

Adelaide Fire Brigade 1951

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 1 February 1951, page 3

80 FIREMEN QUELL CITY FIRES

Full Engagement Of Fire Brigade

Two large city fires yesterday afternoon, at the Waymouth street premises of A. M. Bickford and Sons, Ltd., and at the Service Tyre Co., Hindmarsh square, simultaneously, engaged 80 firemen — nearly the whole of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade— for the first time in its history.

The constant danger of explosions being caused by the effects of fire and water on a huge stock of chemicals confronted firemen at Bickford's premises, where the fire began at 1.47 p.m. While fighting the fire on top of Bickford's building at about 2.15 p.m., Chief Fire Officer J. J. Whyte saw black smoke curling thousands of feet from the Service Tyre Co. fire in Hindmarsh square. He immediately decided to divide his forces. Before Chief Officer Whyte dashed in his high-speed Jaguar roadster to the Hindmarsh square fire, he passed the following order to Fire Brigade headquarters from a talkie alarm at Bickford's:— "All suburban fire brigades, including Port Adelaide, are to concentrate at once at the two city fires, leaving only a skeleton staff on duty at suburban stations." Huge columns of smoke, only half a mile apart, attracted many thousands of watchers, who hurried from the Waymouth street fire to that in Hindmarsh square when the temperature was about 103 degrees.

Sun's Action

Action of the sun's rays on thousands of crated empty bottles stored on the roof is believed to have started the blaze at Bickford's. Shattered glass on the bitumen-topped roof prevented the fire from reaching expensive drugs and acids on the three lower floors of the building. Men and women workers at the premises had just clocked on after their luncheon period when a loud voice from the talkie fire alarm called. "Hello, Bickford's. have you a fire? Are you testing?" Fire Brigade headquarters had just previously received a call over the automatic, heat-operated alarm. Meanwhile, Chief Officer J. J. Whyte and six appliances were dashing for the premises. As one of two firemen reached the roof, near the lift house, a demijohn exploded. Extension Ladders The firemen directed many hoses from two extension ladders more than 100 ft. high and from adjacent buildings and the lower floors. Last night it was not known if many drugs and acids had been extensively damaged. All machinery in the building is believed to have been saved except for slight water damage. The managing director of Bickford and Sons (Mr. P. Furler) said last night that his company was highly pleased with the prompt and successful action of the fire brigade. "All of our employes will not lose a penny in wages. They can report for duty on Thursday," he added. "Production will not be hampered for more than a day or two. "Damage by fire and water is hard to estimate, but it will not be under several thousands of pounds." Burning of the Service Tyre Co. premises was officially estimated to have caused a loss of more than £8,000. About 25 four-gallon drums of vulcanising liquid exploded and about 250 tyres were destroyed. The manager (Mr. A. Brandenburg) and several workmen tried to control the fire by shovelling sand when it began in the buffing room, where tyres are roughened for retreading. Two New Australian workmen received minor burns. Firemen swiftly checked spread of the fire after it had swept the laundry and wood-shed of the Aurora Hotel on the south side and broken through a window into a store-room of Truscott Ltd., automotive merchandisers, on the north side. Bursting of two hoses at first hampered firemen, but soon a dozen lines of hose, including two from high extension ladders, were in use. Mrs. May Firth narrowly escaped from the hotel laundry before it was destroyed. Mrs. Edna Mettner, 21, an expectant mother, was asleep in a cottage in Barlow lane, just behind the Service Tyre Co. While 40-ft. high flames scorched the paintwork of the house three employes of J. Todd & Sons, Ltd., used a step-ladder to help her to escape by climbing over two 6-ft. fences.

Foam Pump

First use in Adelaide of a new four-inch hose foam inductor greatly helped firemen to control the blaze. This equipment, which arrived from England only a few days ago, delivers 750 gallons of foam a minute at pressure of 200 lb. to the square inch. Workers saved a number of tractor tyres worth £60, by hand-passing them from the Service Tyre Co. premises. At the Australian Broadcasting Commission headquarters, three buildings from the fire, 50 members of the staff quickly transferred 10,000 music and talk records into the ABC studio in an old church at the corner of Hindmarsh square and Grenfell street. About 70 cars and trucks owned by Harris, Scarfe, Ltd., were hurriedly removed to safety from a yard in Barlow lane, just behind the fire. Two fire officers and six firemen, who were off duty in the city, rushed in civilian clothes to aid their comrades. They included District Fire Officer T. Meaney and Station Officer Bottomley, who was sent back to almost empty Fire Brigade headquarters as officer-in-charge. Firemen had their first call yesterday at about 1.45 a.m., when they attended a fire in a bedroom at the Richmond Hotel, Rundle street. Furniture and belongings of a married couple from Melbourne were destroyed before the fire was put out.

