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GUYANA



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Guyana Fire Service

FOR THE YEAR

1965

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BRITISH  
GUIANA FIRE BRIGADE AND AMBU-  
LANCE SERVICE FOR THE YEAR

1965

FIRE BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS,  
Water Street,  
Georgetown,

17th January, 1966.

The Honourable,  
The Minister of Home Affairs,  
Brickdam,  
Georgetown.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit for your information the Annual Report of the British Guiana Fire Brigade and Ambulance Service for the year ended 31st December, 1965.

1. Establishment

The establishment of the Brigade at the end of the year was as follows:-

1 Deputy Chief Fire Officer  
2 Station Officers  
1 Motor Mechanic  
5 Sub Officers  
12 Section Leaders  
35 Leading Firemen  
119 Firemen  
2 Clerical Assistants  
2 Barrack Labourers

2. Stations

During the year, two land stations and one river station were maintained in Georgetown, and one land station in the town of New Amsterdam.

The need for increasing the number of stations in Georgetown has been recognised for many years, and is greatest at this time, when the continued expansion of the city and its environs, makes it difficult to ensure a five-minute service, to any part of the outlying areas, especially during those times of the day when traffic is heavy.

It is hoped that plans which have been put forward for providing three new stations in Georgetown will be approved and put into

effect/.....

effect at an early date.

The need for establishing units of the Brigade in certain heavily populated rural areas, was clearly seen during the disturbances of a few years ago, and it is hoped that approval of plans submitted for the setting up of these rural stations will be given early.

3. Fire Boat Station

The number of men stationed at Fire Boat Station at 31st December, 1965, was as follows:-

- 1 Sub Officer
- 3 Section Leaders
- 5 Leading Firemen
- 17 Firemen

Two Fireboards, The "Lady Woolley" and "Stagshaw" maintained the service during the year and were responsible for turning out on 1,448 occasions as follows:-

Responding to Fire Calls	..	..	56
Special Services (Emergency Calls) 16 (Ordinary Calls) 20	..	..	36
Transporting the sick injured from Vreed-en-Hoop etc.	..		787
Assistance rendered to the Police	..	..	196
Miscellaneous Calls	..	..	373

Emergency Special Service

On two separate occasions, one person was rescued from drowning; on one occasion, eleven persons were rescued from drifting out to sea in an open boat. Of the other thirteen occasions, vessels were saved from sinking in the harbour.

Miscellaneous Calls:- Are those where assistance was rendered to various Ministries namely:-

- Ministers of the Government
- Doctors, Magistrates, Nurses and
- Senior Government Officers.

The need for a fast and comfortable Ambulance type launch to accommodate stretcher cases is considered urgent due to the increase in the number of this type of call. Construction of a new Fire Boat is now being considered and it is expected that accommodation for ambulance cases would be provided.

4. The appliances held at the end of the year 1965 were:-

GEORGETOWN UNIT

- Five (5) Dennis Water Tenders of 600 g.p.m. capacity each equipped with V.H.F. Radio.
- One (1) Major Pump of 900 g.p.m. capacity
- Five (5) Land Rover Fire Appliances of 350 g.p.m. capacity each equipped with V.H.F. Radio and a Portable Pump of 250 to 300 g.p.m. capacity.
- One (1) Land Rover Jeep
- One (1) Volkswagen Utility Van
- One (1) Fire Boat of 2,700 g.p.m. capacity equipped with V.H.F. Radio
- One (1) Fire Boat of 500 g.p.m. capacity equipped with V.H.F. Radio.
- Two (2) Morris Commercial Ambulances
- Two (2) Bedford Ambulances equipped with V.H.F. Radio
- One (1) Land Rover Diesel Ambulance
- One (1) Volkswagen Ambulance

NEW AMSTERDAM UNIT

- One (1) John Kerr Water Tender of 600 g.p.m. capacity
- One (1) Dennis Water Tender of 600 g.p.m. capacity
- One (1) Self-Propelled Pump of 350 g.p.m. capacity
- One (1) Austin Champ (Firefly) of 350 g.p.m. capacity
- One (1) Land Rover (Firefly) of 350 g.p.m. capacity equipped with V.H.F. Radio and Portable Pump of 250 to 300 g.p.m. capacity.
- One (1) Morris Commercial Ambulance
- One (1) Land Rover Diesel Ambulance equipped with V.H.F. Radio
- Two (2) Volkswagen Ambulances.

