



A fireman rests after fighting the three-alarm basement fire in Willowbrook State School.

# 100 firemen quell fire at Willowbrook

Some 100 firemen fought heavy smoke and dripping tar for more than three hours yesterday afternoon before bringing a three-alarm fire in Willowbrook State School under control. Seven persons required hospital treatment.

The fire broke out shortly before 2 p.m. in a remote corner of the basement of Building No. 4, a two-story brick building used as a kitchen.

The basement area was used to store civil defense equipment in cardboard boxes and contained a pump for the refrigeration unit.

Firemen first attempted to reach the fire by stretching a

hose down through the basement to the corner where the fire was located.

Fire Department officials said that the hose had to be stretched 200 feet before the fire could be reached.

They added that firemen were forced to feel along for the hose because of the thick smoke and that, when they arrived, they almost immediately had to turn back because their masks were running out of air.

"The smoke and distance made it similar to a sub-basement fire," Chief John O'Mally of the 22nd Battalion said.

As firemen tried to fight the blaze by crawling through the

basement, Ladder Co. 82, which has a pneumatic drill among its equipment, was called to drill holes through the concrete flooring.

As the ladder company attempted to drill three holes through the 10-inch floor, the superpumper and its three satellites joined the 10 engine companies and five ladder companies already on the scene.

Firemen coming up from the basement struggled over to a place in the courtyard to rest from the heat and the smoke.

As the holes were drilled, hot tar came spurting out of them. The tar had been applied to

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