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## £75,000 Damage In Fire

### Spectacular Fire At Depot

# FIRM LOSES THIRD OF TRUCK FLEET

Damage estimated at about £75,000 was caused by a fire which swept through the garage and warehouse of Cockings Ltd. in Walsh street, Southwark, last night.

About 25 trucks—more than a third of the company's trucking fleet—were destroyed.

Within minutes of the fire being noticed the wood and iron building, with a 100 ft. frontage and a depth of 200 ft., was blazing from end to end.

Soon after the first Fire Brigades from Hindmarsh and Thebarton arrived, there was a loud explosion and the roof crashed in.

Police forced hundreds of people from narrow Walsh street as the petrol tanks of the trucks began exploding. They were told by employees that 500-gallon tanks of petrol and diesel oil were stored beneath the cement floor.

The diesel oil used in the trucks was being pumped into the tanks of the trucks when the fire started.

The fire had other depots in Port Adelaide and the city where the remainder of its truck fleet is kept.

of the fire and a huge column of black smoke rose nearly 100 ft. It drifted down slowly and covered the south parklands and near southern suburbs in a thick, sooty pall.

The huge smoke column of the fire could be seen from as far away as the hills and suburban beaches.

The firemen had no choice of saving any of the warehouse and garage, but prevented the fire from spreading to the rear of the building.

About a half-hour after the fire started, a fire engine arrived from the north and the fire was extinguished.

Police and civilians dragged Army equipment from the drill hall, but a quick check with Army authorities after the fire led police to believe that some rifles may have been in the building.

from crowding the streets near the blaze and hampering firemen.

A director of Cockings, Mr. T. Condon, said after the fire that the building and its contents were insured.

He appealed to truck owners who could help the company fulfill its delivery commitments to call at Walsh street this morning.

The cause of the fire is not known.

Picture of Father Fancourt, Page 1.



Part of the crowd watching the spectacular fire sweeping the premises of Cockings Express Delivery, Ltd., Southwark, last night. Right—Firemen playing a hose through the collapsed wall of portion of the premises rented by W. Anglin & Co. (Aust.) Pty., Ltd.

### HEAVY LOSS

In addition to the trucks, the fire destroyed a large quantity of sheet steel stored in the building for a motor body building firm and a quantity of bald metal owned by W. Anglin and Co. Pty. Ltd.

One of the first to notice the fire was a 60-year-old policeman, Motor Traffic Constable C. Beana, who said: "I was in Walsh street at about 7.30 p.m. when I saw a small tongue of flame licking through the roof at the rear of the building."

"Within seconds it had blossomed into a roaring fire which seemed to engulf the whole warehouse in a matter of minutes."

The 30 firemen, aided by dozens of civilians, who fought the fire, were hampered by low water pressure.

The hero of the fire was an Italian priest, Father Fancourt, who with firemen and another civilian forced his way into the blazing building and helped hold down the bucking hoses while flames swept around them.

Flames leaped 20 ft. into the air at the height

### NO CHANCE

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### INSURED

The fire was under control about 8.45 p.m. Police were stationed at all intersections on the Port road near Walsh street to prevent thousands of people from crowding the streets near the blaze and hampering firemen.

### Fire Severely Damages Shop

A fire, caused by heavy damage to a shop at Taylor's road, Thebarton, yesterday afternoon.

About £500 worth of stock in addition to valuable equipment was destroyed.

Proprietors of the business, a confectionery and fish shop—are Mr. John Kypros, 22, and his brother, Mr. Jim Kypros, 26.

### "Desperate" Pair Sought By Police

NSW and Victoria have been ordered to stop two dangerous criminals—an attractive red-haired woman, and a man known as "Plum"—who are being sought by police in NSW.

Police say they think the couple, who have been on a "rampage" of robbery in Victoria, are in NSW.

The man, who is 38, and the woman who is 34, are known to have been in the area, but are described by detectives as "desperate" and "wildly dangerous."

The woman is wanted on a warrant in Sydney in connection with a \$4000 city robbery.

The couple left Sydney in the woman's car, and are known to have passed through Yass, Goulburn and Cooma within the past week.

A series of robberies have been reported from the districts through which the couple are believed to have travelled.

The hunt spread to Victoria yesterday when it was learned that the couple had crossed the border.

### Cypriots Charged With Rioting

NICOSIA, Dec. 30. Thirty-three Greek Cypriots were formally charged today with taking part in an unlawful assembly and a riot on December 18 in Nicosia.

One of them was also charged with assaulting a police constable and another with assaulting a police inspector.

