new gadget pioneered by the News—the telephoto lens—allowed it to specialize in aerial photography, resulting in spectacular images of the city at various times of crisis. Today's shooters use high-speed digital cameras and laptop computers to transmit images from anyplace instantly. Whether chasing horse-drawn water vehicles or high-tech fire engines and ladder trucks, News photographers have chronicled the FDNY with drama and distinction.



1920-1939

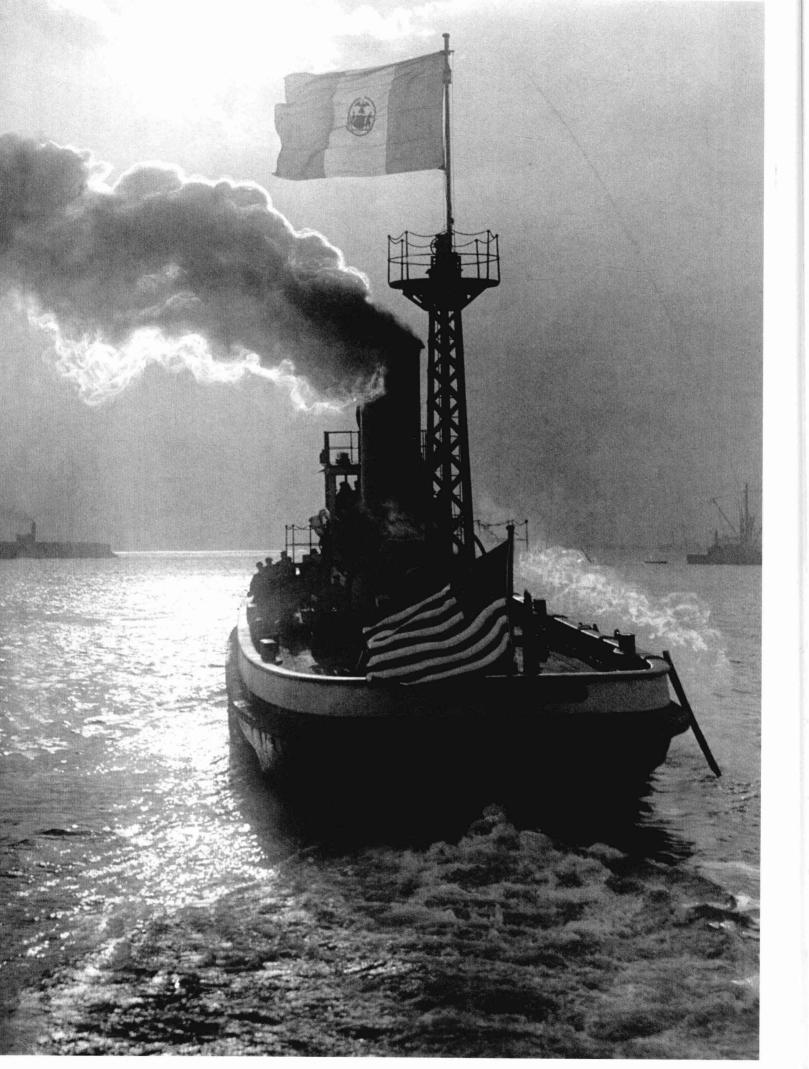




Previous page: Happy and Fairfax, a favorite team of Engine Co. 72, 66th St. & 12th Ave. Waiting in the wings is the motorized truck that will replace them. Some of their fans are on hand to bid them

Opposite page: Fireman "Smokey Joe" Martin

Above: Last horse-drawn fire engine team in Brooklyn races 话诗和近年 . 原映 1922 r t on g hook _ com_





Opposite page: The fireboat John Purroy Mitchel glides away from the Battery after ceremonies adding her to the city's fleet. Named for a reform mayor who died in a U.S. Army Air Corps training flight accident in 1918, the fireboat became the queen of the fleet until she was decommissioned in 1966.

Above: Fireman George Lorz and Rex of Engine Co. 8 prepare for action outside the station house on East 51 St. Sept. 22, 1929 Reidy blaze, detected just after the last show let out from the movie theater, wrecks the six-story Lincoln Square Arcade building at West 65th St. and Broadway. A crowd estimated to be 100,000 watched 350 firemen—the biggest turnout in twenty years—battle the windswept fire, which injured dozens of firemen and left scores of evacuated residents without homes. Jan. 30, 1931







A weary fireman with a mug of coffee rests on an icy perch after battling a blaze in Port Chester. The fire damaged four buildings and routed 20 families from their homes; a dozen firefighters were injured. Feb.19, 1934

Opposite page: Lt. John M. Metz makes his way down a ladder after rescuing a young girl. Firemen saved 35 people trapped on the fourth and fifth floors of the burning tenement at 506 Brook Ave., the Bronx. Apr. 14, 1935.

