



GUYANA

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**Guyana Fire
and Ambulance Services**

FOR THE YEAR

1967

(Printed by the Authority of the Government)

GEORGETOWN, DEMERARA, GUYANA.

1967.

(C.G.P. & S. 614/69).

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GUYANA FIRE
AND AMBULANCE SERVICE FOR THE
YEAR 1967

FIRE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS,
Water Street,
Georgetown.

12th December, 1968.

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

Sir,

I have the honour to submit for your information the
"Annual Report" of the Guyana Fire and Ambulance Service for the year
ending 31st December, 1967.

1. Establishment

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

1 Chief Fire Officer
1 Deputy Chief Fire Officer
1 Aerodrome Fire Officer
2 Station Officers
1 Motor Mechanic
6 Sub Officers
15 Section Leaders
41 Leading Firemen
181 Firemen

2 Clerical Assistants
1 Class II Clerk
2 Barrack Labourers

Stations

During the year 2 Land Stations and 1 River (Fire Boat)
Station were maintained in Georgetown, one Land Station in the town of
New Amsterdam and 1 Aerodrome (Airport) Land Station at Atkinson Field
with effect from the 1st November, 1967.

There/....

There is need now more than ever for an increase in the number of Stations in Georgetown and its environs due to the rapid expansion of the Greater Georgetown area. This area stretches from North East of ~~the area~~ ^{Tullahoma Hill} and continues south to south east Ruimveldt. As a result of this expansion it is now not possible to ensure a five minute service to many sections of the newly built up areas including also the rapidly expanding Industrial Estate at Ruimveldt.

3. Fire Boat Station

The number of men stationed at Fire Boat Station on 31st December, 1967, was as follows:-

- 1 Sub Officer
- 3 Section Leaders
- 8 Leading Firemen
- 21 Firemen

Two Fire Boats, Lady Woolley and Stagshaw maintained the service during the year and turned out on 1,218 occasions as follows:-

| | |
|--|--------|
| Responding to Fire Calls | 42 |
| Special Services | |
| (Emergency Calls 21 | |
| (Ordinary Calls 27 .. | 48 |
| Transporting the sick and Injured from Vreed-en-Hoop | .. 699 |
| Assistance rendered to the Police | .. 38 |
| Miscellaneous Calls | .. 391 |

Emergency Special Service

On three separate occasions, one person was rescued from drowning in the Demerara River.

On seven separate occasions vessels and crews were rescued from drifting out at sea, and on eleven separate occasions vessels in difficulties after springing a leak and taking in sea water were saved from sinking in the Georgetown Harbour.

Miscellaneous Calls are those where assistance was rendered to various Ministries etc., Namely - Transporting Ministers of the Government to Vreed-en-Hoop and back to Georgetown; also Doctors, Nurses, Magistrates, Senior Government Officials and members of the Guyana Defence Force and Police/....

Police Force.

4. Appliances

The appliances held at the end of the year 1967 were:-

Georgetown Unit

Five (5) Dennis Water Tender of 600 g.p.m. capacity each equipped with V.H.F. Radio.

One (1) Major Pump of 900 g.p.m.

Four (4) Land Rover Fire Appliances of 350 g.p.m. capacity equipped with V.H.F. Radio and Portable pumps of 250 to 300 g.p.m. capacity.

One (1) Land Rover Jeep

One (1) Emergency Tender

One (1) Volkswagen Utility Van

One (1) Bedford Ambulance equipped with V.H.F. Radio

Three (3) Volkswagen Ambulances, 1 equipped with V.H.F. Radio

Two (2) Dodge Trucks both with trays

One Fire Boat (Lady Woolley) of 2700 g.p.m. capacity equipped with V.H.F. Radio

One Fire boat (Stagshaw) of 500 g.p.m. capacity equipped with V.H.F. Radio.

Atkinson Unit

Two (2) Bedford Foam and CO2 Tenders, 600 & 500 gln. capacity equipped with V.H.F. Radios

One (1) Bedford Foam Tender 650 gln. capacity equipped with V.H.F. Radio

One (1) Commer Ambulance equipped with V.H.F. Radio

One (1) Austin Champ Jeep with 150lbs. dry chemical equipped with V.H.F. Radio

One (1) Land Rover Jeep.

The abovementioned vehicles were taken over by this Service on the 1st November, 1967.

New Amsterdam Unit

One (1) John Kerr Water Tender 625 g.p.m. capacity

One (1) Dennis Water Tender 600 g.p.m. capacity equipped with V.H.F. Radio.

One (1) Dennis Water Tender 600 g.p.m. capacity equipped with V.H.F. Radio

* One (1) Self propelled pump 275 g.p.m. capacity

Two (2) Land Rover Fire Appliances 350 g.p.m. capacity equipped with/.....

with portable pumps of 250 to 300 g.p.m. capacity and equipped with V.H.F. Radio.

