

GREENWICH WORKS EXPLOSION

Homes Shaken by Blast

For the third time in five years—the second time was only six months ago—residents of Tunnel-avenue, East Greenwich, were startled when an explosion shook their homes on Sunday evening. Windows were shattered and buildings shook from the blast, which was felt by people more than a mile away.

The explosion occurred at the British Oxygen Company's filling department in Tunnel-avenue, where a number of oxygen cylinders exploded, blasting out the windows and roof of the building.

Fire which broke out was promptly extinguished by firemen from the station at the end of Tunnel-avenue.

Three men working in the filling department escaped serious injury by seconds, but were later treated for shock. As on the previous occasion last year, one of the men saw a tongue of flame spurt from one of the cylinders. He shouted a warning to his companions and they all rushed to the door, reaching it seconds before the explosion.

Mr. Walter Buckley, who lives immediately opposite the building and lost nine of his window panes, told the "Mercury": "This is the third time in five years we have been blasted by these explosions. We are still waiting for our roof to be repaired from the last time. This time my wife and I were listening to the radio in the front room, which faces the filling department. We heard the explosion and thought it was a bomb."

Hospital oxygen supplies prepared at the depot were not affected by the explosion, the cause of which is being investigated by the company.