

Adelaide Fire Brigade 1940

Sands and McDougall Directory of South Australia for 1940



Sands and McDougall Directory 1940

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 13 January 1940, page 22

FIRE IN DISTILLERY AT STEPNEY

Brandy Vats Ablaze

Courageous work by firemen from the Metropolitan and Norwood Fire Brigades prevented a more serious fire when a large bond storage cellar caught alight at the distillery of Tolley, Scott and Tolley, Nelson street, Stepney, yesterday. The cellar, which contained nine brandy vats, each with a capacity of 6,500 gallons, caught fire as a result of a short circuit, and within a short time the large wooden vats were ablaze. Workmen endeavored to subdue the blaze with chemical fire extinguishers without success, and the two brigades which arrived a few minutes after the alarm was given, poured thousands of gallons of water into the building in a desperate effort to prevent an explosion. The heat caused the tops of at least four vats to break away, but the firemen, working close to the blaze despite the danger of one of the vats collapsing, soon had the fire under control. Part of the roof of the building was damaged, and seven of the vats were charred. Fearing an explosion at any moment, a resident warned other people living nearby to vacate their homes until the fire was subdued. The secretary of the company (Mr. R. A. Harper) said last night that the brigades had done splendid work in saving what might have been a much more serious fire. He was unable to estimate the damage done. Acting Chief Officer Cook was in charge of the brigades.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 18 January 1940, page 25

FIRE IN DISTILLERY

Brandy Vats Ablaze

Courageous work by firemen from the Metropolitan and Norwood Fire Brigades prevented a more serious fire when a large bond storage cellar caught alight at the distillery of Tolley, Scott & Tolley, Nelson street, Stepney, on Friday. The cellar, which contained nine brandy vats, each with a capacity of 6,500 gallons, caught fire as a result of a short circuit, and within a short time the large wooden vats were ablaze. Workmen endeavored to subdue the blaze

with chemical fire extinguishers without success, and the two brigades, which arrived a few minutes after the alarm was given, poured thousands of gallons of water into the building in a desperate effort to prevent an explosion. The heat caused the tops of at least four vats to break away, but the firemen, working close to the blaze despite the danger of one of the vats collapsing, soon had the fire under control. Part of the roof of the building was damaged, and seven of the vats were charred.



BRG 397/2/185/1 Reproduction rights: State Library of South Australia

State Library of South Australia - Series 185: Aerial views of Tolley Scott, and Tolley distilleries [BRG 397/2/185/1], Aerial photographs of the Tolley, Scott and Tolley (TST) Distillery on Nelson Street, Stepney, including views of surrounding houses along Henry Street. The final image shows TST's Angas Park Distillery at Nuriootpa. Approximately 1939. Photographer Smith, D. Darian. Part of D. Darian Smith Collection and Stepney Collection

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 7 February 1940, page 20

Fire Brigade Promotions

A number of promotions in the South Australian Fire Brigade will take effect from Friday. They were announced yesterday by Chief Office J. J. Whyte, who said that they had been determined by the results of the last examination. The promotions will be:— 1st grade senior fireman W. H. Wade to be station officer, 2nd grade senior fireman A. J. L. Sandison to be 1st grade senior fireman, Fireman T. J. Meaney to be 1st grade senior fireman, fireman W. J. Farthing to be 1st grade senior fireman, fireman R. Paul to be 1st grade senior fireman, firemen A. R. Ingram. M. L. Rance. T. F. Shwerdt and F. L. Kerr to be 2nd grade senior firemen.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 13 April 1940, page 9

