

Blaze at Sheffield Works

By a staff reporter

THE TOOL-ROOM at a Sheffield works was evacuated today after a blaze broke out in a 40-gallon paraffin bath and engulfed a machine and a wooden lean-to shed.

As men filed out of the workshop, workmates formed a make-shift fire-fighting team and tackled the blaze with fire extinguishers and a hose reel.

Two fire engines from the Sheffield brigade's Darnall station were sent to the works - George Cooper, nut and bolt manufacturers, of Sheffield Road, Tinsley.

The machine - a valuable £1,300 electrode metal eroder used in specialised die processes was severely damaged.

Works engineer, Mr. Peter Edlington said later: "It could be a complete write off."

The shed housing the machine at one end of the 100ft long tool-room, was also burned and charred a third of the roof was destroyed.

Danger man

Retiring yesterday was a man who has probably answered as many emergency fire calls as anyone else in Sheffield in 28 years' service with the city's fire brigade.

Mr Philip Gibbs, aged 65, joined the control room in 1942 and since then has been answering emergency calls. He joined the force as an active fireman but was badly injured by an explosive incendiary bomb in the blitz and was forced to take up an inside job.

For his wartime work—he also served at Birmingham and Coventry with relief forces—he was awarded a long-service medal and the Defence Medal. Mr. Gibbs, who is married with two sons and lives in Shirehall Road, Shiregreen, is looking forward to a quiet holiday and then an active retirement. "I don't believe in idling around and doing nothing," he said yesterday.



Principals at Sheffield Fire Brigade's annual dinner and ball included (from left): Mr. S. Lambert (chief fire officer), Ald. H. Redgate, Mr. A. F. Troy and Mr. A. D. Cuckson with the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Sheffield, Ald. and Mrs. H. Lambert, (seated).