5. Maintenance

The maintenance of Fire Appliances, Fire Boats, Ambulances and other equipment continued during the year as the responsibility of the Brigade's maintenance staff. All fire appliances, ambulances and other equipment were maintained at a high standard of efficiency for immediate use in an emergency, but it should be pointed out that the maintenance staff is seriously handicapped by not having a proper workshop, the need for which has been pointed out for several years.

Four hundred and forty eight (448) repair jobs were carried out including engine repairs and overhauling. The fire boat Lady Woolley continued to be Dry-Docked by Sprostons Limited since the Fire Brigade has no such facility for its maintenance.

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On the whole, inspite of the lack of certain facilities the maintenance staff carried out their duties very creditably.

#### 6. Hose

A total of 34,350 feet of hose was held by the Brigade at 31st December, 1965; 25,575 feet in Georgetown and 8,775 feet in New Amsterdam.

#### 7. Hydrants

Four new hydrants were installed during the year in the following areas:-

- (a) One on the eastern side of Vlissengen Road, near the Prime Minister's Residence.
- (b) Three in the compound of the Guyana Defence Force Compound, Thomas Lands.

The total number of hydrants in Georgetown and its environs is now 1,226.

Hydrants were regularly inspected by the Fire Brigade staff to ensure that they are in proper usable condition. Defective hydrants were reported to the Water Commissioners who effected the repairs promptly.

In New Amsterdam no new hydrants were installed during the year.

There are 120 hydrants situated in the Town of New Amsterdam. The authorities continued in their efforts to ensure that all hydrants are working efficiently.

Throughout the year, inspections were carried out by Fire Brigade staff to test and clean all hydrants to ensure that they are in working order. The Water Commissioners looked after all defects promptly whenever they were brought to their attention.

#### 8. Equipment Received

The following equipment and items of stores were received during the year..

- 4 - Land Rover Fire Appliances
- 2 - Volkswagen Ambulances
- 1 - Pye Master Set Transmitting & Receiving
- 4 - V.H.F. A.M. Vanguard Sets Transmitting & Receiving
- 2 - Bantam Battery Sets
- 186 - Lengths 75' x 2½" Superflex Red Delivery Hose
- 12 - 8 ft length 4" B.S.S. Suction Hose
- 1 - KVA 110-220 Volts A.C. 50cc lighting plant 2½ H.P.
- 1 - Heavy duty spray gun
- 1 - 220 Volt Electric bell
- 1 - Semi Rotary Pump No. 3

contd/.....

- 6 - Ambulance Electric Bells 12 Volts
- 1 - Hailer
- 100 - Galvanised buckets
- 128 - Soda Acid Charges
- 62 - Nu-Swift Air Foam Extinguishers complete
- 87 - Nu-Swift Air Foam Charges
- 35 - Nu-Swift Water type pressure refills
- 2 - 5 lbs. CO<sub>2</sub> Extinguishers
- 30 - Conquest CO<sub>2</sub> Gas Cartridge refills C. 55
- 3 - H.R. 3 Pyrene Everyway Model "A" Hose Reel complete
- 50 - Water/Air pressure type extinguishers
- 10 C.T.C. Extinguishers
- 10 - C.T.C. Extinguisher Charges

9. Special Services

The Brigade carried out 211 Special Services during the year in addition to responding to Fire Calls and other emergencies as well as Ambulance Call. Twenty-one of these special services were classified as Emergencies. No charges were made for such services or for those of a humanitarian nature. All other types of services are however chargeable at the approved standard rates.

