

The Auckland Fire Brigade 1874-2024 Project

The 1930s – 1930-1939

The Auckland fire Brigade and its brigadesmen were not immune to the effects of the Great Depression.

The Great Depression affected New Zealand from 1930 as export prices began to plummet, falling 45% by 1933, devastating to New Zealand being primarily dependant on agricultural exports. Demand for goods and services fell, unemployment rose to 12% of the registered workforce in 1933. Wages were slashed by up to 20%. Unemployment riots occurred in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch in the first months of 1932. The Great Depression saw fireman's wages reduced by 10% for 4 years even though they worked long hours with no possibility of working overtime.

The decade saw more brigade amalgamations and the formation of the AMFB (Auckland Metropolitan Fire Brigade) in 1933 and the formation of the Auckland Metropolitan Fire Police Corps. The AMFB served Auckland for 43 years being replaced in 1976 by the National Fire Service. The brigade was divided into four districts for operational efficiency.

Malicious false alarms were becoming a problem for the brigade through the Street Fire Alarm System.

March 26 1930, Notice was given that the Auckland Fire Board intended to consider, at an Ordinary Meeting of the Board, to be held on Wednesday, March 26 1930. a motion to apply to the Local Government Loans Board for sanction to raise the sum of £3,500, for the purpose of erecting a Fire Brigade Station on Lot 6, DP 17514, Allot 24 of Tamaki West Farms, situated Long Drive, St Heliers Bay Road. Any objection thereto must be lodged in writing with the Chairman of the Board prior to March 26 1930. John [JJ] Kingston, Chairman.

April 8 1930, New Zealand Insurance industry stated that the last two years had high losses. NZ fire loss per head was the highest in the world. Factors were the electrical wiring done during WW1 with inferior material and the high number of wood buildings. The burglary rate was also one of the lowest in world.

May 20 1930, resignation from Auckland Fire Board of Walter Pavitt, replaced by Cl McKean [North British] nominated by local insurance companies as their representative.

November 24 1930, new West Tamaki Station [now St Heliers] opened at 179 Long Drive, near St Heliers Bay Road. One bay station with one set of Officer's quarters above, cost £4,017-11-4. Road Board first proposed November 27 1923. The old power generating site reserved two years before by Tamaki Road Board, January 15 1930 vested to the Auckland Fire Board. April 16 1930, 12:00, tenders closed with architect Daniel B Patterson. June 8 1930, Government Order in Council allowed Auckland FB to make available £5,000 for this new station. Station plan modelled on Pt Chevalier [1926] and Avondale [1928] but the exterior looked very different, same architect. Staff one permanent Foreman and six auxiliary Firemen. Remuera then had two pumps. November 9 1923 Tamaki West Road Board and Brigade changed name, dropped West. Replaced station at 32 St Heliers Bay Road, corner Polygon Road. New station built on same Long Drive site, opened 2011. Until 1925 Tamaki RB had generated their own power, demand outstripped capacity, sold all to Auckland Electric Power Board. See also March 26 1930.

Year ending December 31 1930, Auckland City FB attended 458 calls; 224 fires, 116 false alarms, 45 chimney, 62 grass, 11 out of district calls.

February 2 1931, Monday, Auckland City Council started installing white kerbstones to indicate location of fire hydrants, By end of April 1931, 875 had been installed.

April 1 1931, Roy Girling - Butcher, Chief Inspector of Explosives, appointed Government Fire Inspector, replaced Thomas Trevanion Hugo. He retired as Director-General of Fire Brigades mid-1949, October 1 1949 was first Chairman Fire Service Council. His Son William Girling-Butcher became Chief Fire Control Officer, New Zealand Forest Service.

July 1931, NZ Arbitration Court reduced every NZ worker's wages by 10%, including Firebrigadesmen. Exemption unsuccessfully sought from the general order for all firemen throughout the country [1] their pay had not kept up with cost of living [2] worked 126 hours a week [3] no overtime [4] no opportunity to work extra [5] the dangerous work they did [6] compulsory retirement for firemen at age 50 and motormen at 45. October 1 1934 pay increased by 5%, cost to Fire Board £450. July 1 1935 full pay restored.

August 2 1931, Auckland Fire Board members. Alfred [AG] Lunn appointed by Governor General, John [JJ]. Kingston South British Insurance, Thomas [TE] Miller Northern Assurance Co, C I McKean North British Insurance. Appointed by Auckland CC were Andrew [AJ] Entrican, John [JB] Paterson, Michael [MJ] Coyle, who had joined Auckland Fire Brigade 1884 under Superintendent John Hughes.

October 1 1931, Fireman Driver Doug Catley [had 6 years' service] was the first known Auckland graduate of the UK Institution of Fire Engineers (GIFireE). Doug was 7th on the Associate exam pass list. Firemen sitting exams was not common at that time. A handful of others followed. December 9 1932, at Wellington FB Headquarters, diploma presented to Station Officer Mechanic Doug Catley, AMIFireE (Associate Member of the Institution of Fire Engineers). Other references to him being a Wellington Station Officer - Mechanic.

Early November 1931, Mt Wellington Town Board opened Mt Wellington VFB No1 Station, new station at corner of Ellerslie Panmure Highway and Harding Avenue, single bay corrugated iron shed. Equipped with a 1927 Buick 6 hose and ladder tender, a converted car. Mt Wellington VFB Incorporated into AMFB April 1, 1933.

Early November 1931, Mt Wellington Town Board opened Mt Wellington No2 Station, Mt Wellington Highway, west side, corner Hamlin Road, opposite Sylvia Park. Equipped with 1922 Chandler [USA] hose and ladder tender, a converted car. Mt Wellington VFB, incorporated with Auckland MFB April 1 1933. Closed July 1955, three years after Otahuhu, Albion Road opened. All equipment moved to Ellerslie Panmure Highway Station. July 25 1955 their 1932 Morris Commercial sold to Whitianga for £55.

November 23 to 29, 1931, Fire Prevention Week held. In later years changed to April so publicity just before winter when most fires occur. In 1931 the Auckland FB attended 183 actual fires out of 404 calls, 54 calls less than 1930. Given the financial stress in the community, number of fires which was less than might have been expected and less than in more prosperous times.

