SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL IS REPORTED RUINED
By The Associated Press.
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SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL IS REPORTED RUINED

Americans, Escaping Through Mob, Tell of a Flaming Up, Possibly From Grenade

By The Associated Press.

CAIRO, Jan. 26—The last moments of Cairo's historic Shepheard's Hotel were fiery and dramatic.

An Italian correspondent, Giovanni Artiere, one of those who had to flee, reported the hotel was completely burned out.

Ernie Hill, correspondent for The Chicago Daily News, and his wife were helped in their escape from the blazing hotel by an Egyptian movie star. Mr. Hill said the flames were leaping twenty feet high when he got away.

Shepheard's was quiet at 2 P. M., although the rioters had already begun setting flames elsewhere in the city. A few minutes later excited crowds were milling in the streets outside.

Shepheard's management moved all guests from rooms facing the street for fear that grenades or other objects would be thrown through the windows. The guests moved to the hotel's ornate lobby, decorated in ancient Egyptian style.

The management closed all shutters on the windows, and the hotel became a gloomy place inside when the lights went out

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about 2:30 P. M., Mr. Hill said. Most of the guests were in the lobby at that time.

A fire already had been put out in the garden when most of the guests moved out there. Other guests said a grenade was thrown into the hotel lobby at that time, setting it afire with the help of some gasoline-soaked rags.

"There was yelling and a few shots," Mr. Hill said. "We all went out into the side garden between Shepheard's and Cook's Travel Agency next door."

Mr. Hill said there was great confusion there. He told of a French woman believed trapped in her room on the third floor. She was sitting fully dressed with her legs over the window. Finally, he said, she threw out several tied-together sheets to break her fall and jumped. Mr. Hill did not know how badly she might have been injured.

A. T. Steele of The New York Herald Tribune was in the hotel with his wife, Mr. Hill said. Mr. and Mrs. Steele decided to go back to their room to get a suitcase. The Steeles later arrived safely at the suburban Heliopolis Palace Hotel.

A. C. Sedgwick of THE NEW YORK TIMES also was at Shepheard's and went to the Heliopolis hotel.

Mr. Hill said Donald Robinson of The Readers Digest and his wife had escaped from the blazing Shepheard's by climbing down a ladder. Hill talked with them later at the main Cairo police station, where they were safely out of the danger zone.

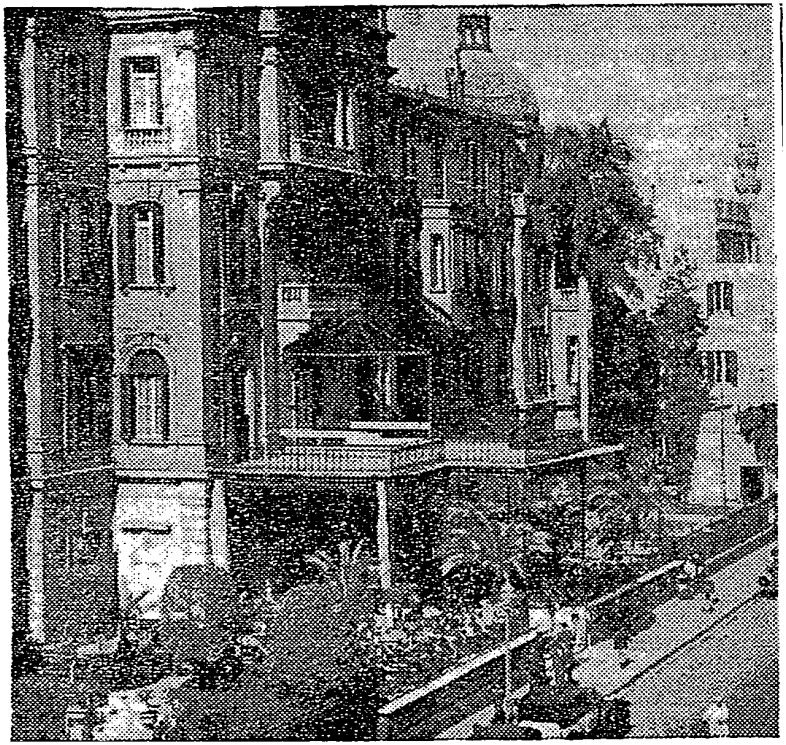
Christine Carroll, American-born opera singer here with an Italian company, escaped from the hotel in her negligee and fur coat. The United States Consulate reported that Mary Curtiss, another American singer, also had escaped.

The Italian Embassy reported it had no information on Max David, correspondent of Milan's Corriere Della Sera, who had been staying at Shepheard's.

Mr. Hill said that May Medwar, an Egyptian acress he and his wife had met at Shepheard's, was the one who helped them out. She took them through a side entrance and out into the street. The Hills and Miss Medwar put hankerchiefs over their faces as they went out because of the smoke.

In the street, Mr. Hill said, there were about 2,000 to 3,000 people—"a snarling mob." Their looks were threatening, he said, adding:

"She (Miss Medwar) grabbed my wife's arm and, with me behind, led us through the milling mob. She was talking Arabic for four or five blocks. We got to a garage and had to wait there an hour and a half before we could get a cab."



Associated Press

Shepheard's Hotel which was set afire by mob

Crossroads of the Orient

Shepheard's Hotel was the meeting place for kings, ambassadors, envoys and other persons who had something to do with affairs of the world or were just traveling over it. It was a sort of crossroads inn. It was one of the favorite eating places of King Farouk of Egypt, whether he was dining out of the palace that night for the diversion or had prepared for a state dinner. His red Cadillacs or Rolls Royces were familiar sights in front of Shepheard's veranda.

Situated in the center of a sprawling city, Shepheard's symbolized the best that Egypt had to offer the visiting celebrity. It originally was an inn built by Samuel Shepheard for British travelers between Britain and India. This was thirty years before the Suez Canal was to expedite these trips.

The atmosphere of Shepheard's, despite many innovations designed to lean westward, was basically oriental. It was compounded of Pharaonic Egypt with a touch of the Sudan and a bit of what most tourists would describe as Arabian-nightish. The structure had Arabic domes and Moorish arches that seemed to come to life with the appearance of Shepheard's servants, caparisoned in red and purple garb.

Joe, of mixed Swiss and Austrian descent, had the barkeep's memory. He knew British generals of the time of El Alamein, when Field Marshal Gen. Erwin Rommel had already engaged rooms at Shepheard's.

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