

Death of Sheffield Fire Force Chief

The death occurred last night of Mr. Charles Teather, Senior Divisional Officer of the N.F.S. in No. 3 Fire Force Area, in charge of the two Sheffield divisions.

On October 6th he underwent a major operation in the Sheffield Royal Infirmary, where he died. He was 57.

BY virtue of his position and his robust manner, Mr. Teather was one of the best known men in Sheffield. He was known too, in fire service quarters further afield.

He followed the true tradition of the firemen being courageous, resourceful and thorough, and was an inspiring leader of the men he commanded.

Rapid Promotion

A native of Rotherham, he joined the Sheffield Fire Brigade in 1913 and was promoted sergeant in 1929. After that promotion was rapid. He became inspector in 1932, second officer in 1934 and was given the rank of chief inspector in 1936.

IN 1937 following the departure of Superintendent T. Breaks to take up a Home Office appointment, Mr. Teather was made acting superintendent.

He would probably have retired about that time owing to his age but the unsettled state of Europe and the possibility of war influenced the authorities in retaining his services. He was appointed superintendent in 1938.

Trained Auxiliary Service



He exerted his abundant energies to the task of recruiting and training the Auxiliary Fire Service, and by the time the war broke out, Sheffield had a strong body of part-time firemen. In the subsequent air raids they ably supplemented the work of the regular firemen.

When the fire brigades of the country were reorganised and the N.F.S. created. Mr. Teather was made Senior Divisional Officer.

For his gallant conduct at a fire at Darnall in 1932 when four children lost their lives, he was awarded the silver medal of the Society for the Protection of Life from Fire. In 1936 he received the medal of the National Canine Society for rescuing a dog from a fire.

Mr. Teather was a widower with two children, a son in the R.A.F. and a daughter whose husband is a fireman in Sheffield.