During the year the sum of \$4,771.55 was collected as charges for special services rendered. This yielded to Government a revenue of \$2,496.81.

Nature of Service

Pumping out Barges, Pontoons and Salvaging vessels in Harbour or at sea	41
Filling Tanks, vats and swimming pools with water	11
Supplying fresh water to vessels in harbour	.. 42
Standing by at cooking	.. 22
Standing by at Public Entertainments	50
Resetting couplings to delivery hose	5
Charging Extinguishers	.. 3
Destroying Cinematograph films	17
Flushing out drainage channels	.. 3
Rescuing animals from trench	.. 5
Attending accidents where petrol spilled on surface of road	.. 3
Burst Electrical wires	.. 3
Rescuing man overboard	.. 1
Miscellaneous	.. <u>5</u>
	211

10. Fire Calls

The Brigade responded to 435 fire calls during the year, an analysis of which is given hereunder in comparison with the calls attended in 1964:-

<u>GEORGETOWN UNIT</u>		
	<u>1964</u>	
Actual Fires	347	271
Late Fire Calls	24	24
False Alarm (Good Intent)	22	12
False Alarm (Malicious)	103	71

  

<u>NEW AMSTERDAM UNIT</u>		
	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>
Actual Fires	54	45
Late Fire Calls	10	5
False Alarm (Good Intent)	10	5
False Alarm (Malicious)	2	2

From the figures shown above, the number of calls attended in 1965 was 23.95% less than the number for the previous year. This seems to be due to a greater degree of fire consciousness on the part of the general public, and may be traced directly to the Brigade's Fire Prevention campaign. There was also a 30.47% drop in Malicious False Alarms as compared with 1964. This is very encouraging as it appears that the efforts made to curb this irresponsible practice are bearing fruit.

CAUSES OF FIRES

Careless disposal of cigarette ends and matches	..	76
Electrical Faults	..	102
Electric, Gas and Oil stoves	..	45
Wilful and Malicious setting of fire	..	23
Unknown	..	17
Ignition of inflammable vapours, liquids or substances	..	12
Careless burning of rubbish	..	2
Motor Vehicle faults	..	5
Overheating of electrical appliances	..	6
Children playing with matches	..	20
Boiling over of fats, oils and tars	..	4
Oil lamps, candles and mosquito coils	..	3
Welding		7
Reignition	..	4
Dirty chimneys	..	4
Explosives	..	1
Radiated heat	..	5
Destroying pests	..	2
Improper construction of fire hearth	..	1

METHOD OF EXTINGUISHING

By occupants or other persons using buckets of water, wet bags or hand extinguishers before the arrival of the Brigade	121
By Electricity Corporation	85
By Brigade using:-	
(a) Hand Appliances	... 8
(b) Hose Reels	31
(c) Fire Bats	... 5
(d) Buckets of water	7
(e) One jet from pump	71
(f) Two jets from pump	7
(g) Three jets from pump	3
(h) Four jets from pump	... 1

METHOD OF CALLING FIRE BRIGADE

GEORGETOWN UNIT

Central Exchange (Emergency Line)	... 310
Central Exchange (Administrative Line)	... 32
Police Direct Line	... 2
Running Calls	... 24
Private Fire Alarms	... 9
V.H.F. Radio	... 1

NEW AMSTERDAM UNIT

Central Exchange (Emergency Line)	... 47
Running Calls	... 5
Private Fire Alarms	... 5

TYPES OF PROPERTY INVOLVED

Dwelling House	... 118
Overhead electrical wiring and Transformer	... 67
Sawdust and rubbish dumps	... 25
Boarding and Lodging houses and restaurants	... 2
Hotels	... 1
Sports Club	... 1
Government Buildings	... 23
Motor Vehicles	... 12
Markets	... 2
Business Premises	... 6
Dwelling house & Business premises (combined)	... 19
Storeroom and ware-house	... 1
Private Gardens	... 1
Dry Grass	... 24
Boats	... 4



