

## Adelaide Fire Brigade 1949

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 12 January 1949, page 1**

### Booted III For Fire Brigades

A five-year-old boy's misadventure at Dulwich yesterday evening brought two fire appliances—one from HQ and the other from Norwood Fire Station—hot-foot to Dulwich avenue only to find that there was no fire. The boy, who was returning home with his mother after visiting friends, was wheeling his scooter with one hand and in the other swinging his shoes, which he had taken off because the day was hot. As he passed a street fire alarm he flipped the shoes at the glass panel, breaking it. As no one had turned the handle, the boy's mother was surprised when, a few minutes later, the brigades arrived. She told Constable Siebert, of Dulwich police, that she had intended telephoning the fire brigade to apologise for the incident after she had visited a butcher shop nearby. She was in the shop when the appliances arrived and immediately went to explain the mishap.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 14 February 1949, page 1**

### Fire truck damaged in city smash

#### BUTT LINK IN CRASH

#### Vivid story

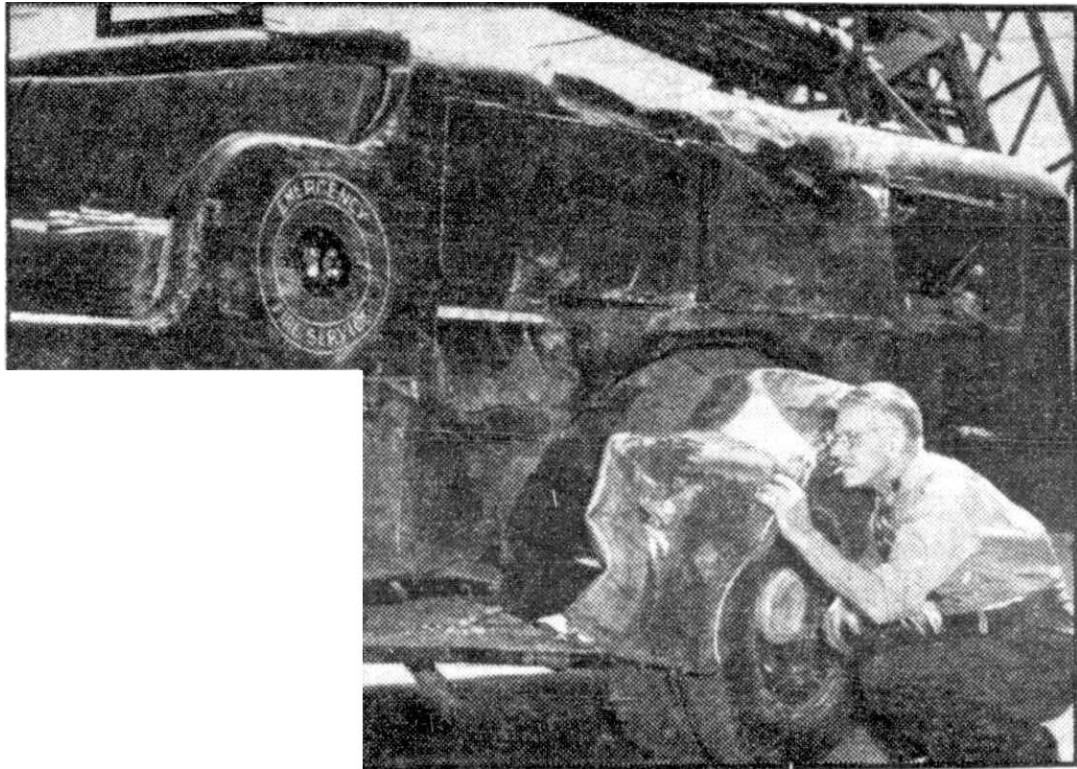
A cigarette butt is blamed for the Hilton fire to which a Fire Brigade appliance was travelling when involved in a fatal crash in the city yesterday evening. The fire occurred in the sitting room of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Huddleston, of Torrens street, West Hilton. The official Fire Brigade report says it was caused by a cigarette butt coming into contact with the upholstery of a chair. Damage was done to a carpet, easy chair, and other household effects, but the blaze was quickly extinguished by Thebarton firemen, who had also answered a call to the outbreak shortly before 6.30 p.m. Conditions of the six victims in hospital following the collision between a passenger bus and a fire appliance at the corner of West terrace and Grote street, were given today as satisfactory.

