

Sheffield Fire Scene Plucky Rescues from Burning Building Rescuers Retreat Cut Off

A plucky rescue from a burning house was effected by Superintendent W. Frost and other members of the Sheffield Fire Brigade on Christmas morning. The circumstances connected with the outbreak are very peculiar, and though happily the damage done is not serious, the fire caused considerable excitement.

Shortly after midnight the Brigade were called to 11, Watery Lane, Sheffield, and they immediately turned out with the motor escape. On arrival they found a man named Frank Dobson, who resides at 22, Artisan Street, with his head out of the bedroom window shouting for help. The house was full of smoke, and a fire was burning on the staircase. Several men were endeavouring to reach Dobson, who, in his attempt to rescue one of the inmates of the house had had his retreat cut off.

Superintendent Frost and his men succeeded in mounting the staircase and reaching Dobson, who was carried into fresh air. He became unconscious, and later violently hysterical. The ambulance was sent from Westbar Fire Station, and Dobson was conveyed to the Royal Infirmary. The fire was quickly extinguished.

It appears the occupier of the house, Samuel Webster, cutler, retired to bed at nine o'clock on Christmas Eve, and a lodger named James Evans was also in bed in the attic. Susannah Webster, wife of the tenant, was going upstairs shortly after midnight with a lighted lamp in her hand. Her foot slipped and she fell, the lamp breaking and setting fire to the staircase, and immediately there was a big blaze. Her screams attracted the attention of Edith Pheasey, chip potatoe dealer, residing next door, and she raised the alarm.

The front part of the house is let off as a lock up shop and the door leading to this was burnt. Neighbours had to force open a door in the passage before the woman Webster could be dragged out. She had sustained a large bruise on the forehead, and was suffering a good deal from shock. Her relatives took her to the Royal Infirmary, where she received medical treatment. Her husband was rescued by a man unknown. The lodger managed to get safely off the premises. There is no doubt Mrs. Webster had a very narrow escape; and but for the promptitude of neighbours she would have been seriously burnt. The damage amounted to about £10.