One (1) Bedford Ambulance

One (1) Volkswagen Ambulance equipped with V.H.F. Radio

One (1) Volkswagen Utility Van

One (1) Land Rover Diesel Ambulance

One (1) Emergency Tender (Land Rover).

5. Maintenance

The maintenance of Fire Appliances, Fire Boats, Ambulances and other vehicles and equipment continued during the year as the responsibility of the Fire Service Maintenance Staff. They were all maintained at a high standard of efficiency, and kept in a state of readiness for any emergency. This was done at a considerable disadvantage to the maintenance staff due to the inadequate workshop facilities and tools.

During the period under review 1390 repair jobs were carried out including 8 engine overhauls. The Fire boat Lady Woolley continued to be dry docked at Messrs Sprostons Ltd. since the Fire Service has no such facility for its maintenance.

However, towards the end of the year the existing delapidated workshop was reconstructed by self help and prison labour and while more space and better arrangement for work convenience resulted the reconstructed workshop must still be considered inadequate in size to accommodate the tools, equipment and general arrangements for efficient repair jobs to be carried out. Consideration therefore must be given in the near future to the construction of a maintenance workshop by normal Fire Service standards.

6. Hose

A total of 41,175ft. of hose was held by the Service at 31st December, 1967 as follows:-

22,925 ft. at Georgetown Unit

8,500 ft. at Atkinson Aerodrome Unit

9,750 ft. by the New Amsterdam Unit.

7. Hydrants - Georgetown Unit

Twenty seven (27) new hydrants were installed during the year in the following areas:-

Industrial/.....

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Industrial Site at Ruimveldt | 6 |
| Meadow Brook Gardens | 19 |
| Lamaha Gardens C.S.A. Housing Scheme | .. 2 |

The total number of hydrants in Georgetown and its environs is now 1253.

Hydrants were regularly inspected by Fire Service personnel to ensure their serviceability. Defective hydrants were reported to the Water Commissioners who effected repairs promptly.

Atkinson Aerodrome Unit (From 1.11.67 to 31.12.67)

A total of 76 hydrants were in service at Atkinson Field during the latter part of the year. Three (3) new hydrants were installed in the vicinity of the Terminal Building (now under construction) making a total of 79. Defective hydrants were reported to the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics who effected repairs.

New Amsterdam Unit

In New Amsterdam 1 new hydrant was installed during the year bringing a total of 122. Regular inspections of hydrants were made by fire service personnel to check their serviceability for immediate use in an emergency and defects were reported to the Water Commissioners who promptly effected repairs.

8. Equipment Received

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

- 2 Emergency Tenders (1 large and 1 small)
- 2 sets Bantam Radio Telephone
- 1 Battery Charger (for Bantam Radio Telephone sets)
- 1 Spray Gun Complete
- 3 Jabsco Water Pumps
- 2 Volkswagen Transmissions
- 64 - 2 Gallon type George Angus Water Pressure Extinguishers
- 70 - Chemical Foam Extinguishers
- 6 - 5 lb. CO2 Extinguishers
- 10 - Nu-swift C.T.C. Extinguishers
- 175 - Chemical Foam Charges for 2 gallon Foam Extinguishers
- 2 - Chemical Foam Charges for 40 gallon Foam Extinguishers.
- 22 - Nu-Swift Charges for C.T.C. Extinguishers

- 99 Nu-Swift Charges Air Foam for Extinguishers
- 25 - Na-Swift Water Pressure Type Extinguishers
- 25 - Soda Acid Charges for 2 gallon Extinguishers
- 42 - Gas Cartridge Charges for conquest CO2 - 2 gallon type extinguishers.
- 6 - H.R.S. Pyrene Hose Reels Complete.

9. Special Services

The Fire Service carried out 243 special services during the year in addition to responding to Fire Calls and other emergencies as well as Ambulance Calls. Thirty-eight (38) of these special services were classified as emergencies. No charges were made for such services or for those of a humanitarian nature. The others classified as ordinary special services are chargeable at the approved standard rates.

During the period under review the sum of \$14,863.94 was collected as charges for Ordinary Special Services rendered; this yeilded to Government a revenue of \$9,212.14.

