

MAN KILLED, 14 HOMES RAZED IN VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE

MELBOURNE. — One man was fatally burned, and 14 homes were destroyed in a fierce bushfire which raged all yesterday around the township of Walwa, in the upper reaches of the Murray River.

The dead man has not yet been identified.

Telephone communications from the town were cut off all day and had not been restored late last night, but reports reaching police in Melbourne said that fire-fighters, after a desperate day-long battle, had managed to save the township.

The fire was reported to be under control last night. It had razed the countryside for miles around.

The four men who were badly burned are in Walwa Hospital. Extra medical supplies were being rushed from Tallangatta, more than 40 miles away.

Jumped River

The fire is an offshoot of the bushfire which started at Holbrook, 35 miles away. It spread down to the banks of the Murray and late yesterday afternoon jumped the river into Victoria.

The same fire is believed to have been responsible for another outbreak 30 miles away at Corryong, which destroyed one house and burned hundreds of acres.

Corryong police said last night that this fire also was under control.

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Enquiry Ordered

CANBERRA — The Minister for Works and Housing (Mr. Kent Hughes) yesterday set up a court of enquiry to investigate the outbreak of one of the worst bushfires in Canberra's history.

Yesterday's fire, which broke out early in the morning, threatened two of Canberra's most exclusive suburbs and forced many people, including members of the diplomatic corps, to leave their homes with personal belongings.

The decision to set up the court follows suggestions by Mr. Kent Hughes and the Chief Fire Officer of the Bushfire Council (Mr. Cole) earlier this week that fires at Brindabella, just over the A.C.T. border, were started deliberately.

Yesterday fires were swept along by almost gale force, blistering hot north-westerlies, which at times reached 55 miles an hour.