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Smoke Pall From City Fire



Huge clouds of black smoke billowing from the Hindmarsh square premises of the Service Tyre Co. yesterday at the height of the fire which burnt out the building.

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Two False Alarms For Tired Firemen

Two malicious false fire alarms— one by a boy, who left by tram after having broken a talkie-alarm in Gawler place city — added yesterday to the worries of exhausted metropolitan firemen. A false alarm was also received from the corner of Pirie and Ackland streets, city. Altogether, metropolitan fire men yesterday answered more than 20 calls, including a number of grass fires. Chief Fire Officer J. J. Whyte said that metropolitan fire stations had received a total of more than 570 calls during the hot weather this month. Calls to five minor fires were answered yesterday afternoon while most of the metropolitan firemen were fighting the two big city fires.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 2 February 1951, page 3

Two Suburban Fires In Same Street

Police yesterday investigated two fires in outbuildings at Kent Town on opposite sides of the same street. The first which broke out at the home of Eliza Mary Johnstone, Little Young street, about 1.15 p.m. on Wednesday, destroyed a washhouse and contents, partly burned a closed car in an adjoining garage, and menaced stables in which were about eight valuable racehorses. The second, which broke out yesterday at Mr. J. H. C. Kennedy's premises, destroyed a workshop, a garage and a wood shed and damaged a surveyor's theodolite worth about £300 and a set of carpenter's tools. Norwood fire brigade attended. Sgt W. A. McIntyre and PCC M. O'Donoghue, of Norwood, made enquiries. Two appliances from SA Fire Brigade headquarters and one from Norwood attended the second fire, and PCC . M. O'Donoghue and Constable B. Pierson, both of Norwood are preparing a report.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 3 May 1951, page 23

EMPLOYEES PUT OUT CITY FIRE

Employees of Jackson and Co. Ltd., wholesale grocers, of Bloor court, off Currie street, City, today put out a fire on the first floor of the premises with chemical extinguishers. They had the fire under control when the fire brigade arrived soon after 9 a.m. The employees were congratulated by the Chief Fire Officer, J. J. Whyte. "They did an excellent job," he said. "If the fire had gained a hold, many buildings in the area would have been endangered, including Richards Building. A number of cartons containing cereals, and a small part of the roof were damaged. Cause of the fire is unknown.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 22 May 1951, page 4

£250 Norwood Fire

About £250 worth of paint, glassware and other hardware was destroyed in a fire yesterday in a shed at the rear of premises trading under the name of Kitchens, Hardware, Parade, Norwood, and conducted by Mr. Ernest Turner. A spark from an incinerator is believed to have started the blaze. Appliances from headquarters and Norwood fire brigades prevented the fire from spreading. PCC S. M. Jones and Constable L. Rann, of Norwood, are preparing a report.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 16 July 1951, page 17

New Dennis fire engine delivered

A new Dennis Onslow type fire appliance specially designed for country service was handed over to the South Australian Fire Brigade by Commercial Motor Vehicles Ltd. last week. The model is light, enabling unmade ground to be traversed. It has good ground clearance. The body is designed to provide the utmost protection and safety for the crew. The type of central ladder brackets allow a 35-ft. extension ladder to be carried without undue overhang. The seat lockers will carry about 2,500 ft. of delivery hose. The Dennis multi-stage turbine type pump has an output of 400 gallons a minute at 120 lb. pressure a square inch and up to 550 gallons a minute at lower pressures.

From the Shannons Australian Website - <https://www.shannons.com.au/>

c1949 Dennis Fire Truck

SPECIFICATIONS

Engine	In-line 8-cylinder, 5700cc
Gearbox	4-speed manual
Body Work	Fire Truck
Colour	Deep Red

Interior	Black
Trim	Vinyl
Wheels	Steel disc
Brakes	Drums

Founded in 1895 by John and Raymond Dennis, Dennis Brothers Ltd originally manufactured and sold bicycles in Guildford, Surrey before moving into motor cars in 1901. From the outset Dennis became synonymous with commercial vehicles, building their first bus in 1903, followed by a fire engine some five years later, with car production discontinuing altogether in 1913. A range of chassis, rated from 5 cwt to five tonnes capacity and powered by a variety of different engines, were fitted with all kinds of bodywork, from single and double-decker buses to fire tenders, ambulances, refuse collectors, vans and trucks. After the First World War, when production flourished thanks to orders from the military, Dennis Bros. continued to expand, with innovations like the low-framed forward control E-type chassis of 1925, featuring pneumatic tyres, a monoblock engine with unit-mounted gearbox and an underslung worm axle.

