

"During 1939 Air Raid Precautions were organized within the Shire and E. A. Leane (Belgrave) was appointed District Warden, later ~~followed~~ succeeded by F.L. Byrne (Belgrave) and F. L. Bevan (Tecoma). As the threat of invasion increased, plans for evacuation of part of the civil population of Melbourne to the hills were ~~arranged~~ prepared by C. C. Dance, Shire Secretary, and F.L. Byrne and by April 1942 these were ready to put into effect at a moment's notice. In the meantime Edmund Burke of Tecoma had established an A.R.P. Control Room in a small cottage he owned in Sandells Road, Tecoma, and this nerve centre was linked by telephone with every A.R.P. post throughout the Shire, and with headquarters in Melbourne. *(Mr. & Mrs. H.A. Campbell of Belgrave, members of St. John's Ambulance Brigade, were instructed by Dr. Loma Jones of Rowan to conduct first aid classes attended by those prepared to help in an emergency and ~~other~~ the community generally was alerted for swift action.*

There was, however, one flaw in an otherwise effective organization. Although a hospital existed, the Shire lacked an ambulance. This meant that in the event of a bombing attack - then a very real danger - no ambulance was available to transport the injured. *Mrs. Edmund Burke of Tecoma, Mrs. H.T.S. Chandler of The Basin, Society - Cr. Gnd King, Mr. Janeskyler*  
*Shire Commander of Post*  
superintendent of the local Red Cross, ~~was~~ in the forefront of an appeal launched with the object of raising sufficient funds to buy a second-hand vehicle for use as an ambulance, but such was the ~~response~~ response that about £1,000 was raised in a matter of six weeks and the first Fern Tree Gully Shire Ambulance - a new *Dodge* vehicle - was purchased in 1943. The Ambulance, at first manned by members of the Red Cross, was the first vehicle in the now well-established service based at Upper Fern Tree Gully."

*Mr. W. J. Ross of Upp. F.T.G. assisted by Mrs. Ross assumed the responsibility of driving & caring for the vehicle. 1st passage was carried on 2/10/1943 5000 " 21/11/1955 /cont. Service*

*Members of St John Ambulance & Red Cross Society & others prepared to help etc.*