November 24 1931, reported Pitt Street Central Fire Station had a night time strength of twenty permanent men and ten auxiliaries. It is the nearest disciplined approach to that of the Army or Navy. Discipline is automatic, men are fit, and they are actuated by a very high sense of duty. They keep their constant vigil over the city and the life of anyone at any moment might depend upon their speed, skill and courage.

Year ending December 31 1931, Auckland FB attended 404 calls, 183 actual fires in buildings, 91 false alarms, 46 chimney fires, 74 outbreaks in gorse and rubbish, and 10 out of the district calls. Three

pumps, TTL, and new Salvage Van at Headquarters, two engines each at Western District [later Ponsonby] and Remuera, one engine each at the Parnell, Pt Chevalier, Avondale and West Tamaki [now St Heliers] stations. Personnel unchanged during the year. Budget for 1931 was £22,300.

During 1932 additional accommodation costing £148 provided at Parnell Station and staff increased to four permanent Firemen plus five Auxiliary Firemen to cover Newmarket after that Volunteer Brigade closed. Parnell Station was located at 465 Manukau [now Parnell] Road nearly opposite Cathedral Place and Anglican Cathedral, an old two floor converted house. Station closed April 13 1960, Wednesday, new Station at corner Balfour Road and Gladstone Road, Parnell. House without added protruding appliance room still there 2022.

January 1 1932, Newmarket Borough VFB incorporated into Auckland MFB [stopped all the fights]. The small Station at the corner of Victoria [now Davis] Crescent, Khyber Pass Road and Broadway, closed. The twenty-five SFAs transferred to Parnell. Newmarket BC paid £450 to run own Brigade, paid AMFB £500 per year for coverage. Parnell Station at 465 Manukau [now Parnell] Road nearly opposite Cathedral Place and Anglican Cathedral was altered to provide extra accommodation for four permanent Firemen plus five Auxiliary Firemen.

March 23 1932, Newmarket Fire Board reported the VFB had responded to thirteen calls in the last fire year. The street fire alarm box system was installed throughout the borough resulting in much greater efficiency to alert the Fire Brigade. Arrangements were made with the Auckland Fire Board for the services and protection from the Auckland Fire Brigade.

March 28 1932, reported that Auckland FB interested in buying a 1917 Dennis pump escape from New Plymouth which had only attended one fire and not used. Sold to Whakatane Board Mills. The worldwide economic Great Depression badly affected spending.

April 13 1932, newspaper report, "Fireman Eugene Donovan is recognised as a boxing instructor of the highest ability, so it was no surprise to see his quarters at the Fire Brigade Station in Pitt Street filled with eager young pupils. Many champions have been turned out from this gym in past years and there and a few title holders are still going strong. Lachie McDonald, the well-known professional, was in the ring at the Fire Brigade Station". Boxing and wrestling were part of everyday life in both Pitt Street Station's gyms for over fifty years. Superintendent Bill [WL] Wilson was good at both and was often the referee.

April 14 1932, Thursday, 20:00 to 22:30, Queen Street, Central City, depression rioting and looting, hundreds of unemployed men participated. Estimated twenty thousand people turned up for meeting in the Town Hall that held three thousand. Fierce fighting broke out between section of rioters and Police around Town Hall. Three Policemen seriously hurt, over a hundred people treated at Auckland Hospital for injuries. Thirty-five people charged. Mounted Police, foot Police and detachments from HMS Philomel, Devonport were unable to keep control of rioters marching up and down stoning windows [about two hundred and fifty broken] and looting. Superintendent WL [Bill] Wilson, Auckland Fire Brigade reported that two pumps from Pitt Street Headquarters turned out at 20:35. Deputy Superintendent George W Avenell informed him that the Mayor George William Hutchison [1931 - 1935] had rung earlier for the brigade, but he did not care to take the responsibility of letting the brigade go until Wilson arrived. On Brigade's arrival they were met with a fusillade of bricks and stones, two men were injured, one needing three stitches in his head, the other struck in the abdomen and knocked about. St John Ambulance treated over two hundred casualties. The services of the brigade were not required, seems no fires were lit by protesters both nights of riots.

April 15 1932, Friday, from about 18:30 until 21:30, between four and five thousand people gathered in Karangahape Road, between Pitt Street and Queen Street, second night of destruction ensued. Fifty men were injured, five admitted to hospital. Over fifty plate glass windows in Pitt Street and Karangahape Road smashed, no looting, window smashing appeared work of hoodlums not the unemployed. Police, Mounted Police, Special Constables, detachments from the Navy. Fire Brigade stayed on Station. Twice the crowd scattered as fire engines with whining sirens raced up Pitt Street and along Karangahape Road. Queen Street normal.

April 15 1932. Friday, 21:15, during Karangahape Road Riot, fire seriously damaged wood Church of the Epiphany [built 1886], beside Star Hotel, Karangahape Road corner Newton Road.

May 6 1932, Charles Alexander Woolley Jnr [38] appointed Superintendent Wellington City FB, son of late Auckland Superintendent CA Woolley. Replaced Joseph Creeke [a NZ'er ex Sydney, prominent wrestler and referee] appointed February 19 1926. Creeke 'derated' to Deputy Superintendent, retired May 31 1939 aged 60. Woolley joined Auckland as a cadet 1907 [13], 1910 appointed a driver, by 1914 aged 21 a Senior Fireman, served in NZ Army [France] 1914-1918, re-joined Auckland as Senior Fireman, Western District, April 1925 Inspecting Officer, a new post he suggested, rank Foreman, 1925 Third Officer Auckland, April 1927 Superintendent Mt Roskill FB. Retired May 1952, succeeded by Deputy Chief Fire Officer Harry Bruce, father of Allan W Bruce.

June 17 1932, Mt Eden Fire Board constituted. May 11 1932, Mt Eden ratepayers' poll on proposal to form a fire district voted for the proposal 557, against 66, majority for 491. Application to make the Borough a fire district under the Fire Brigades Act made to Governor-General. AE Buckley appointed to represent the Government, Robert Mills and Frederick [FS] Battley appointed to represent the Council. September 14 1932 Mt Eden BC approve principles of a Metropolitan Fire Board, Mt Eden incorporated with Auckland MFB April 1 1933.

