

CITY AND COUNTY OF BRISTOL
FIRE BRIGADE



REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

for the two years

1964 and 1965



REPORT

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CITY AND COUNTY OF BRISTOL
FIRE BRIGADE

for the two years ended

31st DECEMBER 1965

CITY AND COUNTY OF BRISTOL

FIRE BRIGADE COMMITTEE

1964

The Right Honourable
The Lord Mayor
(Councillor Kenelm A. P. Dalby,
D.S.O., O.B.E.)

Chairman

Councillor R. R. Willmott

Vice-Chairman

Councillor C. H. Langham

Members

Councillor Dr. J. M. N. Boss
Councillor H. J. Lord
Councillor R. E. Morris
Councillor E. E. W. Richards
Councillor J. B. Sprackling
Councillor J. E. H. Wood

1965

The Right Honourable
The Lord Mayor
(Ald. Thomas H. Martin, M.B.E.,
J.P.)

Chairman

Councillor R. R. Willmott

Vice-Chairman

Councillor C. H. Langham

Members

Councillor W. L. Collins
Councillor H. J. Lord
Councillor R. E. Morris
Councillor E. E. W. Richards
Councillor J. B. Sprackling
Councillor G. W. Tucker

Town Clerk

T. J. Urwin

Senior Officers of the Brigade

Chief Officer

Kenneth L. Holland, M.B.E., M.I.FIRE E.

Deputy Chief Officer

Asst. Chief Officer F. C. Revelle,
M.B.E., G.M.

Senior Fire Prevention Officer

Divisional Officer L. M. Walsh, B.E.M.,
M.I.FIRE E.

Transport Officer

Asst. Divisional Officer H. Black

Chief Clerk

S. P. Thomson

Insofar as false alarm calls are concerned, there has been a consistent increase in each of the two categories "good intent" and "malicious". No exception is taken to those calls of "good intent" as they emanate from persons who have reasonable grounds for believing, from the circumstances present, that a fire may have occurred or exists. From the point of view of the Brigade, this increasing readiness on the part of the public to call for the assistance of the Brigade in such cases is to be preferred to the disaster which may be the outcome of a delayed call.

The feature of fire statistics which is most disturbing, and which is to be strongly deprecated, is the "malicious call", that is one which is deliberately given when the caller knows full well that the Brigade will be turned out on a false errand. During the years 1960 and 1961 the number of malicious calls received were 238; during 1962 and 1963 they rose to 489, and in the two years now under review the number was 572. These figures present a thoroughly disturbing picture.

The question of how best to deal with this problem is indeed a difficult one. It is not a problem in isolation but one which is pertinent to all Brigades, and is, moreover, one to which there seems to be no easy answer. A few years ago steps were taken to publicise the dangerous situation which could arise from the giving of a malicious false alarm call of fire, and also to the penalties attaching to the offence which was committed by such action. It was hoped this would result in many of the perpetrators of false calls realizing how foolhardy and irresponsible they had been, and that a reduction in this type of call would follow. Events have shown, however, that publicity is not the answer, and in fact it could well have an adverse effect. If, on the other hand, adult culprits who were caught were prosecuted with the utmost rigour of the law, and publicity given to this, then it might well act as a deterrent to children and others who may contemplate the giving of a false call of fire to the Brigade.

The Committee felt very strongly about the serious problem of false alarm calls, and considered that everything possible should be done to minimise the upward trend of such calls. In February 1964 they approved a scheme which provided for a £10 reward to be paid to any person who furnished information which led to the successful prosecution of an offender. Publicity was given to the reward scheme and at the same time, an appeal was made through the Press and on television for the fullest co-operation of the public in combating the menace of false alarm calls. Unfortunately, figures show that such efforts have, so far, been unrewarded.

It would be opportune to mention, once again, that any person convicted of giving a false alarm to a Fire Brigade is liable to a fine of £25 or three months' imprisonment, or both.

In common with other large towns, Bristol has traffic problems which seem to become worse in each succeeding year, despite the earnest efforts of the City Council to overcome the matter. The traffic load, and the severe congestion in the main thoroughfares of the City at certain times during the day (and this is particularly so in the immediate vicinity of the Central Fire Station in Bridewell Street) can severely interfere with and restrict the movement of fire appliances. The indiscriminate parking of cars and other vehicles in side roads, and often on both sides of a road, is particularly prevalent during the evening and overnight, and this creates yet another difficulty for the Brigade. This selfish and thoughtless action on the part of the public not only prevents the speedy passage of the fire appliance along such roads when responding to a fire where, conceivably, a life could be in danger, but also presents an unnecessary hazard to the appliance and the crew. It also prevents or interferes with the ready access to

premises on fire; in the pitching of ladders or escapes or in fire-fighting operations in general. Where there have been instances of the impedance of fire appliances proceeding to a fire due to the indiscriminate parking of vehicles, details have been passed to the Police who have readily co-operated in taking steps to prevent, so far as possible, a recurrence. In a City the size of Bristol it is not easy to satisfactorily overcome this particular problem.

For some considerable time, I have been deeply conscious of and concerned over the fact that there is little or no legislative power to require the effective adequate marking of vehicles to indicate the hazardous substances which are being conveyed. Every day the tons of highly hazardous chemicals or dangerous liquids pass along the highways of the country in unmarked, or insufficiently marked tankers are a potential hazard to the public. The hazard is especially real to firemen who may be called upon to deal with a highly dangerous, toxic or explosive substance in a vehicle involved in a road mishap without having some prior warning of the nature of the substance.

Two working parties set up by the Home Office to consider the problems failed to provide a solution. Because of the inadequacy of existing legislation, the Committee resolved that a Paper on this important matter, which I had previously presented to the Annual Conference of the British Fire Services Association, should be circulated to all Fire Authorities. This was done, and from the response, it was evident that other Fire Authorities throughout the country were not only as equally perturbed at the unsatisfactory position which existed but were prepared to support any measures which would mitigate the hazards.

