Alfred Henry Schutze

Born: September 22, 1887, in Bastrop, Texas
Died: August 21, 1938, at age 50
25th HFD LODD
Entered the Fire Department: November 5, 1917
Assignment: Battalion Chief-Fire House No. 7
Buried: Hollywood Cemetery, Section J, Plot 4, Space 1

Chief Schutze, a 21 year veteran, was dispatched to a garage apartment fire at 2021 Bolsover Street near Hazard Street. He died when his apparatus hit an esplanade in the 5100 block of Main Street and Southmore Boulevard.

The accident was at night, the amber warning light at the esplanade was not working. This caused the driver of the apparatus to be unable to see the obstruction. The firefighters on the apparatus were seriously injured and the driver received minor injuries. Chief Schutze was transported to Methodist Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Esker Jackson Rogers

Born: May 18, 1906, in Buckholts, Texas
Died: August 22, 1934, at age 28
24th HFD LODD
Entered the Fire Department: September 1929
Assignment: Pipe and Ladderman-Fire House No. 17
Buried: Rosewood Cemetery, Section 20, Plot 90, Space 2

The day of his accident, Esker was off duty. He was asked by a friend, who was assigned to Fire House No. 24, to work his shift. Engine 24 was dispatched to a call and was involved in a collision with a streetcar at Leeland Street and Jackson Street. Esker was pinned between the street car and the fire truck. He was transported to the nearby St. Joseph Infirmary and died a few hours later. Captain Merle London and two of the firefighters were also injured.

Just as Esker relieved his friend, Engine 24 responded to a call. His friend was walking to the bus stop heading home, he heard the crash, which was a few blocks away.

Charles Roland Rusk

Born: June 3, 1880, in Akron, Ohio
Died: June 8, 1932, at age 52
23rd HFD LODD
Entered the Fire Department: April 24, 1918
Assignment: Pipe and Ladderman-Fire House No. 14
Buried: Hollywood Cemetery, Section K, Space 105

Charles Rusk, a 14 year veteran, died when Ladder 14 struck a streetcar at the intersection of 17th Street and Yale Street, just a few blocks from Fire House No. 14. Rusk was transported to the Heights Clinic where attempts to save his life failed. Three firefighters were injured along with two passengers and the streetcar operator.

Because of his failing eyesight Charles had been off work since November 21, 1931 and was due to retire. In May of 1932 he regained his eyesight and had just returned to duty on May 8th, exactly one month prior to his death.

His son, Raymond, entered the Houston Fire Department 8 years after his father's death, and retired in 1976 after 36 years of service.

Michael James Ward Jr.

Born: January 2, 1895, in Evansville, Indiana
Died: December 21, 1929, at age 34
22nd HFD LODD
Entered the Fire Department: January 1, 1929
Assignment: Pipe and Ladderman-Fire House No. 14
Buried: St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Evansville, Indiana, Section 9, Lot 69, Space 5

Michael Ward died with his friend Aaron O'Brien when Engine 19 was dispatched to a house fire at Quitman Street and Clark Street. When crossing the double railroad tracks at Gregg Street, a short distance from Fire House No. 19, they were hit by a Southern Pacific Railroad locomotive. Buildings at the crossing obstructed the view of an oncoming train and the red lights and the swinging arm at the crossing were not operating. O'Brien died instantly and Ward was transported to Memorial Baptist Hospital where he died the next day. Four crew members were injured and transported to local hospitals.

He had been visiting Aaron at the fire house and went on the call with them.

Aaron Loyola O'Brien

Born: September 15, 1906 in Texarkana, Texas
Died: December 20, 1929, at age 23
21st HFD LODD
Entered the Fire Department: July 12, 1929
Assignment: Pipe and Ladderman-Fire House No. 19
Buried: Forest Park Cemetery, Lawndale, Section I, Plot 248, Space 4627

Aaron O'Brien, five months into his career, died along with Michael Ward when Engine 19 was dispatched to a house fire at Quitman Street and Clark Street. When crossing the double railroad tracks at Gregg Street, a short distance from Fire House No. 19, they were hit by a Southern Pacific Railroad locomotive. Buildings at the crossing obstructed the view of an oncoming train and the red lights and the swinging arm at the crossing were not operating. Four crew members were injured and transported to local hospitals. Aaron died at the scene.