

PART TIME FIRE SERVICE

"Thousands of men and women are now being directed by the Ministry of Labour to do part-time duty with the National Fire Service", said Mr. Herbert Morrison, Home Secretary and Minister of Home security, when he addressed students at a National Fire Service Officers' Training School, near Plymouth to-day.

"They will fill gaps left by those who have been released from the fire fighting ranks for service in industry and the Armed Forces.

"We want them to know that they will come in on equal terms and will be warmly welcomed by the Volunteer members of the Service who, as the A.F.S. fought the battle of the flames with the regulars in 1940-41.

"Their recruitment means that we shall need more part-time officers to train them because we require several part-timers to replace one full-timer.

"Thanks to the establishments of the National Fire Service we are well prepared for them. The National Fire Service College has already turned out several thousand officers and instructors including 500 part-timers who have taken up their duties throughout the country. We now have many training schools both for men and women, several of them residential, where they are taught the art of leading others.

"Within little more than a year the Service has laid a firm foundation on which to build sound officer training.

"Officers will not be respected just because they wear insignia. They will be obeyed because their rank demands obedience; but they will be trusted and followed gladly by the rank and file only if they are good leaders.

"We believe we can promise the men and women who will be our new comrades that they will be given first class training and good leadership by officers, which will enable them to make the best use of it on the fire ground or wherever their duty may call them.

"There will be many among them who will have it in them to be good officers. There will be no distinction between the old and the new. The newcomers will have an equal chance of promotion if they deserve it. It is up to them".