10. Fire Calls

The Service responded to 538 calls which shows a decrease as compared with the previous year as the table of comparison below would show:-

Georgetown Unit

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|
| Actual Fires | 404 | 337 |
| Late Fire Call | 23 | 17 |
| False Alarm (Good Intent) | 25 | 11 |
| False Alarm (Malicious) | 105 | 88 |

Atkinson aerodrome Unit (From 1.11.67 - 31.12.67)

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Actual Fires | | 4 |
| Late Fire Call | | |
| False Alarm (Good Intent) | | |
| False Alarm (Malicious) | | |

New Amsterdam Unit

| | | |
|---------------------------|----|----|
| Actual Fires | 51 | 42 |
| Late Fire Call | 7 | 11 |
| False Alarm (Good Intent) | 18 | 25 |
| False Alarm (Malicious) | | 3 |

This/....

This represents a 15% decrease over the previous year and is attributed to the following 3 reasons:-

- (1) Increased fire prevention inspections.
- (2) Record breaking rainfall during the year.
- (3) Increased precautionary measures by the Public (Fire consciousness).

Causes of Fires

| | | |
|---|----|-----|
| Careless disposal of cigarette ends | .. | 63 |
| Electrical Faults | .. | 141 |
| Electric, Gas and Oil Stoves | .. | 50 |
| Wilful and malicious setting of fire | .. | 14 |
| Unknown | .. | 18 |
| Igniting of flammable vapour, liquids and substances | .. | 13 |
| Careless burning of rubbish and other combustible materials | .. | 16 |
| Motor vehicles crash and defects | .. | 10 |
| Overheating of electrical appliances | .. | 8 |
| Children playing with matches | .. | 39 |
| Boiling over of fats, oils and tars etc. | .. | 10 |
| Oil, lamp, candles, and Mosquito coils | .. | 5 |
| Welding | .. | 12 |
| Re-ignition | .. | |
| Explosion | .. | 3 |
| Careless Use of coal pots, and domestic fire places | .. | 3 |
| Spontaneous ignition | .. | 6 |
| False alarm malicious | .. | 91 |
| False alarm Good Intent | .. | |
| | | 538 |

Method of Extinguishing

| | | |
|---|----|-----|
| By occupants or other persons using buckets of water, wet bags, sand or hand extinguishers before the arrival of the Fire Service appliances. | .. | 144 |
| By Electricity Corporation Servicemen | .. | 125 |

By/.....

By the Fire Service using the following methods:

| | |
|--|-------|
| (a) Hand appliances e.g. extinguishers | .. 19 |
| (b) Hose reels | .. 13 |
| (c) Fire Bats | .. |
| (d) Buckets of water | .. 92 |
| (e) One jet of water from pump | .. 9 |
| (f) Two jets of water from pump | .. 4 |
| (g) Three jets of water from pump | .. 2 |
| (h) Four jets of water from pump | .. 1 |
| (i) Five jets of water from pump | .. 1 |
| (j) Six jets of water from pump | .. 1 |
| (k) Removal of fuse | .. |

Method of calling Fire Service - Georgetown Unit

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Central Exchange (emergency line 999) | .. 403 |
| Central Exchange Administrative Line | .. 34 |
| Police Direct Line | .. |
| Running Calls | .. 13 |
| Private Fire Alarm | .. 3 |
| V.H.F. Radio | .. |

Atkinson Aerodrome Unit (From 1.11.67 - 31.12.67)

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| By V.H.F. Radiophone | 1 |
| Telephone | .. 2 |
| Running Call | 1 |

New Amsterdam Unit

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Central Exchange (Emergency Line 999) | .. 43 |
| Running Call | 13 |
| Private Fire Alarm Systems | .. 23 |
| Attracted by explosion | .. 1 |
| By publication in the press | 1 |

Types of Property Involved

| | |
|--|--------|
| Dwelling Houses | .. 127 |
| Over head Electrical Wiring including transformers | 88 |
| Sawdust and Rubbish Dumps | .. 40 |
| Boarding, Lodging Houses and Restaurant | 5 |

Sports/...

| | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|
| Sports Club | .. | 1 |
| Government Buildings | .. | 6 |
| Motor Vehicles | .. | 33 |
| Markets | .. | 2 |
| Business Premises | .. | 7 |
| Private Gardens | .. | 1 |
| Boats | | 5 |
| Offices | .. | 6 |
| Schools | .. | 9 |
| Hospital | .. | 6 |
| Open Plots of Land | .. | 15 |
| Wharves | .. | 2 |
| Factories | .. | 6 |
| Saw Milling Yards | .. | 4 |
| Mechanic Workshops | .. | 6 |
| Plantations | .. | 2 |
| Laundries | .. | 3 |
| Parapets and Roadways | .. | 28 |
| Incinerators | .. | 2 |
| Filling Stations | | 3 |
| Chicken House | .. | 1 |

| | <u>Hours at which calls were received</u> | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------------|
| | <u>Georgetown</u> | <u>Atkinson</u> | <u>New Amsterdam</u> |
| 12 Midnight to 6.00 a.m. | 34 | 1 | 8 |
| 6.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon | 157 | | 28 |
| 12 noon to 6.00 p.m. | 128 | 3 | 30 |
| 6.00 p.m. to 12 mid-night | 134 | | 15 |

Buildings damaged or destroyed by fire.

