BUSH FIRES RAVAGE WIDE AREA
43 HOUSES BURNT AT DROMANA
1,000 FIGHT YALLOURN OUTBREAK

MEN BURNED AT GARFIELD

FROM OUR SPECIAL REPORTERS

Yesterday was Victoria's Black Sunday. Destructive bush fires swept the greater part of the State, threatening life, destroying homes, fences, orchards, haystacks, and laying waste most of timber and grass lands.

With temperatures above the 100 mark and fierce winds blowing all over Victoria, only the western portion of the State escaped the devouring flames. Thousands fought the fires throughout the day and night.

Swept out to Dromana by a 80-mile-an-hour wind, the flames and residents and holiday-makers fleeing to the safety of the beach. Forty-three homes were destroyed.

Last night a whole section of the town was a heap of smouldering ruins.

The flames raged suddenly on the roofs of the facades. The occupants were forced to take shelter in the sea while their temporary homes were demolished. Many of the occupants of the destroyed houses were narrowly missed death. One, an elderly man, opened the front door and let her enraged hair before she was carried to safety.

The Blackburn power station and right seawards in the district are threatened. Six seawards on Mt. Tore Moss are flooded by the fire which swept up the seawards.

During a drive yesterday, a motorist's car was set on fire near Dromana, two cars were damaged. Nothing was recovered by another house.

43 HOUSES THREE-MILE LOST TWO HOURS IN RIVER

Dromana Swept by Flame

Outbreak at Yallourn

Forest Men's Escape

For two days early yesterday afternoon M. E. Croust, 35, and James McLaughlin, 24, both Yallourn employees, fought fierce battles with firemen to save their homes.

At first it was feared that the Yallourn, was a total loss. The danger was never less than imminent.

When these men took up the story, they were in the midst of a hurricane that threatened to engulf them. A powerful fire was raging nearby.

When the men arrived, they found their homes burning fiercely. They entered the house and tried to extinguish the flames, but were forced to leave when the flames became too intense.

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