

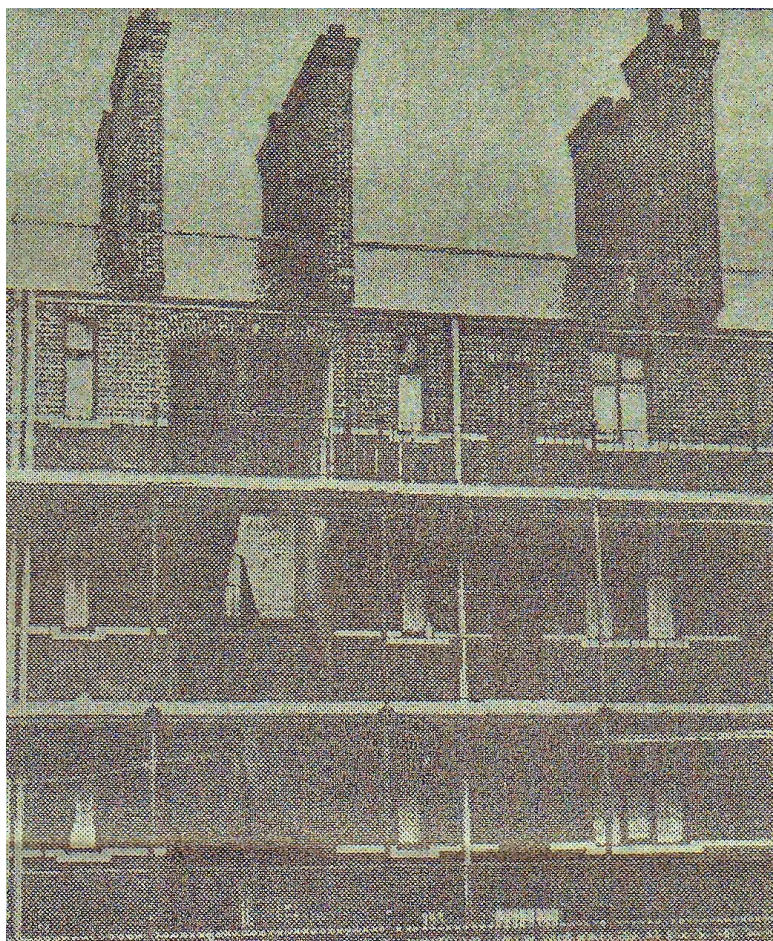
Councillor: Firemen's Flats Inadequate 'Should Live Away From Job'

THE flats where Sheffield firemen and their families live at the central fire station in Division Street are "inadequate and out of date," Said Councillor J. H. Skelton, Fire Brigade Committee deputy chairman, at the committee's annual inspection of the brigade yesterday.

"Our staff would be better living away from the rattle and roar of Division Street and I hope the day is not far distant when they will be." he said.

"I hope we shall be able to say soon that we have been able to persuade the powers that be that all, our firemen should live away from the fire station. No woman ought to have to carry a pram down two flights of stairs."

Too Small



Years ago a medical authority told me the flats were not nearly big enough and that it was impossible to swing the proverbial cat round in them, writes our Municipal Reporter.

Apart from the inadequacy the accommodation, the question of whether it is desirable for firemen to live on the job has also arisen.

There is a growing feeling in city council circles that reform is necessary and that sooner or later only firemen who are actually on duty will be expected to be on the station.

The Rockingham Street fire station, built in 1883-4, included a superintendent's house and flats for 20 firemen. When the station was extended in 1929, first and second officer's quarters and 14 self-contained flats for firemen were added.

Full Strength

Committee chairman Coun. H. Redgate, who, presided yesterday, said that while some authority's fire brigade establishments were below strength. Sheffield's was at full strength and, there was a waiting list, which, he thought was a tribute to the city.

The brigade had got rid of some obsolete appliances and replaced them with up-to-date equipment.

Emphasising the importance of the work of the fire brigade, the chairman said that their promptitude in dealing with works fires was the means of keeping up production.

The A.F.S. strength was 370 men and women, and the Home Office had supplied 21 tenders.

Waiting List

Chief Fire Officer B. Jones spoke of the exceptionally good men on the waiting list for brigade membership.

Sheffield had the finest fire appliances in the country, but only one station - Norton - had ideal facilities for drilling and training the men.

Councillor A. V. Wolstenholme said the city had a brigade second to none in the country. What impressed him particularly was the high standard of the personnel.