#### Clung to their mother

Barbara Speck, nine weeks, escaped with a lump on her head and her brother Graham, 18 months, sustained abrasions as they clung to their mother, Mrs. Margaret Speck, of Ballantyne street, West Thebarton, under the overturned bus. "It was a terrible shock to all of us, and it was a miracle the babies were not hurt more than they were," said Mrs. Speck at her home today. Her husband, Mr. Gilbert Speck, is in Royal Adelaide Hospital with a lacerated scalp. Her mother-in-law, Mrs. Ada Speck, and her brother-in-law, Mr. Lawrence Speck, both of Port road, Croydon, were also injured in the crash. Still dazed as a result of the accident, Mrs. Margaret Speck said she could not remember much about it.

#### Search for babies

"I did not even see the Fire Brigade coming before the crash," she said. "There was a bang, and the next thing I knew I was trying to find my babies in the darkness. That is all I was worried about. I discovered then they were both underneath me." Mr. Norman White, of Port road, Hindmarsh, whose wife, Mrs. Phoebe White, is in hospital suffering from concussion, said today he did not see the fire reel until just as the vehicles hit. "Some of the children started to scream, but there was no panic," he said. "My wife and I were sitting near the front of the bus and I put my hands out to save her as the crash came. "However, she was sitting right on the side and got the full force of the impact, which was on that side. "My wife was unconscious as we scrambled to get her safely out of the bus." (First of kind in SA-Back Page.)



ABOVE—TODAY'S picture of the damaged fire appliance involved in last night's fatal collision. LEFT—Chief Fire Officer J. J. Whyte inspecting a smashed helmet which probably saved Fireman Clyde Wellman from serious injury. RIGHT —Mrs. Lucy Marion Hine, 44, who was killed in the crash, with her husband and daughter, who were injured.

*News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 14 February 1949, page 16*

### FIRST CRASH OF KIND IN S.A.

Last night's fatal city crash between a passenger bus and a fire appliance was the first fatal road accident involving a SA fire appliance.

The crash resulted in a woman bus passenger being killed and 20 of the 30 bus occupants being injured. The five men on the fire appliance were all injured. The passenger bus, laden with picnickers returning from Belair, struck the side of the fire appliance as it was crossing West terrace. The bus overturned. Three firemen were hurled into the air and crashed to the road. The other two held their seats as the appliance mounted the footpath and came to rest on the lawns in the reserve.

#### Ran to talk-alarm

The death of the woman passenger, Mrs. Lucy Marion Hine, 44, of Lewanick street, Allenby Gardens, will probably be investigated at an inquest by the deputy city coroner (Mr. P. Teesdale Smith). Immediately the accident occurred, one of the firemen ran to a talkalarm at the corner and advised Fire Brigade headquarters. Another appliance was sent to the fire. Two more stood by at the scene of the accident. Third Officer H. A. Patton, 49, who was operating the handle of the siren in the front seat of the appliance, was shot into the air and crashed to the road with concussion and lacerations. Firemen Clyde Wellman, who was thrown off, was saved from serious injury by his helmet, made of fibre composition. These helmets are extremely tough and the Chief Fire Officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) said today it was the first helmet smashed in 10 years.