2.04 a.m. - 19.1.67 - One wooden building of two floors measuring approx. 44' x 24' covered with corrugated galvanised sheet roof situated at Lot L D'Urban Street, Wortmanville, Georgetown, owned and occupied by Arthur Husbands. First floor completely destroyed. A large portion of stock on the ground floor (Liquor Restaurant) damaged by heat and smoke.

5.44 p.m/....

5.44 p.m. - 27.1.67 - A one flat wooden building erected on 8' columns measuring approx. 45' x 20' covered with corrugated galvanised sheet roof situated at Lot 121 Thomas Street, Kitty, East Coast Demerara owned by Miss A. Forde of Thomas Street, Kitty, and occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Whyte and their six children was completely gutted with a consequent loss of all the contents.

12.37 p.m. - 21.3.67 - One wooden and concrete building of two floors measuring approx. 40' x 32' and roofed with galvanised sheeting situated at D'Urban Street, Lodge (near to Victor Street) owned by Mr. Nurse of 68 D'Urban Street, Lodge and occupied by Mr. Victor Harry and family, Mrs. Evelyn Chester, Mr. Date and family and Mr. Nurse and family were completely gutted.

2.00 a.m. - 18.7.67 - A wooden one flat building owned by Mr. Tia Rampersaud and occupied by him measuring approx. 20' x 12' with galvanised roof was completely destroyed by fire including all contents.

4.08 p.m. - 2.9.67 - One wooden building of two floors owned by Victor Yassim C/o Carib Hotel measuring approx. 28' x 48' and roofed with corrugated galvanised sheets occupied by (ground floor) & Jean Singh, Dolly Alli and Doris, (first floor) Finky Masdamer and family. Ground floor completely gutted and first floor damaged by smoke and fire.

11.09 a.m. - 8.9.67 - A one flat wooden building measuring 115' x 18' covered with corrugated galvanised sheets owned by the Government of Guyana and occupied by T & H.D. as a repair workshop and marine section. The workshop portion was completely destroyed.

7.00 p.m. - 22.11.67 - A one flat building owned by Allan Sanster of Rose Hall Village, Corentyne, Berbice measuring approx. 22' x 11' with galvanised roof and occupied by Mr. S. Butcher and family was completely destroyed by fire.

2.55 p.m. - 5.12.67 - A two flat wooden building situated at 105 Regent Road, Bourda, owned by Mr. C. Singh of Good Hope, East Coast Demerara measuring approx. 55' x 30' roof covered with galvanised sheets - Ground floor occupied by Mrs. Lakhan Singh, Mrs. Foster and family, Mr. J. Jaggernaut and family, also front portion of ground floor occupied as a dwelling house and parlour called Boyo's Parlour. First floor occupied by Mr. L. Mentis and family and Miss D. Chichester. Entire first floor and its contents completely gutted.

509 p.m./....

5.09 p.m. - 20.12.67 - One wooden building of two floors owned by Mr. G.B. Hazelwood at 54 Robb Street, Bourda measuring approx. 60' x 24' on 6' blocks with galvanised roof, occupied by Reggie Blackman (Pitman's Commercial Institute). Entire top floor and contents badly damaged by fire and smoke.

12. Deaths by Fire

During the year the following persons died sometime after the fire as a result of injuries caused by fire.

Victor Harry 43 years old of 68 D'Urban Street, Lodge on 31.3.67.

Lyndon John 32 years old of 'Q' Hadfield Street, Wortmanville on 1.4.67.

Euranie Marks age 16 years of 6 Public Road, McDoom Village, East Bank Demerara on 21.10.67.

Yvonne Dwarka 3 months old of Adelpia Village, Canje Berbice on 14.3.67.

13. Ambulance Calls

This important branch of the Service continued its good work to the community during the year. The services attended to 14,723 calls, an average of 40.33 per day. Of the total number of calls 12,677 were classified as emergency calls, while the remaining 2,046 were classified as private calls. The latter were primarily for the removal or transportation of sick persons from one place to another e.g. from the Amerindian Hostel, Palms, Dharma Sala from the Georgetown Hospital to the Palms, from various nursing homes, private hospitals and clinics for treatment and other purposes also a number of stretcher cases were transported from the patients homes to hospital for treatment. This was done at the request of the Social Service Branch of the Georgetown Hospital.

The ambulances covered a distance of 104,055 miles when responding to both Emergency and Private Calls.