Mid July 1932, Minister of Internal Affairs, Honourable Albert Hamilton proposal to form AMFB [Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board] discussed with all Auckland urban Brigades "in the interest of efficiency and economy". There were no agreements for cooperation between any Brigade. Equipment was not standardised, 2.75in hose was used by City and Mt Eden, other brigades used 2.5in hose. Mt Eden BC initially rejected idea of joining but soon changed mind.

July 27 1932, the Auckland Fire Board, in anticipation of the new Metropolitan Fire Board, authorised the Board Secretary to destroy all receipts and reports until 1924.

August 9 1932, fire loss in Auckland in the previous five years was estimated at £398,127. During that period there were 1,752 fire calls and 449 false alarms. Superintendent Bill [WL] Wilson said damage by fire to property in New Zealand had been rising steadily since 1927-28, the relative loss was higher than either America or Canada. Comparisons between New Zealand, Canada, and America were made owing to the building conditions were very similar. Loss of life in Auckland City by fire were relatively small, six deaths in the last five years, five men and one woman. Fire loss in the five years were summarised as follows: 1920-27, £66,252 with 403 fire calls, 101 false alarms; 1927-28, £113,408, 303 calls, 73 FA's; 1928-29, £67,507, 275 calls, 101 FA's; 1930-31, £114,711, 330 calls, 83 FA's; 1931-32, £28,199, 375 calls, and 91 FA's.

October 1 1932, after 19:30, Saturday, Auckland Fire Brigade under Superintendent Wilson will put on a few stunts that have won praise throughout New Zealand. Have you seen a fireman reach the top of a ten-storey building without a ladder? Event was Big Gala Night, Carlaw Park, Auckland Boys Employment Committee [In Aid of This Week's Great Campaign for Funds] Give the Boys Their Chance. Roll up in your thousands. Fireworks, great set pieces.

November 9 1932, Auckland Fire Board member Thomas [TE] Miller [Insurance] had resigned due to ill health. Not replaced because new elections for membership of new Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board due early 1933.

Enacted December 9 1932, effective January 1 1933, amendment to the Fire Brigades Act 1926 enabled "Untied Fire Districts" and contained special provisions for the Auckland Metropolitan Fire District. Also enabled Fire Boards to offer reward for information as to false alarms.

Total Auckland FB calls in 1932 were 561, 198 actual fires on premises, 163 grass fires, 130 false alarms, 55 chimney fires, and 9 calls outside the Board's area.

January 15 1933, about 15:30, Frederick Charles Marter [52], Superintendent Mt Albert Fire Brigade, was struck by a small car on the main road near Howick. He escaped serious injury by clinging on to one of the head lamps of the car as he was dragged along, it prevented his being run over. Although the impact was fairly severe, he escaped with only injury to his left knee. April 1 1933, Marter became Foreman at Mt Albert when it incorporated with Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board.

January 17 1933, about 08:00, Tuesday, James Maskell [38 and married], Deputy Superintendent Mt Eden VFB, received serious head injuries and concussion. A large rat had been caught alive in a trap at the Fire Station in Valley Road. They thought good way of dispatching the rat would be to set dogs on to it after liberation. In stepping quickly backward across the road opposite the Station to clear the dogs, Maskell collided violently with a telegraph pole. Doctor attended, taken by St John Ambulance, admitted Auckland Hospital, recovered. April 5 1933 appointed by Auckland MFB to Foreman [later Station Officer] Pt Chevalier Station.

March 22 1933, last meeting of Auckland Fire Board Andrew [AJ] Entrican [member since inception of Board 1907] and CI McKean [North British] both retired.

April 1 1933, new AMFB [Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board] formed with nine Board members. Appointed by Governor General was Alfred [AG] Lunn; elected by fire insurance companies, George [GH] Brialey [Guardian Insurance], John [JJ] Kingston [South British], William [WC] Kemble and Charles [CH] Wyatt; elected by Auckland CC, John [JB] Paterson and Michael [MJ] Coyle; elected by local authorities other than the City Council, William [WD] Fulton [Mt Albert, lost his Council seat but stayed on AMFB] and Robert [RJ] Mills [Mt Eden]. John [JJ] Kingston Auckland FB Chairman for past 13 years appointed new Chair. Percy Butler, Secretary of the Auckland Fire Board since inception 25 years ago, appointed secretary and DB Patterson appointed auditor. Bill [WL] Wilson appointed Board Chief Executive Officer and Superintendent. Michael John Coyle had joined Auckland VFB in 1884 under Superintendent John Hughes,

April 5 1933, new Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board first meeting reconfirmed appointments of Superintendent Bill [WL] Wilson, Deputy Superintendent George W Avenell, Third Officer Colin Maguire, Inspecting Officer Robert McKay, Mechanic George [GA] Parady, Electrical Engineer AJ Winkler. and Station Clerk Victor [RV] Hugo. Foremen appointed were: at Western District later Ponsonby] was Percy Williams, at Remuera was John [Jack Nugget] McDonald, at Parnell was Les [LM] Emslie, at Avondale was Ernest [E] Herring, at Point Chevalier was James Maskell, at Tamaki [later St Heliers] was Norman Williamson, at Mt Eden was Tom [TW] Beech, at Mt Albert was Fred [FC] Marter, at Onehunga was Bill [WJ] Downey, at Mt Roskill was Ernie [EA] Ander. The first AMFB call was a peat fire in Mt Roskill.

April 1 1933. Brigade split into four districts, two pumps to all calls, 'district call' all pumps in that district responded, plus Headquarters No1 with either the Superintendent or Deputy Superintendent

in charge. A 'brigade call' meant all Auckland MFB pumps responded, except one always left available centrally for coverage, volunteer pumps stayed on their station except if fire was in their first pump area. A "relief appliance" was sent to key single pump stations as cover.

In 1933, new AMFB [Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board] issued new cap badge, gold for Officers and silver for Firemen. Badge had King's Crown at head, 'oak leaves' around edge, words Auckland Met Fire Brigade around centre piece, and helmet and crossed axes in centre. Replaced in late 1953 with nationally standardised badge with name of individual Brigade at top. A few Brigades had their city coat of arms in centre, eg Wellington and Hamilton.

April 1 1933, Mt Eden VFB incorporated into AMFB [Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board]. Staff two permanent and fourteen volunteer members. Henry [HW] Moore was Superintendent, offered First Class Fireman position, was said because was single. Deputy Superintendent James Maskell, married, offered Station Officer Pt Chevalier.

