

UNDERGROUND FIRE.

A hundred and fifty feet below Tottenham Court Road, fire breaks out in a gigantic wartime air raid shelter which is now used as an Army transit barracks. Troops who were spending the night there on their way to Cyprus are evacuated - some of them overcome by fumes - while firemen in respirators fight the underground blaze through the night and all the following day. So intense is the heat that each man can only go below for 15 minutes at a time.

The seat of the fire is the officers' mess, and it takes eight hours to quench that outbreak; but it has spread to the level above, and fire fighting continues along two miles of underground tunnels. 36 firemen are taken to hospital during the battle against one of London's strangest fires.