On December 23, 23 other Greek Cypriots were formally charged in Nicosia with participating in an illegal procession on December 19. A.A.P.

### 2 Gunmen Stun Man—Take £26

MELBOURNE, Dec. 30. Two masked gunmen stunned the proprietor of a Chinese cafe with a pistol butt and escaped with £26 in cash.

As soon as the proprietor was stunned, the two men stepped quickly to meet him, whipped a pistol from his trousers pocket, and hit him on the head.

The getaway car was stolen about half an hour earlier from a nearby bus garage.

"S.M.O.K.O." banishes smoking habit easily, 8/- all chemists. (Adv.)

### Fate Of Two Shot Horses Still In Doubt

The fate of two of the four horses which were shot on a foothills grazing property on Monday night was "still in the balance," the veterinary surgeon treating them said last night.

The horses belong to Mrs. J. W. Hastwell, of Hobart Crescent, Manningham.

Myra, brood mare, Sister Myra, was killed.

Police think it possible that the horses were accidentally killed by a night shooting party.

The veterinary surgeon said that two of the horses still had bullets in them. One, which was lodged at the base of the brain, could not be extracted.

An attempt to remove the bullet from the other horse had failed.

It was impossible to tell whether the horses would live, he said.

## 'A.P.H.' KEPT THE FUN GOING AT SEA

PERTH, Dec. 30. The sparkling wit of Sir Alan ("A.P.H.") Herbert, famous English humorist, added to the fun when passengers on the Orsova held their Christmas Day.

Sir Alan and Lady Herbert, who are travelling to Melbourne on a holiday voyage, will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary tomorrow.

At Fremantle today the ship's officers said that "A.P.H.'s" pungent verse amused many of the seamen during the voyage, and for Christmas Day he composed verses entitled "Blue Christmas" and "Fremantle Aboard."

Sir Alan Herbert said he had just completed a new musical play based on his

## Fruit Fly Found At Edwardstown

Fruit fly has been found again in Adelaide.

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Christian) said last night that traces of the pest had been found in gardens in and near Price street, Edwardstown.

No warned householders living within about a mile of Price street need to remove fruit of any kind from the property on which it was growing.

Removal would present a grave risk of spreading the pest, he said.

Mr. Christian said that a householder in the neighborhood of Price street, Edwardstown, had reported maggot-infested apricots and a Department of Agriculture check showed that the fruit had been attacked by fruit fly.

Later surveys had discovered maggot-infested cherries in one case, mangoes, in a number of gardens in nearby streets.

## S.A. Yacht Leading

SYDNEY, Dec. 30. A full gale today crippled two of the 17 competitors in the 690 miles Sydney-Hobart yacht race, and the SA sloop Myra took the lead.

The yachts today ploughed through heavy seas against 35 knot southerly winds.

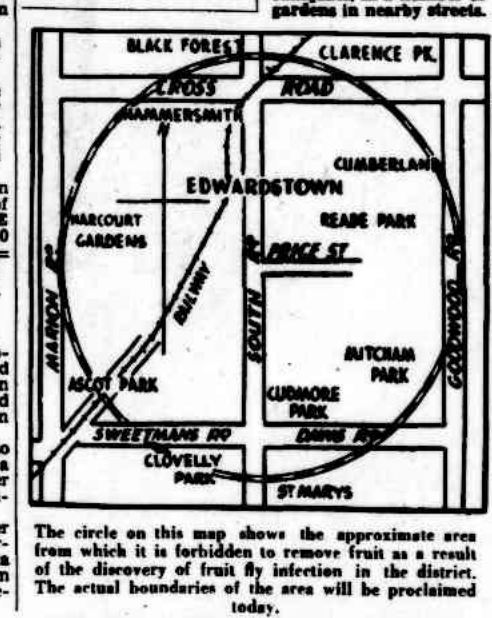
Kurruwa IV, the radio-motor ship of the fleet, was forced to retire after she had split two spinners and damaged her mainmast, and was falling back in the field.

Another spinnaker was set, but it also split.

When her spinnaker carried away her crew had great difficulty in replacing it.

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The circle on this map shows the approximate area from which it is forbidden to remove fruit as a result of the discovery of fruit fly infection in the district. The actual boundaries of the area will be proclaimed today.

## To Meet On Wool Cooler Resignation

A special meeting of the executive of the Stockowners' Association of SA has been called for January 7 to discuss the resignation of Mr. A. J. McBride from the Australian Wool Bureau.

The general secretary of the association (Mr. C. Sinclair-Wood) said yesterday that the meeting would also discuss matters arising from a recent meeting of the Australian Woolgrowers' Council.

