



British Guiana

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BRITISH GUIANA FIRE BRIGADE AND AMBULANCE SERVICE

FOR THE YEAR

1962

(Printed by the Authority of His Excellency the Governor).

GEORGETOWN, DEMERARA, BRITISH GUIANA.
1964.

C.G.P. & S. 1289/64.

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R E P O R T
OF THE
BRITISH GUIANA FIRE BRIGADE AND AMBULANCE SERVICE
FOR THE YEAR 1962

FIRE BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS,
Water street, Georgetown,
British Guiana,
9th April, 1964.

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

Madam,

I have the honour to submit for the information of the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs, the Annual Report of the British Guiana Fire Brigade and Ambulance Service for the year ended 31st December, 1962.

1. Strength

The strength of the Brigade at 31st December, 1962, was -

- 1 Chief Fire Officer (ag.)
- 1 Deputy Chief Fire Officer (ag.)
- 1 Station Officer
- 6 Sub Officers
- 11 Section Leaders
- 26 Leading Firemen
- 131 Firemen
- 2 Class II Clerks
- 3 Clerical Assistants
- 1 Barrack Labourer

2. Stations

There are three fire stations in the city of Georgetown (two land stations and one river station) and one in the town of New Amsterdam.

There is need for new stations in Georgetown, but up to the present time little progress has been made in this direction. The new station for New Amsterdam was occupied on December 10th, 1962.

3. Appliances

The appliances held at the end of the year were -

Georgetown

- 6 Dennis Water Tenders of 600 g.p.m. capacity, each equipped with V.H.F. Radio.
- 2 Austin Champs (Firefly) of 350 g.p.m. capacity each.
- 1 Pump of 900 g.p.m. capacity.
- 3 Hathaway Light pumps of 150 g.p.m.
- 1 Fire Boat of 2,700 g.p.m. capacity, equipped with V.H.F. Radio.
- 1 Fire Boat of 500 g.p.m. capacity.
- 1 Bedford Utility Truck.
- 1 Land Rover Truck.

1 Godiva Lightweight Portable Fire Pump of
250 - 350 g.p.m. capacity
3 Morris Commercial Ambulances and 1 Land Rover
type ambulance each equipped with V.H.F. Radio.

New Amsterdam

1 John Kerr Water Tender of 600 g.p.m. capacity
equipped with V.H.F. Radio.
1 Self-propelled pump of 300 g.p.m. capacity.
1 Austin Champ (Firefly) of 350 g.p.m. capacity.
1 Morris Utility Van.
1 Morris Commercial Ambulance and 1 Land Rover Type
Ambulance, each equipped with V.H.F. radio.

4. Maintenance

All vehicles and appliances have been maintained in good order by the Workshop Staff. More and better workshop accommodation is needed if the efficiency of the staff is to be maintained. Efforts have been made to obtain the western end of the Want-of-entry Bond to the south of Mc Inroy's Building for this purpose but work has not yet been started on this project.

Extensive repairs were effected in thirteen cases to vehicles which were involved in accidents during the year.

5. Hydrants

During the year twelve new hydrants were installed as follows -

Three in the North East La Penitence Housing Scheme
Three in the South East La Penitence Housing Scheme
Five in Newtown Kitty Village
One in Middleton Street, Campbellville

This now makes the total number of hydrants in the city and its environs 1,170.

Three of the nine pipelines which were put down to allow the fire boats to pump water quickly into high risk areas were severely damaged or put out of use as a result of the fires on February 16th. To combat some of these fires, the pipeline system was brought into use by the fire boats, but this was not sufficient to have the desired effect. This is to be expected since the pipeline system was designed to supplement the city's main system. However, the water supply from one of the pipelines was definitely instrumental in putting out the fire in Bookers Rum Bond on Water Street, and this was a most vital fire which, if it had got out of hand, could have wrecked most of the waterfront and buildings south of Schumaker Street.

In New Amsterdam no new hydrants were installed during the year. The number of hydrants in that city, therefore, remains at 113. It is essential that the Hydrant system there be standardised so that all hydrants are of the same pattern as those used in Georgetown.

6. Equipment Received

The following equipment was received during the year:

1 Land Rover Jeep
2 Light Alloy Extension Ladders
6 Noble Jet-spray Branches

6. Equipment Received (Cont'd)

- 12 Lifebuoys
- 12 Lifejackets
- 720 feet 1 1/2" Polyethylene Rope
- 12 Schermuly Rockets
- 6 Porton Resuscitators
- 1 Francis B.S. 11 Searchlight
- 8 - eight foot lengths 4" BSS suction Hose
- 10 lengths 75' superflex delivery hose
- 1 hydrant standpipe
- 50 - 2 gallon pressurised Water/Air Extinguisher
- 50 -2 gallon Nu Swift Air Foam Extinguishers
- 10 - Quart size Nu Swift C.T.C. Extinguishers
- 1 - H.R. 3 Pyrene "Every Way" Hose Reel
complete with 100 ft. 3/4" hose
- 7 Torque Wrenches
- 1 set flashing units and lamps

7. Hose

A total of 16,575 feet of hose was held by the Brigade, 10,425 feet in Georgetown and 6,150 feet in New Amsterdam. A number of lengths of hose were damaged or destroyed by fire during the disturbances in the city on 16th February. This caused a serious depletion of available stocks and requests were made for emergency supplies on loan from Trinidad and Barbados Fire Services. One hundred lengths were promptly received from Barbados and 40 lengths from Trinidad. It was not possible to return this hose by the end of the year as supplies ordered from the United Kingdom were not received by that time.