April 1 1933, Mt Albert VFB incorporated into AMFB [Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board]. Staff 2 permanent and 12 volunteer. Station on New North Road, Morningside. The AMFB existed until replaced by the National Fire Service on 1 April 1976, a total of 43 years.

April 1 1933, Mt Roskill VFB incorporated into AMFB [Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board]. Staff 1 permanent and 16 volunteers. Station on Mt Albert Road, near Three Kings.

April 1 1933, Mt Wellington VFB incorporated into AMFB [Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board]. Two stations and twelve volunteer members.

April 1 1933, Ellerslie incorporated into AMFB. Staff 7 volunteers. 1920 Dennis pump relocated from Remuera on April 1 1933. Captain Albert Vause last Ellerslie VFB officer in charge, continued as Auxiliary Fireman.

May 24 1933, Auckland MFB approved Iron standards for SFA [street fire alarm] boxes to be installed in Queen Street. P&T removing telegraph poles and wires put underground. Number of old cast iron standards which carried gas street lamps before electricity in City Council store, offered for price of scrap cast iron. They were shortened to appropriate size and repainted.

June 21 1933, all day, six members of new Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board, with Superintendent WL Wilson, visited a number of Stations now in the enlarged fire district. The visits enabled members to become acquainted with the firefighting plant and equipment controlled by the Board. At Mt Albert, the crew responded to a fire. Members thought it was staged for their benefit, but soon realised it was a genuine call. The Board Members saw the crew respond, also the backup system, Mt Albert was backing up Avondale. The Board members followed, the fire was in a house, not much damage was done.

June 22 1933, Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board earlier approved establishment of Auckland Metropolitan Volunteer Fire Police Corps. Main object to attend fires and prevent crowds hampering firemen. Expected most members would have already served in Brigades.

June 22 1933, Fire Brigade Old Boys' Association met at Pitt Street Station and, established unit with twelve members. Captain Harry Jane 1933 to 1942, replaced by George Hedlund [former Foreman], Ernie Paterson as Lieutenant, J Collett first secretary treasurer. July 27 1933, second meeting discussed rules etc. Members of the corps wore an armband badge. An additional twelve joined by December 12 1933, and March 22 1934 a further four enrolled. One farfetched suggestion by a

member was that radio 1YA broadcast a secret signal whenever they were required. A Fire Police and Salvage Corps had been operating in Wellington since October 1899.

June 28 1933, 15:00, Wednesday, Domain No1, rugby, Auckland FB played Auckland Police, half time 0 - 5, lost 0 - 13. Referee GA Lendrum appointed by Referees Assoc. For Auckland FB, J Wareing, Moross, Scott, Faulkner, Powell, Lunn, Cameron, Fraser, Hope, Connell, McIvor, Gill, Aberliart, Phillips, Crook.

Total AMFB calls from July 1 1932 to June 30 1933 were 467. Calls to June 30 1934 were 662. Total staff was 59 permanent firemen, 46 auxiliary firemen, and 77 volunteer firemen. Area under Board control was 40,118 acres. Plant was 25 motors, 2 telescopic ladders. 609 SFAs and 90 PFAs connected.

August 1 1933, first Traffic Inspector cars fitted with sirens. Only fire appliances, Police, Traffic Inspectors and lorries in the country collecting farmers cream or produce allowed to use sirens. Fire appliances exempt from speed regulations, City Council by-laws stated motorist must pull to side and allow fire appliances clear way. Ambulances used bells but otherwise obeyed road laws. Auckland first city to allow sirens installed at major intersections for Fire Brigade.

August 4 1933, 11:30, Auckland FB participated in Prosperity Week Procession up Queen Street, City. Miss Fiona Mackenzie [in Mackenzie tartan], the Professions Queen, rode in a fire appliance towing a representation of a smoking burned building. Eager young Firemen periodically turned a hose reel on the ruins, behind them was what must be the first "fire engine" Auckland ever had. Judged second most original decorated vehicle. Started July 31, over two weeks, objective try to throw off the gloom of great depression.

August 8 1933, Tuesday night, "Back to Childhood Party" held in Auckland Town Hall, part of Prosperity Week. August 23 1933 Superintendent Bill [WL] Wilson reported to Fire Board of dangerous conditions. At 21:30 Inspecting Officer called him onto site with overcrowding, large crowd pressing to get in, all areas of Hall were jammed, people smoking and drinking, flimsy dresses, one exit door was blocked by stacks of chairs. Report sent to City Council who regretted incident, steps taken to ensure no recurrence.

August 29 1933, public notice in NZ Herald; Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board. Malicious False Alarms. Notice is hereby given that a reward will be given by the Board for information leading to the conviction of any person or persons giving a malicious false alarm of fire or of interference with any of its alarms without lawful justification. It is the intention of the Board, owing to the frequency of these alarms, to press for conviction from such offence, for the imposition of the extreme penalty of one month's imprisonment or a fine of £50. By order of the Board, Percy Butler, Secretary. A problem that plagued SFA's until their removal in 1979.

September 23 1933, 26th annual reunion of the Fire Brigades and Salvage Corps Association of New Zealand was held in the Druids Hall, North [now Galatos] Street, off East Street, Newton One hundred and thirty attended. Secretary, Harry Jane, referred to the objects of the new Auckland Metropolitan Volunteer Fire Police Corps. Number of members took part in recent Fire Brigade display in the Prosperity Week Procession on August 4 1933.

October 25 1933 Auckland Star - 'Mr WL Wilson, Superintendent of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, leaves for Rotorua tomorrow on month's furlough. His duties will be carried out by the Deputy Superintendent GW Avenell'.

November 22 1933, Fire Board approved Superintendent Bill [WL] Wilson one further month's leave of absence on account of his ill health.

Mid-February 1934, letter from Alexander [JA] Young, Minister of Internal Affairs to all Local Authorities seeking views on forming a National Fire Council to control all fire services. There were fifty-three fire boards in New Zealand, only about six spent over £1,000 a year on fire protection. Council would comprise two members representing cities, two representatives of other municipal districts, four representatives of insurance companies and an independent chairman appointed by the Government. Vast majority opposed, did not happen.

