



The Fire Insurance Rating Organization of N. J.
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
NEWARK, N. J.

Fort Lee Borough
Bergen County, New Jersey

DECEMBER 15, 1945

KEY

- PROTECTED FIRE ZONE: Shown in Green.
NOTE.—For description of fire protection, etc., see other side.
Elevations range from 0 to 350 feet above mean sea level.
Water mains 8 inches and larger in diameter
Water mains 6 inches in diameter
Water mains 4 inches in diameter
Fire hydrants shown thus
Gate valves shown thus
Fire house shown thus
Fire apparatus designated by symbols thus:
- (Y) Pumping engine and hose car
 - (H) Hose car
 - (A) Ambulance, Squad or Auxiliary car
 - (B) Booster tank or tanks on above
 - (L) Ladders on above

FORT LEE BOROUGH, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

Including Coytesville, Palisade, and West Fort Lee.

Population—1940 Census: 9,468.

IN GENERAL: Located on the west bank of the Hudson River about 10 miles north of Jersey City at the western terminus of the George Washington Bridge. It is a residential community with a film processing laboratory and several small industries. Area 2.5 square miles. Elevations range from 0 to 350 feet. Main roads are concrete; others are macadam or gravel in fair condition. There are no railroad crossings, but some steep grades might interfere with the response of fire apparatus.

WATER SUPPLY: Water for domestic and fire protection purposes is furnished by the Hackensack Water Company. The portion of this system in Fort Lee is on the New Milford High Service. It is supplied by a 30-inch main by direct pumpage from the New Milford Pumping Station. In emergency it can be supplied from the Fairview Station taking suction from Reservoir No. 3 in Fairview. For a detailed description of the Hackensack Water Company system see report and map No. 59. **Distribution System:** In one service. See map and description above. **Consumption:** The average and maximum daily consumption during 1944 in the entire territory served (83,823 live services) were 39,129 and 47,447 million gallons respectively. The maximum daily consumption was 42.01 and 7.5 million gallons respectively on the low and high services. The average daily consumption was 34,542 and 6,052 million gallons respectively on the low and high services. On December 31st, 1944 there were 2,053 services in Fort Lee, all of which were metered. It is estimated that 1.23% of the total consumption is used in Fort Lee. **Pipe:** All pipe is cast iron, tar coated, bell and spigot joint, laid with a 3-foot minimum cover. Total length, 185,659 feet; 8.06% 30-inch, 0.77% 24-inch, 10.83% 12-inch, 7.89% 8-inch, and 72.45% 6-inch. No trouble reported from electrolysis, and freezing has generally been restricted to service connections. **Gate Valves:** There are 572 within the borough of various makes with valve boxes set at grade. Direction of operation is uniform. Inspection of valves is continuous resulting in about one complete annual inspection of all valves and semi-annual inspection of major control valves. **Hydrants:** There are 247 within the borough of Corey, Mathews, and Smith makes; 4 have two 2½-inch outlets and one 4½-inch outlet and 4-inch branches, remainder have two 2½-inch outlets and one 4½-inch outlet and 6-inch branches. All outlets have National Standard threads. Hydrant branches are gated in all instances. Hydrants are inspected semi-annually, after use, and frequently in cold weather. At time of inspection those hydrants operated were found to be in good condition. **Pressures:** Readings taken at 4 well distributed hydrants showed pressures ranging from 57 to 112 pounds with an average of 82 pounds. **Fire Flow Tests:** Probable supply available for fire protection purposes was measured on November 8th, 1945 by means of Pitot tube. Location of hydrant, discharge in gallons per minute, pressure before flow, and pressure during flow were as follows:

Arcadian Way and Bluff Rd., 1,440—112—70.

Main St. and Lemoine Ave., 2,580—90—74.

Maple St., 100 ft. N. of Christie Lane, 530—70—20.

Hammett and Myrtle Aves., 450—57—24.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: A volunteer organization of 4 companies under the control of the borough which owns apparatus and equipment and appropriates about \$7,500 annually for the support of the department. Companies own their own houses. Membership 121 including a chief, 3 assistant chiefs, and for each company a captain and lieutenant. The chief is appointed in rotation by the companies. All officers are elected by the companies. The borough confirms the elections. **Companies—Company No. 1:** 29 active members. Located on Main Street near Parker Avenue, building is a 2-story brick structure with composition shingled roof, concrete apparatus floor, steam heat, electric lights, telephone to police headquarters, and siren on roof. **Equipment:** A 1929 Ahrens-Fox 1,000-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying an 80-gallon booster tank, 200 feet of booster hose, 1,000 feet of 2½-inch hose, 100 feet of 1½-inch hose, 2 short ladders, and fair minor equipment. A 1919 Waterous 350-g.p.m. pumping engine carrying 500 feet of 2½-inch hose, and equipped with a deck gun. A 1937 Chevrolet truck with 500-g.p.m. front-mounted Champion pump and carrying 400 feet of 2½-inch hose, 400 feet of 1½-inch hose, and fair minor equipment is held in reserve. **Company No. 2:** 30 active members. Located on Washington Avenue near State Highway Route No. 1, building is a 2-story frame structure with composition shingle on wood roof, concrete apparatus floor, hot air heat, electric lights, hose tower, telephone to police headquarters, and siren on roof. **Equipment:** A 1924 American La France 400-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying a 40-gallon booster tank, 200 feet of booster hose, 800 feet of 2½-inch hose, 2 short ladders, and meager minor equipment. A 1939 Chevrolet flood light car with built-in 3-k.w. generator, 4 flood lights, 1 spot light, 350 feet of 2½-inch hose, a foam generator and 4 drums of foam powder, one short ladder, and