8. Fire Calls

The Brigade responded to a total of 677 fire calls an analysis of which is given hereunder.

Georgetown

Actual Fires	-	410
Late Fire Calls	-	42
False Alarms (good intent)	-	13
False Alarms (Malicious)	-	130

New Amsterdam

Actual Fires	-	44
Late Fire Calls	-	16
False Alarms (good intent)	-	22
False Alarms (Malicious)	-	-

The number of malicious false alarms during the year was the highest ever recorded in the history of the Brigade. There is grave danger in this irresponsible practice as the Brigade may respond to a malicious false alarm, and in doing so be drawn away at the same time from a locality where a genuine call requiring prompt attention is received. The law has, therefore, been tightened up to deal firmly with offenders

/Causes.....

Causes

Electrical, gas or oil stoves	-	92
Boiling over of fats, oils, etc.	-	5
Spontaneous Combustion	-	2
Children playing with matches	-	15
Electrical faults	-	150
Careless disposal of cigarette ends of matches	-	106
Electrical Appliances	-	5
Motor Vehicle Faults	-	11
Ignition of inflammable vapours or substances	-	11
Dirty Chimney	-	1
Careless burning of rubbish	-	16
Oil lamps, candles or mosquito coils	-	5
Welding	-	4
Malicious setting of fires	-	43
Coal Pots and fire places	-	2
Re-ignition	-	14
Unknown	-	28
Smoking in bed	-	2

Method of Extinguishing

By occupants or other persons using buckets of water or extinguishers before arrival of the Brigade	-	180
By Electricity Corporation	-	142
By the Brigade using -		
(a) hand appliances	-	12
(b) Hose Reels	-	63
(c) One jet from pumps	-	89
(d) Two jets from pumps	-	13
(e) Three jets from pumps	-	3
(f) Four jets from pumps	-	2
(g) Five jets from pumps	-	1
(h) Six jets from pumps	-	3
(i) Eighteen jets from pumps	-	1
(j) Counterfiring	-	1
(k) Fire Beaters	-	2

Methods of calling Fire Brigade

Georgetown

Central Exchange	-	557
Police Direct Line	-	2
Running Calls	-	29
Private Fire Alarm Systems	-	3
Radio Communication	-	4

New Amsterdam

Central Exchange	-	42
Direct Police Line	-	3
Running Calls	-	13
Private Fire Alarm Systems	-	23
Radio Communication	-	1

9. Number of Buildings destroyed or
seriously damaged by fire on February, 16th

During the February 16th Disturbances, a number of buildings were destroyed by fire in Georgetown as well as some seriously damaged. This list is shown separately at Appendix A. Other buildings that were seriously damaged by fire during 1962 in Georgetown are as follows -

/(i).....

(i) A single storey building measuring approximately 40' x 20' covered with galvanised roof, situated in the Botanical Gardens, Georgetown and owned by the British Guiana Government. The building suffered severe structural damage and thousands of empty milk bottles were also damaged by fire. (30.3.62 - 6.00 p.m.)

(ii) A wooden building of two floors, measuring approximately 75' x 50', covered with galvanised roof, situated at Croal and Cornhill Streets, Georgetown, and owned by D'Aguiar Bros., Ltd., Brickdam and Cornhill Street. A portion of the roof of the building was completely destroyed by fire. (2.4.62 - 7.29 p.m.)

(iii) A wooden kitchen, completely detached from a house situated at Lot 29 Fort Street, Kingston, measuring approximately 5' x 4', owned by Mr. V. Grant of 27 Fort Street, Kingston. Inside of kitchen burnt and kitchen utensils and foodstuffs destroyed. (9.4.62 - 1.20 a.m.)

(iv) A wooden building of two floors, measuring approximately 30' x 24', covered with galvanised roof, situated at Lot '00' Hadfield Street, Wortmanville, owned by Olga Hall of the same address with bottom flat occupied by Mr. Benjamin and family and Ella Lord. The contents of the building were completely destroyed and the interior of the walls and roof burnt. (20.4.62 - 4.26 a.m.)

(v) A single storey wooden building measuring approximately 12' x 6', covered with galvanised roof, situated at East Ruimveldt Public Road, owned by Mr. Lennox King of 'EE' Hardina Street, Wortmanville and used by him as a Drug Store. Roof and walls burnt and stock completely destroyed. (14.11.62 - 2.32 a.m.)