In September 1965, the Standing Advisory Committee to the Home Office decided to set up three Sub-Committees to deal with the separate technical aspects of the problem, and while progress may not be as quick as the Fire Service might wish, nevertheless, the fact that it is appreciated that there is a need for appropriate action is, at least, a progressive step.

It is to be hoped that positive results will be forthcoming in the near future and that some of the safety measures put forward by this Brigade will be incorporated in future legislation.

The game 'Bingo' is now very much of a national pastime and this has led to the creation of bingo clubs. Consequently, a wide variety of premises are being used as bingo clubs and this has created problems in regard to means of escape in case of fire.

In the absence of controlling legislation, very little can be done at present to ensure the safety of members of these clubs, and this was emphasised in Bristol in 1963 when both Fire Officers and Police Officers were refused admission to premises in respect of which a complaint had been received. As a result, the question of some statutory control over bingo clubs was raised with the Home Office, and representations were also made to the Association of Municipal Corporations that suitable action should be taken calling for consideration to be given to the passing of legislation to adequately meet the position. It is understood that a draft Bill closely connected with club premises is now in an advanced stage of preparation. It is to be hoped that this will become law at an early date, and will also effectively provide measures which will ensure the safety of the public using club premises.

With the opening of the Severn Bridge next year, the expansion of the motorways, and the improvements in the road system in general, there is every indication that the South-West is on the eve of great expansion. Bristol will, without doubt, be affected to a greater extent than other Fire Authorities further

SPECIAL SERVICES

<i>Name of Service</i>	<i>1964</i>	<i>1965</i>
Rescue of persons other than from fires	7	7
Rescue of animals	50	52
Rendering other assistance in emergencies	38	87
Gaining entry or releasing persons locked in	13	17
Pumping out floodwater, etc. or filling tanks	10	8
Standby for hazardous cargos, etc.	23	19
Attendance at gas and petrol leaks	14	16
Disposal of spilt petrol, oil, acid, etc.	79	67
Loan of equipment for servicing ships	47	73
Loan of equipment (general)	6	10
Maintenance of extinguishers, hose, etc.	9	10
Removal of dangerous masonry, etc.	3	8
Miscellaneous	24	21
TOTALS	323	395

CAUSES OF FIRES

<i>Hazard</i>	<i>1964</i>	<i>1965</i>
Chimney fires	552	518
Defective hearths, fireplaces, stoves, flues, etc.	53	39
Clothes airing in front of fires; radiated heat	20	23
Sparks and hot embers falling from fires; hot ashes	32	35
Cigarette ends, pipe embers, matches, etc.	192	176
Children playing with matches	668	576
Defective electric fittings, wiring, fuses, etc.	147	142
Careless use of gas, electric and oil appliances, etc.	96	86
Ignition of coal gas	14	16
Combustibles in contact with electric globes, etc.	21	26
Entry of sparks or fire from outside	—	2
Lightning or sun's rays	5	1
Overheated machinery; sparks from machine tools	13	3
Careless use of blowlamps and oxy-acetylene apparatus	22	22
Ignition of petrol, oil and tar vapours	51	49
Overheating of fish frying pans; domestic cooking fat	69	85
Spontaneous ignition	14	14
Sparks from locomotives, bonfires and uncontrolled burning	207	165
Fireworks	12	5
Friction	7	16
Wilful ignition; incendiarism	4	23
Hot exhaust pipes	14	12
Unknown	71	102
TOTALS	2,284	2,136

METHOD OF CALLING THE BRIGADE IN CASE OF FIRE AND CHIMNEY FIRES

<i>Method</i>	<i>1964</i>	<i>1965</i>
By "999"	1,826	1,709
Exchange telephone	81	82
Police telephone	230	205
Police pillar	18	5
Running call	91	92
Police report	27	33
Automatic alarm	9	7
Private fire line	2	3
TOTALS	2,284	2,136

INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY FIRE PREVENTION DEPARTMENT

<i>Type</i>	<i>1964</i>	<i>1965</i>
Surveys	100	114
Specific inspections	1,022	1,125
Routine inspections	2,462	2,614
Visits	1,507	1,592
Meetings	1,934	1,902
Drills or lectures	104	131
Fire investigations	29	20
TOTALS	7,158	7,498

FIRES OF INTEREST

Strachan and Henshaw Ltd., Victoria Road, St. Philips—23rd May, 1964

From investigations it appeared the fire originated near a spray booth sited in the centre of the building. The call was received at Brigade Control at 2217 hours. The roof was severely damaged by fire; the walls by heat and blast and the fibre-board ceiling totally destroyed. The supposed cause was returned as "Unknown".

Attendance: 4 Pumps.

Extinguished by water from 5 jets from 2 pumps supplied from 3 hydrants.

Yeo Bros., (A. N. Yeo) Ltd., Sergeant Street, Bedminster—27th May, 1964

The fire apparently originated in a quantity of wastepaper stored about 12 feet from the entrance to a single storey section. The call was received at Brigade Control at 1031 hours. The roof of the single storey section was destroyed and a brick wall 80 feet long severely damaged. A three storey section was also damaged and approximately 25 tons of polythene rolls, each weighing about 1 cwt., were destroyed. The supposed cause was returned as a carelessly discarded cigarette end.

Attendance: 1 Pump; 1 Water Tender; 2 Pump Escapes.

Extinguished by water from 5 jets using 4 hydrants.

In 1965 the Home Office sponsored a National Fire Prevention Campaign to run during the last week in October, the theme being Fire Prevention in the Home. This campaign was fully supported and a number of activities were arranged.

