

Freight car fire ignites East Woburn warehouse

WOBURN.... Firefighters from Woburn and Winchester converged on an expansive East Woburn warehouse yesterday afternoon when a freight car fire ignited the rambling building.

The Tighe Warehouse Co. (formerly the Blaire Terminal) on Holton St. had minor damage to the rear, easterly side of the building. However, numerous packs of four-thousand-pound paper bundles inside the freight car were destroyed.

The freight car had to be pulled away from the building by a locomotive called to the East Woburn location from the B & M's Boston yards.

No official cause of the fire has been given. Local fire and police officials will be in conference today with Boston & Maine Police.

Winchester Fire Chief Robert McElhinney said the sprinkler system inside the building was triggered by the fire from the adjacent freight car and the flames licked at the side of the building.

"The sprinkler system did a great job in confining the fire," said McElhinney.

First reports of the fire came from a Woburn woman visiting nearby Calvary Cemetery Sunday. She saw the fire in the freight car parked in a siding across from the cemetery. Knowing the significance of the fire, she went down Central Street to the East Woburn fire station to alert on-duty fire crews.

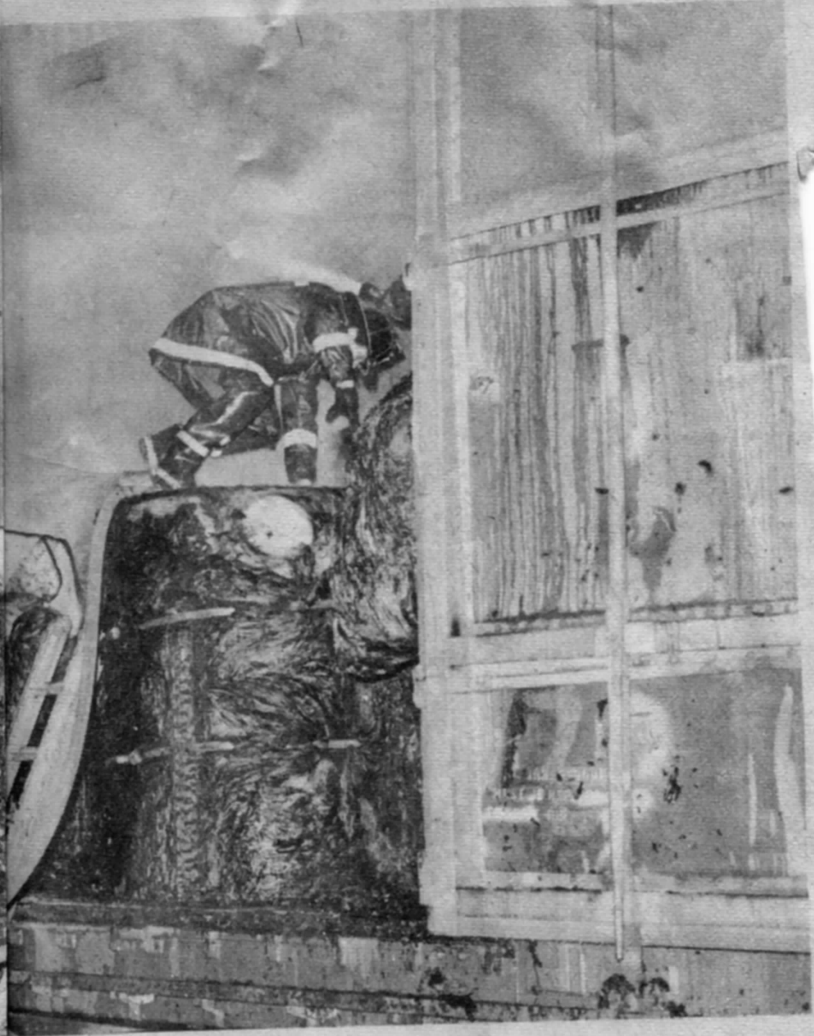
Lt. William Donahue responded on a still alarm to investigate the situation and immediately radioed back for added



PACKED PAPER were the contents of a freight car which erupted into flames near Calvary Cemetery late Sunday. The B and M

freight car was badly damaged, its contents destroyed, and the adjacent warehouse was damaged in the fire.

(O'Rourke)



WINCHESTER FIREFIGHTERS enter a freight car at Tigue Warehouse on Holton Street in yesterday's fire on Woburn-Winchester line. The fire began in the freight car which carried paper bundles and spread to the rear

warehouse where it was contained by the building's sprinkler system. The freight car eventually had to be towed away from the former Blair Terminal by a B&M locomotive. (See full story on Woburn page)

(O'Rourke photo)

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assistance at the same time as the Winchester A.D.T. box was being sounded from the sprinkler system being triggered.

Woburn fire companies set up on the east side of the blaze while Winchester crews entered on the west side via Holton Street. The building is actually in both Woburn and Winchester - located on the line. The office section of the structure is in Winchester.

Fire damage to the huge warehouse was to the door and the immediate areas inside the door of the warehouse next to where the freight car was parked.

Chief McElhinney said the fire could have been smoldering for a considerable period of time inside the packed paper.

Nobody at the fire knew exactly when the car had been left on the side track or for whom it was intended in the business complex. The materials, however, according to officials, were not to be packed inside the Tighe Warehouse next to where the car was parked.

Police were called to assist firefighters to gain access to the building knowing that attack dogs might be inside - which had been the custom under prior owners.

Woburn fire personnel at the blaze included Lt. Donahue, Lt. William Sweeney, Charles Walsh and Walter Larsen.

Winchester staff at the fire included, besides Chief McElhinney: Capt. Charles McNutt, Lt. Robert Swymer, Joe Rega, Joe McDonough, John Farrell, Frank Encala and call firefighters Gus Baldacci, Robert Fiore, William Farnum and Paul Haggerty.

This would be nice
for



S, WOBURN, MASS., MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1977



ATTACK DOGS were thought to be inside the terminal, as has been the custom, so police were called to the terminal armed sufficiently to allow firefighters entrance into the

building in fear the fire would spread to the remainder of the building of the Tighe Warehouse on Holton Street on Sunday.

(ANDREWS PHOTO)