March 23 1934, Otahuhu Borough Council were concerned that the Metropolitan Fire Board had put a SFA [street fire alarm] box inside their borough. Considered might cause resident to give alarm to the wrong station, asked AMFB put up a notice or remove the alarm outside the borough, box relocated.

April 16 1934, National Fire Prevention Week started. "A spectacular feature was a procession of fire engines, which drove through the city during lunch hour. Posters drawing attention to various fire risks were displayed. A further attractive spectacle, illustrating the efficiency of the firefighting forces in Auckland, was provided at the Central Fire Station, Pitt Street, in the evening. In conformity with the programme published, the station was open for inspection by the public, and many people took advantage of the opportunity".

October 3 1934, Firemen Don Kelleher, Russell Preston and Dan Glennon were successful in Graduate examination of the Institute of Fire Engineers of Great Britain. All three stationed at Pitt Street Headquarters.

January 15 1935, Deputy Superintendent George Avenell responded in charge Headquarters No1, parked in front of Woolworth's on Queen Street, called a Brigade Call, entered and found seat of fire at back of shop. He exited to find No1 had repositioned to Fort Lane at the back, slow get to work allowed fire to get away. Brigade Call was new, Officers got to work on own initiative and did not report to Officer in Charge. Fire Board enquiry found Avenell responsible, demoted to Junior Station Officer and transferred to Remuera from where he retired [after WW2]. Had been Deputy for over thirteen years. Replaced by GA Mackenzie from Wellington.

February 25 1935, annual conference of the United Fire Brigades' Association in Blenheim, Mr LC Gibbons, General Secretary of Fire Underwriters' Council, said 1929 New Zealand fire losses and expenses were £734,000, compared with £441,000 in 1933, a 39% decrease. Fire losses, like everything else, went in cycles, but when taken over a series of years, recent losses were below the average. United Kingdom fire losses totalled £11,000,000 in 1929 and £8,500,000 in 1934, a reduction of 26.22%. United States losses for 11 months of 1932 were 403,000,000 dollars and for a similar period of 1934 252,000,000 dollars.

February 27 1935, monthly meeting of Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board agreed to charge Queen Street firms £1 an hour for pumping their cellars and basements dry following the recent heavy rain. Superintendent Bill [WL] Wilson reported usage was; Phillipps and Impey, Fort Street Lane, 5 men, 2.5 hours; Waverley Hotel, Queen Street, 5 men, 3.5 hours; Dominion Brewery Bond Store, Fort Street, 5 men, 1 hour. The Brigade appliances consumed 12 gallons of petrol and 1.5 gallons [??] of oil. Three days later five men worked four hours pumping out the hulk Clansman, same day five men worked two and a half hours pumping out the cellars of the Imperial Hotel. Chairman, John [JJ] Kingston said one businessman had suggested "You are a public institution. This is an act of God.

You should clean it up for free for us". Kingston said some charge should be made, although the board did not want to be too hard.

March 15 1935, newspaper vacancy advert for Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board. Appointment of Deputy Superintendent. Applications, addressed to the Chairman, will be received up to 15th March 1935 for the position of Deputy Superintendent to the Board. Applicants must state age, Fire Brigade experience and present occupation. Canvassing of Board Members will be considered a disqualification. By order of the Board. Percy Butler, Secretary. March 27 1935, George Alexander Mackenzie, Acting Third Officer, Wellington [total 10 years' service], appointed Auckland MFB Deputy Superintendent.

March 18 to 23 1935 National Fire Prevention week held. Started in 1932. Objective "to educate all classes of the community, from school children to adults, in the dangers of fire". Literature and posters forwarded to all schools, all private homes, all business houses, and other organisations. Demonstrations or parade held daily.

March 27 1935, George Alexander Mackenzie, Acting Third Officer Wellington [total 10 years' service], appointed Deputy Superintendent, Auckland FB. Fourteen applications including one from Australia. Mackenzie started May 18 1935, replaced George Avenell who had been demoted to Junior Station Officer after the recent Woolworth's fire January 15 1935. Mackenzie had been born in 1901 in Glasgow, Scotland.

March 27 1935, Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board Approved Superintendent Bill [WL] Wilson's recommendation that volunteer Metropolitan Fire Police Corps be issued with caps instead of arm bands. Superintendent Wilson said wearing a cap would make members more easily distinguishable in a crowd. The badge for Fire Police was a plated badge bearing the words, "Fire Police".

Year ending March 31 1935, Auckland MFB received 971 calls, 468 were by telephone, 401 by street fire alarm, 60 by messenger, 28 by private fire alarm, 13 by members of the staff, and one by a stranger.

1935, first petrol pump installed in Headquarters Fire Station yard, Pitt Street and Beresford Street, City. Petrol previously stored in tins or drums in the store.

May 28 1935, Honorary Surgeon Doctor Alexander [AH] Kirker sailed for England to undertake six months post graduate study. Superintendent Bill Wilson presented him with travel rug, Kirker had six years AMFB service. December 9 1935 returned to NZ and AMFB. Later served in Italy during WW2.

May 29 1935, Auckland MFB received request from Auckland CC "to ask the New Zealand Broadcasting Board that reports of fires in progress be not broadcast, as such reports resulted in congestion of traffic and hindrance to firefighting". The Fire Board agreed to write. June 26 1935, New Zealand Broadcasting Board advised that instructions had been issued to all B [ie 1ZB] class broadcasting stations to the effect that reports of fires in progress were not to be broadcast. A station [ie 1YA] already complied. Seems did not last long.

May 29 1935, new Auckland City Council representatives appointed to Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board were Bernard Martin and John [JT] Jennings, both Labour members of the council. They replaced John [JB] Paterson and Michael [MJ] Coyle [had joined Auckland Fire Brigade as a Fireman in 1884 under Superintendent John Hughes]. Other members were; appointed by Governor-General Alfred [AG] Lunn; elected by fire insurance companies, GH George [GH] Brialey, [Guardian

Insurance], William Kemble, John [JJ] Kingston, and Charles [CH] Wyatt; elected by other local authorities Robert [RJ] Mills [Mt Eden] and Charles McCullough [Mt Wellington].