A total of 7,437 inspections were made during 1964 and 1965 and, in addition, over the same period 3,099 follow-up visits were made to check the implementation of recommendations or requirements served on occupiers under the various Acts of Parliament for which the Fire Authority is responsible.

Fire Prevention Officers also attended a total of 3,836 meetings in regard to new schemes; proposed requirements under the Factories Act; the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act; and other enactments.

Instruction and lectures on fire prevention, accompanied by fire drills, where appropriate, have continued to be given to various organisations, and in respect of single premises. A further expansion in this field has been the establishment of a liaison with the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, whereby lectures on Fire Prevention in Theatres is given to succeeding classes of drama students. The total number of lectures amounted to 235.

Over the two years under review, 49 fires have been attended by a Fire Prevention Officer for the purpose of ascertaining the cause, following which a number of Research Reports, with plans and photographs, were, upon request, forwarded to the Home Office. Numerous investigations into suspected leakages of petroleum spirit have also been made.

The Fire Authority has continued to be represented at meetings of the Bristol Home Safety Council, and also at meetings of the Midlands Petroleum Acts Administration Group, which organisation the Committee agreed to support.

Cinematograph Acts, 1909 & 1952 and Theatres Act, 1843

Cinemas and theatres have continued to be inspected on a monthly basis, both during and out of performance, and instruction in fire procedure has been given regularly to the staff. Conditions generally over the past two years have been satisfactory, excepting on one occasion when it was necessary to report to the Clerk to the Licensing Justices that exit doors had been found to be locked during a public performance. No objection, however, was offered to the renewal of licences at the Annual Meeting of the Licensing Justices.

In addition to the monthly inspections, theatres have been visited prior to the commencement of each show to ensure that all scenery had been rendered flame retardant.

Explosives Acts, 1875 & 1923

Of the total of 549 premises registered during 1964, 525 related to the keeping of shop goods (toy fireworks) and 24 for the keeping of blasting explosives and gunpowder.

During 1965, 498 premises were registered for the keeping of shop goods and 25 for the keeping of blasting explosives and gunpowder.

In general, methods of storage were satisfactory, any minor faults being corrected at the time of the inspection. In no case was it necessary in this respect to prosecute an occupier for contravention of the provisions of the Act of 1875. As reported in previous years, the difficulty persists in occupiers forgetting to apply for registration, resulting in illegal storage, despite notice in writing of the requirement to register.

Factories Act, 1961

A total of 1,559 inspections, together with 1,073 meetings and visits relating to means of escape in case of fire, have been carried out in factories, as required by Section 40 of the Factories Act, 1961. The programme of initiating inspections of all such factories has continued, and at the 31st December, 1965 inspections had been carried out in 82.9 per cent of the total number of factories subject to this Section.

The Committee granted 168 Means of Escape Certificates in 1964 and 135 in 1965, a total of 303 for the two years.

Licensing Act, 1964

Inspections have been carried out following applications for new "on" and "off" licences, restaurant and residential licences and club registrations, and recommendations have been subsequently submitted to the Licensing Justices.

Excellent liaison with the Clerk to the Licensing Justices continues, and an amicable relationship has been established with the legal profession, and it is usual for applicants to complete all recommendations before an application is considered in Court.

A total of 507 inspections and meetings has been made under this reference, together with 31 attendances in Court.

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963

With the need to register premises coming into operation on the 1st May, 1964 in accordance with Section 49 of the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963 a number of Forms OSR.1, designed for the purpose by the Ministry of Labour, were received shortly after that date, and are still continuing to be received.

It is specified in the Act that two copies of the form for each premise shall be forwarded to the Health Authority, and that this Authority shall forward one copy to the Fire Authority. As a number of occupiers forwarded the forms in the first instance to the Fire Authority, or forwarded forms for premises not in Bristol, it was necessary to establish a reciprocal liaison with the Medical Officer of Health, and this is now in satisfactory operation.

From the 1st August, 1964 it became necessary for occupiers and/or owners to apply to the Fire Authority for a Means of Escape Certificate in respect of premises coming within the scope of Section 29 of the Act. Forms OSR.3, designed by the Ministry of Labour for this purpose, are continuing to be received.

At the 31st December, 1965, 6,858 forms for registration had been received, together with 1,406 applications for certificates. The former figure may be compared with the estimated number of 13,000 premises, and it is evident despite the publicity given to the provisions of the Act that a large number of occupiers have failed to register.

The pre-determined administrative and inspection procedure is in operation and, with minor amendments, is working satisfactorily. The difficulty of establishing whether or not premises are subject to the Act, and the difficulty of determining the appropriate authority for the enforcement of the fire clauses, and other complexities, has presented many problems, and it is likely that this aspect will continue for a number of years, when sufficient experience will have been gained to enable a ready interpretation to be made.

Reference was made in my last Report to the fact that a combined Fire Service Wireless Scheme incorporating the Gloucester City and Gloucestershire Fire Brigades and the Bristol Fire Brigade had been finalised, and that it was envisaged that such scheme would be operative within a short time. The scheme became fully operative in June, 1964. Insofar as the Bristol Brigade was concerned, the outcome was disappointing, and the scheme could not be regarded as satisfactory. Difficulties of a technical nature arose which could not be easily resolved, and in consequence the scheme could not be accepted as operationally efficient for the City.

Following representations to the Home Office, agreement was reached for the allocation of separate frequencies to the Brigade, and the changeover was effected in July 1965. In view of the limited coverage provided by the temporary main station at Speedwell, a sub control transmitter/receiver was installed in the Avonmouth Fire Station. It is anticipated, however, that with the building of a permanent main station at Dundry by the Police and the joint user arrangements which have been made, any difficulties now present will be resolved, and the need for the Brigade to continue to maintain the temporary main station and the sub-control at the Speedwell and Avonmouth Fire Stations respectively, will no longer obtain. There is every reason to suppose at this stage that this project will progress satisfactorily during the coming year.

