

Daring Attack on Sheffield Fire Brigade Chief Risks Injury to Eye Splinter Ordeal



Snow, Ice, and Fumes Hinder Task

REMARKABLE stoicism was displayed by Superintendent T. Breaks, Chief of the Sheffield Fire Brigade, when he entered a burning building with a splinter of glass in his eye, and also suffering from a wound in his foot caused by falling glass.

The fire took place in the early hours of to-day At the tile works of Messrs. Montgomery , Skinner, and Co., Pagoda Street.

Snow and ice were among the additional obstacles which faced the fire fighters, whose work was made hazardous by water which froze on the roads and ladders as it was being pumped from the street hydrants.

Splinter in Eye.

Superintendent Breaks, who was one of the first to enter the building, was injured by falling glass.

It is understood that a piece of glass fell from the window frame on to his foot, with such force that it cut through the thick leather of his boot and stocking and stuck into his foot.

Almost at the same time a splinter of glass flew into one of his eyes, but quick action on his part prevented a serious injury.

Knowing that if he closed his eye the pupil would probably be punctured, he held open the lid and entered the building which was full of dense smoke.

"Although the pain was intense," he told a "Star" representative afterwards, "I managed to keep my eye open. The smoke caused my eyes to water profusely, and the splinter of glass was washed out."

Suffering from the wound to his foot he continued with his work, and the brigade was successful in getting the fire under control within a short period.

Smoke was seen issuing from the basement windows, and the alarm was raised. The brigade turned out, with three engines, and upon arrival found that the ground floor and basement, floors, which were wooden, and were sodden with oil were burning furiously. The Fire Brigade's journey of over three miles on ice-bound roads through a dense fog was made in record time.

Floors Destroyed

The smoke was so dense that entrance to the building was impossible before several of the windows and doors were opened or broken in order to allow smoke to escape.

Added to these difficulties were the acrid fumes arising; from the burning floor, which choked and blinded the firemen.

At, the time of the fire it is understood that, none of the firm's employees had arrived.

Firemen were left on duty for several hours as a precautionary measure.

Both floors were destroyed; the damage is extensive.

Supt. Breaks was treated by the Police Surgeon for the injury to his foot.