Offices	... 3
Schools	... 4
Hospitals	... 6
Cinema	... 3
Churches	... 1
Wharves	... 5
Factories	... 8
Saw-milling yards	... 1
Mechanic Workshop	... 7
Plantations	... 3
Play Grounds	...10
Night Clubs	... 2
Out-houses	... 1
Sewers	... 1

HOURS AT WHICH CALLS WERE RECEIVED

	<u>Georgetown</u> <u>Unit</u>	<u>New Amsterdam</u> <u>Unit</u>
12 mid-night to 6.00 a.m.	62	
6.00 a.m. to 12 noon	92	15
12.00 noon to 6.00 p.m.	108	23
6.00 p.m. to 12.00 mid-night	116	14

11. Buildings Destroyed or seriously damaged

Buildings destroyed - Georgetown

A two floor building of wood and concrete construction, measuring approximately 60' x 24' covered with galvanised iron sheet roof, situated at 38 Sussex Street Charlestown, Georgetown, owned by Mr. Bushie M. Raufman, and occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Raufman and Jean Wilson on the first floor and on the ground floor by Mr. Eustace Thomas and Mr. Clinton McCoy. Building completely gutted (7.2.65 - 2.14 a.m.).

A one flat wooden building measuring approximately 35' x 28', roof covered with corrugated galvanised sheets, situated at 51 Hadfield Street, Lodge, owned and occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Simon and family. Interior of building gutted and contents completely destroyed (2.12.65 - 3.53 p.m.).

Building Destroyed - New Amsterdam

A wooden two flat building measuring approximately 45' x 30' with galvanised sheeted roof, situated at St. Ann Street, New Amsterdam, Berbice, owned and occupied by Mr. Milton Ramdihol and family as a dwelling house. The building was completely destroyed. (12.11.65 - 6.15 a.m.).

Building/.....

Building Seriously damaged - Georgetown

A wooden building of three floors measuring approximately 80' x 40' roof covered with galvanised sheets, situated at Robb & King Streets, Georgetown, used as a Boarding House, Restaurant, Cycle Store, and Night-Club, was owned by Messrs Reggie and Dennis Whitehead of 228 Camp Street, Georgetown, and occupied by Mr. Unus Hack, Mr. & Mrs. Que, Mr. Rahim & family and Mrs. Inez Williams. The entire restaurant which was on the ground floor was gutted, also the under side of the first floor was seriously damaged. (28.5.65 - 8.10 p.m.).

A wooden building of three floors measuring approximately 35' x 25' covered with galvanised sheet roof, used as Library and U.S.A. Consulate Offices, owned by U.S.A. Government. The first floor and walls of the ground floor were severely damaged by a blast from an explosion. Books and office equipment were damaged either by smoke and fire or water (24.6.65 - 5.06 p.m.).

A two flat eight apartment range of wood and concrete construction, with roof covered with corrugated aluminum sheets, situated at 188 Campbellville Housing Scheme, owned by the Government of British Guiana, and occupied by Mrs. Maud Canzius, Michael Gardener and Mrs. Fiorizel Newton and family. Apartment on the top floor was seriously damaged also the roof of two other apartments was damaged. (13.8.65 - 12.38 p.m.).

Buildings seriously damaged - New Amsterdam

A wooden two floor building with galvanised sheeted roof measuring approximately 26' x 24', situated at St. Ann Street, New Amsterdam, Berbice, owned and occupied as a dwelling house by Mr. & Mrs. Kalika Misir & family. The external eastern and western walls, also roof were damaged by fire. (12.11.65 - 6.15 a.m.).

A wooden one flat building with galvanised covered roof measuring approximately 25' x 25' with 10' x 8' kitchen attached to the body of the house, situated at 16 New Street, Berbice, owned by Miss Ina Babb, and occupied as a dwelling house by Mr. & Mrs. Clement Johnson. The interior walls, roof and furniture were burnt by fire (6.12.65 - 2.12 p.m.).