ADELAIDE'S MODERN FIRE STATIONS

£9,000 Scheme Completed In Suburbs

With the installation on Thursday of a new appliance at the Prospect fire station, the South Australian Fire Brigades Board completed its programme of modernising Adelaide's suburban fire stations. At a total cost of approximately £9,000, seven stations have been brought up to date in the last four years, and they now comprise the most modern firefighting system in Australia. The scheme of modernising the stations was undertaken at the suggestion of Chief Officer J. J. Whyte, shortly after his appointment to fire brigade headquarters. The stations that have been included in the scheme are Semaphore, Glenelg, Unley, Thebarton, Prospect, Woodville and Norwood. In some cases, in addition to the provision of new equipment, the scheme has meant the rebuilding of station premises. Woodville, with its new building and its system of "talkalarms," is the outstanding station in the scheme. So successful have the "talkalarms," which were invented by a South Australian, become that they have recently been installed in two manufacturing plants in the Woodville area. Improvements to Prospect included the provision of a new pump appliance which pumps 24,000 gallons of water an hour, is equipped with a 36-foot extension ladder, has accommodation for seven men, and carries 2,000 feet of hose. The station has also been supplied with the latest chemicals for extinguishing industrial gas and oil fires.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 20 June 1940, page 18

Fire Reel Handy During Exam

WITH a fire appliance standing by in case of a serious outbreak, 12 metropolitan firemen are sitting for the London Fire Engineers' examination at the University of Adelaide today. The examining officer of the Education Department (Mr. Nelson) has charge of the test, which is the highest in the fire world.

Those sitting for the examination are: Associate Diploma—E. Magor, K. Kerr, T. F. Schwerdt, F. Rance, and A. Farthing. Graduate Diploma—R. J. F. Bottom-ley, J. F. Byass, T. M. Davis, A. R. Ingram, D. G. Eve, M. R. Eatts, and F. Heath. In an emergency today the men would be called on as a second alarm.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 19 August 1940, page 16

SKYSCRAPER LADDER TEST:



REACHING nearly to the top of Adelaide's tallest buildings (132 feet), the Fire Brigade's new extension ladder was tested in King William street yesterday morning. A big crowd watched a fireman climb to the top.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 21 October 1940, page 1

FIRE BURNS OUT DUNLOP's

WAREHOUSE Total Loss £120,000

Reducing £100,000 worth of stock in the warehouse of Dunlop Perdriau Rubber Co., Ltd., Flinders street, City, to blackened ruin, a fierce fire, which broke out at 8 a.m. today, defied the efforts of fire-fighters from all parts of the metropolitan area to conquer it. It was not brought under control until 10.10 a.m. Total damage is estimated at £120,000, making the outbreak the second worst to occur in Adelaide. The worst was the £200,000 blaze at Duncan & Fraser's motor works in 1923.

SEVERAL firefighters had narrow escapes during today's fire. When it was still possible to enter the building, two men who rushed in through the main entrance found themselves cut off when flames shot up through the floor behind them. They were dragged to safety through the blaze with lifelines, without which Chief Officer Whyte would not allow them into the inferno. Soon afterwards, Fireman Nicholls, of Norwood, went through the ground floor when it gave under him. His lifeline became entangled, and four comrades pulled him clear just in time. He was temporarily overcome. Six girls fell about 8 ft. to the ground when a lean-to from which they were watching the fire, about 50 yards away, collapsed. None of them was injured. Fireman Cassebohm was treated at the Royal Adelaide Hospital for a cut on a leg, and Fireman L. Sanders received treatment for a cut on a hand. The warehouse was opened by an employe at 7.50 a.m. He inspected the basement, ground, and first floors and opened the strongroom in the basement. Another employe arrived a few minutes later and smelt fumes coming from the basement. As soon as the fire was detected, the alarm was raised. It is thought that an electrical defect caused the fire. When the blaze had burnt itself out after

threatening to set a neighboring block of houses and shops alight, what had once been a modern three story warehouse was a gaunt skeleton of seared brickwork. Explosive gases generated by the terrific heat of the fire gave a dazzling pyrotechnic display. In the building itself the gases were too dense to explode, but when they shot skywards they flashed into flame and darted fiery tongues back to the blaze. Choking Flinders street, Wakefield street, and nearby lanes, a crowd worthy of a football grand final, saw firemen, risking their lives as they came to grips with the blaze, brilliantly save adjoining property. Crackling fiercely as it fed on the highly inflammable stock with which the building was crammed, the fire was out of control when the vanguard of an army of firefighters arrived. Sizing up the position in a flash, Chief Officer Whyte sounded the third alarm—a general call to all stations in the metropolitan area—and asked for 50 police constables. This was the first time that the third alarm has been raised in South Australia for many years

