

EMBERS, SMOKE SHOOT TOWARD STAR'S PLANE

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Twenty miles from Sunderland we could see a heavy plume of thick black smoke climbing high into the air. I was in a plane chartered by The Star. At first it appeared as if the whole business section were on fire. Flames were shooting up 70 and 80 feet into the air as we circled over the main street.

One big building was a mass of flame and from adjoining buildings firemen could be plainly seen directing small streams of water into the fire. As we came low over the town on our third run at a height of 300 feet, the whole building collapsed and a plume of flaming embers and heavy smoke shot into the air.

The main street was obscured for a few minutes and hundreds of people scurried to safety. The blackened shells of other buildings adjacent to this main inferno extended along the entire block. There were very few cars in the immediate area and there appeared to be a single line of fire reels stretched along the main street. The smell of smoke was quite plain and a strong wind was whipping embers over the south end of the town. After the building fell in, it looked as if the fire was being brought under control.