RURAL AREASBuilding Destroyed

A wooden two flat building measuring approximately 20' x 15' with roof covered with galvanised sheets situated at 146 Mandee Street, Prashad Nagar, East Coast Demerara owned and occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Durga & family as a dwelling house. Building completely destroyed. (23.1.65 - 1.02 a.m.).

A wooden one flat building measuring approximately 20' x 18' with

the/....

the roof covered with galvanised sheets, situated at Lusignan, West, East Coast Demerara, owned and occupied by Mr. Mohamed Allie as a dwelling house. Building was completely gutted. (20.2.65 - 8.58 p.m.).

A thatched house measuring approximately 7' x 6' with galvanised sheeted roof situated at Edinburg Village, East Bank, Berbice, owned and occupied by Mr. Nathaniel Dollers as a dwelling house. Building was completely destroyed. (4.4.65 - 5.40 p.m.).

A wooden one flat building measuring approximately 35' x 24' the roof covered with aluminium sheets, situated at Port Mourant, Corentyne, Berbice, owned by the Government of British Guiana and occupied by Mr. Raghunandan (Social Assistance Officer) as a dwelling house. The building was completely destroyed. (4.8.65 - 1.45 a.m.).

A wooden one flat building measuring approximately 60' x 36' with the roof covered with aluminium sheets, situated at Mibikuri, Black Bush Polder, Corentyne, Berbice, this building was a dwelling house and owned by the Government of British Guiana. The building was completely destroyed. (12.8.65 - 11.02 p.m.).

A wooden building measuring approximately 60' x 24', the roof covered with corrugated galvanised sheets situated at Port Mourant, Corentyne, Berbice, owned and occupied by Port Mourant Estate as a Club House. The building was completely destroyed, (13.9.65 - 2.40 a.m.).

A wooden building of one floor measuring approximately 45' x 30' with a galvanised sheet roof situated at Auchlyne Village, Corentyne, Berbice. The building was owned by the Church of Scotland in British Guiana and occupied by Reverend Ewart Richards and Cecil Tyndell (Manse). The building was completely destroyed. (12.11.65 - 6.15 a.m.).

A two flat building, bottom flat constructed of ferro concrete and the top flat of wood, measuring approximately 40' x 25' with the roof covered with galvanised sheets, situated at Lot "A" Grove Public Road, E.B.D. The building was owned and occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Cho-Fing Quan and family as a dwelling house on the first floor and Grocery & Dry Goods store on the ground floor. Building was completely destroyed. (3.12.65 - 1.35 a.m.).

Building seriously damaged

A large Rice Mill situated at Mahaicony & Abary West Coast Berbice, and owned by the Mahaicony Rice Development Company. The south eastern corner of the building was seriously damaged. (.4.5.65 - 1.20 a.m.).

A wooden two flat building measuring approximately 120' x 35' with galvanised sheeted roof situated at Tain Village Corentyne, Berbice, owned by

the Government of British Guiana and used as a school. Stationery, western wall and roof were damaged by fire (21.6.65 - 3.03 a.m.).

#### 12. Deaths by Fire

During the year the following persons died as a result of injuries caused by fire:-

Solomon Nelson (39) of "Y" Hadfield Street	... 29.5.65
Augustus Spencer(35) of 47 Princess Street Wortmanville	11.8.65
John McCormack (21) of 258 Thomas Street, Georgetown	12.8.65

#### 13. Ambulance Calls

The operation of the Ambulance Service continued to be an important facet of the Brigade's work throughout the year. A total of 14,029 calls were attended for the period under review, an average of 38 calls per day. Of the total number of calls, 11,550 were Emergency calls, while the remaining 2,479, which were classified as Private Calls, were for the removal of sick persons by arrangement, from home to institution or vice versa. The transportation of cases from the Amerindian Hostel, the Palms, Dharm Shala and other institutions to hospital or clinics for treatment was also undertaken. A number of stretcher cases were also conveyed from home to hospital for treatment on the request of the Social Service Department of the Georgetown Hospital.

The Ambulances covered a distance of 98,523 miles on all calls.

