

## Sheffield Fire Brigade's New Home

### Extension of Central Fire Station

#### Description of New Building in Division Street

SHEFFIELD'S City Fire-fighters made a brave display yesterday as they paraded in front of the new Fire Station in Division street to form guard of honour for the Lord Mayor (Alderman H. Bolton), who, with the Chief Constable (Captain P. J. Sillitoe), and Councillor F. Thraves (chairman of the Watch Committee), inspected the parade before the ceremony of opening the new Fire Station, which was performed by the Lord Mayor.

There was a large crowd of people present for the ceremony, which was held in the engine room, including many members of the Watch Committee and Aldermen and Councillors of the Sheffield City Council and Chesterfield Town Council.

Superintendent S. Breaks, the Fire Chief, was in charge of the arrangements.

Councillor F. Thraves, who presided at the opening ceremony, said the day was a memorable one so far as the Fire Brigade was concerned. The Watch Committee had not felt proud of the place that Fire Brigade was housed in for some years. Until the present building was erected the men and their families were housed in quarters which were certainly not creditable to the city.

The present building was commenced on 1 January, 1928. They would have liked a bigger and better site and better facilities for a quick turnout, but that was not possible having regard to the fact that they had to have the station in the centre of the city.

There was still a lot to be done, but he was sure when the Station was completed at a cost of £39,000 it would really be up to date. The quarters for the men and their families would be such that they could be proud of, and a recreation hall was provided for the men on and off duty.

#### Spirit of the Staff

Councillor Thraves paid a tribute to the spirit of the Fire Brigade staff from Superintendent Tom Breaks to the newest recruit to the Brigade. He thought it could be safely said that so far as the personnel of the Fire Brigade was concerned, they could congratulate themselves that they had a splendid body of men, both loyal and efficient, who always came out with credit to themselves and the city.

The Lord Mayor (Alderman H. Bolton) in opening the new building recalled the old days of the horse-drawn engines, and said that the City Council had long got in their programme the question of improving the Fire Station. The men were a body of workers of whom they could be proud, and he was glad to have the opportunity of opening their new premises.



**THE LORD MAYOR**

*The Lord Mayor (Alderman Bolton)  
inspecting a fireman's medals. Supt.  
Breaks is on the left.*

Mr Sam Bannister, of the firm of Abbott and Bannister, the builders of the new premises, then presented Alderman Bolton with a silver rose bowl on behalf of his firm, and Superintendent Breaks with a silver fruit dish.

Councillor R. H. Minshall, proposing a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor, said they were glad that at last they had been able to carry out what they ought to have done long ago.

Mrs. Longden seconded the vote of thanks, and Alderman A. Smith and Councillor Melling also spoke.

### Cramped for Years

For years the firemen have been cramped for room in the old Rockingham street premises, not only in regard to the housing of appliances but for the actual accommodation of the men and their families. Many, in fact, have had to live in quarters a long distance from the station, and while the new extension will not completely alter all this it offers a great improvement.

The Rockingham Street premises were built in 1883-4, with accommodation for six horse-drawn engines and were later adapted for motor vehicles. The housing accommodation consisted of the superintendent's house and flats for 20 firemen, superintendent's room, watch room, and hose tower.

### The Sliding Poles

With the new extension the total area is 2,610 square yards, of which 2,000 square yards are built on. The new premises are designed and built with every modern improvement in fire fighting. Great attention has been paid to the facilities for getting the fire engines and men away to a call with the least possible delay.

Sliding poles of polished steel for the use of the firemen lead from all floors to the engine house, the doors of which open Division Street, and are fitted with a special quick-opening device.

The new buildings provide for heating chamber and battery room in the basement, on the ground floor an engine house 60ft. square for 10 engines, watch room and superintendent's offices, first and second officers' quarters, 14 self-contained flats for firemen, and on the third floor a large recreation hall.

The whole structure steel lined with a concrete raft foundation and is fireproof.

### Round Phone Call

Naturally, in a building like a Fire Station, it is necessary to link up the various rooms and offices with a reliable telephone system, and this has been done by New Systems Private Telephones, Ltd.

