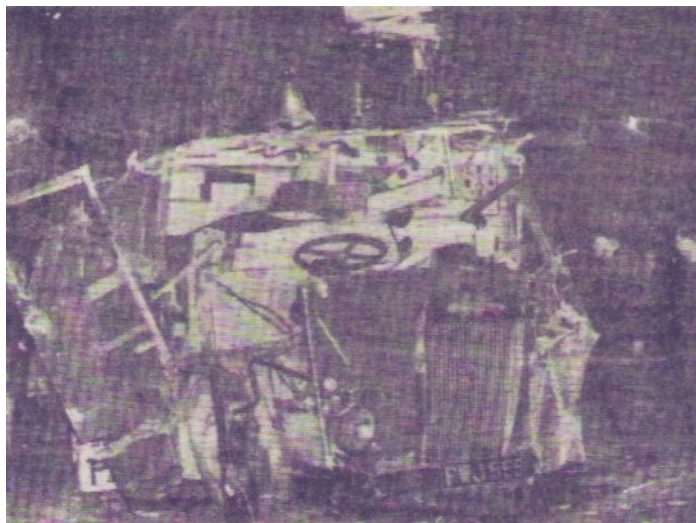


## A Joke That Was Far From Funny



This crash, in which five Sheffield firemen were injured answering a false alarm, was reported in the "Firefighter" last June.

Most of us have nothing but the highest admiration for firemen: they are brave and skilled men who can be called upon at any time to risk their lives to save others. The history of the fire brigades is a history of courage and service. In the course of their work firemen are killed and injured, yet they face these risks without demanding particularly great rewards.

We would expect every member of the community to feel a debt of gratitude towards them and we would expect even our youngsters to share our feelings. This is 'why it is always difficult to understand the mentality of the hoaxer who sends fire engines tearing through the streets on a false alarm.

In Sheffield yesterday five firemen were injured when their engine crashed while answering a false alarm call. A car was wrecked, a factory wall damaged and the engine itself smashed. Two firemen were catapulted through the air and were lucky to escape with their lives.

These are men with wives and families waiting for them to return from their dangerous errands, men dedicated to saving lives and property from death and destruction. Anyone who does not seethe with anger at the thought of this shocking incident might ask himself whether he would be prepared to live the fireman's life and run the risks that they do.