

# BUS CRASHES INTO 3 PREMISES AND INJURES EIGHT

## 50 Yard Trail Of Damage

C.T. May 15, 1953



This exclusive Christchurch Times picture was taken soon after the bus had crashed into Miss E. M. Andrews shop. A fireman stands by as rescue operations are carried out. At the bottom right of the picture ambulance attendants prepare a stretcher. [Photo by D. Wyles.]

**In pouring rain on Wednesday evening, a bus travelled fifty yards along Purewell, Christchurch, crashing into a house and two shops on opposite sides of the road. It finished up half way through a shop window and at right angles to the road.**

The street was relatively deserted at the time, and the only casualties were passengers on the bus, two of whom have been detained in hospital. Although the front of the bus was badly damaged, the driver, Mr. Jack Piper, of Nortoft Road, Bournemouth, escaped with a slight cut on his nose.

The incident occurred just before eight o'clock when a

Bournemouth Corporation bus, being driven in the direction of Somerford skidded just before it reached Cameron Road. It mounted the nearside pavement and ripped away part of the front of No. 40 Purewell. Twenty five yards further along the road, and on the opposite side, the bus sheared away the bay window of an ironmongers' shop belonging to Mr. H. C. Hand, which jutted out about eighteen inches.

Another twenty yards further along the road, the bus mounted its nearside pavement again and crashed through the window of a draper's shop belonging to Miss I. M. Andrews.

One of the first people on the scene was Dr. E. N. Bolton, who lives at 48, Purewell. He clambered into the bus and gave injections.

One of the injured passengers, Mr. Michael Donnelly, of 862a, Christchurch Road, Boscombe, on his way to work at the de Havilland Aircraft factory, had to be released from the bus by members of the local Fire Brigade. His foot was trapped between two planks on the upper deck. He was later taken to Boscombe Hospital and detained with a fractured leg.

### CONCUSSION

The other passenger to be detained in hospital was Daisy Lindsay, of Site 3, Holmsley. She had concussion and head injuries. Also treated were Leslie Toomer aged 28, of Charminster Road, Bournemouth and Eric Bath, aged 23, of Clarence Park Road, Boscombe.

One passenger on the bus who escaped lightly was Mrs. Freda Bunting, a middle-aged housewife, of 53, Edward Road, Somerford. "I was sitting in the middle of the bus downstairs with about four other passengers," she told a reporter. When the bus crashed into the three buildings she was thrown about her seat. "The final jolt was a terrific one," she added, "although to my surprise none of the bus windows were broken."

Mrs. Bunting, who had been into Christchurch to collect bottles of wine as prizes for the Edward Road Coronation whist drive, said "I felt very worried about the bottles, but I managed to prevent them being broken."

In the first house hit by the bus lives elderly Miss E. J. Henning. Her home is built right on to the pavement, and she told a reporter yesterday morning: "It's an absolute miracle that my house wasn't

damaged more." Miss Henning was sitting in her dining room a few feet away from the window which overlooks the street when the incident occurred.

#### TILES FELL DOWN

"Suddenly I heard a crash, then a pile of tiles fell past the window. I was so surprised that I didn't know what to do." Kind neighbours made sure the structure of the house hadn't been damaged and tidied the rubble into neat piles.

Although the front window was entirely torn away at Mr. Hand's ironmonger's shop, his grandchildren asleep in a bedroom above were not awakened by the noise. Yesterday morning workmen were still busy clearing away piles of bricks and torn wood.

"I was out at the time." Mr. Hand told the Christchurch Times, "and my wife and daughter were at the pictures. My only son was in a room at the back when he heard the crash." Although the shop was still absolute chaos, business was going on as usual yesterday.

#### STOCK DESTROYED

"The entire stock in my window display was destroyed," Mr. Hand went on, "and I'm afraid that the whole of the front wall of my shop and house will have to come down,"

The same applies to the draper's shop owned by Miss Andrews. Here again the entire front of the shop was torn away and the side wall has a dangerous bulge. In bed in a room above the shop was Miss Andrews' 85-year-old mother. Hearing a crash, she was on the point of going downstairs when her next door neighbour, Mr. M. E. Vint, came in and took charge.

"I heard a terrible crash," he said, "and when I discovered what happened to the house next door, I dashed round to see what had happened." Mr. Vint's own front fence was broken down.

Christchurch police would like to interview a woman cyclist who is believed to have been near the scene at the time of the accident. She is thought to have been wearing a brown coat.