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BORDEAUX

MEN FROM KENT HONOUR FOREST FIRE VICTIMS

France mourns. While isolated fires are still raging in the dense pinewood country around Bordeaux, three disastrous weeks have already laid waste an area six times the size of Paris. Prime Minister Queuille and members of his Government pay a last tribute to the 31 villagers - who perished in the disaster. The total death roll exceeds 100. Among those honouring the dead are the men from Kent and the R.A.F. fire-fighting crews, who voluntarily went across to aid the French in their peril. Coinciding with the fifth anniversary of the final liberation of France, what should have been a week of rejoicing instead becomes a week of mourning.

All over France people join this little village in its hour of remembrance. Helpless against the fury of the fire, Cestas fought the flames - but lost. Today she mourns her dead.