Brigade Control

Since a Brigade Headquarters Control Room is virtually the nerve centre of all operations, the general standard of efficiency of a Brigade as a whole is reflected in the manner in which such a Control operates, and it would be undoubtedly true to say that the Control Room staff of this Brigade are largely responsible for the high degree of efficiency which exists in the Brigade to-day. In turn, their efficiency depends on the provision of an effective communications system and a functionally efficient layout of the Control Room, and the provision of adequate visual and other aids. To this end, a programme of modernisation of the Headquarters Control equipment has been carried out, with particular emphasis on the reception and monitoring of emergency calls. A new console incorporating communication equipment ("999" emergency lines, automatic fire alarm panel, private wire circuits and wireless controls) has been installed during the period under review. A new disposition board, which shows the availability and movement of Brigade appliances and personnel, has also been provided.

Automatic Fire Alarms and Direct Telephone Lines

The total number of fire detection and alarm systems from large firms and other premises in the City, connected to terminal panels in the Headquarters Control and the Speedwell Fire Station, has increased to 47 by the addition of a further 6 installations.

The number of direct telephone lines from industrial premises and hospitals to the Control Room is now 14.

Arrangements with other Fire Authorities

The arrangements between the Brigade and the neighbouring Fire Authorities of Gloucestershire and Somersetshire in relation to the mutual assistance requirements, as prescribed by Sections 2 and 12 of the Fire Services Act, have continued to work in a most satisfactory manner. In this connection, I would take this opportunity of placing on record the excellent liaison and co-operation existing at all levels between the Gloucestershire, Somersetshire and Bristol Fire Brigades.

ACCOMMODATION

Reference has already been made in an earlier part of this Report to the provision of a new Fire Station. In addition to such major work, considerable maintenance work has been carried out at the other Fire Stations in the City.

The covered wash at the Avonmouth Fire Station has been fitted with metal sliding doors to provide a large protected area for drills during inclement weather, and also as an enclosed garage for Brigade vehicles.

In accordance with the policy of unmanning watchrooms at single pump Stations to enable all on-duty personnel to be riders, and for the Stations to be left unattended following response to calls of fire or other incidents, electrically operated doors were fitted to one of the bays at the Brislington and the Southmead Fire Stations, and all access doors within the accommodation block were also fitted with electrically operated locks, thus providing maximum security when the Stations had been vacated.

The policy of providing permanent decorative finishes to Station accommodation was pursued during the period under review, and the walls of the kitchens at the Avonmouth and the Speedwell Fire Stations were completely tiled, and the doors fitted with Formica coverings.

ESTABLISHMENT

Brigade strength

Consequent on the inception of the Junior Fireman Scheme, and approval to certain increases, the authorised uniformed establishment of the Brigade as at the 31st December, 1964 was 369, and at that time there was a deficiency of 6 in the actual strength of the Brigade. Arising out of the fitting of electrically operated doors at the Southmead Fire Station, to which reference has been made in that part of the Report dealing with "Accommodation", the authorised establishment was reduced by three, being the watchroom element for that Station. As at the 31st December, 1965, the actual strength of the Brigade was 11 below the authorised establishment of 366. The authorised and actual strengths for each of the years under review were:

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Authorised Strength</i>		<i>Actual Strength</i>	
	<i>31.12.64</i>	<i>31.12.65</i>	<i>31.12.64</i>	<i>31.12.65</i>
Chief Officer	1	1	1	1
Assistant Chief Officer	1	1	1	1
Divisional Officer Grade I	1	2	1	2
Grade II	1	—	1	—
Grade III	2	2	1	2
Assistant Divisional Officer	8	8	8	8
Station Officer	29	29	20	19
Sub Officer	30	30	26	29
Leading Fireman	28	28	31	36
Fireman	250	247	256	240
Leading Firewoman	2	2	2	2
Firewoman	4	4	4	4
Junior Fireman	12	12	11	11
TOTALS	369	366	363	355

All members serving at the 31st December 1965, other than the 12 members of the Control Room staff and the 11 Junior Firemen, were subject to the provisions of the Firemen's Pension Scheme.

Consequent on retirements on pension over the past ten years, and a resultant influx of young men to replace such personnel, the average age of operational members is 35 years as compared with 39 years in 1955.

Civilian staff

The authorised and actual civilian staff attached to Brigade Headquarters as at the 31st December, 1965, is shown in the following table:

			Authorised	Actual
<i>Administrative and clerical</i>				
Chief Clerk	...	...	1	1
Assistant Chief Clerk	...	...	1	1
Clerical Staff	...	...	9	8
Secretarial and typing	...	...	5	4
<i>Brigade Stores</i>				
Storekeeper	...	...	1	1
Assistant Storekeeper	...	...	1	1
<i>Brigade vehicle workshops</i>				
Skilled mechanics	...	...	3	3
Semi skilled fitters	...	...	2	2
Apprentice mechanic	...	...	1	1

In addition, 11 civilian cooks and 3 cleaners are employed at Brigade Headquarters and on Fire Stations.

Retirements, resignations and discharges

Personnel movements attributable to retirements on pension; resignations and transfers to other Brigades, and discharges, were 39 during 1964, and 30 during 1965, and details are given in the following tables:

	Asst. Div. Officer	Station Officer	Sub Officer	Leading Fireman	Fireman	Junior Fireman	Total
<i>1964</i>							
Transferred to other Brigades	1	1	—	—	1	—	3
Transferred to Fire Service College	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Resigned (to emigrate)	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Resigned (other reasons)	—	—	—	—	14	1	15
Retirement on pension	—	2	2	1	12	—	17
Discharged	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	1	4	2	1	30	1	39
<i>1965</i>							
Transferred to other Brigades	—	2	—	—	1	—	3
Transferred to Fire Service College	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Resigned (to emigrate)	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
Resigned (other reasons)	—	—	—	—	8	—	8
Retirement on pension	—	2	1	1	11	—	15
Deceased	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	—	5	1	1	24	—	31

In connection with the 69 retirements on pension, it would be true to say that the experience of these men who have served the Brigade so well over so many years, is something not readily or easily replaced.