Heat Drives Firemen Back

WORKING in relays, firemen, who were on the scene within a few seconds of being called, and were equipped with breathing apparatus, dashed into the blazing building, but were quickly driven back by terrible heat and impenetrable smoke fumes. To enable firemen to get closer to the seat of the fire, an oxy-acetylene plant was used to cut iron grilles level with the footpath. Through these water gushed in an endless stream without apparent effect. Surrounded at all points, the fire was deluged with water, but for nearly two hours it raged with undiminished fury. Dense clouds of black smoke gushed from the upper windows, turning day into murky night in Roper street. There a concentration of firefighters worked under almost unbearable conditions. From time to time gasping figures, faces dark with grime and eyes reddened with heat, emerged from the murk in Roper street and fresh forces rushed in to relieve them. An issue of brandy helped to keep the men going. Many were obviously badly affected by the poisonous fumes. An awe-inspiring spectacle greeted spectators when the fire, having eaten its way through three floors and tens of thousands of pounds' worth of stock, burst through the roof. Huge tongues of flame mingled with the smoke and reached hungrily across to a three-story building on the opposite corner of Roper street. Flames, caught by the wind, billowed over housetops, and for a ticklish moment there seemed no hope of confining the blaze to one set of premises. Firemen swung their hoses from the building temporarily to ward off the flames from property in Roper street. The brigade's new monster extension ladder and water tower, making its first appearance at a fire in South Australia, saved the situation. As the flames burst through the roof the ladder was extended and two streams were poured through the roof from powerful monitor jets. Soon afterwards the old extension ladder came into action in Roper street. At the height of the outbreak police went from house to house and shop to shop advising occupants to evacuate the premises until further notice. Householders took the evacuation calmly and carried as much property as they could manage into lanes. (Continued on Page 5)

AT THE HEIGHT OF THE BLAZE



SMOKE POURING from the burning building during the height of the fire in the warehouse of the Dunlop Perdriau Rubber Co., Flinders street. In the foreground are firemen sending thousands of gallons of water into the inferno. It was the second largest fire in the history of Adelaide. (See other pictures on Page 5 and Back Page.)

FIREMEN RISK LIVES FIGHTING

BIG CITY BLAZE (Continued from Page 1.) Thousands Brave Fumes, Keep Police Busy With the western wall likely to crash at any minute, firefighters at Dunlop's warehouse blaze today took their safety in their hands as they hung grimly to hoses in Roper street. Falling masonry warned them of the danger in which they stood, but they stayed there unperturbed until the blaze spent its fury.

At one stage thousands of pounds worth of motor cycles and bicycles were on the footpath in Flinders street. They had been removed from premises which seemed almost certain to catch alight. Spectators, who at one stage must have totalled between 20,000 and 30,000, were generous in their praise of the magnificent work of the firemen. Few expected adjoining buildings to be saved. Soon after the fire started the London Hotel, next door, towards Pulteney street, seemed doomed. It was evacuated under police supervision. A sudden slight change in the wind swung the flames away from the hotel soon afterwards. When the alarm was given fumes were so thick that it was impossible to close the strongrooms and it is feared that at least some of the company's records have been destroyed. When the fire was under control there was about 3 ft. of water in the strongroom, but no examination has yet been made to find the extent of the damage to the records. Chief Officer Whyte said afterwards that the fire was particularly hard to fight because the premises were so heavily stocked. The basement was so densely packed that firemen had to move edgewise in it. Mr. Whyte added that the fire burnt for 130 minutes before it was under control. New Warehouse to be Built It was announced a month ago that the Dunlop Perdriau Co., Ltd., had decided to erect a four-storied concrete and brick building in Flinders street east. The building will be used for offices

and a warehouse, and will replace the existing premises of the Dunlop Perdriau and Barnet Glass Co.'s in Pirie and Grenfell streets, and the gutted building in Flinders street. The new warehouse will have a total floor space of 40.000 sq. ft., and a ground area of 18.656 sq ft., compared with a floor space of 36.000 sq. ft., in the companies' other three buildings.