(vi) A two-flat wooden building covered with slate roof measuring approximately 70' x 40', situated at Lot 1 High Street, Newtown, Georgetown, owned by the New Building Society and occupied by them on the upper floor. Ground floor occupied by Lee's photo Studio, Dr. Claude Denbow's Dental Surgery and Mohamed's Tailoring Establishment. Large quantities of sundry equipment damaged by fire and water and extensive structural damage done to building by fire and smoke. (6.12.62 - 4.05 p.m.)

New Amsterdam

buildings Destroyed

(i) One wooden building of two floors measuring approximately 60' x 40' covered by galvanised roof, known as the Providence Congregational Church, situated at Providence, East Bank, Berbice and owned by the Congregational Body of British Guiana (17.2.62 - 1.35 a.m.)

(ii) A one flat wooden building measuring approximately 24' x 20' with galvanised roof, situated at Lachaber, West Canje Berbice, owned by Messrs. Bookers Sugar Estates Ltd., and occupied by Mr. King and family. (12.5.62 - 8.53 p.m.)

(iii).....

(iii) A one-flat wooden building measuring approximately 30' x 60' covered with galvanised roof situated at Hampshire Village, Corentyne Berbice owned and occupied by Mr. S. Madray and family. (4.8.62 - 3.20 p.m.).

(iv) A thatch-roofed building built on the ground, measuring approximately 20' x 12', situated at Hampshire Village, Corentyne, Berbice, owned by Mr. B. Yangasammy of the same address, and occupied by his family and M. Morris. (26.12.62-11.15 a.m.)

Rural Areas

Buildings Destroyed

(i) A one-flat wooden building measuring approximately 20' x 15' with galvanised roof, situated at Craig Village, East Bank Demerara, owned and occupied by Harold Doobay and family. Building completely destroyed. (24.1.62) - 1.40 a.m.)

(ii) A one-flat wooden building measuring approximately 40' x 30', covered with galvanise and shingle roof, situated at 161 Lamaha Street, Newtown, Kitty, East Coast Demerara, owned by George Mitford of the same address and occupied by Ramroop Jairam and family. building completely destroyed. (11.5.62 - 3.40 p.m.)

(iii) A wooden tenement building measuring approximately 75' x 20' standing on brick pillars and covered with galvanised roof, situated at Windsor Forest, West Coast Demerara, owned and occupied by Mr. Fung-Kee-Fung of the same address. Entire building destroyed by fire. (31.5.62 - 1.30 p.m.)

(iv) A one-flat wooden building measuring approximately 20' x 19' covered with galvanised roof, situated at 39 Prince William Street, Plaisance, East Coast Demerara, owned by Manoo Kisson of the same address and occupied by Mr. Francis De Nobrega as a grocery and hardware store. The entire building was destroyed by fire. (6.11.62 - 11.15 a.m.)

Buildings Seriously Damaged:

(i) A wooden building of two floors measuring approximately 25' x 20' covered with galvanised roof, situated at La Penitence Public Road, owned by the Government of British Guiana and used on the ground floor by the La Penitence Post Office, the top flat being occupied by Mr. J.E. Lorimer, Postmaster. The roof, floor and walls of the building were burnt. (8.1.62 - 7.54 p.m.)

(ii) A shed-type wooden building known as the Pouderoyne Saw Mills measuring approximately 160' x 36', covered with galvanised roof, situated at Pouderoyne, West Bank Demerara, owned by Mr. K. Cheddi of Pln. Wales, West Bank Demerara. A large portion of the building was damaged by fire. (14.5.62 - 6.45 p.m.)

10. Disturbances

The disturbances of February, 16th were a major test for the efficiency and fighting spirit of the Brigade. Despite the many obstacles and adverse conditions that prevailed, however, the Brigade did a very commendable job.

The first indication of civil commotion was the report that tear-gas was affecting the firemen at Central Fire Station. Because of this, manned appliances were immediately dispersed to

purpose of regrouping as necessary. / points.....

points outside the gas-affected area and efforts made to organise them into individual and self-reliant units with unrestricted mobility. Radio contact was maintained between these units for the purpose of regrouping as necessary.

It was immediately decided to mobilise off-duty personnel, but through the lack of electricity which prevented the sounding of the general alarm sirens this had to be done on a 'snow-ball' system which proved to be most effective. Out of a total strength in Georgetown of 154 regular members, 146 reported in good time. Seventeen auxiliary members out of a total of 40 also reported promptly for duty.

While fighting fires the fire brigade personnel came under attack from hostile crowds who stoned them. In one instance they were actually under rifle fire and the water tender suffered damage in seven places by bullets. One fireman narrowly escaped injury when a bullet grazed his leg and damaged a rubber boot he was wearing. Permission was sought at an early stage to have armed escorts with the fire engines but this could not be made available until later in the day.

Bravery

Two firemen were awarded bronze medals of the Society for the protection of Life from Fire for gallantry displayed during the disturbances of 16th February.