14. Mental Cases

A total of 507 mental cases were transported from the Georgetown Hospital to the Georgetown Railway Station for conveyance by train and steamer and again by ambulance to the Mental Hospital, Canje, Barbice.

Atkinson/.....

Atkinson Field

On 227 occasions ambulances responded to calls from Atkinson Field to convey sick or injured persons to Georgetown, many of whom were brought by Aircrafts from various parts of the interior.

15. Training - Local

Regular training of members of the service continued at all stations throughout the year. Practical drills were carried out with appliances and equipment, also specialised training in the use of breathing apparatus, resuscitators, oxy acetylene cutting gear, mechanical saw and emergency lighting plant, also specialised course (basic) or crash rescues etc. on aircrafts were conducted for these members of the Service who have since been posted for duty at Atkinson Aerodrome Unit.

However, in order to avoid difficulties previously encountered at Station premises, the major part of our drill programme was undertaken at sites some distance away from station as the portion of land at Headquarters used for this purpose has been utilised exclusively for the housing of Fire Service vehicles.

Training with special reference to ship fires continued throughout the year at Fire Boat Station. Special classes in seamanship, salvage, towing of vessels in the Harbour in distress etc. were conducted.

Light members of the service pursued various trade courses at Government Technical Institute as follows:-

Building Construction
Motor Mechanics
Machining and fitting
Electrical Installation
Carpentry and joinery
Radio Engineering.

Overseas (Training)

No nominations for training overseas were approved for the year under review.

16. Leave - Annual

One thousand nine hundred and ninety five days leave were granted to members of the service at an average of 10.1 days per man as compared with

an/.....

an average of 12.1 per man for the previous year.

A total of two thousand six hundred and seventy days sick leave were granted to members of the service at an average of 13.5 days per man which shows a slight increase of 1.1% per man compared with the previous year.

Vacation

Thirty-six members of the service were granted a total of 1504 days vacation leave during the year an average of 41.7 days per man as compared with an average of 68.9 days per man for the previous year.

Special Leave

Thirty-three members of the service were granted a total of 108 days special leave an average of 3.2 days per man as compared with an average of 1.9 days per man for the corresponding period of the previous year.

17. Discipline

A high standard of discipline was maintained during the year.

Thirty cases for breaches of discipline were disposed as follows:-

| | | |
|---|----|---|
| Admonished | .. | 5 |
| Reprimanded | .. | 2 |
| Severely reprimanded | .. | 2 |
| Fined one day's pay | .. | 4 |
| Fined two days' pay | .. | 8 |
| Fined three days' pay | .. | 1 |
| Fined five days' pay | .. | 1 |
| Fined \$3.00 | .. | 1 |
| Fined \$5.00 | .. | 4 |
| Dismissed from the service | .. | 1 |
| Dismissal recommended but appeal pending | .. | 1 |

In addition to the above, 2 members of the Service were served with warning notices for breaches of discipline.

18. Resignation

During the year four Firemen resigned from the Service.

19. Retirement

During the year four members of the service retired as follows:-

1 Sub Officer, 1 Leading Fireman and 2 Firemen.

- (a) Mr. T. Eversley Sub Officer having attained retirement age, retired on 1.1.67.
- (b) Mr. D. Hall, Leading Fireman retired on 1.7.67 after attaining compulsory retiring age.
- (c) Mr. R. Kumar, Fireman, retired on 1.11.67 after attaining compulsory retiring age.
- (d) Mr. Nichols, Fireman, was retired on 1st March, 1967, from the service on grounds of ill-health after completing approximately 12 years service.

20. Dismissal

During the year 2 Firemen were dismissed from the service for the following reasons:-

- (a) For leaving the country and being absent from duty without leave or permission
- (b) A probationer whose standard of work was below expectation due to his inability to absorb the basic training.
- (c) Another Fireman whose dismissal was recommended has lodged an appeal which is still pending.

21. Suspensions

During the period under review 3 Firemen were suspended from duty for criminal offences. However, 2 were reinstated after charges laid against them by the Police were dismissed by the presiding Magistrates. The other Fireman was found guilty on a charge of unlawful wounding, he was fined \$35.00 but has appealed the sentence. His appeal is pending.

22. Death

During the period under review 3 Firemen died. Two at the Georgetown Hospital and 1 at the Davis Memorial Hospital.

23. Promotions

During the year several promotions were made to fill outstanding vacancies as follows:-

1 Sub Officer/...

- 1 Sub Officer to the rank of Station Officer
- 1 Section Leader to the rank of Sub Officer
- 1 Leading Fireman to the rank of Sub Officer
- 1 Leading Fireman to the rank of Section Leader
- 5 Firemen to the rank of Leading Firemen.

