

FOREST FIRES RAVAGE LI AMERICAN STATES.

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Title: Glacier.

Track: Ditto.

Lines: Stagg.

Voice: Mellor.

Following three weeks' drought, vast fires broke out in the huge forests of the Eastern States. In New Jersey, where seventy-thousand acres were destroyed, many of the forty-five outbreaks were proved to be the work of incendiaries. Experts estimate it will take thirty years to replace the valuable forests destroyed.

(GV HOUSES BURNING) Hundreds of homes were gutted as the flames devoured villages, and swept on to threaten towns.

(AIR VIEW) The property loss has not yet been fully counted, but the Eastern States will long remember the devastating fires of 1941.

April 22, 1941

T: CL14?
BG:CL118-CL121
EFF:487-533-404-1669
Klein
Abbott
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OFF STAGE VOICE--N.J. FIRE

Mr. Park
Miss Steinkam,
England
Foreign Dep't
Cutter
AP?
FILE

1. title: FOREST FIRE DISASTER HITS EASTERN STATES

2. Forest fires sweep the Eastern United States! In New Jersey alone, 70,000 acres are reduced to blackened waste. In 10 other states, the hot weather, wind and lack of rain make tinderboxes of countless additional woodland acres. Hundreds of homes are burned to the ground. The battle to get the flames under control ranks with the greatest firefighting tasks of the generation. From Camp Dix, five thousand troops are rushed to help check the blitzkrieg of fire. For a detachment of 80 soldiers, there is near-tragedy, when flames suddenly begin encircling them, without their knowing it. A note dropped from a scout plane guides them to safety in the nick of time. Meanwhile the raging inferno sweeps on.... flames leap hundred foot roadways as if they were footpaths. Veering winds push great masses of flames deep into Lakewood Township, and at the Lakewood Naval Station encircle hangars that house practically all of the Navy's lighter-than air equipment. Cleared land, and buildings wetted down against embers, keep the station free of the flames. In Lakewood, the first count shows 51 buildings destroyed. At one New Jersey farm, the cameraman finds a graveyard of chickens killed by smoke. The problem of caring for the homeless confronts state and county officials. The flames a direct real knockout blow at the beach resort of Brant Rock on the Massachusetts south shore. Upwards of 400 summer cottages are burned out; Massachusetts is second hardest hit by the forest fires.... a church and a Coast Guard station are also destroyed in the Marshfield area. It is estimated that it will take more than 30 years to restore the forest land. The property loss has not yet been fully counted...but the East will long remember the woodland conflagration of April, 1941.