On that day, these two firemen were attending a fire in Regent Street. The fire involved tall wooden buildings which were blazing fiercely and giving off billowing flames more than half-way ~~across~~ across Regent Street which was on the leeward side of the fire. A woman was seen to be lying on the pavement with her clothes smoking and about to catch fire from the fierce radiated heat. The firemen rushed forward about 50 yards through the area, picked up the woman, and carried her to safety, then continued their fire-fighting operations.

It was noted that the heat was so intense that it was physically impossible for them to turn and retrace their steps. They picked up the woman and were fortunate enough to make their way about 10 yards further into an alleyway to gain protection from the radiated heat.

Water Supply

During a crucial four-hour period when all the fires were raging, there was no pressure in the water mains. This lack of water meant that the method of attack on the fires had to be rapidly revised. Smaller fires were brought under control by the use of water tenders which carried their own supply of water (approximately 600 gallons each). At larger fires open water supplies were used. This meant that fire engines could not be employed as advantageously as desired, and long lines of hose had to be run out to get the jets of water at the required position.

The Engineer-in-Chief of the Georgetown Sewerage and Water Works and his deputy worked extremely hard under the most trying conditions to keep water flowing in the mains. The fact that they did not succeed in achieving this on the afternoon of the 16th does not detract, however, from the tremendous effort they made to help.

/Fires.....

Fires:

At least 30 fire calls were received and attended to between 12.51 p.m. and 10.42 p.m. on 16th February. Of these, four were malicious false alarms, and seventeen can clearly and reliably be put down to deliberate incendiarism.

Three serious fires burned simultaneously, two of them, the Camp and Charlotte Streets Fire and the one at Regent and High Streets started within 20 minutes of each other, while the third, at Lombard and Leopold Streets, started about an hour after. The resources of the Brigade were then spread out in an effort to deal with all three situations in the best way possible.

The worst fire was in the Water Street area. This resulted from rapid spread from the Regent and High Streets fire which shortly after was most seriously added to by the incendiarism committed on Kirpalani's Store at the junction of Regent and Water Streets. These two fires spread very rapidly, getting out of hand and overwhelming the resources of the Brigade. The looting and utter disregard of the law was also a contributory factor to the spread of fire, particularly since many persons who would have helped by patrolling their premises were afraid to do so in the circumstances.

Bookers Head Office on Water Street was protected by a modern sprinkler and drencher system but unfortunately some enthusiastic but inexperienced helpers went around in the building deliberately breaking sprinkler heads to allow water to flow. This action was a contributory factor to the total destruction of that building because, since there was no pressure in the water mains, the sprinkler system was relying on the water stored in its pressure tank.

Lessons Learnt

One of the lessons learnt in this series of fires is that the Fire Brigade with its present equipment can be overwhelmed rapidly and forced onto the defensive and kept on the defensive most of the time during a very large fire. It is felt also that there should be an increase in the reserve equipment for use in large-scale fire fighting. The purchase of seven new appliances of the Land Rover type should, therefore, be considered, each to be capable of pumping 400 gallons per minute at 100 lbs. per square inch pressure and yet be highly manoeuvrable in both town and country areas.

The statistics relating to fire calls also point to the need for intensifying our programme of educating the public to a deeper consciousness of the need for good house-keeping and proper care and maintenance of domestic appliances.

11. Special Service Calls

The Brigade carried out 189 special services during the year in addition to responding to fire calls and ambulance calls. These services are classified as chargeable and non-chargeable, humanitarian services being non-chargeable, and all other types being charged at the approved standard rates.

Summary of Special service Calls attended during 1962

Salvaging vessels in harbour and at sea	- 28
Filling tanks and vessels	- 81

/Standing...

Standing by at public entertainments	- 19
Resetting couplings and charging extinguishers	- 22
Destruction of Cinematograph Films	- 8
Flushing Kokers	- 7
Rescue of persons and vessels adrift at sea or in harbour	- 5
Rescue of persons from overturned van	- 1
Towing amphibian aircraft from mud-bank into deep water	- 1
Miscellaneous	- 17

During the year the sum of \$4,335.68 was collected from special services rendered, yielding a revenue to Government of \$3,039.68. The amount remaining was paid to the firemen who performed the service.

	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Total</u>
River appliances	\$ 1371.41	248.84	1620.25
Land appliances	1668.27	1047.16	2715.43
	\$ 3039.68	1296.00	4335.68

12. Leave

Casual

A total of 2289 days' casual leave was granted to personnel averaging 13 days taken per man.

Vacation

Fifty-two men proceeded on vacation leave, and the total number days leave granted for the year was 4370, an average of 84.04 days per applicant.

Sick

The general health of all personnel continued to be most satisfactory throughout the year. A total of 1024 days sick leave was granted to personnel, making an average of 6 days per man, as compared with 9 days for the previous year.

13. Discipline

Fourteen cases of discipline were dealt with resulting as follows -

Confinement to barracks	-1
Admonished	- 1
Reprimands	- 5
Withdrawn	- 1
Found not guilty	- 4
Warned	- 2

14. Resignation and deaths

During the year one Leading Fireman and three Firemen resigned from the service. One Leading Fireman and two Firemen died.

