

COMO, W.A.

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FORESTS DEPARTMENT,
COMO. W.A.

7th February

67.

SOMERVILLE FIRES 16.1.67 - RED ACTION.

A Red Action was called at Somerville plantation on Monday, January 16th at 1203 hours. A complete Red Action notification was executed, and was in progress at all centres as far as Dwellingup by approx. 1205.

The fire started in Mr. George's property which is part of a salient of private property within the main body of the Somerville Plantation, and which has been included in the Red Action Zone because of the large extent of grassland which it contains.

1. SUPPRESSION:

The Somerville gang and Heavy Duty Units (2) were in attendance within 5 minutes but were not able to stop the head fire which was moving quite swiftly with a South Easterly breeze. The fire had reached North Lake Road by the time Messrs. Ashcroft, van Noort and Hewett arrived (12-20) and several spot fires occurred on the West side of this road. These were suppressed by the light duty unit from Collier and the Heavy Duty units continued to work along the flanks. The running fire was stopped by 12.30 and was considered under control when the Red Action was cancelled at 13.10.

However at 13.55, and before many units had been sent back to their base, a vigorous hopover in a heap of pine tops, flared up in the middle of the paddock West of North Lake Road. This was immediately attacked by three Heavy Duty and two Light Duty units, and was put out by 14.05.

At 14.10 a second fire was reported to the South West near Compartment 54. With the wind still in the South East and a sea breeze likely, this fire also posed a threat to the pines and a force comprising 2 light duty and 2 heavy duty units were deployed to watch this fire at the plantation boundary.

By 1515 all fires were considered to be under control and the outside gangs and equipment were sent home.

2. DIARY OF EVENTS - 16.1.67:

1203 Red Action called
1205 Dwellingup, Mundaring, Gleneagle, Wanneroo notified and acting.
1220 SFCF Ashcroft, van Noort and Hewett arrived.
1235 Collier H/Duty and O/S Feast.
1240 Running fire stopped.
1245 Carinyah gang and T. Ashcroft.
1245 Mop Up commenced.
1250 F/G Walton, A/F Wells, A/F Jones and Jarrahdale gang.

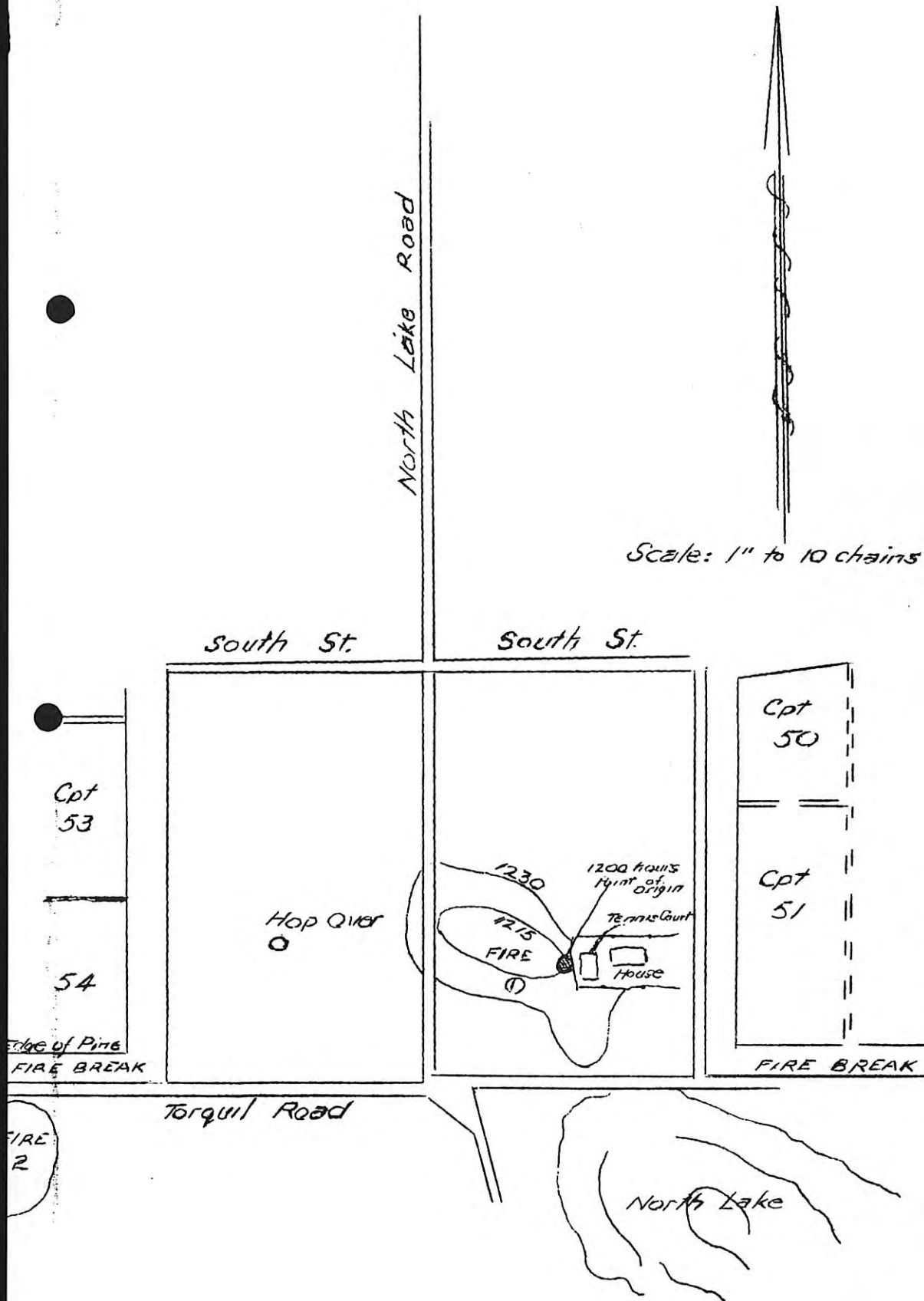
APPENDIX 2.