good minor equipment. Held in reserve is a 1929 Chevrolet hose car with no hose or equipment. **Company No. 3:** 35 active members. Located at Summit Avenue and Jones Road, building is a 2-story frame structure with composition shingle on wood roof, concrete apparatus floor, steam heat, electric lights, telephone to police headquarters, and siren on roof. **Equipment:** A 1928 American La France 750-g.p.m. quadruple combination pumping engine carrying a 40-gallon water tank with compressed air for expellant, 200 feet of ¾-inch hose, 300 feet of 2½-inch hose, 10 ladders ranging from 50 to 12 feet and totaling 249 feet, and good minor equipment. A 1916 Ahrens-Fox 500-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying a 40-gallon booster tank with CO₂ for expellant, 200 feet of booster hose, 800 feet of 2½-inch hose, 1 short ladder, and meager minor equipment. A 1931 Rugby hose car is held in reserve. **Company No. 4:** 27 active members. Located at Brinkerhoff Ave. and Fairview Lane, building is a 2-story brick-faced concrete block structure with slag roof, concrete apparatus floor, steam heat, electric lights, hose tower, telephone to police headquarters, and siren mounted on poles nearby. **Equipment:** A 1928 G. M. C. hose car carrying two 40-gallon water tanks, with compressed air for expellant, 150 feet of booster hose, 750 feet of 2½-inch hose, 1 short ladder, and fair minor equipment. Held in reserve is a 1936 Chevrolet truck with a 500-g.p.m. Twin Coach civilian defense pump, 400 feet of 2½-inch hose, 300 feet of 1½-inch hose, 2 short ladders, and fair minor equipment. **Hose:** All 2½-inch hose is C.R.L. with National Standard screw couplings. A total of 4,500 feet is carried on apparatus; 700 feet is held in reserve. It is shifted and tested twice a year at about 160 pounds pressure. No hose is over 5 years old. **Operations:** Department is governed by borough ordinance and company by-laws. Chief has control of apparatus and equipment at all times and of men at fires and drills. Motors are started weekly. Seven or eight drivers are appointed for each company. **Drills and Training:** Company drills are held monthly under the supervision of the chief officers and consist of the usual evolutions. A department drill is held annually. **Fire Methods:** Booster lines are used on incipient fires reinforced by hydrant and engine lines with shut-off nozzles. There is an oxygen breathing mask at Company No. 2. A deck gun is provided at Company No. 1 and a deluge set at Company No. 3, but there are no other heavy stream appliances and no salvage equipment is provided. **Response to Alarms:** Two companies nearest the location of the fire are generally called, with the other companies summoned as needed, unless fire is known to be a house fire, in which case all companies respond. Outside aid may be secured from the paid departments of Englewood and Edgewater, and the volunteer departments of other surrounding municipalities. **Building Inspection:** A fire prevention bureau composed of certain fire department members makes an inspection of schools and mercantile districts. Buildings are inspected about once a year. Records of inspections are kept and a report is made to the borough council. **Records and Reports:** Fairly complete records of all fires and drills are kept by the chief who makes an annual report to the borough council. **Fire Alarms:** There is no telegraph system. Alarms are telephoned to police headquarters and sounded from there on sirens. No location codes are used.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police department consists of a chief, 2 lieutenants, 1 sergeant, and 16 men on 8-hour shifts. There is one man on duty at all times at the police desk in police headquarters which is located in the municipal building on Main Street near Center Avenue. A switchboard is provided with 3 trunk lines and 4 private lines to the fire houses. Three patrol cars with two-way radios, 1 Reo ambulance and 1 Dodge ambulance are provided. There are 4 signaling boxes located throughout the borough. Police respond to all fire alarms, but there is no cooperation with the building department.

BUILDING LAWS: Code adopted January 21st, 1931 provides for a competent building inspector and requires plans and specifications to be submitted for new construction and permits to be obtained before construction is begun. Ample fire limits are established covering 100 feet on each side of all business streets. Wood shingle roofs are prohibited within the fire limits. Code in general compares favorably with the Code of Suggested Ordinances for Small Municipalities of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, but is not complete with regard to some details.

FIRE PREVENTION LAWS: An ordinance adopted August 5th, 1931 provides for a fire prevention bureau composed of fire department members selected by the fire chief. Code closely follows the fire prevention ordinance recommended by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. State laws adequately cover the storage and shipment of explosives and flammables and the construction of motion picture booths. They also restrict the discharge of fireworks to responsible bonded parties.

ZONING ORDINANCE: Adopted August 13th, 1941.