24. Communications - Telephone

These have been maintained during the year to enable the receiving and handling of the majority of Fire, Ambulance, Emergency and other calls to be carried out. There is however an urgent need to replace the present switchboard.

Radio

Since the installation of the new master set in Georgetown there has been a marked improvement in Radio Communication. During the year 2 more Bantam sets were received and put into use. Attention is now focused on improving Radio Communication at New Amsterdam Unit by replacing the short range outdated master set there.

25. Auxiliary Unit

The Auxiliary Unit continue to function as a part of the Service at a high standard. Attendances for parades and training were encouraging although limited. However, the annual training camp designed primarily to improve the efficiency of auxiliary members and which was not held since 1961 because of the reasons given in the previous years' reports was again not held in 1967, as it was not found impossible to complete reorganising and accommodation arrangements involved for the holding of the camp. However, a firm date has been fixed for holding the camp and exercises during 1968.

26. Welfare

Members of the Fire Service Sports Club in Georgetown participated in several indoor and outdoor activities during the year, but the Steel Percussion Orchestra did not function as in previous years. However, its counterpart in New Amsterdam continued to provide entertainment to charitable and Social Groups during the year, and quite recently acquired new tuned instruments to improve the standard of musical entertainment.

On the 24th September, a Fire Service Seminar and Social Evening was held in Georgetown. The theme being "The Fire Service in a New Guyana".

Several/....

Several papers on the subject were presented by members of the service and also the Public.

An essay competition entitled "The Fire Service in a New Guyana" opened to all members of the Service was won by the Station Officer of the Georgetown Unit. He was presented with a trophy donated by the Civil Service Association.

The Social Evening was largely attended by members of the Public and the Service, and on this occasion the Deputy Lord Mayor of Georgetown was guest speaker at the Seminar. The session came to an end with light musical entertainment.

Gift from the Government of Canada.

The Fire Service is very grateful for the gift of an Emergency Tender equipped with tools and other emergency and rescue gears valued at approximately \$40,000.00 which was received on behalf of the Government of Guyana by the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs from the Acting High Commissioner for Canada on May 15th, 1967. This vehicle has fulfilled a long felt need in the Service and was put into immediate use.

Visits

During the period under review His Excellency the Governor General Sir David Rose visited both Georgetown and New Amsterdam Units of the Fire Service. In Georgetown His Excellency the Governor General inspected a Guard of Honour drawn from all ranks of the Service after which he was conducted on a tour of various sections of the Service including Fire Boat Station. While on a visit to New Amsterdam Berbice, His Excellency visited the Fire Station and inspected various sections of that Unit.

The Minister of Home Affairs the Honourable C.M.L. John paid a visit to the Georgetown Unit of the Fire Service after inspecting a guard of Honour drawn from all ranks of the Service. The Honourable Minister was conducted on a tour of various sections at Headquarters, Fire Boat Station and Alberttown Fire Station.

Organised Tours

During the year various groups comprising School Children, Police recruits, members of Youth Clubs, Scouts and Cubs were conducted on educational tours at Fire Service Headquarters and Fire Boat Station. Short lectures were/....

were given by a Senior Subordinate Officer. Appliances and equipment were shown them and in some cases practical demonstrations were carried out.

Abolition of the Aerodrome Fire Service and its establishment as a Unit of the Guyana Fire and Ambulance Service.

On October 31, 1967, an Order in Council was made and published in an extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette setting out the establishment of a Unit of the Guyana Fire and Ambulance Service including Atkinson (Airport) Field Fire Service now known as the Atkinson Aerodrome Unit. The Establishment of the original Aerodrome Fire Service was as follows:-

- 1 Aerodrome Officer
- 2 Section Leaders
- 6 Leading Firemen
- 27 Firemen

This Service was administered by the Department of Civil Aviation Ministry of Communications. Members of the Aerodrome Fire Service were given the option of electing to be recruited into the Guyana Fire Service with their seniority and with their previous service counting for superannuation purposes. Those members of the Aerodrome Fire Service who retired on the abolition of their posts were granted superannuation benefits under Regulations 12 to 14 of the Pensions Regulations 1957.

Eleven members of the Aerodrome Fire Service, 1 Leading Fireman and 10 Firemen exercised the option to retire. The remaining 24 members (1 post of Fireman being vacant at the time) were recruited into the Aerodrome Unit of the Guyana Fire Service. Additional personnel were then recruited to bring the establishment of the Unit up to the authorised number (56) in order to facilitate an 8 hour shift duty system.

