

5/76.

RIVIERA BLAZE:

Fire rages through the beautiful wooded hills of the French Riviera, destroying more than 60,000 acres in three days. The woods are tinder-dry after weeks of sunshine, and high winds spread the blaze quicker than the fire fighters can deal with it. Hundreds of tourists and holidaymakers volunteer to help the firemen, gendarmes and troops who have been rushed from as far away as Central France.

Many of the acres destroyed were famous spots, which will take many years to recover. Smoke towers like huge thunderclouds in the bright sunshine. Many houses are destroyed in spite of all the fire-fighters can do; but they succeed in keeping the blaze away from the fringes of the towns. For days it is touch-and-go. One man is dead and several injured before the outbreak is brought under control.