

CHURCHILL VISITS BEACHHEAD

Foe Hurlled Back Along 60-Mile Battleline Japs Among 10,000 Axis Prisoners in France

\$1,500,000 FIRE IN ROXBURY



LIGHTS CRISS-CROSS—Firemen fighting \$1,500,000 fire in Roxbury, which caused one death and evacuation of several families. Five alarms were sounded.

1 Known Dead; Blast Wrecks Chair Factory

Man Near Death,
7 Firemen Hurt,
Many Rescued

One man was known dead and his attempted rescuer was in a critical condition early today at the Boston City Hospital, as the result of an explosion and five-alarm fire which caused an estimated \$1,500,000 loss in Roxbury. In addition seven firemen were burned or injured.

DEAD

An unidentified man.
At the City Hospital
Walter J. "Joe" Ford, 32, of 50 Telegraph st., South Boston.

Treated at the Fire

Francis Connors, Rescue Company 5, burns on feet and hands.
James Sullivan, Ladder 26, lacerations from glass.
Earl Douglas, Ladder 26, burns on upper arms.
Henry M. Wheeler, Engine 31, lacerations of hands.
Joseph Madden, Engine 51, lacerations of hands.
Robert Mahoney, auxiliary fireman, lacerations of hands.
John Pepe, Ladder 5, lacerations of hands.

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Fire

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Police and firemen began digging through the debris early today for the bodies of four to seven other men reportedly dead in the blast which wrecked the 1½-story brick varnishing plant of the National Chair Company at 80 Hampshire st. The workers must dig through 20 feet of bricks and boards. The blast blew out the entire rear wall facing Linden Park. Until early this morning the fire raged so fiercely that firemen were unable to enter the shattered structure.

Sparks ignited a three story frame building 100 yards away, and nine persons were carried to safety by firemen, while two others made their own way from the blazing structure to the street. So serious had the situation become that officials of the Boston City Hospital, fearful of another disaster of Coconut Grove proportions, mobilized the entire staff. Nearly every available hospital ambulance in Boston was rushed to the scene.

Shortly after the fire started an explosion in the varnishing plant rocked the entire Roxbury section. The building is in the middle of a five-story block, which quickly caught fire. The flames could be seen from all over Greater Boston, attracting thousands of onlookers as well as hundreds of volunteer workers.

Walter J. "Joe" Ford, 32, married, of 50 Telegraph st., South Boston, was passing the plant when the blast occurred. He rushed into the building and pulled the body of a man into Simons st. Members of Rescue Company 2 found Ford and the unidentified man in Simons st., felled by the terrific heat of the

blaze. They rushed them to the City Hospital.

The unidentified man was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital by Dr. Clare MacIntyre. Ford, suffering from first and second degree burns about the face and hands, was in a critical condition this morning and was given the last rites of the Catholic church by the hospital chaplains, Rev. Gerald Kernon, S. J., and Rev. J. Duston Kelley, S. J., both of the Immaculate Conception Church.

Water Curtains Hold Fire

The raging flames from the wrecked brick building leaped to a five-story building in the same block. Efficient work by firemen, using water curtains, prevented the fire spreading from the northern end of the building, confining it to the waterproofing plants of the Newtowne Manufacturing Company and the A. J. Tower Manufacturing Company on the top floor, and to the assembly section of the National Chair Company.

All available fire-fighting apparatus in the city was rushed to the scene, and a detail of 50 police kept the area clear of spectators. Traffic was teid up for blocks. Hundreds of Civilian Defense firemen and servicemen aided the regular firemen.

Sparks from the blaze set afire a three-story wooden dwelling two blocks away at 20 Browning st. William Maxwell, his wife, his daughter, Mary Dolan, and her four children were taken from the third floor by firemen, who also aided Patrick Walsh and his wife from the second floor. Mrs. Sarah Gilroy and her daughter fled to the street from their first-floor apartment.

Dr. James Flynn, night superintendent of the Boston City Hospital, quickly mobilized the entire staff. At 11:45 Police Supt. Edward W. Fallon ordered all men on the first half to remain on duty.

A number of men were treated for burns received in the fire, including three firemen, Francis Connors, James Sullivan and Earl Douglas.

William MacDonald, 36, of 42A Linden park, across the street from the varnishing plant, heard the blast, and rushing out into the street saw several persons staggering out of the building, their clothes on fire. He helped beat out the flames. At least one of the men refused to go to the City Hospital after receiving treatment on the scene by the first of the three Boston City Hospital ambulances to arrive.

Ten persons were evacuated from the houses on Vernon st., a few yards from where the fire burned fiercely. At 197 Vernon st., Mrs. Charlotte Fiola, her son, Francis Henderson, 28, his wife, Josephine, and their three children, Kathleen, 4 months, Patricia, 4 years, and Francis X., 2 years, were moved to safety. From the same address, Mrs. Margaret Hutchinson and her son, Pfc Francis, 24, were also moved. Next door neighbors, Mrs. Anna E. Dragon and her son, Patrick Dockhon, of 199 Vernon st., also quit their homes.