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FIRE

Weist-Fitzgerald

New York firemen fight the city's most savage blaze in twenty years at the former Wanamaker's department store -- a lower Manhattan landmark since the Civil War -- now a five-story inferno.

Night falls but the battle rages on. Old wooden beams and partitions feed the flames from the cellar to roof.

Six hundred firemen pour seven thousand gallons of water a minute into the iron-fronted building, a construction marvel in its day. It was being torn down.

But It takes twenty-five hours to control the blaze. Water floods into the subway, knocking out one line for at least two weeks and inconveniencing thousands of passengers in the wake of New York's big fire.