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DISASTERS

Sydney, Australia and the year's most spectacular fire. A 7 story wool-store blaze. As the flames leap to the sky, the summer night is turned into day. Thousands of gallons of water could not check the disaster.

British blitz scenes are recalled by these pictures. Here one of the most dramatic shots - the walls of the building collapse. No lives were lost, but damage is estimated at £300,000

From Atlanta, Georgia, the worst hotel fire in America's history. The fifteen-story Winecoff Hotel, housed 280 guests. Though rated as fireproof, it had not outside fire escapes. After a night of frantic rescue attempts, fire-fighting teams could assess the terrible toll of dead and injured. Victims tried to escape by means of bedsheet ropes. Some were saved by rescue nets - thirty leaped to their deaths in the streets below.

The fire was already out of control when it was discovered. In four hours, the total death roll reached 119. Eighty nine survivors were taken to hospital. Cause of the fire is still unknown. To track it down, Georgia state officials have ordered a full investigation.