

FIRE AFTER EXPLOSION AT PORCELAIN FACTORY

Within a few minutes of a deafening explosion near a pottery kiln, fire swept over more than 100 sq ft of the firebrick and porcelain manufacturing factory of Andrew Morrow and Co, at the rear of the Victory Athletic running track, off Raleigh rd, Maribyrnong, shortly before 5pm yesterday. Damage estimated at thousands of pounds was caused, but prompt action by firemen prevented a spread to a larger portion of the factory adjoining the kiln firing room, where valuable machinery was saved.

More than 50 firemen, with 8 appliances, fought the outbreak for nearly 3 hours. Residents near by said that almost immediately after the explosion flames broke through the roof, and, fanned by wind, they spread rapidly from the kiln area to pug milling, store, and packing rooms, which were destroyed.

Rooms occupied by Mr Gerald Donovan, caretaker, were also destroyed. He estimated damage to his belongings and tools at £200. Mr Donovan said that he was not at the factory when the fire started, soon after employees had ceased work. A kiln burning would have been completed about that time, and he thought that an explosion might have been caused by expansion of coal fuel.

The factory was used mainly for manufacture of porcelain, and contracts will be disrupted.