In the years immediately following the Second World War, Dennis introduced a new Light 4 appliance, followed by the long-lived and commercially successful F-series in 1946. **Initially known as the 'Onslow'**, the original F1 was a development of the Light 4 chassis and available with two body styles. Launched in 1948, the F2 was built on a 13 ft 6 inch wheelbase and powered by the famous Rolls-Royce B80 straight-eight engine. Dennis also built a number of derivatives, including the F3, using a six-cylinder Meadows engine, and the F4, with all-wheel drive. The early F-series was targeted at Commonwealth countries like Australia, with only a handful of survivors left in the Northern Hemisphere; indeed, the majority of the few remaining examples are mostly held in museums, making the example offered here an extremely rare opportunity for collectors of fire fighting equipment today.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 26 July 1951, page 1

Hospital Fire

Patients slept undisturbed while firemen put out a fire in a chimney at Martin Ward, Royal Adelaide Hospital, about 11.30 last night. The brigade was called when a nurse noticed flames coming from the top of the chimney. No damage was done.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 22 September 1951, page 4

Brake linings catch fire

An Adelaide fire appliance was called to Gouger street, City, this afternoon when the rear brake linings of an interstate semi-trailer caught fire. Owned by Ralph Hyman, of Dee Why (NSW), the semi-trailer was driven by Vincent Amendolia, 29, of Victoria parade, Manly. Damage was estimated about £10. Senior Fireman N. Castle and two firemen attended.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 22 September 1951, page 3

TWO-WAY LINK FOR 15 FIRE UNITS

Brigade to get radiophones

Two-way radio telephones are to be installed in 14 SA Fire Brigade vehicles and the fire float Fire Queen. It will be a frequency modulation system.

The equipment is being manufactured in Sydney by Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd. It will be the only type used by fire brigades in Australia. The base transmitter will be on top of the SA Savings Bank, King William street. A 70-ft. steel mast above the transmitter will give a total height of about 130 ft. above street level. The transmitter will be strong enough to cover

the metropolitan area. An auxiliary station will be built at Fire Brigade headquarters. Transmission will be under the supervision of Chief Officer J. J. Whyte. Five vehicles at headquarters — including Mr. Whyte's car — and one vehicle at each suburban station will be equipped with radio telephones. A radio expert said today the main advantages of two-way radio in fire vehicles would be:— The fire chief would be able to direct the fighting of a big fire from a vantage point after having made a preliminary inspection. It would save money and aid efficiency by ensuring that no more than the required number of vehicles attended a fire. Start soon He said when an appliance left a fire station it would be in continual con-tact with the control room at headquarters. On arrival at the fire the officer in charge would be able immediately to tell headquarters if help were needed. This would end the pre-sent system of several appliances rushing to a fire which could be dealt with easily by one appliance, or which might even be a false alarm. Combined with its talk-alarm system, the SA Fire Brigade would now be the most modern in Australia. It would compare more than favorably with any in the world. Officials hope a start will be made on the erection of the mast next month, and that the sys-tem will be working by the end of the year.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 8 December 1951, page 3

New alarm means— FIRE RISK CUT AT FIRE H.Q.

Fire Brigade headquarters in Wakefield street installed its own thermostatic fire alarm service this week.

Up to now, these alarms have been in-stalled only in big city buildings. Fire brigade headquarters has had to rely on a small sprinkler system installed in only part of its buildings. The new alarm works with thermostatic control set at various points in the ceiling throughout the building. When heat surrounding a thermostat reaches a certain level, expansion closes an electrical circuit. This gives the alarm. A board in the control office shows the position of the fire or excessive heat. So, next time the automatic alarm rings in headquarters control room, it might be head-quarters itself on fire. Designed here The mechanism was designed by the chief electrician (Mr. J. H. Thyer) and built in the brigade's workshop. Said Mr. Thyer: "Fire stations do get burned. "There's a case on record of fire appliances leaving their station to attend a fire. When they returned the station was gutted. "This equipment should stop anything like that happening here. Even if most of the firemen are out fighting fires, two men are always in the control office. "Our new equipment will not extinguish fires. But it will pinpoint one and enable firemen to extinguish it quickly. "With a big block of buildings like ours, isolated corners may not be visited for hours. When several appliances are out at other fires reduced staff makes the risk even greater.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 26 December 1951, page 1

Firemen Nearly Thrown From Appliance

Firemen were nearly thrown from their appliance yesterday afternoon, when the vehicle bounced across a spoon drain at St Peters while on the way to a grass fire on the banks of the River Torrens. Two fire extinguishers and a fireman's axe and key were thrown to the roadway. The articles were picked up by passing motorists, who returned them to the appliance which had gone on to the fire. Four appliances under Chief Officer J. J. Whyte attended the fire, which threatened several properties.