

## EXPLOSIVES HUT FIRE

### Man Dies, Four Hurt

Severely burned in the fire yesterday at the Maribyrnong explosives factory, Royston F. Jensen, 25, of Glenville st., Footscray, died later in the casualty ward of the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

The condition of four other men injured was reported last night to be satisfactory, but none of them was well enough to be interviewed by investigators.

H. C. Strapp, 36, of Glenferrie rd., Malvern, and J. Ward, 16, of Auburn rd., Armadale, are in Royal Melbourne Hospital, while H. Hansford, 17, of Raleigh rd., Maribyrnong, and C. Lewis, 24, of the Men's Quarters, Explosives Factory, Maribyrnong, are at the Mercy Hospital.

The men were making flares with magnesium, when suddenly the highly inflammable material ignited. The door of the hut had been left open because of the hot night, and this fact alone enabled the men to escape from the inferno of flaring magnesium. Before escaping they had suffered severe burns. They ran to a guardhouse 500 yards away and there received medical attention until the ambulance arrived.

The section of the factory in which the fire occurred has been closed to workers pending the completion of the official inquiry by the Operational Safety Committee. Detectives and Commonwealth police are investigating, but so far no explanation of the cause of the fire has been given.

No explosion was heard, and the interior of the hut in which the men were working was not damaged, except by slight scorching. No evidence of sabotage has been found, and police discredit any suggestion that the fire was other than an accident.

The hut was surrounded by an earthen mound to prevent a fire spreading to other huts, and only a few pounds of the explosive used was kept in the room.

There was no electrical machinery in the hut to give a spark, the lighting installation was intact, and the materials could not have been ignited by concussion.