15. Transfers

During the year the Chief Fire Officer was transferred to the

/Hong Kong.....

Hong Kong Fire Service after serving with the Brigade here for 15 years. The Station Officer in charge of New Amsterdam Unit was also transferred to Fire Brigade Headquarters, Georgetown.

16. Promotions

One Leading Fireman was promoted to the rank of Section Leader during the year, and two firemen to the rank of Leading Fireman.

17. Ambulance Calls

The number of ambulance calls attended during the year was 12,088 of which 9,937 were emergency calls. The ambulance travelled a distance of 138,759 miles.

Chargeable Cases

In Georgetown ambulances undertook the conveyance of 95 cases for which charges were made and in New Amsterdam there were 11 such cases deriving a total income of \$203.00.

Mental Cases

One hundred and forty-seven mental patients were conveyed by ambulance from the Georgetown Hospital to the Transport and Harbours Department special ambulance car, thence by steamer and ambulance to the Mental Hospital.

Atkinson Field

Ambulances responded to calls from Atkinson Field on 108 occasions to convey to the Georgetown Hospital sick or injured persons arriving by plane from the interior.

18. Training

(a) Local

The training of Brigade Personnel was well maintained throughout the year and went a long way towards maintaining the general standard of efficiency set in the past. Practical drills were carried out with appliances and equipment, and special training in the use of breathing apparatus and resuscitators undertaken.

Training in first aid also continued at the St. John Ambulance Brigade Headquarters. Ten members pass an examination in First Aid during the year and were awarded certificates of proficiency.

The training of Auxiliary Personnel also continued. The Training Camp held annually at Atkinson Field was, however, postponed due to lack of accommodation.

(b) Overseas

The system of overseas training in the United Kingdom continued, two subordinate officers being nominated during the year for study courses at the Fire Service College. One officer also pursued a scholarship course at the Fire Service College offered by an Insurance Company to a senior member of the Brigade.

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19. Long service Medal

Two leading Firemen and one Fireman were recommended for the award of the Colonial Fire brigade Long Service Medal. One Section Leader was also recommended for the 25 years Clasp and one Leading Fireman for the 25 years and 30 years clasp.

20. Fire Prevention

A total of 11,876 inspections, under the terms of the Fire Prevention Ordinance No. 19 of 1954, were made throughout the Colony. These included 906 full scale inspections, 2,980 special and good will inspections, and 7,990 routine and follow-up visits. Proposed new buildings and alterations to existing buildings were also inspected. Special attention was also given to hospitals, nursing homes, hotels, guest houses and boarding and lodging houses and the general response to recommendations submitted for action was good.

Lectures and drills in the use and operation of fire equipment as well as evacuation exercises, were carried out at Government Buildings, Hospitals, schools, hotels and Commercial Premises.

Inspections were also carried out at new industrial concerns and sugar factories with a view to advising on the fire protection measures to be adopted. Volunteer units at these concerns carried out fire fighting displays which proved to be satisfactory.

It is noted that, with the coming into being of the re-development scheme for the burnt-out area, concrete buildings will be erected instead of wooden buildings. This is certainly a step in the right direction as it will reduce considerably the risk of fire spreading in the Commercial Area.

Allocation of Fire Equipment

<u>Extinguishers</u>		<u>Extinguisher Charges</u>	
Two-gallon foam	- 51	Air Foam	- 153
Chemical Foam	- 2	Chemical Foam	- 82
water Type	- 58	Water CO ₂	- 26
C.T.C.	- 11	Soda Acid	- 91
		C.F.C.	- 33

Other Equipment

Buckets	- 227
Branches	- 3
Delivery Hose	- 5
Morris Washers	- 14
Suction Hose	- 1
Wall Valve	- 1
Nozzles	- 2
Rope	- 25 ft.

Fire Protection work in Government Buildings

During the year under review approval was sought to employ a pensioner to service out-district fire pumps and maintain the fixed pumping installations and portable fire pumps at the Mental

/Hospital.....

Hospital, Mahaica Hospital, West Hospital, Suddie, Charity, Bartica and Mazaruni Prisons. Recent inspections of these pumps have shown that due to the lack of attention and proper maintenance in some cases, their standard performance was far from satisfactory. Consequently, it is felt that if their efficiency at all times were to be ensured, then each should be visited at least once monthly, this recommendation has not been adopted.

Suddie Hospital

The question of removing the fire pump and ancillary fire equipment from the Public Works Department Compound and resiting same at the Suddie Hospital Compound was the subject of discussion with the Heads of Departments concerned. This was agreed to be necessary since the hospital presented the greatest risk to loss of life in the event of fire. It was also urged that Government Officers in and around the Suddie Compound should assist in operating the fire pump in case of fire, and to this end the Police, Hospital personnel and Public Works Department Staff, were trained to operate the pump and refresher courses of training arranged monthly to ensure maximum efficiency.

Funds were, however, not available to provide a small pump-house to accommodate the fire pump and ancillary equipment.

