

# YDAY ROES



FORBES  
Y HEROES  
STRATHCLYDE FIRE BRIGADE



1970s it had to protect 5,500-square miles including Clydeside and 23 inhabited islands. The fire crews ranged from island volunteers with garden sheds full of equipment to the



*The fire gutted The Esplanade Hotel, Oban, in 1973 in which 10 people died.*

elite Glasgow Fire Service, tackling all kinds of fires in crowded old tenements and factories in the 'tinderbox city', and amongst the best trained and best equipped in the world. Today now renamed Strathclyde Fire and Rescue leads the world in road traffic crash rescue; you'll see jet skis alongside the fire appliances to fulfil the 'rescue' role. One thing that strikes you about this book is how much things have changed in 30 years. Back in the 1970s the fire crews were issued with bri-nylon shirts, which could melt in a hot environment. Today's helmets include fitted eye protection goggles and a pull-down gold-tinted visor to protect against heat and flying objects. Today the new fire station in Oban is acknowledged as one of the finest in Europe; the retained crews training there have the best equipment around. The 30 year story of how this all came about is told with plenty of facts, figures, reminiscences and photographs, all done with an eye for detail and an affection for the institution that is plain to see. Alan Forbes' book is a superb testament to 30 years of fire fighting in Strathclyde.