June 26 1935, Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board appointments for next two years were - by Governor-General Alfred [AG] Lunn; elected by fire insurance companies, George [GH] Brialey [Guardian Insurance], William [WC] Kemble, John [JJ] Kingston [Chairman], and Charles [CH] Wyatt; elected by Auckland City Council, Bernard Martin and John Jennings; elected by other local authorities, Robert [RJ] Mills [Mt Eden] and Charles [CM] McCullough [Mt Wellington]. Alfred Lunn was elected Deputy Chairman; Secretary was Percy Butler. Mt Albert Mayor Raymond Ferner asked why out of a total of 954 votes cast, 144 were deemed to be informal. Some Councils thought the voting day was discretionary and voted on different days, hence they were invalid.

August 16 1935, Superintendent Bill [WL] Wilson said new breathing equipment had been purchased modernising the firefighting equipment. Gas masks of the latest pattern, which are claimed to be effective for a minimum period of two hours against any gas released into the atmosphere, have been supplied for use by Brigadesmen at Central and Great South Road Fire Stations. Great South Road Station [now Ellerslie] had been allocated some of them on account of its proximity to various chemical works in the industrial area.

August 22 1935, only three old firebell towers remained, all had no bell, one at back of the Mt Eden railway station, one near the railway line at Avondale and one at corner of Railway and View Streets, where No2 Station was in Newmarket. Newmarket BC also had other towers alongside the Fire Brigade station in Victoria [now Davis] Crescent and Park Road corner Domain. One of the bells now alerted school children at Newmarket School, A hydraulically operated bell was still in use on Mt Albert Fire Station. One old firebell was in the Devonport BC yard in Church Street, clanged out the time of day. In the 1880's and 1890's, one bell, 'Big Ben', could be heard all over the city. Situated in Albert Street, near between Victoria Street West and opposite the old Auckland City Albert Street Fire Station. Bells often given to local schools, some to churches. Firebells were replaced by street fire alarm boxes.

September 3 1935, member public complained about speed fire appliance went to a call after lady passenger exiting a tram was almost hit by passing appliance. Metropolitan Fire Board regulations where appliances not exceed 40 miles an hour and must slow down when approaching corners and trams from which people are alighting. Superintendent Bill [WL] Wilson said engines must travel as fast as possible, only exceptional cases was 40 mph exceeded. Most appliances could not exceed that unless they gathered momentum on a downhill slope or on a fairly long straight stretch. The crew valued their own lives; perched precariously on the side, they did not encourage the driver to speed recklessly. Only one pedestrian had been injured during his 29 years' service, and she was a deaf woman who stepped off a tram safety zone in Newmarket [March 19 1926, about 12:00, Mrs EJ Power [65]. The brigade had a high regard for public safety.

September 25 1935, social evening organised by Auckland Metropolitan Volunteer Fire Police, Central Fire Station social room, Pitt Street. Guests included the Superintendent Bill [WL] Wilson, ex-Captain of the Old Salvage Corps, William Field, and representatives of the Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board and the various Brigades. Captain Harry Jane was assisted by R Hunt, F Hall, Edmond Archer, F Hatley, AH Smith, C King. George Hedland, RJ Wilkish, J Hedland, AJ Brooks and J Taylor.

October 5 1935, results of fourth associate membership examination and first full membership examination of New Zealand Fire Brigade Institute announced. Exam Board were Superintendents

Charles [CC] Warner [Christchurch], Alexander Morrison [Hawera] and Captain Thomas [TJ] Watts [Newmarket]. Twenty sat Associateship, eighteen passed fully and two passed first paper only. Fireman Gordon Drummond [Wellington] top with 310.5 marks out of a possible 320. C H Perrett [Hawera] second with 308, and Frank Groom [Mt Albert] and DE Taylor [Ellerslie] tied for third with 296. Seventeen sat membership, ten got full passes and one a partial pass. Deputy Superintendent George [GJ]. Mackenzie [Auckland] top with 280 marks out of a possible 300. Foreman Ernest [EA] Hart [Hawera] second with 277, and Fireman R Gates and H Warner [both of Hawera] tied for third place with 275 marks.

October 23 1935, Auckland MFB discussed the lack of facilities at Pitt Street Station. Due to the lack of space crews have to conduct drills in the public streets, it is without a staff recreation area, and the Superintendent's quarters, were in the words of the Chairman John [JJ] Kingston, "a blot on the board". The Board paid £1,248 per annum in rent to married men not able to live in quarters, which was equal to the interest at 3.75 per cent on £33,500. "They're all getting married"!!

November 15 1935, Superintendent Bill [WL] Wilson announced the Brigade would service fire extinguishers for a nominal fee. It was compulsory for those accepting a rebate from their insurance companies to have all hose and extinguishers inspected. Hastings FB reported two fire extinguishers used recently had been tampered with and useless, one contained double the right charge of sulphuric acid and would probably have exploded on use, one extinguisher had no charge.

March 25 1936, Wednesday, Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board agreed for the first time to write off the depreciation on its aging fleet of vehicles. plant and property. The amounts were £3,000 on its fleet and £2,000 for its property portfolio. The total board's assets on the balance sheet before this deduction was over £113,000.

Friday March 27 to Saturday April 4 1936, annual Fire Prevention Week held, a national programme. At 20:00 a display in Beresford Street, outside the central station, all stations open for inspection between 19:00 and 21:00 each evening, a radio broadcast by George Mackenzie, Deputy Superintendent at 19:30. on Wednesday April 1 1936. School children given instruction on fire prevention, local authorities will pay special attention to the clearance of rubbish, a common source of fire. Thursday April 3, 12:30, procession of five appliances down Queen Street.

June 29 1936, Monday, reported that Superintendent Bill [WL] Wilson said the current Pitt Street Headquarters us too small. It was built in 1902 for eight men, now in 1936 housed forty men. Had quarters for five married men, needed twenty, many families of married men lived off station. Auxiliary staff used a cramped room in Congregational Church, Beresford Street next door. No drill yard, not able to use Beresford Street for drill since Farmers trams arrived. There was no room to expand.

July 20 1936, Monday, Auckland CC reject Fire Board proposal to buy the Windmill site, Symonds Street near Karangahape Road through to Liverpool Street, as a new Headquarters, preliminary drawings had been completed. Joseph Partington declared "If they put a million pounds cash down on that doorstep, their money would not buy a foot of this site. Never since I inherited it, have I ever sold a foot of this land, and I never shall. It is not a matter of money with me, it is a matter of sentiment, and I shall fight to the last ditch for the old mill". Preservation of the mill had been his life's work. Joseph died November 19 1941 aged 83, sadly the windmill was demolished in April 1950.

