

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CITY OF NEW YORK

New York, March 10, 1913.

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 2.

Departmental recognition is awarded to the following members of the Force for acts of valor or meritorious conduct performed in line of duty during 1912 and up to February 17, 1913:

HONORABLE MENTION WITH MEDAL

PATROLMEN

Walter Thornton, Shield No. 7450, 8th Precinct.

For rescue from drowning. At 1.20 a. m., March 25, 1912, while on fixed post at Canal and West Streets, Patrolman Thornton was informed by a watchman on pier 34, North River, that a man was shouting for help at the end of pier 33. Thornton called another Patrolman, who was on patrol nearby. Both hurried to the outer end of pier 33, which is 1,000 feet long, and heard a man moaning in the water about twenty feet west of the end of the pier. Patrolman Thornton took off his boots, coat and cap and jumped into the river, caught the drowning man and brought him alongside a barge. Both were pulled up to the pier. Patrolman Thornton was in the water from twenty to thirty minutes. The drowning man was alive when taken from the water but died before an ambulance arrived. Patrolman Thornton was taken to the hospital where he remained for some days, suffering from nervous shock. This rescue was made under most unfavorable circumstances. It occurred about 1000 feet out in the river during a severe hail storm on a black night. The temperature was thirty-three degrees and ice was running in the river.

**Peter J. F. Murray, Shield No. 6072, and
Patrick F. O'Connor, Shield No. 8970, 28th Precinct.**

These two Policemen were on patrol about 1.30 A. M., January 1, 1913, in the vicinity of 61st Street and Amsterdam Avenue. They were informed by a woman that a negro had assaulted her. They searched through the building in which she lived and on the roof, but were unable to find him. Just as they reached the street, they observed a negro running toward a saloon in the vicinity, and heard someone say "there he goes, that's the man." The Policemen pursued. Just as Patrolman Murray who was leading, opened the side door, a shot was fired which struck Patrolman O'Connor in the left wrist. Both officers, however, immediately entered and found themselves confronted by another negro pistol in hand; crashing glass at rear indicated the escape of the man whom they had originally attempted to capture. Patrolman Murray attempted to place the second negro under arrest and grappled with him, but was thrown back and the revolver placed at his head. Murray knocked it to one side and it discharged, the bullet striking Patrolman O'Connor in the left shoulder and causing him to fall. The negro then broke Patrolman Murray's grip and retreated to the rear room where he crouched behind a pool table. Patrolman Murray advanced on him and pursued him round and round the table. During this time the negro fired three shots at Patrolman Murray, and Murray returned the fire. The negro was wounded and in his retreat staggered toward Patrolman O'Connor. O'Connor raised himself and succeeded in striking the negro a blow with his baton which stunned him. Patrolman Murray then disarmed the negro and took him into custody.

HONORABLE MENTION

SERGEANT.

John W. Donnelly, Shield No. 3, 43d Precinct.

PATROLMAN.

Matthew J. McGrath, Shield No. 4727, 43d Precinct

For arrest of Giovanni Landi. At about 7.30 P. M., May 26, 1912, the two officers were standing at the corner of 116th Street and Pleasant Avenue, when their attention was attracted by a crowd of people running from the direction of 117th Street. Landi, it was learned, had shot at a man at 117th Street and First Avenue, and was being pursued. The officers endeavored to get through the crowd while Landi was running east on 118th Street. On reaching the dock at the river the fugitive turned and fired a shot at the crowd and then jumped upon a barge. The two officers followed him aboard. When within 20 feet of him Landi

up the stairway by reason of the density of the smoke, but climbed up the fire-escape. The man, 75 years of age, and paralyzed on the left side, had fallen helpless to the floor of the room, where he was enveloped in flame and smoke. Patrolman Bostwick entered through the window, got the man to the fire-escape, and with the assistance of Patrolmen Timm, Boylan and O'Brien, brought him to the street. The woman had disappeared when Bostwick reached the window. It was subsequently found that she had gone to the top floor apparently to assist some one else. She was suffocated. An unknown negro was also suffocated. Another man was badly burned.

Edward Bartsch, Shield No. 420, 65th Precinct.