Charity and Pomeroon

Agreement was reached on the question of providing an expanded metal enclosure under the Police Station at Charity so that the fire pump could be housed there. It is expected that this would be done as soon as the necessary funds are available.

On the question of the formation of an Auxiliary Unit in the Pomeroon, a number of volunteers were trained in the use and operation of the existing fire equipment with a view to assisting in fighting fires. It was, however, observed that Fire Prevention Ordinance No. 7 of 1957 did not include the Pomeroon among the areas where such a Unit could be formed. Arrangements were, therefore, made for the schedule of the Ordinance to be amended to include the following areas - Pomeroon/Charity, Suddie, Vreed-en-Hoop, Wismar and Bartica. In the meantime, drills are being held monthly. The volunteers show a keen interest and are progressing satisfactorily.

Fire Alarm System

This matter was discussed at a meeting held at the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics at which Ministry Officials, Engineer-in-Chief, Telecommunications, and the Chief Fire Officer attended. The type of equipment recommended by the Engineer-in-Chief for all institutions was one which would reduce false alarms to a minimum and achieve standardisation throughout all Departments. It was agreed that the system could be installed when funds are available.

Publicity Propaganda

Fire Prevention slides continued to be exhibited on the screens of Cinemas in Georgetown and New Amsterdam. Cinema Managers were also advised to project notices on the screens of
/their....

their cinemas discouraging patrons from encumbering pavements on side cinemas in Georgetown, with their bicycles. This practice tended to obstruct cinema exits which would be dangerous in the event of an emergency. Regular patrols by the Police and Constabulary were put into operation to ensure that the pavements were kept unobstructed.

Public Relations

Fire Prevention booths were on display at fairs sponsored by the Uitvlugt Community Council and the League of Coloured Peoples. Pictures depicting various aspects of Fire Prevention were exhibited. The Fire Prevention Branch at New Amsterdam also held displays at the invitation of St. Alban's Church and the Lutheran Church, New Amsterdam. On each occasion a large number of people attended and showed a keen interest in the proceedings.

The boys of the Albouystown, Y.M.C.A., were also given displays and training in the use and operation of fire equipment.

Press Conference

The good relations between the Press and the Brigade continued. Four Press Conferences were held during the year and among matters discussed were oil stove fires and children playing with matches. The Press co-operated and gave publicity to the points raised.

A new Land Rover was purchased during the year and put at the disposal of the Fire Prevention Staff. This has helped tremendously in accelerating inspections especially in the Rural Areas. A small Godiva Lightweight Portable Fire Pump has also been installed in this vehicle along with ancillary fire equipment.

Visits

Organised groups of school children, Police Recruits and members of Youth Clubs visited the Fire Station and Fire Prevention branch. They were also taken on a tour of the Fire Boat Station. A lively interest was shown by all.

General

The year under review was the busiest in the history of the Fire Brigade, and imposed considerable strain on the staff, particularly during the disturbances in February. Nevertheless, commendable courage and fighting spirit were displayed throughout. As can be seen from the report, every effort was employed with reasonable success, to keep abreast of the latest technical knowledge necessary to cope not only with the problems posed by actual fires but also with the expanding field of fire prevention in a wooden city.

I have the honour to be,
Madam,

Your obedient servant,

Chief Fire Officer

Expenditure - British Guiana Fire Brigade

1962

Head 23 - Ministry of Home Affairs - Fire
Prevention Department

<u>No. of Sub Head</u>	<u>Title of Sub Head</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
1	Personal Emoluments	\$435,279.56
	<u>Other Charges</u>	
2	Transport and Travelling	11,781.31
3	Fuel, Oil and Grease	7,480.52
4	Spares, Repairs and Replacements	32,033.50
5	Ambulance and First Aid Equipment	861.93
6	Auxiliary Unit	1,641.92
7	Maintenance of Pipelines in Commercial Area	522.94
8	Uniforms and Bedding	28,032.33
9	Funeral Expenses	-
10	Miscellaneous	2,576.65
	Total Other Charges	<u>\$ 84,931.10</u>
	<u>Extraordinary</u>	
11	Purchase of Equipment	6,772.32
12	Auxiliary Fire Equipment etc. for Government Buildings	6,968.90
	Total Extraordinary	<u>\$ 13,741.22</u>
	<u>Summary</u>	
	Total, Personal Emoluments	\$ 435,279.56
	Total, Other Charges	84,931.10
	Total Recurrent Vote	520,210.66
	Total Extraordinary	13,741.22
	Total of Head	<u><u>\$ 533,951.88</u></u>

Buildings destroyed or seriously damaged by
fire in Georgetown on 16th February, 1962