During the planning for new Headquarters, sites at Mechanics Bay, the old dock site at Princes Wharf, an area near Victoria Park, the old Queen Street Railway Station, Symonds Street between Mount and St Paul Streets, and Partington Mill site Symonds Street [preferred] all considered.

October 7 1936, Wednesday, Fire Board agreed to build new Headquarters opposite current station, on Pitt Street and Greys Avenue. Ten shops and business properties fronted from Pitt [now Poynton] Terrace to Selwyn Shirt Manufacturing Co shirt factory in Greys Avenue [owned by AW Smith], land behind factory to Myers Park included, factory not included [had to buy later]. Included terrace of wood dwellings south side of Pitt Terrace. Board hoped to acquire by private negotiation, failing that under Public Works Act. Area of one- and three-quarter acres [0.7 hectares], cost £22,500. First block near corner of Pitt Terrace and Pitt Street two floor buildings, optician, tobacconist, dairy, and butcher. Empty section separated this block from a larger block running round the corner into Greys Avenue. On Pitt Street frontage a tea room, a large grocery business, second-hand dealers on actual corner. Greys Avenue block consisted Chinese laundry, butcher's shop, second-hand furniture dealer's shop. The site separated from the shirt factory by a narrow blind street called Clifton Vale.

November 20 1936, Friday, Auckland MFB comprised fourteen stations, twenty-three appliances. one inspection car and two general service vehicles. Sixty-two permanent men, one hundred and twenty-two auxiliary and volunteer staff, total of one hundred and eighty-four Firemen who could be called out. Stations were Headquarters, Western District [later Ponsonby], Pt Chevalier, Avondale, Mt Albert, Mt Eden, Mt Roskill, Onehunga, Great South Road [now Ellerslie], Remuera, Parnell, Tamaki [now St Heliers], and two in Mt Wellington.

February 24 1937, Wednesday, Auckland MFB received authority to raise £30,000 loan to purchase properties corner Pitt Street and Greys Avenue for new Fire Headquarters. Negotiations had started to buy, some under Public Works Act. Minor concern raised noise could affect St Helens Women's Hospital opposite, even though existing station was almost next door.

February 24 1937, Wednesday, Superintendent Bill [WL] Wilson reported to the Fire Board that as an economy measure, telephones in the Watchrooms of suburban Fire Stations had been removed and placed in the domestic quarters of the Stations. Post and Telegraph Department gave a reduction in rental, from commercial to residential rates.

May 13 1937, 20:00, Thursday, Lloyd [LF] Wilson, son of Superintendent Bill [WL] Wilson, joined Auckland MFB as a Watchroom Attendant in the old Station on 35 shillings a week. Tuesday, November 16 1920, born on old Pitt Street Station. All his promotions were after his father retired. Lloyd retired May 13 1977 as Regional Commander, No1 Region [Auckland].

June 21 1937, Monday, agreement reached in Conciliation Council dispute between Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board and the Auckland Houses of Entertainment and Places of Amusement Union of Workers, matters affecting the Auckland Metropolitan Theatre Firemen. Conciliation Commissioner Robert [RE] Price presided. Assessors for AMFB were Chairman John Kingston, Superintendent Bill [WL] Wilson, Alfred [AG] Lunn and Charles [CM] McCullough, Henry [HJ] Bishop was agent advocate. Union's assessors were W Miller, T Howard, Richard Merrick and RW Rhodes, Mr Miller was agent. Minimum wages fixed at 30s a week for Firemen in attendance at theatres, a week's work to consist of six consecutive night performances. Payment of 5s a performance to any worker employed for a smaller number of performances or for matinees agreed. Provision for payment of 5s for weekly workers employed for matinees. Rates of pay for Firemen agreed for

attendance at racecourses paid 17s 6d and at football games paid 7s 6d a day. Hours agreed. Weekly payment of wages and provision of uniform agreed.

September 22 1937, Wednesday, in Arbitration Court, Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board undertook to increase wages to the rates payable under the Christchurch and Dunedin Fire Brigade award. Assessors for the Fire Board were Alfred [AG] Lunn, Thomas [TC] Buddle and George [GH] Brialey, with HJ Bishop as agent. The employees' assessors were Scotty [Andrew R] Mason, Bully E Hall and AA Hellriegal, with Henry [HW] Mayo [secretary of the Fire Brigade Employees' Union] as agent. Firemen also got every fourth day off and eight weeks annual leave. This caused an increase in staff numbers and Board expenditure. February 16 1938, Wednesday, second Arbitration Court fixed new scale of wages. Both parties proposed a national award in near future.

October 15 1937, Friday, Aubert [AWA] Crook gained top marks [310 out of 320] in NZ Associate Membership of the Fire Brigades Institute [UFBA]. Fireman Jack [John E] McConnell gained the highest marks [298 out of 300] in full membership examination, Charles [CE] Edwards [286] second, Gordon Drummond, Wellington [267] later Auckland Deputy then Chief Fire Officer. Examiners were Superintendent Bill [WL] Wilson and Thomas Watts [UFBA] both of Auckland. December 15 1937, Board Chairman John Kingston presented diplomas to Firemen Jack McConnell, Aub Crook and Charles Edwards.

November 9 1937, Tuesday, Auckland MFB Senior Officers at Pitt Street Headquarters were Superintendent Bill [WL] Wilson, Deputy Superintendent George [GA] Mackenzie, Third Officer Colin Maguire, Senior Station Officers Percy Williams and Les Emslie, Inspecting Officer was Robert [Porky] Walker.

November 11 1937, Thursday, tenders closed for the purchase or clearance of buildings on new Pitt Street Headquarters site. January 18 1939, two elderly ladies on Pitt [now Poynton] Terrace were refusing to move from their house, the last to vacate. They had been given notice to leave twelve months before, were living rent free.

February 24 1938, Thursday, CL Green [Auckland Manager, Royal Exchange Assurance] elected to the Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board succeeding George [GH] Brialey, [Guardian Insurance]. Green was Auckland Manager of Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation of London.

