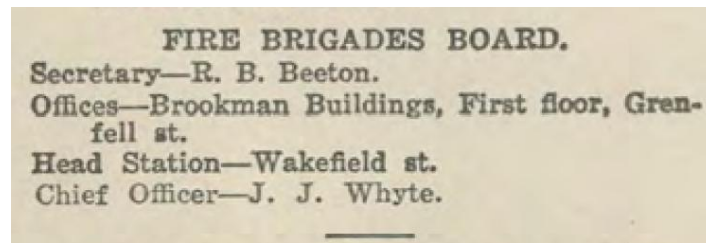


## Adelaide Fire Brigade 1944

**Sands and McDougall Directory of South Australia for 1930**



*Sands and McDougall Directory 1944*

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 8 January 1944, page 7**

### FALSE ALARM FIRE CALLS COST THOUSANDS

Many thousands of pounds a year were wasted through false alarm fire calls, the Chief Fire Officer (Mr. Whyte) said today.

During 1943 there were 177 false alarm calls, he said. For a false alarm call two miles from the station, the waste was £1 to each vehicle, providing it took no longer than 10 minutes. In the history of fire brigades hundreds of thousands of pounds had been wasted in this way. The talk-alarm system, over which the caller could give details of the fire directly to a fire station, had cut down false alarms by 50 per cent.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 1 June 1944, page 6**

### FIRE ALARM

#### VANDALS WILL HAVE TO TALK

VANDALS who delight in breaking the glass of city fire alarms and putting the Fire Brigade to needless expense, may be stumped shortly when Adelaide's Talkalarm system is installed.

INSTEAD of merely breaking the glass and turning a handle, the caller will have to speak into the alarm and converse with the head fire station. The new system, which is already in use at Port Adelaide, Woodville, and Hindmarsh, is a South Australian invention. It has been developed and manufactured in the Fire Brigade's electrical workshop. The device has been patented. The new equipment is expected to save the brigade hundreds of pounds in preventing false calls, which number more than 200 a year. It will also obviate the sending of numbers of appliances to out breaks which might require only two firemen. At present, if a street fire alarm is broken in the city "danger area" the big ladder and all appliances are despatched. Sometimes the call has been only for a motor cycle on fire. The present street wiring on the 184 alarms in the city will be used when installations are begun in the new financial year. Another innovation which Chief Officer Whyte is hopeful of introducing later is radio communication between his car and headquarters for use at fires.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 28 July 1944, page 4**

### "TALKALARMS" TO CALL FIRE BRIGADE SOON

#### Remarkable S.A. Invention To Be Used In City

Described by the Chief Officer of the South Australian Fire Brigades (Mr. J.J. Whyte) as eclipsing anything else of the kind in the world, so far as is known, new perfected "Talkalarms" will be installed in the streets of Adelaide during the next few months.

The invention, which marks one of the greatest advances ever made in the records of fire protection, was evolved by the chief electrician at the Fire Brigades' headquarters (Mr. E. M.

Angus), in collaboration with Mr. Whyte, and the patent is held by the South Australian Fire Brigades' Board. The first public experiment with the invention embodied in the "Talkalarm" was made at Woodville four years ago, and it proved so successful that similar street installations were set up at Hindmarsh and Port Adelaide. Continual improvements have been made by the inventor, until the alarm system has now been pronounced "absolutely watertight." Already the new principle has been tried most effectively at hospitals and factories. It is an easily adaptable contrivance, and could be used in other directions—even on trains. At first glance, the "Talkalarm" will appear to be nothing new to the man in the street, but a closer inspection will show that behind the outer glass of the installation a speaker and a press button have replaced the handle which persons giving fire alarms have hitherto turned. Each street call box in the latest alarm system is wired back to the fire station—the wires being clear of earth, and terminating at their respective indicating points at the station. Upon breaking the glass at the "Talkalarm" box, and pressing the button, the operator is immediately in touch with the fireman on duty at the station, who asks where the fire is, and what is its nature. The information thus gained will effect important savings of men and equipment when the blaze is not extensive. The pressing of the button at the street call box not only gives an audible buzzer or bell signal at the station end, but illuminates a frosted glass window on which is shown the location of the alarm box. The close "Talkalarm" circuits involve a self-analysing system, and instantly disclose open and short circuits, loops, and "earths," which, in the present type of fire alarms, bring the brigades out on by far the greater number of the false calls. What the prevention of these will mean to firemen will be realised when it is remembered that the false alarms in the metropolitan area total nearly 200 in a year. Another remarkable feature of the invention is its power to deflect the malicious caller. If, on breaking the glass and pressing the button, he then hurries away without speaking, the fireman at the station at once amplifies his voice, so that it can be heard within a distance of about 50 yards of the street box, and calls upon any person in the vicinity to talk at the alarm. The watchroom at the metropolitan headquarters' fire station is being reorganised to suit the "Talk alarms," the general installation of which will be begun in a few weeks. There are approximately 80 of the old type of street alarms throughout Adelaide and suburbs, but it is proposed to increase this number considerably for the "Talkalarm" system.



The new "Talkalarm" system to be installed throughout the city will enable the person detecting a fire to speak to brigade headquarters after pressing the button shown here.

The new "Talkalarm" system to be installed throughout the city will enable the person detecting a fire to speak to brigade headquarters after pressing the button shown here.

***Yass Tribune-Courier (NSW : 1929 - 1954), Thursday 3 August 1944, page 2***

#### Adelaide Invention To Eliminate False Fire Alarms

Street fire boxes throughout the Adelaide metropolitan area will soon be equipped with a remarkable South Australian invention, patented as "Talkalarm." When the street glass is broken to summon brigades to a fire, instead of turning a handle, the person will press a button, which will cause a buzzer at the station end to give a warning and the exact location of the caller will be shown on an illuminated glass diagram. The fireman will then speak to the caller over a close circuit. The person who is summoning the brigade, will speak through a speaker installed at the box and give particulars of the fire, thus assisting the brigade in avoiding sending out unnecessary vehicles. In the event of a malicious caller breaking the glass and hurrying away after pressing the button, the fireman, receiving no answer to his inquiries, will amplify his voice and call on passers-by in the vicinity of the box to speak. The invention also discloses open and short circuits and other defects, which hitherto caused by far the greater number of false alarms and will, thereby, save numerous unnecessary turn-outs by brigades.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 28 August 1944, page 3***

#### £10 FINE FOR FALSE FIRE ALARM

Thomas Henry Ellison, 44, laborer, of Port road, Hindmarsh, was fined £10 with 7/6 costs in the Adelaide Police Court today for having given a false alarm of fire by smashing the glass of a fire alarm at Morphett street. City at 6.40 p.m. on Saturday. The Police Prosecutor

(Inspector Harris) said that the fire brigade turned out as a result of Ellison's act. Ellison was arrested in a shop nearby. Ellison, who pleaded guilty, admitted 15 previous convictions.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 30 August 1944, page 9**

False Fire Alarm Has Realistic Sequel

While about 200 RAAF men of 4STT were undergoing a fire drill exercise at their barracks in Pirie street, city, last night, someone in the street, thinking that the building was on fire, rang the nearest fire alarm, and within exactly one minute three appliances from the Metropolitan Brigade were on the scene. Although the firemen were promptly told that there was "nothing doing," they agreed that the exercise was realistic enough, with men running about in pyjamas and others enacting typical fire scenes.