

MR. MABANE'S SPEECH TO PART-TIME FIREMEN

Mr. William Mabane, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Home Security, who has been appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food, today visited a training camp which has been established in Surrey for part-time firemen. In a speech which he described as something of a swan song, he said that no part of his work in the Ministry of Home Security had been so full of satisfaction or had impressed him with its importance so much as that in connection with the National Fire Service. It had always been his ambition to put the part-timers properly on the map and a training camp for them had for long been in his mind.

"Now that every effort is being made to release full time members of the Civil Defence Service, including the Fire Service, for employment in war production, it is more important than ever that part-time firemen should be efficient for their job. Therefore, this training camp for part-time firemen has been established. We hope too that throughout the country the establishment of this camp will be recognised by part-time firemen as evidence of the high value set upon their work. Part-time firemen will be able to come here for a week's course. The training will be intensive but I hope too that the stay here will provide some rest and recuperation, particularly for those who have had to endure raids.

"We have been able to provide for your travelling to the camp and have secured authority to make up to the rate authorised for part-time members of the Civil Defence Service any loss of earnings occasioned by part-time firemen taking advantage of this course.

"I understand that already you have asked that while you are here you should be regarded as a reserve available to go to the assistance of any places that may be raided, and I am glad to say that we are able to arrange this."

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