FIRE IN LONDON STREET

This photograph by J. Gibbon shows firemen attending to an outbreak at 28 London Street, Faringdon (formerly the Rendezvous Cafe), last week. The top floor was gutted and the family had to evacuate.
FIRE IN LONDON STREET

A FIRE on Tuesday at 28 London Street, Faringdon, formerly the Rendezvous Cafe, gutted the top floor and damaged the rest of the house. Mrs. Hilda Welford and her family who live there spent Tuesday night at the Crown Hotel cottage.

The fire broke out in Mrs. Welford's daughter's bedroom. Mrs. Pat Dixey lost many belongings in the fire and most of her children's clothes and toys. She has two children, aged four-and-a-half and three.

Fire brigades from Faringdon, Wantage, Swindon and Didcot attended the blaze. Police directed one-way traffic through Church Street and Coach Lane, and down Ferndale Street for over three hours.

Swindon Fire Depot received an emergency call to tell them of the fire at 10.39 a.m. The firemen had difficulty in obtaining water for their hoses, but had the fire under control within half-an-hour. Neighbours threw through the windows, bedding, clothes and other personal property from the floor beneath the burning room in case the fire should spread.

The firemen, who included the divisional fire officer, Mr. G. Walker, worked for over three hours before the fire was completely out. They had to remove a number of tiles from the roof and later covered it with a tarpaulin.

Mrs. Dixey and her two children were downstairs with Mrs. Welford's youngest daughter, Janette, when the fire happened. With them were Mrs. Josie Stanton, a friend of Mrs. Dixey, and her five-week-old twins.

The alarm was given by Mr. Gordon Bugden, who saw the flames and smoke coming from the top of the house. Mrs. Welford was working at The Crown Hotel and it was about half an hour before she knew that her house was on fire.

The whole of the front part of the house is now uninhabitable, but Mrs. Welford is hoping that they will be able to move back into the rear of the house shortly. All the contents of the top floor rooms were destroyed.

Mrs. Welford said that her neighbours had been wonderful. Swindon fire depot received three or four calls telling them of the fire.

HOW BRIZE NOR RUNWAYS

One of the places affected by the recent blizzard was the USAF base at Brize Norton. The American weather unit at the base recorded a total of 13.1 inches of snow between December 26 and January 4.

A 44-man snow removal unit was established and work was carried out for 24 hours a day clearing the runway and the...