

75 YEARS AGO

(April 30, 1942)

A DISTRESSING fire which, however regrettable the results, might easily have had more disastrous consequences, occurred in Dornoch on Thursday evening, 23rd inst., when Cheadle House, High Street, was badly damaged. The property, which consists of a dwelling house with the business premises of Messrs Mackay and Sons, cycle agents, attached, belongs to the Sutherland Estates and is tenanted by Mr and Mrs Angus Mackay.

It is one of the oldest buildings in the burgh and, in this respect, possesses some unique architectural features.

The fire, which, it appears, originated in the business premises, was discovered by Mrs Mackay shortly before 6pm and she immediately gave the alarm.

Besides Mr and Mrs Mackay, there were three other families who resided on the premises, but one was, fortunately, absent at the time. The others got safely

out of the house along with Mr and Mrs Mackay.

Firemaster Simon Bain, along with other members of the burgh fire service, were quickly on the scene and the fire hose was soon in action. A trailer suction pump, the property of the military, was also promptly operating and the Dornoch Burn was a welcome asset in this instance as it provided the necessary water for this pump's successful handling.

A willing band of soldiers successfully operated this pump and, in addition, provided a "chain bucket" system.

Immediately it was found control of the fire had been obtained, attention was given to saving the furniture and personal effects of the occupants.

Some of these on the ground floor were got out before the fire extended and did not suffer much damage. The remaining furniture and effects were then quickly removed, but most had suffered damage from smoke and water and in some instances from fire.

The business premises and adjoining rooms were completely gutted and all the stock in the shop was lost. The house as a whole, suffered considerable damage from fire and water, rendering it unfit for rehabilitation.