#### Mental Cases

One hundred and ninety seven mental patients were conveyed by Ambulance from the Georgetown Hospital to the Georgetown Railway for conveyance by train and steamer and then by Ambulance to the Mental Hospital, Canje.

#### Atkinson Field

Ambulances responded to calls from Atkinson Field on 209 occasions to convey to the Georgetown Hospital sick or injured persons, many of whom arrived by plane from the interior.

#### 14. Training

##### (a) Local

The practice of regular training of members of the Brigade continued at all stations throughout the year. Practical drills were carried out with appliances and equipment, and special training in the use of Breathing Apparatus and resuscitators was undertaken.

The lack of Drill Ground facilities for use by the Georgetown Unit personnel continues to be a serious problem. Considerable effort has been

made/....

made to have the yard space at Central Fire Station resurfaced but without any success. With the impending shift of Central Fire Station, due to the proposed re-development of the area, it is not likely, that the requests made for this resurfacing would receive any attention.

Training with special reference to ship fires, was maintained throughout the year at Fire Boat Station, and classes in Seamanship and the performance of rescues at sea were also held.

Seven Leading Firemen and Four Firemen pursued courses of training at the Government Technical Institute in Building Construction, Motor Mechanics, Machining and Fitting, Electrical Installation, Carpentry and Joinery and Radio Technology.

(b) Overseas

One Subordinate Officer attended a training course in the United States.

15. Leave - Annual

Two thousand, two hundred and forty six days leave was granted to personnel averaging 12.54 days per man as compared with an average of 12.96 days per man for the previous year.

Sick

The general health of personnel has not been very good as 2,037 days sick leave was granted during the year. This shows an average of 11.37 days per man, and compared with an average of 9.5 days per man for the previous year indicates a rise of 1.87 days per man.

Vacation

Fifty one men were granted a total of 3,612 days vacation leave for the year, an average of 71 days per applicant.

Special

Twelve men were granted 52 days for the year, an average of 4.3 days each.

16. Discipline

The usually high standard of discipline was maintained during the year. Fourteen cases for breached of discipline were dealt with resulting as follows:-

Severely Reprimanded	...	3
Reprimanded	...	3
Fines 1 day's pay	...	5
Fines 2 days pay	...	2
Fines 3 days pay	...	1

17. Resignation

During the year six firemen resigned from the Brigade to take up residence abroad.

Death/....

Death

One Fireman, a probationer, died in the Georgetown Hospital on the 19th July, 1965.

18. Retirement

Mr. L.F. Watkins, Chief Fire Officer, and Mr. S.G. Thompson, Motor Mechanic, Firemen G. Williams and E. Allen, retired after attaining compulsory retirement age.

19. Suspension

One Fireman of the New Amsterdam Unit was suspended from duty pending the outcome of a criminal charge.

20. Promotions

Two Section Leaders performing operational duties were promoted to the rank of Sub Officer. Five Leading Firemen to the rank of Section Leader, four Firemen to the rank of Leading Firemen and one Section Leader to be Motor Mechanic.

21. Awards

The Chief Fire Officer was awarded the Queen's Fire Service Medal. One Fireman was presented with a Certificate from the Society for the Protection of Life from Fire by His Excellency the Governor, and fourteen other members of the Brigade were presented with Long Service and Good Conduct Medals by the Minister of Home Affairs, Dr. The Hon. P.A. Reid.

22. Visits

At the invitation of the British Guiana Government, Mr. Francis Mees O.B.E. M.I. Fire Engineers of Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate in the Home Office was sent to British Guiana by the United Kingdom Government to advise the British Guiana Government on the possible expansion of the British Guiana Fire Brigade and to make recommendations in respect of staffing and equipment.

Mr. Mees arrived in British Guiana on 10th October, 1965, and left on 1st November, 1965. During his visit in addition to carrying out inspections of personnel, equipment, records, holding interviews, drills and exercises in Georgetown and New Amsterdam, Mr. Mees visited practically all of the well populated rural and interior districts and was shown around by the Acting Chief Fire Officer.

