

RUBBER FIRE HIDES HEAT WAVE SUN

Right in the middle of the heat wave Mitcham warmed matters up with a blaze of 25,000-tons of rubber. Tyres, wellington boots, gasmasks, goggles, all on a Ministry of Supply dump of salvaged rubber burst into flame without warning. A general-call brought three-hundred firemen of forty-five brigades from all parts of London. The local water supply at first provided a mere trickle, till hoses were relaid from the River Wandle a mile away.

(5 out)

Against the/ (3 after smoke) Intense heat of sun and flame the firemen fought for hours to bar the blaze from nearby houses. Sun-light shining through a gasmask eyepiece, which acted as a burning-glass, started this disastrous fire. By a dense smoke-cloud which hid the sun, London learned that the big rubber-dump was the first casualty of the heat-wave.