

Five Men Trapped In Tunnel Rescued By Firefighters

BOSTON, Oct. 10 (AP)—Five men were trapped 400 feet underground for 2½ hours tonight when fire broke out in a shaft leading up from a water main tunnel under construction near Harvard Stadium.

The weary but unharmed men were brought up the smoke-filled shaft after firefighters went down and extinguished the blaze in a two-hour battle.

The group waited calmly in the tunnel, which is nearly a mile long and 14 feet diameter, while firefighters fought the flames in the deep shaft. Officials said the tunnel's ventilation system was not affected by the blaze.

The fire was started by a short circuit on a small dump car used to carry dirt from the excavation.

The men were trapped in the

tunnel as the car was between them and the exit. The men had been laying track ahead of the car and had reached a point under Central Square, Cambridge, across the Charles River.

The men's plight first became known when smoke poured up the shaft.

Another work gang was ordered out of a 3,000-foot section of tunnel being dug in the direction of the Chestnut Hill area of Boston.

Some 3,000 spectators lined Soldiers Field Road along the Charles River, but there was little for them to see.

The tunnel is part of a system of water mains being constructed by the Metropolitan Water Commission, a state body which provides water for metropolitan Boston.

1954 five trapped in tunnel rescued



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