It is understood that satisfactory tenders have been received, and a contract for the new building will be let within the next day or two. Between 70 and 80 employes were engaged at the Flinders street ware-house, but they will all be transferred to the Grenfell and Pirie street pre-mises without loss of employment, said the manager (Mr. S. R. Kent) today Business formerly carried on at the Flinders street warehouses would now be transferred to Pirie street. Mr. Kent said he did not think the fire would hasten plans for the completion of the new building, as it had been the intention of the company to push ahead with them as fast as possible. It was hoped to be in the new building by next June

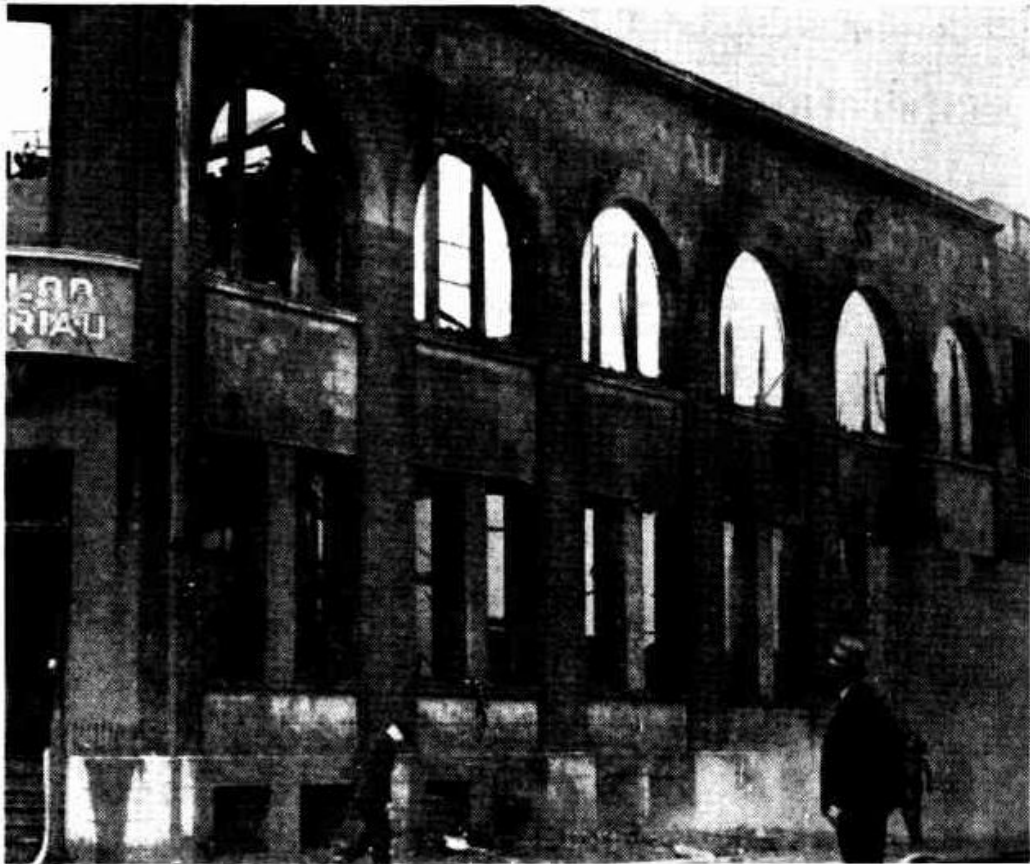
News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 21 October 1940, page 5