Summary of Costs - Fire No. S 12 - Somerville.

1/3/1967.

<u>Centre.</u>	<u>Wages.</u>	<u>Vehicles.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Somerville	94.75	23.76	118.51
Collier	18.00	18.00	36.00
Gnangara	46.87	81.54	128.41
Wanneroo	39.08	65.82	104.90
Mundaring Weir	58.19	57.91	116.10
Kelmscott	57.95	20.64	78.59
			<u>\$ 582.51</u>

RED ACTION FIRE - SOMERVILLE 16-1-61



Somerville Fires 16.1.67 - Continued:

- 1256 Wanneroo H/duty, Gnangara H/Duty and 2 gangs (O/S Lindley & Darovic)
- 1310 Red Action called off.
- 1315 Ferguson Tractor (Gnangara) arrived.
- 1320 A.D.F.O. Robley arrived.
- 1340 T. Ashcroft, A/F Wells & Carinyah gang left for fire at Bickley.
- 1355 Hop-over 7 chains from fire edge.
- 1410 Second fire, near Cpt. 54.
- 1515 All fires under control and auxiliary forces sent home.

Note: At 1310, when Red Action cancelled,

- i. Mundaring gang, H/duty and A/F Selkirk at Todd Avenue, Como - still 15 minutes away.
- ii. A.D.F.O. Robley $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from fire. Gleneagle gang at Forrestdale.

3. MANPOWER:

At the peak of activity, the following personnel were at the fire.

- a) From Somerville - F/R Bukelis, O/S Boyd & 7 men.
- b) From Collier - O/S Feast plus 3.
- c) From Wanneroo - F/G Walton, 2 O/Seers and 9 men.
- d) From Gleneagle - ADFO Robley, A/F Wells, F/R Ashcroft, A/F Jones, 2 O/Seers and 8 men.
- e) Other Staff - Messrs. van Noort, Hewett, A. Ashcroft, J. Reynolds.

Total force totalled approx. 43 persons, with 2 Fire Station crews as well, for part of the time.

4. AREA BURNT:

4.1. Fire (1) was the main threat and burnt approximately 15 acres of P.P. grassland and a few outhouses.

Cause of Fire - Settler burning rubbish on previous evening.

4.2. Fire (2) was all grassland in a new S.H.C. suburban development, and burnt about 3 acres.

5. WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Dwellingup forecast 16/1/67. Fine and Warm, Severe Hazard, EMT. 88°, EMRH. 14%.

Mundaring Actual 16/1/67. Fine and Warm, App. Dangerous. Max.temp. 92°. Min.RH. 13%. Wind strength Gungin at 1400, was 14 m.p.h. from ESE.

6. COSTS:

Mundaring	\$ 69.53	(did not get to the fire).
Gleneagle	\$162.35	
Wanneroo	\$272.84	

P.N. HEWETT.

PNH/JC.

ACTING INSPECTOR.