#### Six in hospital

Those in Royal Adelaide Hospital are Third Officer Patton, Gilbert Speck, 29, of Ballantyne street, West Thebarton, George Patrick O'Connor, 30, of Ashley street Torrensville, driver of the bus, Holly Emsley, 48, of Compton street, West Hindmarsh, and Phoebe White, 59, of Port road, Hindmarsh. Joan Murphy, 11, of McDonald avenue, New Hindmarsh, is in Adelaide Children's Hospital. Chief Fire Officer Whyte said today the appliance slowed down to 20 miles an hour across the intersection. Under the Fire Brigades Act one clause states that the chief officer shall "upon alarm of fire at any place, proceed with all possible speed." Although there is a stop sign at the corner of Grote street, it is contended that the fire appliance would not be required to stop before entering West terrace.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 12 March 1949, page 3***

#### House Fire At Magill

A front room of a brick and iron house at Gladstone avenue, Magill, was badly burned, another room was damaged, and a lounge suite was ruined in a fire which broke out in the sitting room of the house shortly after 1 p.m. yesterday. The house, which was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Byerley, was owned by Mr. Byerley's mother. Mrs. L. V. Byerley, of Olive street, Prospect. The fire is believed to have been caused by a fault in electric wiring behind a lounge chair. Neighbors and Mrs. Byerley played a garden hose on the fire until the arrival of appliances from Norwood and headquarters fire brigades, which put the fire out. House and furniture were insured. Constable T. Ryan, of Magill, investigated.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 4 April 1949, page 1***

#### Where There's A Fire There 's A Boy

Three fire appliances, each from different stations, were turned out on Saturday night after a report had been received at the Norwood Fire Station on Saturday night of a "serious fire" in a house at West terrace, Kensington Gardens. Appliances from Norwood and Brigade Headquarters attended, but no trace of fire could be found at the address mentioned. An appliance from the Unley brigade was then sent to an address at West terrace, Highgate, in case the message had been misunderstood. There was also no sign of fire at that address.

Yesterday, Constable E. MacIntosh, of Burnside, and Constable H. Would, of Marryatville, questioned a 12-year-old Magill boy, who admitted giving the alarm from a public telephone box at the Erindale tram terminus. The boy, who said that he had given the alarm because he "wanted to see a fire engine fly out," watched the appliances arrive and then went home.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 19 July 1949, page 4**

Fire In Chicken Incubator

A kerosene-operated incubator and about 10 chicks were destroyed when a fire broke out in the incubator, housed in a brick and iron shed at Park road, Kensington Park, about 8.30 p.m. yesterday. The fire is believed to have started after the occupier of the house. Mr. John Herbert Read, schoolteacher, had turned the incubator flame up "because of the cold night." HQ and Norwood Fire Brigades attended. Constable H. Would, of Marryatville, investigated.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 20 July 1949, page 1**

Four Injured In Bus Fire

Two tramway employees were admitted to hospital suffering from paint fume poisoning, and two others were treated for cuts, after a trolley bus had caught fire at the Tramway Depot, Hackney, yesterday afternoon. Those admitted to hospital are:—Aubrey Stevenson, 53, of Waterloo road, Glenelg; and Joseph Hall, 45, of Elston street, Lockleys. Those treated were Alec Badcock, 41, of Opey street, Evandale and William Watkins, 23, of Church avenue, Norwood. According to a tramway official, the men were engaged in painting the bus with inflammable paint, which accidentally caught alight and set fire to the bus. Two of the four men, all of whom were inside the bus, were overcome by the fumes. The other two employees were injured while escaping from the vehicle. Other workmen put out the fire before it spread. The injured were taken to the Royal Adelaide Hospital, where Stevenson and Hall were admitted.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 6 August 1949, page 2**

£200 fire damage

Fire caused about £200 worth of damage to fittings in the electrical shop of J. D. Potts, Magill road, St. Peters, early today. Cause of the outbreak is not yet known. A man passing on a bicycle about 6.30 a.m. rang Fire Brigade headquarters and two appliances from the city and Norwood attended. Two valuable testers, loud-speakers, and a stock of valves were destroyed. Mr. Potts said he thought a small soldering-iron worked from batteries probably started the fire.