The present establishment of the Unit now comprises:-

- 1 Station Officer
- 1 Sub Officer
- 3 Section Leaders
- 6 Leading Firemen
- 45 Firemen

Fire Prevention Branch

During the year under review, a total of 2,445 Fire Prevention inspections/....

inspections under the terms of the Fire Prevention Ordinance were carried out in Georgetown, New Amsterdam and rural areas throughout the Country. These inspections involved Government buildings and institutions as well as private buildings.

A number of recommendations were submitted in respect of each building or occupancy where necessary. The quick response of some persons in effecting recommendations was heartening. In a number of cases, however, it was necessary to adopt stringent measures to enforce important requirements under the regulations especially where they were considered necessary to prevent or mitigate damage to property by fire or avoid injury to operatives. Fifty-three legal notices were served on persons who failed to comply with such requirements. Of these, nine persons completed the jobs required to be done, and three were prosecuted and convicted before a Court of Law before the end of the year. Legal action will be taken against the remaining 41 persons in the coming year. This need is ^{great} ~~is~~, however, ~~for~~ for the Fire Prevention Ordinance and Regulations to be amended to take all areas of the Country properly in their ambit and meet the needs of the Service more efficiently than at present.

Fire Protection Works in Government Buildings

With respect to Government buildings and institutions, a number of recommendations were made for certain Fire Protection works to be carried out. The need for their early implementation of recommendations dating as far back as 1961 is still great, especially where a high life risk is involved. Work on the installation of hose reels at the Georgetown Hospital began during the latter part of 1966 but was suspended early this year. The position at the end of the year was that the hose reels were mounted and work in relation to the external pipe lines remains to be done.

These hose reel fittings were considered to be suitable replacement for the 2 gallon type fire extinguishers sited in the institution and will cover a wider floor area than is possible with the extinguishers, apart from ensuring a continuity of water supply in the event of a fire. Due to the phenomenally high life hazard connected with this institution, it is necessary to employ every effective means of preventing a small fire from gaining a foothold.

It is noted that the Auditorium of Queen's College was used at least/.

least on 31 occasions during the year for purposes of entertainment, and on each such occasion a fire appliance had to stand by. This was decided upon as a precautionary measure since the hose reel system has not yet been completed. Here again, the reels have been mounted but their connection to the mains supply is still to be effected.

The priority list referred to above also called for the erection of fire alarm systems, fire escapes and external staircases, etc. In certain Government buildings, including institutions and the Prisons among others. It is hoped that these works will be tackled vigorously in the new year.

Best and Mahaica Hospitals

Drills and lectures were carried out during the year at the above institutions with the aim of keeping the staffs properly trained in methods to be adopted in case of an emergency, and how to use, care and maintain all fire equipment available.

Attention was drawn again to the need for doing something to ensure that fire pumps at these institutions are maintained in a serviceable condition. It was pointed out that there was a noticeable display of non-chalance and lack of special interest in the performance of these vital duties. Periodic servicing is done by the Chief Engineer of the Brigade but what is required is regular maintenance on the spot.

Schools

Inspection visits were made to schools in Georgetown and New Amsterdam and certain rural areas and evacuation drills were carried out under the supervision of Fire Prevention Inspectors. This exercise has been given a good deal of attention as it is considered to be vitally important to educate the children in such safe practices as will help to prevent fire or keep fire damage to a minimum wherever possible.

A total of 15,336 children took part in the evacuation exercises and were also given lectures on the various causes of fire at school and elsewhere, as well as effective means of dealing with them.

Fire Equipment

Fire equipment were allocated to Government Buildings as follows:-

Fire/....

Fire Extinguishers

| | | |
|----------------------|----|----|
| Foam (2 gallon) | .. | 84 |
| Water/Air (2 gallon) | .. | 79 |
| CTC (Quart size) | | 20 |
| CO2 (5 lb.) | .. | 8 |
| Buckets | .. | 16 |

Fire Extinguisher Charges

| | | |
|---------------|----|-----|
| Air Foam | .. | 141 |
| Chemical Foam | .. | 165 |
| Soda Acid | .. | 57 |
| Conquest CO2 | .. | 47 |
| Nu Swift | .. | 37 |
| C.T.C. | .. | 18 |

Private Buildings

A total of 1,055 private buildings were inspected during the year, in most of which lectures were given in the use and method of operation of fire equipment installed. These inspections were classified as full, special, goodwill, routine or follow-up and encompassed a wide range of occupancies. With the rapid growth of industrialisation throughout the Country as well as the building boom within and outside of the city limits, it is becoming increasingly necessary for Fire Prevention measures to keep pace with developing trends.

For one thing, the Fire Service should be made to feature more often than at present in design and layout of buildings and structures from the planning stage. It has been observed in the past that many buildings were erected in the city, the plans for which never reached this department. This requirement may suggest a certain measure of control of building works, but such control would be aimed at maintaining an even balance between what is reasonably necessary for safety in different circumstances, and at the same time offer as little interference as possible with the rights of the public to have what they want.