Was Adelaide's Second Biggest Blaze

TODAY'S fire is the second biggest which has occurred in Adelaide. The largest was at the premises of Duncan & Fraser Ltd and Duncan's Motors Ltd. in 1923. when 200.000 worth of damage was caused. Other big fires which have occurred here include one at Thompson & Har-vey Ltd., Flinders street, in April, 1935, when more than £20,000 damage was caused. When the Port Adelaide mill of Lion Timber Mills was destroyed in 1938. damage was £15.000, and the Stock Exchange fire in the same year resulted in a loss of £10,000. Other fires include the burning of the steamer City of Singapore at Port Adelaide (1924): James Mar-shall & Co. (1882), £70,000; Patrick Gay's and adjoining premises in Rundle street (1884). £80.000: Academy of Music (1884). £10.000: the Academy and three shops (1886). £60.000: Bur-ford & Sons Ltd.. (1885 and 1919), £20,000.; John Martin & Co. Ltd. (1901). £80,000: Genders Building, Grenfell street (1910), £15.000; Torrenside Woollen Mills. West Thebarton (1939). £8.000: People's Palace. Pirie street (1938). £4,000. Other spectacular blazes included the fires at Harrold. Colton & Co. (for-runner of Colton. Palmer & Preston Ltd.) in 1907. when in two hours a fine warehouse was reduced to ruins. and those at Richards Buildings, Flavel and Co. Ltd., and the Colonial Sugar Refinery works at Glanville.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 21 October 1940, page 5

Shell Of Warehouse



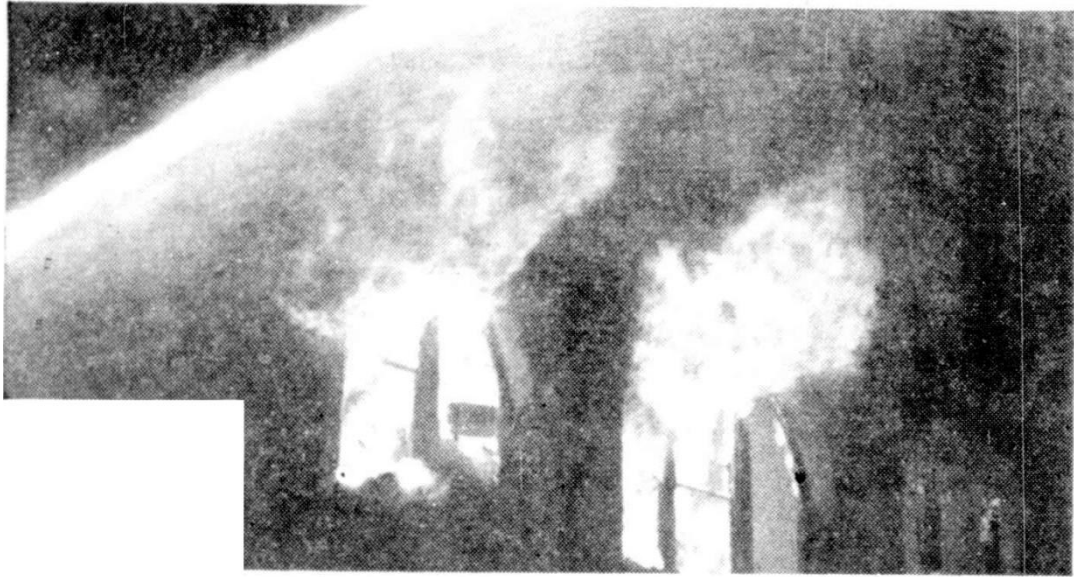
TAKEN nearly five hours after the outbreak, this picture shows the shell of the gutted warehouse of the Dunlop Perdriau Rubber Co.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 21 October 1940, page 8

Adelaide's Biggest Fire for Years



STOCK AND BUILDING VALUED at between £100,000 and £120,000 was destroyed when a fire broke out in the warehouse of the Dunlop Perdriau Rubber Co., Flinders street, at 8 a.m. today. This picture shows a fireman, overcome by the smoke and fumes, resting on the footpath outside after having been revived with a drink.



