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## Sheffield Warning That Bigger Fire Brigade is Needed

***Each Sheffield fireman is responsible for 20,000 people - the equivalent of 20 battalions of soldiers."***

Superintendent T. Breaks made this comment last night at the 14th annual dinner of Sheffield Fire Brigade.

He was replying to the toast of "The Brigade" by Councillor W. Cooke, who said that the Government were not playing their part in giving the necessary financial support to the fire services.

It was becoming more and more essential that the various brigades should be linked together and national co-ordination secured.

They would have to see that Sheffield was in the forefront of any such scheme.

Superintendent Breaks said that while the Brigade's staff had been increased during the year to 80, the Brigade was not by any means at full strength.

Referring to his evidence before the departmental committee appointed by the Home Office to inquire into the Fire Brigade services, Superintendent Breaks said that what was now required was for legislation to be brought about which would say that local authorities "must" do something instead of "may" do something.

### Air Raid Reserves

He was disappointed that the committee dealt chiefly with what would happen to fire brigades in case of war.

They did, however, recommend a lump sum of £1,000,000 for improving the fire brigade services of the country.

He hoped some of that money would come to Sheffield.

Turning to air raids precautions in Sheffield, Superintendent Breaks mentioned that a large reserve of auxiliary firemen was to be formed. The number suggested for the city was 500.

"If we are to have 500 trained men it will mean a lot of work in training them and a great deal of responsibility - more than I could hope to deal with and it will have to be shared by some of you here," he said, speaking to his men.

Supt. Breaks reported that during the year 744 outbreaks had been attended. The damage done by the fires had been considerably less than in the previous year.

They had gone through the whole year without attending a fire where there had been loss of life.

Altogether 47 lives had been at risk, and these people had managed to make their escape by means of windows or skylights.

Ald. F. Thraves (president) said although they might deplore the fact that they had not a bigger Brigade, they could feel justifiably proud that with their comparatively small numbers they could cope, with the tremendous responsibilities they had in a city like Sheffield.

Chief Supt. F. Bristow also spoke.



Superintendent T. Breaks (chairman), Alderman Frank Thraves, Superintendent Bristow and other guests at Sheffield Fire Brigade's annual dinner

### Dinner left to Fight Blaze

During their dinner the Brigade were summoned to an outbreak in Rutland Street, Sheffield.

They found a motor-lorry owned by Mr. James Smith, a haulage contractor of Rutland Street, Neepsend, Sheffield, blazing inside a garage.

Part of the roof had caught fire but the Brigade were able to put out the blaze before much damage had been caused to the building. The lorry, however, was almost completely destroyed.

It is understood the exhaust pipe of the lorry had over-heated, and some petrol had fallen on to it while the vehicle was being refuelled.