Year ending Saturday, March 31 1938, Auckland MFB attended a total of 950 calls, an increase of 228 on 1937, Superintendent Bill [WL] Wilson reported to the Fire Board. Property fires totalled 234, grass and rubbish totalled 280, 277 false alarms, of which 99 were malicious and two were outside the Board's area. Chimney fire 76, 31 were for electrical faults. Large building occupants had extinguished 35 of their own fires without summoning the brigade in 35 cases, and in five cases the Brigade responded. The Board budget was £41,300, expenditure was £40,491.

April 12 1939, Tuesday, Hon Bill [WE] Parry, Minister of Internal Affairs submitted measures to new Parliament to secure more uniform fire protection services. Proposed to set up a National Fire Council, Fire Underwriters' Association, Municipal Association, Fire Brigades' Association and the Government would be represented. Did not proceed.

April 27 1938, Wednesday, Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board agreed to install new Post and Telegraph Dept system to trace every telephone call thought to be a MFA [malicious false alarm]. Brigade called P&T on a separate line so they could trace the source of the call. Majority of MFA's were by telephone, it was hoped the new system would limit malicious calls if the caller knew they could be traced. System soon modified, P&T held open all lines used to call Emergency Service,

meant user could not quickly use phone again. Officers at scene of MFA's often picked up occupants phone to see if it was "open".

May 28 1938, Saturday, AMFB Superintendent Bill [WL] Wilson stated there was a gentlemen's agreement that Firemen on day leave would turn out to a fire whenever their services were required. They did not have to be told, but simply did it as a matter of course. Firemen on duty man the appliances that are sent out, the others will stand by until the 'stop call' is received. If their services are needed, they respond willingly. At recent big fire in Kitchener Street, seven men on day leave stood by, one on annual holidays at Long Bay, saw the glow, rushed into the city in case his services were needed. Auckland's population was 175,870. paid staff 75. auxiliary staff 32, volunteers 60. total staff 167.

June 28 1938, Tuesday, Henry [HW] Mayo [secretary of the Fire Brigade Employees' Union] replaced Alfred [AG] Lunn as the Government appointed representative on the Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board. Mr Lunn served for over ten years. Barry Brigham elected Deputy Chairman in place of Alfred Lunn.

June 29 1938, early afternoon. Wednesday, a fire appliance crossed Grafton Bridge [opened 1910] for first time since March 1 1936, responding to a fire in a block of flats at 20 Huntly Avenue, off Carlton Gore Road to Khyber Pass Road, Grafton. Appliances had not used the bridge since speed and weight restrictions were imposed on traffic to prevent vibration while repairs were carried out. July 31 1937, £900 close mesh safety fence completed across bridge to restrict people wanting to jump off.

July 1 1938, Friday, Captain [later Major] Reg [Reginald Stanley] Judson VC, DCM MM and Richard Armstrong appointed to represent Auckland City Council [Labour] on Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board, served nine years. They replaced Hon Bernard Martin MLC, and John Jennings, both appointed in May 1930.

July 25 1938, Tuesday, John [JJ] Kingston, Chairman of the Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board, was a passenger by the afternoon express to Wellington. Bill [WL] Wilson, the Board's Superintendent, also left for Wellington, travelling by air. They will attend conciliation proceedings in connection with the Fire Brigades' industrial dispute.

July 29 1938, Friday, no agreement reached in the New Zealand Fire Brigades' dispute referred from up the Conciliation Council to the Arbitration Court. Agreement was reached in a number of minor points, but not in regard to hours and wages, part-time workers, the classification of Firemen, or lighting and firing/heating allowances. The Court will have to decide a claim for the free provision of radio sets, swimming pools, and superannuation on a contributory basis. September 26 L Glover, secretary of the Fire Brigades' Federation. applied. unopposed, agreed to withdraw from Court the Dominion Fire Brigades' employee's dispute.

August 24 1938, Wednesday, Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board approved Auckland Metropolitan Volunteer Fire Police receive Fire Board service medals. Unit were already entitled to UFBA Honours.

September 12 1938, Monday, first day sitting of Compensation Court in the Supreme Court to assess value of two properties in Upper Pitt Street, taken under Public Works Act by the Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board for their new Headquarters Station. September 21 1938 Court decision cut claims by about half.

October 14 1938, Friday, results of results of sixth associate membership examination and third full membership examination of the New Zealand Fire Brigades' Officers and Members' Institute announced. DM Walker of Birkenhead headed the list of successful associate membership candidates with 314 marks out of a possible 320, JA Maule of Patea was second with 312 and AW Goodwin of New Plymouth third with 307. Aub [AWA] Crook of Auckland had highest marks in full membership exam with 277 out of a possible 300. Examiners were Superintendent Bill [WL] Wilson and Captain Thomas [TJ] Watts [UFBA].

September 3 1939, Sunday, World War Two declared in Europe. December 7 1941 Japan bombed Pearl Harbour. German and Japanese surface raiders and submarines operated in New Zealand waters on several occasions in 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1945, sinking a total of four ships while Japanese reconnaissance aircraft flew over Auckland and Wellington preparing for a projected Japanese invasion of New Zealand. May 7 1945 Germany unconditionally surrendered. August 15 1945 Japan surrendered.

October 25 1939, Wednesday, Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board wrote to Colonel Norman WM Weir, Officer Commanding the Northern Military District, urging that fire services be regarded as "essential service." Brigade sought system to "discourage" staff enlisting. System did not change. April 9 1942 permanent Firemen declared essential work.

November 22 1939, Wednesday, Board Chairman John [JJ] Kingston presented IFE Associate Members examination diplomas to Inspecting Officer Russell Preston and First-Class Fireman Chris [CE] Edwards. In the 1939 Institution of Fire Engineers [Great Britain] examinations, Preston passed with distinction and first place in the overseas section, and Charles Edwards gained eighth place. At that time, only four men in Auckland had passed these exams in the past few years.

Many Auckland MFB staff served in the military both overseas and at home. Management reported difficulty maintaining staff numbers as they were required to offer replacements employment only for the duration of the war. Wages and conditions for this limited period were unattractive. April 9 1942 permanent firemen declared essential work. The NZ Manpower Office strictly controlled all workers movements. On June 12 1945 the Brigade were 30 under strength, pre-war strength was 195, currently 157.

Many thanks again to Cliff Mears who has tirelessly recorded the AFB history from log books, Fire Board Reports, Newspaper Cuttings and other sources making our job so much easier.

DMN April 2023