FLAMES SHOOTING out from the windows of the burning warehouse. Firemen had to wear respirators before entering the building.



NEARBY SHOPS threatened by the blaze were quickly evacuated, and one section of the footpath in Flinders street was blocked with hundreds of motor cycles and bicycles, valued at thousands of pounds. Occupants of houses in the vicinity were also evacuated.



FIREMEN FIGHTING THE BLAZE from a side street. Hundreds of yards of hose covered the roads and footpaths round the burning premises.



THE OUTBREAK WAS THE BIGGEST in the city for years. Thousands of city workers congregated in Flinders street to watch the firemen's battle. (See other pictures on Pages 1 and 5).

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 22 October 1940, page 14

LARGEST FIRE IN ADELAIDE FOR 17 YEARS



THE FIRE which destroyed the warehouse of Dunlop Perdriau Rubber Coy., in Flinders street, Adelaide, yesterday, was the worst for 17 years, total damage being estimated at £120,000. All brigades in the metropolitan area were summoned. This was one of the most spectacular blazes seen in the city.



LEFT — The fire in complete control. The brigade was responsible for a wonderful save of contiguous buildings. Above — Spectators crowded into Flinders street to watch the firemen, several of whom were treated for minor injuries and effects of smoke. Two were trapped in the burning building.



State Library of South Australia - Fire at Dunlop Perdriau [B 7798/201], Adelaide Fire Brigade personnel fighting the fire at Dunlop Perdriau Rubber Company at 103-107 Flinders Street, Adelaide. Also features the London Hotel and part of the Thompson and Harvey paint store. 1940. Photographer Advertiser Newspapers Ltd



State Library of South Australia - Fire at Dunlop Perdriau [B 7798/202], Adelaide Fire Brigade personnel fighting the fire at Dunlop Perdriau Rubber Company at 103-107 Flinders Street, Adelaide. October 1940. 1940. Photographer Advertiser Newspapers Ltd.

Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Thursday 24 October 1940, page 4

Dunlop Warehouse Fire

Records Soaked, But Readable

ADELAIDE Wednesday.

Essential records of the Dunlop Perdriau Rubber Company, Limited, whose premises were gutted by fire on Monday, were not as badly damaged as at first thought.

Although some bundles of papers were damaged, the most important, such as orders and customers' accounts, were clearly decipherable.

An official of the company said today that apparently water had flooded the strongroom, in which the papers were kept, before the fire could do much real damage to records.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 28 October 1940, page 3

No Inquest On Dunlop Office Fire

Work on the construction of a new four-story building for Dunlop Perdriau Co. Ltd. will begin tomorrow. The company's Flinders street premises were destroyed by a £100,000 fire last Monday. The coroner (Mr. Black-burn) today decided not to hold an inquest into the outbreak. The new building, which will be on a block in Flinders street, near Pulteney street, will comprise offices and stores. It will cost about £30,000. The work will be carried out in brick and cement, and the building will have a modern brick frontage in black and cream. The contractors are C. H. Martin Ltd.

Narracoorte Herald (SA : 1875 - 1954), Tuesday 29 October 1940, page 4

Big Fire at Dunlop Warehouse.

DAMAGE £120,000.

Heavily stocked with highly inflammable goods the three-storey ware-house of the Dunlop-Perdriau Rubber Co. Ltd., at the corner of Flinders and Roper Streets, Adelaide, was completely burnt out on Monday morning in the most destructive fire in Adelaide for 17 years.

The value of the rubber manufactures destroyed was estimated at £100,000. The loss of office equipment and furniture and the damage to the building, only the shell of which now stands, bring the amount involved to £120,000.



B 12921

State Library of South Australia - Flinders Street [B 12921], Flinders Street and Roper Street, east corner, 25th January 1954. Right side of the Dunlop building has a frontage of 45 yards on Roper Street, left side 16 and 3/4 yards on Flinders Street. This shell of a building was incorporated into a new structure completed in 1955. See B13577. 1954. Photographer State Library of South Australia, Part of Acre 275 Collection.