Mr. McBride, who is president of the Stockowners' Association, has resigned as a member of the bureau because he is opposed to the bureau's recent appointment of a civil servant as an executive officer.

An official statement issued by the Australian Wool Bureau in Melbourne yesterday said:—

"The statements published in the newspapers of the resignation of Mr. McBride (chairman of the bureau for 16 years) and A. J. Sinclair-Wood (secretary) are entirely untrue. Mr. Sinclair-Wood is a member of the bureau and has not resigned."

"Similar statements were published some time ago, and to these the bureau has already replied. There is no reason to change the views expressed then."

"No casting vote was used in making the decision. Five of the six growers members approved of the appointment of Mr. McBride."

"The objections of Messrs. Boyd and McBride were placed before the wool growers' organization."

"They were considered at a meeting at which both were present. There is no evidence to show that the objections were then endorsed."

CANBERRA, Dec. 30. No pressure or influence from the Government had been applied in the appointment of Mr. Fraser as executive officer of the Wool Bureau, the secretary of the Commerce Department (Mr. A. G. Crawford) said tonight.

No pressure or influence had been applied in the proposed selection of Mr. Fraser.

WOLFE'S SCHNAPPA, a warming winter drink (adv.).

## Novel Feature In Beach Girl Quest

To link with its Beach Girl Quest—the first of the metropolitan heats will be at Brighton tomorrow—"The Sunday Advertiser" will introduce a novel feature which will interest every spectator.

At each heat, pictures will be taken of the spectators, and one of the faces will be ringed in the reproduction of the picture in "The Sunday Advertiser."

On establishing identification, the "ringed" spectator will receive a prize of £2.

The new feature will begin tomorrow night, and the pictures of spectators will be those at Moonta last Tuesday and at Brighton tomorrow afternoon.

The panel of names had included many non-public servants and the choice was a tribute to the quality of good senior public servants.

The indisputable fact was that the bureau could not have done otherwise than to make its own appointments freely.

## U.K. Railmen Support Strike

LONDON, Dec. 30. A mass meeting of London railwaymen last night pledged full support for the strike of 400,000 British railway workers called for January 2.

Railway union leaders have called the strike in support of pay claims. The nation's transport system—A.A.P.

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## Colombo Powers Invite 25 Nations To Talks

Australian Associated Press And Our Special Representative **DJAKARTA, Dec. 30.**

Twenty-five countries will be invited to attend the Afro-Asian conference in Indonesia, in the last week of April.

At the end of a long and at times acrimonious discussion the Prime Ministers of the five Colombo Powers meeting at Bogor, West Java, decided to exclude Israel.

Among the countries invited are Communist China, Japan, Turkey, the Central African Federation, the Gold Coast, North and South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

The Indian Prime Minister (Mr. Nehru) was especially anxious to see the widest possible African representation at the conference and the independence of "independents" was therefore fairly elastic.

Consider problems of special interest about national racialism and colonialism.

Consider social, economic and cultural problems and relations of the countries represented.

View the position of the Afro-Asian countries and their peoples in the world today, and the contribution they can make to the promotion of world peace and co-operation.

In the communiqué the Prime Ministers express the "warmest hope" that the Netherlands Government will reopen negotiations to implement her obligations under the agreement with Indonesia.

They also call on all countries concerned to cease nuclear experiments.

The Prime Ministers hope the scope of their consultations will "extend the area of peace."

This is reflected in inclusion of both the Bao Dai and Ho Chi-minh administrations in Vietnam, Turkey, which is a member of NATO, and Pakistan, China and the Philippines, which attended the first BRATO conference and presumably will become signatories to the Manila Treaty.

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## Sunburn Puts Children In Hospital

Four children have been admitted to the Adelaide Children's Hospital wards with severe sunburn, and four more have been treated since Monday.

A spokesman for the hospital said that the children admitted had second degree burns, comparable to burns from boiling water.

The spokesman warned parents not to expose children to the sun, especially in the middle of the day, but to wear protective clothing.

The condition of the children admitted was made worse because the children had been protected from the sun by the use of suntan cream.

He said that instead of being protected, children should be covered with some soothing cream.

The children, whose ages ranged from six months to two years, were left outside in the shade to sleep.

However, as the sun changed its course they were exposed to the sun's rays, and their parents did not realize what had happened until too late—in some cases when the sleeping children had been exposed to the heat for more than two hours.

At the Royal Adelaide Hospital an average of four people a day since Christmas Day have been treated for sunburn.

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