Promotions

Promotions made during the period were as follows:

<i>From</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>1964</i>	<i>1965</i>
Divisonal Officer Grade II		Grade I	1	1
Asst. Divisional Officer		Div. Officer Grade III	1	1
Station Officer		Asst. Div. Officer	2	1
Sub Officer		Station Officer	6	3
Leading Fireman		Sub Officer	7	7
Fireman		Leading Fireman	11	14
			<hr/> 28	<hr/> 27

Obituary

It is with deep regret that the deaths from natural causes of the following members are recorded:

Probationer Fireman Peter George Shermur who died on the 22nd March 1965. Fireman Shermur had been a member of the Brigade since 26th August 1963.

Mr. Francis Reginald Goodland on the 24th October 1965. Mr. Goodland, who at the time of his death was the Brigade Storekeeper, had previously served in the Fire Service in an operational capacity from September 1939 to April 1957.

Recruitment

No serious problems existed as regards the obtaining of recruits to off-set wastages, and the fact that the minimum age for entry is 18 years resulted in a number of keen young men joining the Brigade at this early age in order to derive the maximum benefit from the career of their choice. In all, 279 applications for appointment as recruit firemen were dealt with, as under:

	<i>1964</i>	<i>1965</i>
Accepted for service	48	15
Rejected:		
Below physical standards	8	4
Failed educational tests	41	22
Otherwise not suitable (medical grounds etc.) ...	23	10
	<hr/> 72	<hr/> 36
Not proceeded with	46	62
	<hr/> 166	<hr/> 113

Non-acceptance of a relatively high proportion of applicants is to be expected in view of the physical standards required of a fireman, but the question of educational unsuitability is a disturbing one, especially in the case of those candidates who may have left school only two or three years previously. A basic educational standard is, however, most essential in a vastly changing technical service, and for this reason considerable importance is attached to the results of the educational tests during the selection of recruits.

The Turntable Ladder at the Avonmouth Fire Station suffered a major breakdown. Examination showed that the appliance, which was manufactured in 1934, was beyond repair, and it was accordingly withdrawn from service. A replacement appliance is on order.

The Turntable Ladder at the Speedwell Fire Station, which has a 1940 W. D. Ladder mounted on a 1936 engined chassis, also suffered a major breakdown, but after an extensive engine repair it was possible to again place the appliance in service.

The two Fireboats, the "Endres Gane" and the "Pyronaut" were subjected to a thorough inspection, and subsequently modifications were carried out to both craft to ensure their conformation with Board of Trade regulations.

Apart from the bringing forward of a replacement appliance for the Turntable Ladder which, as indicated above, had to be withdrawn from service, the planned programme for the replacement of the older type of appliances was closely adhered to.

Variations in the Brigade fleet were as follows:

(a) *Appliances and vehicles taken into commission—*

- 1964—3 Austin Seven Mini-vans.
1 Bedford Foam Carrier.
2 Land Rover Wireless Vehicles.
- 1965—1 Austin Seven Mini-van.
5 Morris $\frac{1}{4}$ ton Vans.
1 Austin Gipsy Wireless Car.
1 Commer Personnel Carrier.
1 Commer "Bantam" Lorry.

(b) *Vehicles and appliances disposed of—*

- 1964—1 Motor Cycle.
1 Dennis Trailer Pump.
1 Leyland Pump.
- 1965—6 Bedford Vans.
1 Leyland Pump Escape.
1 Leyland Self-propelled Pump.
1 Austin Lorry.
1 Austin Personnel Carrier.
1 Merryweather Turntable Ladder.
1 Dennis Medium Trailer Pump.
1 Foam Trailer.
1 Land Rover Wireless Van.

A summary of the work carried out by the Transport Section, and by outside repairers, is as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total number of individual jobs by Workshop staff</i>	<i>Total number of jobs by outside repairers (including accident repairs)</i>	<i>Total</i>
1964	676	120	796
1965	851	127	978

Brigade vehicles and appliances were involved in a total of 133 accidents during the two year period. In three of the accidents the third parties involved suffered minor injuries, whilst in another the injuries to a third party were of a more serious nature. Arising out of the latter accident the police took proceedings against the Brigade driver, and this was subsequently followed by a claim for damages by the third party concerned.

PUBLIC INTEREST AND PUBLICITY

Public interest in the Brigade continued to manifest itself, and is borne out by the fact that 5,417 members of the public visited fire stations during the two years under review.

In addition 1,128 young persons, members of Scout and Girl Guide movements, Boys' Brigade and similar organisations, were trained in fire fighting for the purpose of qualifying for their respective badges and certificates. A further 27 boys received training in connection with the Silver and Gold Awards of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

It is gratifying to know that the public are appreciative of the services rendered by the Brigade. This appreciation is evinced by the many letters received expressing thanks for the prompt and efficient manner in which the Brigade attended and dealt with fires and special service incidents. Many of the letters were accompanied by donations to the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund and the Brigade Social and Welfare Association.

It is most pleasing to record that excellent liaison has existed with the local press and national publications, and also with the B.B.C. and I.T.V., and as a result the Brigade has enjoyed excellent news coverage in the various aspects of its work. I feel that a special word of thanks is due to the Editor of the local newspaper for ready co-operation at all times in publishing reports on the work and activities of the Brigade, and in particular, informative articles and advice on fire prevention and allied matters. Whilst it is difficult to judge the good stemming from such activities, there is no doubt that the Press, with its wide coverage, is a most valuable medium of publicity for any attempt to educate the public to the danger of fires; to reducing the incidence of fire; their causes and their consequences.

