



CENTRAL MISSION

# TALLY HO BOYS VILLAGE

HIGHBURY ROAD, TALLY HO

SUPERINTENDENT: A. GODBEHERE; ASST. SUPERINTENDENT: E. HINNEBERG. PHONE: 23 8101, 23 8902. STATION FOR GOODS: BLACKBURN.

28th Jan. 1964

Mr. H.V. Sterling,  
Central Methodist Mission,  
148 Lonsdale Street,  
MELBOURNE.

Dear Mr. Sterling,

Please find enclosed report on the fire damage done to the Superintendents residence on the 21st. January 1964.

Yours sincerely,

A. Godbehere.  
Superintendent.

Encl: 1

*P.S. Dr. Benson has received a copy of this report. ag*

-3 FEB 1964

Report on Fire damage to Superintendents Residence.

On the morning of Tuesday 21st. January 1964 a fire was detected burning in the Superintendents residence. Owing to the fact that the telephone lines (which enter the building at this point) were burnt through, a call to the Fire Brigade was delayed until a local neighbour, who saw the smoke whilst having his breakfast, telephoned the Brigade for us. As near as can be ascertained the time would be approximately 5.45 - 6.00 a.m. By this time the fire had a good hold in the eastern end of the building. This comprised a large lounge and three bedrooms. Before the fire was brought under control the roof had fallen in on nearly all the brick portion of the building. The only part of the building not damaged by fire was the kitchen, which is the wooden portion that had been attached to the main building. Even this has been fairly extensively damaged by water and the timbers under the roof may have been slightly burned, to what extent will not be known until the roofing has been removed and a closer inspection made.

Many items of furniture, drapes, carpets etc., have been destroyed, this includes a room in the eastern end of the building used as a clothing store containing approximately £380 worth of clothing. Also beds, bedding, furniture, clothing and personal effects, the property of the Superintendent and family.

During the actual fire itself Mr. Hinneberg, members of the staff and boys gave valiant service to the Fire Brigade and also made many trips into the blazing building to recover as many items of furniture etc., as possible.

Upon inspection after the fire had been put out, it could be clearly seen that entry to the building had been made by breaking reinforced glass windows alongside a door at the rear of the building. Mr. Hinneberg had seen these windows that were broken before the fire got too intense, it was then obvious to him that it was deliberate. Other windows had also been broken and curtains set alight. This leaves little doubt that the fires were deliberately lighted.

Cont.

-35- 1964

The Police and myself are investigating this and every effort is being made to find out who may be responsible. This could prove extremely difficult there being no witnesses and no evidence that could give us a lead at the moment.

I was away on holiday at the time, but Mr. Hinneberg promptly informed me of happenings here by telephone, whereupon I immediately returned to get first hand information.

A. Godbehere.  
Superintendent.