

Local - Birmingham

2212

Birmingham: Big Fire Damage

14th March 1955

Birmingham: In the City Centre, firefighters battled desperately to gain control over a mammoth blaze that broke out right on their own doorstep - <sup>The target -</sup> ~~consuming~~ a five-storey warehouse, about thirty yards from the Central Fire Station.

The alarm was given soon after dawn, on Birmingham's great cup-tie Saturday, and as the first appliances went into action, great tongues of flame enveloped the whole building.

Re-inforcements were promptly rushed from neighbouring districts, and, at one time, about 250 men and sixty appliances were in action - trying to prevent the fire from spreading to nearby buildings.

~~With flames leaping one hundred feet above the doomed~~ <sup>WAREHOUSE</sup> ~~building, the~~  
~~blaze, was visible as far away as Sutton Coldfield.~~

Falling masonry, <sup>from the gutted library warehouse</sup> added to the ~~constant~~ dangers that ~~faced~~ the firefighters - and ten were injured...

~~The building~~ <sup>FIREMEN</sup> ~~(which was chiefly, the store for a huge combine retailing~~  
~~cycles and accessories), was gutted.~~ Early estimates put the damage at  
£900,000 - after the second biggest peace-time outbreak in the history  
of the <sup>Bham</sup> ~~city~~...