TRAINING

Fire Service College

Members of the Brigade attended courses at the Fire Service College, appropriate to their ranks, as follows:

<i>Course</i>	<i>Number attending</i>
Sub Officer Phase "A" Course	4
Sub Officer Phase "B" Course	1
Sub Officer Combined "A" and "B" Course	2
Fire Prevention Long Course	4
Special Fire Prevention Course	5
Senior Officers' Staff Course	19
Command Course	1

Royal Life Saving Society Awards

The awards of the Royal Life Saving Society gained by members of the Brigade were:

<i>Award</i>	<i>Number</i>
Award of Merit	2
Bronze Medallion	38
Bars to Bronze Medallion	3

First Aid

To enable members of the Brigade to qualify for the St. John Ambulance Association First Aid Certificates or higher awards, 8 courses were held, arising from which the total awards gained were:

<i>Award</i>	<i>Number</i>
Lay Demonstrator's Certificate	2
Certificates	63
Re-examination Certificates	70

The Brigade First Team participated in a number of Open and Fire Brigade Competitions, and although the premier place eluded them during 1964, the following successes were recorded in 1965:

Fire Brigades South Western District Shield
Fire Brigades National First Aid Competition.

Consequent on winning the latter competition, the Brigade team was the Fire Service representative team in the St. John Ambulance Association Grand Prior's Trophy Competition in London, and in this contest they gained fourth place.

In the "Beavis Cup" competition, organised by the Bristol St. John Ambulance Association, a member of the Brigade gained the highest individual marks and was awarded the "Emergency Breathing" Trophy presented by the Bristol Baths Committee.

Recruits

During the period under review, 54 recruits were trained locally at the Brigade Training School, and a further 12 received instruction at the Surrey Fire Brigade Training Establishment at Reigate. In all cases the courses included Civil Defence Basic General and Basic Rescue, as well as instruction in the use of emergency appliances and equipment.

Further Education

In 1963 an experiment was carried out under which probationary firemen attended special training classes at the Central Institute of Further Education in such subjects as English studies, Science and Calculations and Social Studies. The object of this training was to improve the educational standard of recruits during the formative period of their career in the Brigade. The venture was successful, and it was therefore decided that such training should feature in the curricula of all future Recruits Basic Training courses held locally. During their period at the Brigade Training School a total of 54 recruits attended the Central Institute on a one day per week basis over a period of 12 weeks.

Breathing Apparatus

Two firemen attended a 5-day course of instruction, arranged and conducted by Siebe Gorman & Co. Ltd. of Chessington, Surrey, dealing with the care and maintenance of breathing apparatus.

Nine 14-day Breathing Apparatus courses were held locally, and 72 members of the Brigade qualified as operators.

One Sub Officer and one Leading Fireman also attended a 2-weeks Breathing Apparatus Instructors' Course at the London Fire Brigade Training School, and qualified as instructors.

Turntable Ladder Operators

Two 14-day courses were held in 1964, and a further one in 1965, resulting in 11 firemen qualifying by examination as Turntable Ladder Operators.

Hose Repair and Maintenance

Two 7-day courses dealing with the repair and maintenance of hose were held, at the conclusion of which 7 firemen and 11 junior firemen qualified as hose repairers.

Junior Officers Training courses

In 1965 special courses of instruction were introduced for junior officers and also for firemen who possessed the examination qualifications for promotion and who wished to further their knowledge. These courses, which were of two weeks' duration, were designed to give guidance and assistance on the various aspects of station administration and management, and the duties of a junior officer, and covered such subjects as general administration at station level; the art of lecturing; report writing; plan drawing and vehicle maintenance as well as fire drills. In all 13 courses were held and were attended by 19 Sub Officers, 32 Leading Firemen and 26 Firemen.

To ensure that they had an appreciation of the nature of the training given and also the extent to which they could make practical use of the trainee after the course, Station Officers were given the opportunity of sitting-in at the Training School during training sessions.

Civil Defence courses

During 1964 one Sub Officer attended a two-week Civil Defence Instructors Course at the Civil Defence Training School at Falfield, Gloucestershire.

Emergency Appliances and Equipment

Various courses dealing with emergency fire fighting and equipment, communications and other aspects of an emergency organisation, were held during 1964 and 1965 at the Fire Service Training Centre, Moreton-in-Marsh, and 2 Assistant Divisional Officers, 10 Station Officers, 13 Sub Officers and 31 Leading Firemen and Firemen attended courses appropriate to their ranks and responsibilities.

Emergency Training and Planning

Under arrangements made by the Home Office, Fire Service Officers were afforded facilities for receiving refresher instruction on navigation from the air. The object of such courses was to enable Fire Brigades to have readily available officers with experience of flying, and who would be able, in an emergency, to make reconnaissance from the air.

The two-day courses for the South-West Region were held at Filton Aerodrome, and tuition was given by instructors of the University of Bristol Air Training Squadron. Two Assistant Divisional Officers from the Brigade attended these courses.

Driving Instruction

Since it is most important that Fire Brigade drivers be of the highest standard, and also for a Fire Brigade to have a high percentage of drivers amongst its members, the Brigade Driving School continued to provide driving instruction courses to meet the need for the various grades of Brigade drivers.

During the period under review 87 members qualified as drivers, and as at the 31st December, 1965 the number of drivers in the various categories was:

<i>Category</i>	<i>No.</i>
Group 1 (First line appliances and Turntable ladder operator) ...	48
Group 2 (First line appliances)	110
Group 3 (Light vehicle only)	76

In 1965 one member of the Brigade attended a Standard Driving Course at the Police Training School at Devizes.

