

LONDON, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1973

THREE ESCAPE DEATH AS HOUSE COLLAPSES



Photo by S. Wragg.
The scene, reminiscent of the London blitz, confronted police and firemen who were called to Hampstead-road, N.W.1, on Saturday after a house collapsed. Three men in the house managed to escape as the building began to fall.

The only resident of a three storey dwelling house in Hampstead-road, N.W.1, at the junction with Drummond-street, N.W.1, and two friends had a miraculous escape from death when the house collapsed like a pack of cards on Saturday. The house stood adjacent to the Lord Palmerston public-house.

The tenant, Mr. Michael Castro, was in the house at the time with two friends.

One of them Mr. A. Waba told this journal: "Mr. Castro shouted to us to get out and we ran out of the back door as the house came down."

Mr. Castro said that builders were working in the shop on

the ground floor when he heard a cracking sound and decided to escape.

Mr. M. Rimmer was driving his car past the house when it fell. He said: "My car was showered with bricks and dirt. It was fortunate there was nobody on the pavement at the time."

Police from Albany Street Police went to the scene and began a search. They called in two mechanical shovels.

First on the scene was PC Cyril Clements who was overcome by leaking gas while searching the rubble for possible survivors. He was taken to hospital. The Fire Brigade, ambulances and North Thames Gas Board officials also went to the scene. Police diverted traffic.