Organised Tours

Organised groups of school children, police recruits and members

of/.....

of youth clubs were taken on educational tours of Fire Brigade Headquarters and Fire Boat Station. On each occasion, a short talk was given by a Senior Subordinate Fire Officer followed by explanations of the appliances and equipment shown and a practical demonstration wherever possible.

### 23. Communications - Telephone

An essential provision in any Fire Service is the means for receiving Fire Calls and other emergencies. Such calls are received chiefly by telephone through Central Exchange, Police direct line or by the Fire Alarm Systems connected to the Control Room at Fire Brigade Headquarters.

The telephone switch board at Brigade Headquarters has reached the stage where it needs the attention of the technicians at least once per week. Efforts are being made to provide a more up-to-date switchboard.

### Radio

Four new V.H.F. Portable radio sets were received during the year and installed on appliances, and two Bantam sets for the use of the Chief and Deputy Fire Officers. One new master set was also received, and will be installed shortly.

### 24. Auxiliary Unit.

The Auxiliary Unit of the Brigade functioned well during the year. There were 28 men on roll in Georgetown, and 33 in New Amsterdam. It is encouraging to note that attendance at parades has improved.

The Auxiliary Unit's annual training camp at Atkinson Field has been suspended since 1961, due to the unrest throughout the country in recent years. It is hoped, that it would soon be possible to start holding these camps again.

Parades and training sessions were held as usual and the enthusiasm of the men is being maintained. Throughout the year Auxiliary members attended six incidents involving fire.

### 25. Welfare

The Sports Club in Georgetown was reactivated during the year and as such, members participated in a number of sporting activities.

The Fire Brigade Steel Percussion Orchestra in Georgetown and New Amsterdam, continued to function well and did a considerable amount of charitable work in their respective areas. Both orchestras took part in the History and Culture Week celebrations.

Fire Service Week was not held, due to the fact that the week selected, clashed with Guiana Week.

## 26. Fire Prevention

During the year under review all Government Buildings in Georgetown and the rural areas, New Amsterdam and the Berbice and Corentyne Rivers, were inspected and fire equipment allocated. Lectures were also given on the care and maintenance of fire equipment with special emphasis on their use and operation. It was also found necessary to submit recommendations, especially in respect of the safe storage of petroleum products in the Berbice and Corentyne River areas. It is vitally necessary and moreso in remote areas that priority should be given to adequate storage facilities so as to limit the spread of fire and minimise the possibility of a conflagration. It is noted, however, that a number of long outstanding recommendations has been implemented and it is hoped that there would be a significant acceleration in 1966.

### Mahaica Hospital.

There has been some delay in starting the work of reconstruction to the two reservoirs in the Compound although a sum of \$2,461.85 was released in July, 1965 for the purpose. This delay was occasioned as a result of the conflict of opinions in relation to the reconstruction of the reservoirs. A settlement has, however been reached and work has commenced and is proceeding satisfactorily. The four fire points have already been completed and the recommendation for the improvement of fire fighting facilities in the Lady Denham - Bishop Galton Compound is under active consideration.

### Mazaruni Prisons

The extension of the pipe-line scheme to provide fire coverage in the Sun Valley area has been completed. However, it was observed that 15 out of 24 lengths of rubber lined hose supplied to the Prisons for fire fighting, were in an unserviceable condition. The roof gutters are also in a state of disrepair and as a result, during rainfall, the water does not reach the vats.

If the standard of fire fighting equipment is to be maintained at the Prisons, it is vital that the hose be kept in good order at all times. The vats, gutters and fittings should also be repaired.