Miscellaneous courses

During the two year period selected members of the Brigade attended a number of special courses of varying duration appropriate to their responsibilities, as follows:

<i>Nature of Course</i>	<i>Attendance by</i>
Rolls Royce Auto Gear Box Course	1 Assistant Divisional Officer
Land Rover Driving Instructors' Course	1 Leading Fireman
Association for Petroleum Acts Administration Study Course	1 Station Officer
South Western Provincial Council:	
(a) Junior Management and Administration Course	1 Station Officer
(b) Course for Supervisors in Public Administration	1 Assistant Chief Clerk
Royal Institute of Public Administration:	
(a) Senior Fire Officers' Course	3 Assistant Divisional Officers
(b) High level administration for Chief Officers of Local Authorities	1 Chief Officer
(c) Chief Clerks/Senior Administrative Officers' Course	1 Chief Clerk
Cine Projector Operators' Course	3 Firemen

Lecture programme

To afford personnel the opportunity of becoming conversant with new processes, new methods, and new hazards, and of keeping abreast of the changing trends in industry, arrangements were again made for outside lecturers to visit the Brigade during the autumn and winter months and talk on a variety of subjects. The lecturers, specialists in their particular fields, had either direct or indirect connections with the Fire Service through their professions or trades. Invitations to participate in the lectures and/or demonstrations were issued to members of local Industrial Fire Brigades and other organisations whose interests are closely allied to those of the Brigade. In all 15 lectures were given, and attracted a total attendance of 1,306. An average audience of 87 per lecture is the criterion by which the popularity of these lectures can be measured.

Lecturette Competition

A Lecturette Competition was introduced in 1964 with a view to stimulating training generally and also as a means of assisting and encouraging the younger members of the Brigade in their studies. The competition is confined to members of the rank of firemen, and each entrant is required to prepare and deliver a 15 minutes' talk on one of a choice of Fire Service subjects. Eliminating rounds are held to determine the four contestants who will go forward to the

final, where they are judged by an adjudicating panel comprising both senior fire officers, and civilians from other walks of life. The winner receives a cash award and a commemorative plaque, whilst the runners-up receive merit prizes.

In 1964 the competition attracted 13 entrants, and the winner was Fireman (now Leading Fireman) B. P. Townley; in 1965 the winner was Fireman P. T. Jeary from a field of 15 contestants.

Not only have these competitions proved a most popular feature, but because of the extensive study and research necessary in the preparation and production of the lectures, they have proved to be a most useful adjunct to Brigade training, and for this reason it is hoped they will continue to be an annual event.

Other training

Personnel made 848 visits to industrial and commercial premises on their Station grounds to gain knowledge of the general nature and character of the buildings, and the risks and hazards involved, and other information likely to prove useful in the event of fire fighting operations taking place at the premises.

Facilities were afforded to members of the Brigade to visit the International Fire Exhibition and Conference at Olympia, London, in July, 1965, and, in all, 108 members attended.

Training to outside organisations

Elementary fire fighting instruction was given to employees of the Bristol Waterworks; John Hall Ltd; Hovis Ltd; Silcocks & Sons Ltd; E. S. & A. Robinson Ltd. and H.M. Inspector of Taxes, and also to cadets attending courses at the Bristol Technical College School of Navigation.

Annual Pump Competitions

Drill competitions for both wholtime personnel and members of the Auxiliary Fire Service have become an annual feature, and the results of the competitions held in 1964 and 1965 were as follows:

<i>Event</i>	<i>Trophy</i>	<i>Winners</i>	
		1964	1965
One man hydrant (dry) drill	Hughes 'Noble' Trophy	Fireman T. Mead	Fireman T. Mead
S.P. Pump and Light Portable Pump drill	J. Y. Kirkup Trophy	Station No. 5 Bedminster	Station No. 6 Speedwell
Emergency Pump and Light Portable Pump drill	A.F.S. Pump Competition Trophy	Station No. 6 Speedwell	Station No. 6 Speedwell
S.P. Pump and Obstacle drill	Major Pump Challenge Trophy	Station No. 3 Avonmouth	Station No. 6 Speedwell
Emergency Pump Hose and Ladder drill (AFS)	Pump and Ladder Drill Trophy	Station No. 6 Speedwell	Station No. 6 Speedwell

The 1965 competitions were marked by the fact that out of the five events, three record winning times were established, these being in the One-man hydrant drill (18 seconds) the Emergency Pump and Light portable pump drill (53.1 seconds) and the S.P. Pump and obstacle drill (46.3 seconds).

reasonably successful seasons. The Skittle Team, playing in the Bristol Central and West District Skittle League, also had a measure of success.

The fostering and maintenance of the interest of retired members in the Brigade and its activities is another of the Association's aims, and to achieve this end social meetings between serving and retired members were regularly held.

The Fire Services National Benevolent Fund continued to receive good support by contributions from members of the Brigade, and a number of special functions, such as dances and socials, were arranged by personnel to produce larger contributions to the Fund.

RELATIONS WITH TRADE UNIONS

Regular meetings were held with representatives of the Area Committee of the Fire Brigades' Union and with the local branch of the National Association of Fire Officers, at which matters of policy, and any difficulties and proposals were discussed and resolved. Such meetings have undoubtedly done much to produce a cordial relationship between the Brigade, the Union and the Association.

EMERGENCY FIRE SERVICE

Training and other activities

The re-organisation which took place in the Auxiliary Fire Service in accordance with Government policy, and to which I referred in my previous Report, resulted in a more realistic and objective training programme. Basic and advanced training of auxiliaries was satisfactorily carried out at Brigade Headquarters and selected Stations. The special Sunday morning training sessions continued throughout the period, and these have undoubtedly had the effect of maintaining and stimulating the interest of the active membership.

One basic training course for new entrants was completed and a further similar course is in being.