Buildings destroyed

- (i) Two wooden buildings of two floors with galvanised roof situated at Lot 201 Camp and Charlotte Streets owned by Mr. Edghill of Kingston, Georgetown. Top floor was used as dwellings and the bottom floor housed a number of businesses including Thani's Dry Goods Store, Austin's Radio Shop and Burrowes' Drug Store (3.20 p.m.)
- (ii) A Three-flat wooden building, measuring approximately 90' x 40' covered with galvanised roof, situated at Regent and High Streets, owned by Messrs. Central Garage Ltd., High Street. Ground floor was occupied by Thani Brothers, U. Woo-hing and D.C. Lam and the first and second floors were used as storerooms by Central Garage Ltd., and Thani Brothers. (3.40 p.m.)
- (iii) A wooden building of two floors measuring approximately 75' x 35' with galvanized roof and ground floor of concrete, situated at Lot 23 Lombard Street, owned by Mr. H. Etwaroo of D'Edward Village, West Coast Berbice. Ground floor occupied by Bata Shoe Company and first floor by Mrs. Macchus and Boarders. (4.36 p.m.)
- (iv) Several large wooden and concrete buildings in the lower Regent Street area, owned by Mr. Louis Bollers and Mr. L. Schuler, c/o Mr. De Freitas, 252 Murray Street, and occupied by Dyal's Dry Goods Store etc. (5.22 p.m.)
- (v) A two-flat brick building with wooden floors measuring approximately 80' x 60' with galvanized roof, situated at Lot 29 Water Street, Georgetown, owned by Mr. F.D. Widdup of 9 Second Avenue, Subryanville and occupied by Messrs. Brodie and Rainer Ltd., Grocery and Drug Store and Commercial Agencies. (5.37 p.m.)
- (vi) A one-flat building covered with galvanised roof known as Brodie and Rainer Wharf, situated at Lot 29 Water Street, owned by Brodie Rainer Ltd., and occupied by Messrs. Brodie and Rainer Storeroom, Volgate Palmolive Storeroom and D'Aguiar Brothers Workshop.
- (vii) A wooden building of two floors covered with galvanised roof, situated at Lot 28 Water Street, owned and occupied by L. Kwall Ltd.
- (viii) A wooden building covered with galvanised roof situated at Lot 26/27 Water Street, owned by De Freitas Ltd., and occupied by De Freitas Saw Mills and Office, D'Aguiar Brothers Workshop, Martin's Welding Shop, W. Glasgow and Sons Lumber yard and General Store and Cho Sik and Company.
- (ix) A wooden building of two floors with galvanized roof situated at Lot 25 Water Street, owned by De Freitas Ltd., and occupied by C.L. Forshaw and Son and Eric Stoby Agencies.
- (x) A two-flat wooden building, bottom floor of brick and wooden structure known as John Fernandes Wharf situated at 24 Water Street, Georgetown, owned by Mr. John Fernandes of 69 Third Avenue Subryanville and occupied by John Fernandes Ltd., and C.A. Phillips.

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(xi) A small two-flat building and a one-flat shed type structure situated at 24 Water Street, Georgetown, owned by the Mayor and Town Council and used as a Municipal Parking Area.

(xii) A wooden building of two floors and wharf, both covered with galvanised roof, situated at Lot 54/55 Water Street, Georgetown, owned and occupied by Messrs. J.P. Santos and Company.

(xiii) A concrete building of two floors and wharf, covered with galvanised roof, situated at Lot 49/53 Water Street, Georgetown owned by Bookers Central Properties Ltd., and occupied by Bookers General Store and Wharf.

(xiv) A brick building of three floors covered with galvanised roof situated at 49/53 Water Street, owned by Bookers Central Properties Ltd., and occupied by Bookers Shipping Office.

(xv) A wooden building of two floors and wharf covered with galvanised roof, situated at Robb and Water Streets, Georgetown, owned by Bookers Central Properties Ltd., and occupied by Bookers Drug Store and Head Office.

(xvi) A three-flat wooden building, ground floor of concrete, covered with galvanised roof, situated at Lot 33/44 Water and Regent Streets owned by Bookers Central Properties Ltd., and occupied by Bookers Cycle and Office Equipment Store, Davson's Caribbean Agencies and Bookers Tailoring Establishment.

(xvii) A two-flat wooden building covered with galvanised roof, situated at Lot 42 Water and Regent Streets owned by Jaikaran and Sons and occupied by Kirpalani Ltd., and G. Watts Watch Repair Establishment.

(xviii) A wooden building of two floors covered with galvanised roof, situated at 43 Water Street, owned by Jaikaran and Sons and occupied by Jaikaran's Drug Store and Crown Life Insurance Company.

(xix) A wooden building of two floors covered with galvanised roof, situated at Lot 40 Water Street, Georgetown, owned by Mr. R.G. Humphrey and occupied by R.G. Humphrey and Sons Ltd., Humphrey's Barber Shop and Jean's Hairdressing Saloon.

(xx) A two-flat wooden building covered with galvanised roof situated at Lot 9 Water Street, Georgetown, owned by Mr. F.G. De Souza and occupied by the Colonial Hardware Store and Williams' Boarding House.

(xxi) A two-flat brick building covered with galvanised roof, situated at Lots 6 and 8 Water Street, Georgetown, known as the Russian Bear Spirit Shop, owned by Mr. C.F. Wright of 278 Forshaw Street, Queenstown.