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 8 October 1949, page 11**

Fire brigade

WE agree with the Chief Fire Officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) when he says ("Mail," 1/10/49) that the SA Fire Brigade is the most up-to-date in Australia. The standard of the men, through the system of schooling, and other methods, is higher than the rest of Australia. The chief was not quite correct in his comparison of interstate hours. Queensland, NSW, and WA are already on a 56-hour roster, including passive duties. In Victoria, the 56-hour week will become operative on January 1, 1950. In the meantime the men are being paid penalty rates for the overtime worked beyond 56. They are actually on duty 96 hours a week. The only two States where the 56-hour week has not been recognised are Tasmania and South Australia. SA firemen are now considering a move in favor of the 56-hour week. FRANK K. NIEASS General secretary, Australian Government Workers' Assoc.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 8 November 1949, page 9**

BLAZE SEEN FROM FIRE TOWER

Flames from a fire at the rear of a bakehouse and an ad-joining grocery store in South road, Edwardstown, at 3.30 a.m. today, could be seen from the watchtower at Fire Brigade headquarters. The fire broke out at Parker Bros.' bakery and spread through the ceiling to the grocery storeroom of P. K. Pocock and D. T. Davidson, next door. Two appliances from headquarters and one from Unley checked the fire.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 14 December 1949, page 3**

#### Dump Fire Menaces Home

With flames leaping over the roof, a house narrowly escaped destruction when a fire in the Kensington and Norwood Council's rubbish dump in Sheldon street, Norwood, got out of control yesterday morning. Fanned by a strong north-east wind, the fire spread rapidly through high grass and tons of dead branches and rubbish. At the height of the blaze flames were leaping 30 feet into the air and dense clouds of smoke which enveloped the district could be seen from the tower at Fire Brigade headquarters in Wakefield street. Using wet bags, council employes were powerless to control the flames as they roared through the mass of rubbish. Five appliances from headquarters and Norwood attended and firemen had to saturate dry grass surrounding the dump before the flames were controlled only a few feet from the home of Mrs. W. Ellis. Flames menaced the side of the house while Mrs Ellis struggled through dense smoke to remove clothing and other belongings into the house next door, owned by Mrs. P. Ritter. Mrs. Ellis said she dreaded the annual burning of the dump by council employes. Two years ago her side fence had been destroyed and last year a wood and iron fence in front of the paddock had been badly charred. So intense was the heat that paint was blistered on the front of a house on the opposite side of the street. The Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) yesterday advised councils to notify the brigade beforehand when permission had been granted to burn rubbish. If this were done the brigade would be ready to send equipment necessary for extinguishing this type of fire.



Norwood Rubbish Dump Fire Out Of Control

Firemen playing a hose on a fire in the Kensington and Norwood Council rubbish dump in Sheldon street, Norwood, yesterday, after it had got out of control and threatened to spread to homes adjoining the dump. The outbreak was controlled without serious damage.

**Brisbane Telegraph (Qld. : 1948 - 1954), Saturday 17 December 1949, page 9**

#### Film Shop On Fire

ADELAIDE: Thirty firemen are fighting a blaze in the basement of Kodak Ltd., Rundle Street, Adelaide, where a fire broke out this Saturday morning. With smoke billowing from the ground and first floor windows, six firemen wearing breathing apparatus are endeavouring to locate the seat of the fire. Thousands of city shoppers thronging Rundle Street were held back by police, who have closed the road to traffic. It is understood the fire is in a stock of film in the basement, and firemen have hacked four holes in the floor to drench the fire.

***Age (Melbourne, Vic. : 1854 - 1954), Monday 19 December 1949, page 3***

Adelaide Fire

ADELAIDE, Sunday. — The cause of a fire, which yesterday caused about £1000 damage to the city photographer's shop of Kodak (Australasia) Pty. Ltd. was unknown, the chief fire officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) said tonight. The basement, ceiling and empty cartons and orders were damaged by the fire, but little photograph material was lost.