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Firemen Pay Last Tribute to Colleague

By a staff reporter



FIREMEN on the same "watch" as Mr. Frank Mallinson, the Sheffield fireman who died after fighting a blaze, paid a last tribute to their colleague yesterday.

They acted as bearers at the funeral at City Road Crematorium, Sheffield, and other firemen provided a guard of honour.

Mr. Mallinson, aged 28, a father of two, died in hospital eight days after he was injured in a fire at the Little Mermaid cafe, in Norfolk Street.

At yesterday's ceremony, 150 uniformed men attended the service, along with city council representatives and members of the family.

They included Mr. Frank Peel, Assistant Chief Fire Officer; Coun. C. F. Davison, deputy chairman of the Fire Brigade committee; Ald. H. Redgate, a member of the committee; Chief Supt. E. Marshall (representing the Chief Constable); Supt. T. Johnson; representatives of the Police Federation; Brigade representatives from Derbyshire, West Riding, Rotherham, Barnsley and Doncaster, representatives of the Ambulance Service, and other uniformed men.

Inquest Told Of Minute 'Death Hiss'

Morning Telegraph Reporter

A hissing noise heard during damping-down operations after a cafe fire was really a 60-second warning of disaster, Sheffield's coroner, Dr Herbert Pilling was told yesterday.

For the sound, thought to be a burst water pipe, was butane gas. And it caused an explosion which cost 28-year-old fireman Frank Mallinson his life.

"But," said the coroner, recording a verdict of accidental death, "there is nothing to suggest that there was any serious negligence by anyone concerned."

The gas cylinder, he was told by Assistant Divisional Fire Officer Albert Reaney, was on an upper floor at the Little Mermaid Cafe, Norfolk Street, Sheffield.

"I noticed it as Fireman Mallinson walked into the room wearing breathing apparatus, to do a final check," he said.

"I could hear a hissing sound which I thought was a burst water pipe. The cylinder was reasonably cool when I checked it, and I could not smell gas."

Mr. Mallinson walked toward him as he stood at the entrance to the room and began to say that the fire was out, except for a few "hot spots."

"He was about eight feet from me when there was an explosion which blew me downstairs. This was followed, immediately, by a second explosion apparently caused by a container of degreasing fluid," said Mr. Reaney.

Mr Mallinson, of Oldfield Avenue, Stannington, was dragged from the blazing room by colleagues, with his uniform on fire. He was given artificial respiration and taken to hospital where he died soon-after.

Mr. Ernest Neill, the Calor Gas Company's senior mechanical inspector, told the coroner that expansion of the cylinder. As the gas inside it was heated 'by the fire, showed, fire, showed, the valve had not been faulty.