(xxii) A two-flat wooden building covered with galvanised roof, situated at Lot 201 Camp Street, owned by Mr. A.W. St. Hill and Miss P. Brenco, and occupied on the ground floor by Searchlight Dry Goods Store, the top floor being used as a dwelling house.

(xxiii) A concrete building of three floors known as Rayman's building covered with zinc roof, situated at Lot 10 Regent and High Streets, owned by Mr. J.L. Rayman of 302 Church and East Streets, and occupied by Kirpalani's Household and Furniture Department, Rayman's Agencies, Guiana Contractors Ltd., Velvet Touch Beauty Saloon, University of the West Indies, Extra Mural Department, Foster and Company Ltd., Caribbean Atlantic Life Insurance Company Ltd., etc.

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(xxiv) A two-flat wooden building covered with galvanised roof situated at Regent and Hincks Streets, owned by Mr. Francis Lopes and occupied by Standard Pawnbrokery.

(xxv) A two-flat wooden building situated at Lot 30/31 Regent and Hincks Streets, covered with galvanised roof, owned by Messrs. Ferreira and Gomes, and occupied by Brown Betty Dairy and Restaurant, Ferreira and Gomes Dry Goods Store, Merchant and Traders and Prakash Insurance Agency.

(xxvi) A two flat wooden building covered with zinc roof situated at Lot 23 Lombard Street, owned by Mr. G. Sharma and occupied by G.E. Khouri's Dry Goods Store and the India Boarding House.

(xxvii) A two-flat wooden building covered with zinc roof, situated at Lot 24 Lombard Street, owned by one Mr. Narine and occupied by Paul's Tailoring Establishment and Robin's Tailoring Establishment.

(xxviii) A two-flat wooden building covered with zinc roof, situated at Lot 24/25 Lombard Street, owned by Mr. J.T. Mekdeci of 18 Lombard Street and occupied by Hussain's Dry Goods Store, H.M. Singh's Dry Goods Store, Maraj's Dry Goods Store, silver City Boarding and Lodging House and tenement buildings.

(xxix) A two-flat wooden building covered with zinc roof, situated at Lot 10/11 Lombard Street, owned and occupied by the Pure Cane Molasses Company Ltd.

(xxx) A two-flat wooden building covered with zinc roof, situated at Lot 9 Lombard Street, owned by Mr. George Panoman of Lot 7 - 9 Lamaha Street and occupied by Panoman's New Store.

(xxxi) A two-flat wood and brick building covered with zinc roof, situated at Lot 7 Lombard Street, owned by Mr. A.S. D'Andrade of 39 Main Street, and occupied by the Golden/Spirit Shop and the Golden Gate Boarding House.

(xxxii) A two-flat wooden building covered with zinc roof, situated at Lot 6 Lombard Street, owned by Mr. N. Samuels of 114 Regent and Albert Streets and occupied by National Drug Store, Samuels' General Store and the New Delhi Boarding House.

(xxxiii) A two-flat wooden building covered with zinc roof, situated at Lot 6 Lombard Street, owned by Mr. Bholai Singh of the same address and occupied by him as a Dry Goods Store.

(xxxiv) A two-flat wooden building covered with zinc roof, situated at Lot 25 Leopold Street, owned by Mr. J.T. Mekdeci of 18 Lombard Street and occupied by Kelman's Furniture Store, Cho Kai's Restaurant and Hanniff's Boarding House.

(xxxv) A one-flat wooden building covered with zinc roof, situated at Lot 25 Lombard Street, owned by Mr. C. James of Leopold and Lombard Streets and occupied by Harris' Woodworking Shop.

(xxxvi) A two-flat brick building situated at Lot 21 Lombard Street, owned by the International Pawnbrokery Ltd., and occupied by the Pawnbrokery and Palestine Dry Goods Store.

Buildings Seriously Damaged

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(i) A two-storey wooden building with galvanised roof, measuring approximately 40' x 25', situated at 63 Alexander and Regent Streets owned and occupied by Mr. S. Nwabatt and family. A dry Goods Store is carried on by the occupant on the ground floor. About 20% of the building damaged, and stocks extensively damaged by fire, smoke and water. (2.34 p.m.)

(ii) A two-flat wooden building measuring approximately 60' x 30' covered with galvanised roof and used as a dwelling house and dry goods store, owned and occupied by George Sookhoo and family of 146 Regent Street, Lacytown. Contents of store were completely destroyed by fire and bottom flat damaged. (4.54p.m.)

(iii) A one-flat concrete building covered with asbestos cement roofing, situated at Robb and Water Streets, owned and occupied by the Royal Bank of Canada. Damage done to some portion of roof and southern wall of building.

(iv) A two-flat wooden building covered with slate roof, measuring approximately 75' x 40', situated at Lot 104 Regent Street, Lacytown, owned by Mr. V. Yassin of 93 Regent Street, Lacytown and occupied by Jardim's Tractor and Motor Spares on the ground floor, the top floor being used as a dwelling house. Damage was done to articles in the western show window. (2.12.p.m.)

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