By the "round call" system, the depressing of a distinctive coloured button rings bells simultaneously throughout the premises, thus calling all the staff together with the least possible delay. The laryngophone ensures good hearing amid loud and penetrating incidental noises.

The electric clock system of synchronised clocks was installed by Messrs. A. G. Burrell and Co., Ltd., electrical horologists, of Change Alley, Sheffield, who have linked up so many of the business premises in the Centre of Sheffield with their system of checking the time with Greenwich meantime.

### The Builders

The building was erected by Messrs. Abbott and Bannister, Ltd., general builders and public works contractors, of Machon Bank, Sheffield, one of the best known building firms in Yorkshire. The firm has been established 37 years, and is equipped to carry out building contracts of all descriptions, large or small.

They have been responsible for many of Sheffield's public buildings, in addition to private houses and estate contracts. Besides Sheffield's new Fire Station, the firm has been responsible for the electric power station at Neepsend, the Council School at Maltby Street, the Secondary School at Nether Edge, the Employment Exchange alterations, Attercliffe, Globe Picture House alterations, Rivelin Filter House extension, and Millstone Inn, Hathersage.

The design for the foundation raft was carried out by the Weston Concrete Engineering Co., Ltd.; of the Metropolitan Steel Works, High street, West Norwood, London, and the steel reinforcement was supplied and fixed by the designers, to the order of Messrs. Abbott and Bannister, Ltd.

The Weston Concrete Engineering Co. Ltd., are specialist designers and constructors of ferro-concrete, granolithic concrete and cement pavings. They are the patentees of the double layer "Trestle" and single layer "braced" • fabric reinforcement.

### Plumbing and Stone Work

G. W. Dawes and Son, of Hillsborough, Sheffield, were the plumbing contractor, whose workmanship is of the highest order. This firm has been successful in obtaining several large contracts of late, including super cinemas at Brighton and Birmingham.

The firm responsible for the stone work is Messrs. Joseph Turner, Ltd., of Middlewood Quarries, Oughtibridge, near, Sheffield. The firm has been in existence for over 100 years, and the stone in which they specialise has been used extensively by all the large works for heavy engine beds, and by all departments of the Sheffield Corporation for public buildings, including the old Town Hall Markets, Wicker Arches, several bridges, Ewden Valley Reservoir, Ingbirchworth Reservoir (Barnsley Corporation), and others.

The firm make a speciality of broken aggregate and have fulfilled many contracts.

Parnall and Sons, Ltd., of Waingate, Sheffield, the shop fitters, have fitted up the premises. The firm, which has been established for 110 years, has provided a unique feature in the Breeze metal torches, and the Breeze metal letters.

## Exterior Decorations

The exterior landscape decorations and planning has been carried out by William Barron and Sou. of Elvaston Nurseries Borrowash, near Derby. The firm, which makes a speciality of the transplanting of large shrubs and trees, has carried out the work artistically, with the result that the outside appearance of the Fire-Station is very pleasing.

The contractors for the brick work were Messrs Robinson, of Park Works, Blagden Street, Sheffield, and the well-known "Stoke" stone was supplied by Messrs. Percy J. Turner, Ltd., quarry owners, Grindleford.

W. W. Fawcett, agents for the "Oakeley" Welsh slates, of Hale Street, and 157, Machon Bank, Sheffield, were the slating contractors. The firm have been engaged recently upon the Thornhill U.M. Church, and Holy Trinity Church Hall.

The plastering work was carried out by C. Outram, plastering and tiling contractor, of Wath road and Aizlewood road, Sheffield.

The contractors for the electrical equipment were W. E. Harrison, of Regent terrace, Sheffield, who installed the lightning conductors. The firm specialises in high structure repairs.

A feature of the flats is the sensible yet pleasant mode of decoration, and the firm responsible for this was Messrs. Bodsworth, of 416, London road, and 379, Abbeydale Road, Sheffield. The carving was carried out by Messrs. Frank Tory and Sons, Sheffield.