Saved life at a fire. At about 2.45 A. M., May 28, 1912, the attention of Patrolman Bartsch was called to a fire at 3662 Third Avenue. He ran a block to the place and saw a woman leaning out of a third story window. The smoke was very dense. He went to the house next door, procured an iron ladder hanging from the fire escape, placed it against the burning building and ascended. He found it was too short to reach the woman, and called down to two citizens, who were able to raise the ladder about 5 feet further up. Patrolman Bartsch then ran up to the woman, caught her, and caused her to drop in his arms, the ladder meantime swaying from side to side. He brought her to the street, in safety.

Samuel W. Noble, Shield No. 3067, 22d Precinct.

Arrest of Joseph Hawkins, for felonious assault and carrying concealed weapons. Patrolman Noble was on duty on fixed post at the intersection of 39th Street and Eighth Avenue, at 11.30 P. M., May 16, 1912, when he heard three pistol shots fired from the corner of 40th Street and Eighth Avenue. He went at once to the scene of trouble. A number of colored men were running west on 40th Street. When in front of 325 W. 40th Street, the man in front ran up the stoop, then turned and fired a shot at one of his pursuers, which took effect. Patrolman Noble pursued the fugitive who ran through the vestibule and up the stairs. The latter turned repeatedly, aimed his revolver at the officer and pulled the trigger, but the weapon failed to explode. Patrolman Noble overtook the fugitive on the flight of stairs leading to the roof and closed with him. The fugitive was overpowered after a struggle, and disarmed of a 38-calibre revolver.

**John Williams, Shield No. 4901, and
Patrick S. Hanley, Shield No. 4866, 145th Precinct.**

For their conduct in the case described under award of Honorable Mention and Medal to Patrolman William J. McMillen.

William J. McMillen, Shield No. 6618, 145th Precinct.

For arrest of a man who had shot a civilian and two policemen, July 8, 1912. At Hamilton Avenue and President Street, Alexander Sabannano, a striking fireman, shot Ancieto Gonzales in the left leg. Sabannano had been endeavoring to persuade Gonzales to go on strike, and became angered at the latter's refusal. Sabannano, pistol in hand, ran through Hamilton Avenue and turned into Imlay Street. Patrolman John Williams, Shield No. 4901, and Patrolman Patrick Hanley, Shield No. 4866, both of the 145th precinct, heard the shot and pursued Sabannano, who, when the officers neared him, turned about and shot Patrolman Williams in the left leg. Williams fell. Hanley reached for the fugitive, but tripped over some loose concrete and tumbled forward. Before he could recover himself, Sabannano took deliberate aim, shot Hanley in the back, and then continued on a run through Imlay Street. Patrolmen William J. McMillen, Shield No. 6618, and William J. Kenna, Shield No. 4912, both of the 145th precinct, heard the firing. McMillen saw Sabannano in Bowne Street and made a rush for him. The latter hid behind a fence. When McMillen came within about thirty feet Sabannano fired one shot. The officer returned two, and commanded Sabannano to throw down his revolver. The man obeyed. Patrolman Kenna came up at this time and both patrolmen took Sabannano in charge.

**Thomas J. Lawlor, Shield No. 2042, and
John T. Sheehan, Shield No. 6530, 15th Precinct.**

For rescues at a fire. A five story tenement house at No. 167 East 4th Street, caught fire early on the morning of October 3, 1912. Patrolman Lawlor turned in an alarm. Patrolman Sheehan came to his assistance. Aided by a sergeant, they burst in the front door, but the flames and smoke prevented entrance. They then broke open the door of 165 E. 4th Street, and aroused the tenants. Lawlor and Sheehan went to the third floor of 165 and by means of the rear fire-escape crossed to 167. They burst in the windows and found a family consisting of parents and five children asleep. Lawlor handed these out to Sheehan and they were taken to the ground. A man was hanging to a bed sheet from a window on the fourth floor and the officers succeeded in reaching out from the fire-escape and pulling him to safety. They attempted to rescue another unconscious man whose clothing and covering were burned to a cinder before they reached the street with him. Five people were burned to death as a result of this fire. At one time while on the fire-escape, Patrolman Sheehan was almost overcome. He called to Patrolman Lawlor who was on an adjoining roof where he had escorted some tenants. Lawlor heard his call but could not return to him through the flaming scuttle. Lawlor climbed over the roof cornice, hung five stories high, and then swung and dropped on the fire-escape and thus made his way to Sheehan.