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# On Her Majesty's Service

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## TOP SECRET ... TOP FIREMAN



The three top firemen at Waltham Abbey's Explosives Research Redevelopment Establishment with their silver axe award. Left to right : Mr. H. Hammonds, Mr. Colin Brooks and Mr. Louis Courtney.

THREE firemen at the Government's top-secret Explosives Research and Development Establishment in Waltham Abbey were presented with silver axe awards last Wednesday for being the best students of a six-week fire training course.

Firemen Mr. Louis Courtney, of 5, Gews Corner, Cheshunt, Mr. H. Hammonds, of Ongar, and Mr. Colin Brooks, of Bishop's Stortford, each received their chrome and wood engraved fireman's axe at ERDE from Mr. Bob Griffin, the chief fire officer in the London area.

They were also presented with a trophy in the shape of a flame, symbolic of the fireman's duties.

The firemen attended a six-week training course at the Central Training Establishment at RAF Manston in Kent at different times. And each one proved to be the top of their class. This is the first time that ERDE have produced three top firemen in such a short time.

#### PRACTICAL

The course, which is attended by people from all over the country and even a few from the continent, involved written, oral and practical examinations.

Since then Mr. Hammonds and Mr. Brooks have gone on to take the leading firemen's course . . . once again coming out tops!