In Georgetown and its environs action has had to be taken with respect to persons making fire in a place other than a kitchen. This is an offence for which a person may be prosecuted. Twenty-six tenancies were inspected/...

inspected during the year in this connection and in a number of instances it was found that no kitchens had been provided or that there was a lack of proper kitchen facilities usable in all weathers. The careless arrangement of 20lb. progas cylinders has been given attention as well and recommendations made especially where small children were to be found in the home.

In those areas on the East Bank of Demerara where the bulk storage of petroleum products is undertaken, management were advised to give serious attention to the initiating of internal fire protection plans in the form of Works Brigades which all function "around the clock". This was felt to be a bold advance on the present system where individuals were only taught how to use fire extinguishers. It was advised as well that fire protection be included in the general security arrangements in these plants where a high fire risk exists with possibility of heavy losses in event of fire. These recommendations were still being considered at the clost of the year by those written to.

It should be mentioned that Fire Prevention work done by the New Amsterdam Unit was severely handicapped during the year through lack of suitable transportation facilities. This Unit has a wide area to cover, and it is hoped that in the new year some form of transport will be made available so that this important facet of Fire Service work could be tackled efficiently.

Public Relations

The Fire Service as a whole is always alive to the need to maintain healthy relations with the public and opportunity is taken whenever possible to participate in public activities. A Fire Prevention booth was maintained at the Diwali Fair on the Ghandi Youth Organisation'sground during the year, but through lack of funds it was not possible to maintain booths at a number of other fairs. An invitation from the Public Health Department of the Georgetown Municipality to assist by way of publicity and propaganda in their cleansing Week effort had to be turned down for the same reason.

The training of members of the Boy Scouts movement was also undertaken during the year and examinations were held for the issuance of the Fireman's Badge and the Fire-fighter's Badge. Ninety-three certificates were issued for both badges. As usual, also, the work of the Fire Brigade evinced/....

evinced much interest and a number of visits to the Fire Stations for the benefit of Youth Clubs, school children, recruits of the Police Force was arranged.

Welfare

There is little hesitation by anyone in admitting the importance of Fire Prevention work throughout the Country, and members of the Fire Prevention staff are faced with ever-increasing responsibility. New industries are introducing new hazards, for instance, and every Fire Prevention Inspector must need acquire the knowledge necessary to keep his efficiency high.

Conclusion

Much credit must be extended to all members of the Service for the remarkably high standard of loyalty and devotion to duty shown by them throughout the year in dealing with the many problems of administrative and operational functions with which the service was confronted resulting in the maintenance of the usual high standard of efficiency for which the Service is now generally known.

This achievement was in spite of the many chronic problems facing the Service for many years such as (1) the lack of adequate training facilities (2) the lack of a proper maintenance workshop (3) an inadequate number of ambulances (4) non provision of a new fire boat (5) the need for additional and better sited fire stations and the lack of adequate recreational facilities.

The Honourable Prime Minister's call for greater efficiency in all departments of Government was met by an excellent response of co-operation by all ranks of the Service this being evident firstly in the speed and accuracy with which fires and ambulance calls were handled and secondly the complete absence of fire spread and large fires during the year exemplifying the work particularly of the Fire Prevention Branch of the Service.

The Service is committed to and will continue to function as efficiently as is humanly possible with the equipment, tools and accommodation facilities available to it but like all other Services to the public the Fire Service must keep abreast with the Country's development and any neglect to ensure this must result eventually in disaster.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,


Chief Fire Officer.

EXPENDITURE - GUYANA FIRE SERVICE

HEAD 21 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS - FIRE

PROTECTION SERVICES.

| NO. OF HEAD | <u>TITLE OF SUBHEAD</u> | <u>EXPENDITURE</u> |
|-------------|---|--------------------|
| 1. | Personal Emoluments | \$548,175.65 |
| | <u>OTHER CHARGES</u> | |
| 2. | Transport and Travelling | 18,284.66 |
| 3. | Miscellaneous | 2,599.11 |
| 4. | Uniforms and Bedding | 32,143.79 |
| 5. | Fuel, Oil and Grease | 8,260.86 |
| 6. | Spares, repairs and replacements | 42,742.64 |
| 7. | Ambulance and First Aid Equipment | 686.60 |
| 8. | Auxiliary Unit | 2,884.77 |
| 9. | Maintenance of Pipelines in Commercial areas | 991.20 |
| 10. | Funeral Expenses | 200.00 |
| 11. | Expenses Training Courses | 996.00 |
| 12. | Purchase of Line Equipment | 9,306.47 |
| | TOTAL | \$667,271.75 |