### Suddie Hospital and Charity

The fire protection at Suddie Hospital and Charity has worsened as a result of the withdrawal of the two Hathaway pumps and ancillary equip-

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ment due to lack of care and maintenance. In 1962 a voluntary fire fighting service was organised at Charity which functioned satisfactory for some time. Monthly drills were held by a member of this department and the Volunteers displayed much keenness and enthusiasm in their work. Needless to say that the pump and equipment were also kept in good order. The question of uniform and allowances then arose and on reference being made to the Fire Brigade Ordinance it was observed that an Auxiliary Unit could not be formed within that area. Immediate action was then taken to have the Ordinance amended so that areas such as Pomeroon - Charity, Suddie, Vreed-en-Hoop and Bartica could be benefited. This has not been done and as a result there was a decline in the incentive created and a reduction in the efficiency of the training programme. However, another effort will be made to have the Ordinance amended so that voluntary fire fighting units could be properly organised in the aforementioned areas and full responsibility given to those comprising the Units for the care and maintenance of fire fighting appliances and equipment.

Schools.

Evacuation exercises were carried out at 85 schools and 35096 children and teachers took part. There was a marked improvement in the manner in which the drills were conducted by the Headmasters and teachers and the enthusiasm and readiness displayed by the children.

The response to recommendations however, in respect of non-Governmental schools was not satisfactory, and it is envisaged that some tangible effort will be made in the near future to implement them.

Fire equipment were allocated as follows:-

Fire Extinguishers	
Two gallon foam	.. 26
Two gallon Water/Air	.. 58
Quart C.T.C.	.. 18
5 lb. CO2	.. 2
Buckets	.. 53
<u>Charges</u>	
Foam	.. 165
Water CO2	.. 63
Soda Acid	.. 36
C.T.C.	.. 3

Under the terms of the Fire Prevention Ordinance, a total of 2,506 inspections were made throughout the Colony, these included Hotels, Old Peoples' Homes, Hostels, Private Hospitals, Convents, Guest Houses, Factories, Commercial and business premises with the special reference to Means of Escape, Fire Alarm Systems and fire equipment. Lectures and drills/....

drills were also carried out and several courses of fire fighting training were given to employees of the Rice Marketing Board and the bulk petroleum installation at Providence.

Eighteen notices were served on owners in accordance with the Fire Prevention Ordinance for failure to comply with recommendations submitted and Court proceedings were instituted against four of which convictions were awarded. The remaining Notices were unexpired at the end of the year.

Publicity Propaganda

Fire Prevention slides continued to be projected on the screens of cinemas in Georgetown and New Amsterdam.

Public Relations

A fire prevention booth was on display at a Fair sponsored by the Lusignan Community Centre. Pictures depicting various aspects of fire prevention were exhibited and pamphlets distributed.

Good co-operation between the Brigade and the Press continued to be of immense value and several press conferences were held on matters pertaining to fire prevention, of which publicity was given.

Several groups from the Boy Scouts Movements were trained and 120 Certificates issued for the Fireman Badge.

27. Conclusion

The service maintained the high standard of efficiency which has come to be expected of it and, as borne out by the report, has increased its work considerably in the important field of fire prevention throughout the Colony. It is hoped, however, that the plans and projects that have been put up from time to time will be implemented as soon as possible so that the Brigade will in no way lag behind in the scheme of progress and development envisaged for the Colony as a whole in every field.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*S. G. G. G. G.*  
Chief Fire Officer.

Expenditure      Guyana Fire Brigade

1965

Head 23 - Ministry of Home Affairs - Fire

Prevention Department

<u>No. of Subhead</u>	<u>Title of Sub-head</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
1	Personal Emoluments	\$ 505,298.58
	<u>Other Charges</u>	
2	Transport and Travelling	15,380.47
3	Fuel, Oil and Grease	8,077.37
4	Spares, ,repairs and replacements	32,976.59
5	Ambulance and First Aid Equipment	300.21
6	Auxiliary Unit	2,865.33
7	Maintenance of Pipelines in Commercial Area	213.06
8	Uniforms and Bedding	24,294.42
9	Funeral Expenses	50.00
10	Miscellaneous	2,173.11
	<u>Extraordinary</u>	
11	Purchase of Equipment	
12	Auxiliary Fire Equipment Etc. for Government Buildings	
	TOTAL	\$ 591,680.39