

5-82.

HOLLAND'S WORST POST-WAR FIRE.

Two huge warehouses at Zaandam, just North of Amsterdam, blaze for several hours. Five cities answer the call for aid, and 150 firemen are rushed to the spot. 40 jets keep the fire from spreading to other dockside buildings. The two warehouses, called "Gaar Peter" and "Nederland", contained large quantities of paints, oils and fats and timber. A cigarette end is thought to have caused the blaze.

As the buildings crumble, vast stores of melted cocoa-butter flow out into the river IJssel. Despite all the firemen's efforts, the blaze which is the worst Holland has suffered since the war, results in damage estimated at more than a million pounds.