The one week courses which are run for the Auxiliary Fire Service personnel by the Home Office Fire Service Training Centre at Moreton-in-Marsh, and cover the many aspects of mobile column work and emergency fire fighting, were well supported. In each of the years 1964 and 1965, 15 auxiliary members of the Brigade attended these courses.

Personnel

Following the initial fluctuation brought about by the reorganisation of the Service, the strength remained more or less constant, and resignations and retirements were offset by enrolments.

The total strength of the Service at the various stages during the period under review was:

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Total</i>
As at 1st January 1964	118	12	130
As at 31st December 1964	118	14	132
As at 31st December 1965	113	14	127

These members fell into the following categories:

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Total</i>
Undertaking 3 year engagement (Bounty scheme)	36	7	43
In various stages of training	26	2	28
On the Reserve	51	5	56

Exercises

A total of 10 weekend training exercises were arranged, some of which were organised jointly with or involved contiguous Fire Authorities. The exercises were designed to provide participants with experience in the many and varied aspects of emergency fire fighting, road movement and emergency feeding and sleeping. Bristol personnel taking part in these exercises numbered 380. Participating personnel were not limited to auxiliaries, and, as in previous years, whole time members of the Brigade took part on a voluntary basis.

The largest of these exercises was the Regional Exercise "Inter Lock" which was held during the weekend of 25th/26th September, 1965. This exercise, involving personnel from seven brigades, had as the main objects the activation of a Mobile Fire Column; the withdrawal of sufficient appliances and equipment for a Mobile Column from a Home Office Supply and Transport Store, and the exercise of the Column Administrative Team in the personnel documentation scheme and the appliance and disposition boards. The overnight sleeping and feeding of the personnel engaged had also to be arranged.

Appointment

To meet the ever increasing expansion and responsibilities of the Emergency Fire Service in the South West, and the organisation thereof, I was appointed as Sub Regional Fire Commander (designate) for the No. 71 Sub Region (North).

Obituary

It is with deep regret that the death from natural causes of Auxiliary Firewoman Rubie Elinor Bailey is recorded. Mrs. Bailey who had been a member of the Auxiliary Fire Service since March, 1951, had also served in the Auxiliary Fire Service and the National Fire Service as a part-time Leading Firewoman from 1938 until 1945.

Awards and Commendation

During the period under review, the Civil Defence Long Service Medal was awarded to the undermentioned members of the Auxiliary Fire Service, namely:

Aux. Fireman A. R. Stokes	Aux. Firewoman M. A. Bridgman.
Aux. Fireman R. J. C. Lancaster	Aux. Fireman J. S. A. Miles

In addition Aux. Fireman John P. Miles was commended for the part played by him in containing a fire which had occurred at No. 2 British Road, Bedminster, Bristol on the 4th November, 1965, until the arrival of the Brigade.

CONCLUSION

I would take this opportunity of recording my personal thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Committee for their continued support and interest, and also of expressing my appreciation to the Chief Officers of all Corporation Departments and their respective staffs, and to the Bristol Waterworks, for their ready co-operation and valuable assistance at all times.

I am aware that the full strength of any organisation is measured by the

enthusiasm and abilities of its personnel, and I am deeply conscious of the consistent efforts which have been made by the uniformed members of the Brigade, both whole time and auxiliaries, and by the civilian administrative and other staff. Their loyalty and co-operation at all times has been a source of pleasure and satisfaction to me, and undoubtedly has been instrumental in maintaining the high standard of efficiency so necessary to meet the ever growing demands on the Brigade. To them I would record my grateful thanks.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

KENNETH L. HOLLAND.

Chief Officer

Table I





APPLIANCES AND VEHICLES HELD AT 31st DECEMBER, 1965

Station		Pump Escapes (PE)	Water Tender Escapes (Wr.E)	S.P. Pumps (P)	Water Tenders (Wr.T)	Land Rovers (L4P)	Foam Tender (Fo.T)	Foam Carriers (Fo.C)	Hose Reel Tenders (HRT)	Turntable Ladders (TLs.)	Trailer Pumps (Tr.Pm.)	Fire Boats (F.Bt.)	Portable Pumps	Emergency Tender (ET)	Salvage/Hose Tender (HST)	Breathing App. Tender (BAT)	Wireless Veh. (WV & WCar) & Cars	Staff Cars	Stores, Utility & Service Vans (SV & UV)	Personnel Vehicles (PCV)	Lorries (GPL)	Breakdown L. (BL)	Motor Cycle (MC)	S.P. Pumps (E/P)	Portable Pumps	Transportable Water Unit (E/TWU)	Pipe Carrier (E/Pipe/C)	Hose Layer (E/HL)	Communication Unit (E/Comms.)	Communication Unit (E/Comm.L)	Control Unit (E/CU)	Command Car (E/Comm.Car)	Motor Cycle (E/Mc)	Canteen Van (E/FoodC)	Personnel Carrying Vehicle (E/PCV)
No. 1	Pre-1948	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Central	Post ,,	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. 2	Pre-1948	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Southmead	Post ,,	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
No. 3	Pre-1948	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Avonmouth	Post ,,	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. 4	Pre-1948	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brislington	Post ,,	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. 5	Pre-1948	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bedminster	Post ,,	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. 6	Pre-1948	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Speedwell	Post ,,	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
H/Q	Pre-1948	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bridewell	Post ,,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	12	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Training	Pre-1948	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
School	Post ,,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
A.F.S.	Pre-1948	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Post ,,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	1	1	—	—	1	1	2	4	1	2
TOTALS	... ..	5	2	4	2	2	1	2	2	2	—	2	5	1	1	1	5	12	8	2	1	1	—	3	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	1	2

BRISTOL FIRE BRIGADE TURNOUT AREA



KEY

Bristol City Boundary 
 County Boundary 
 Full attendance outside City 
 Part attendance only 
 Fire Stations: Bristol 0
 Others ●