STATION STORIES

If railway stations could talk they'd have some interesting tales to tell; here are a few told through Australian news articles.

PORT ADELAIDE
TROUBLE ON WATERSIDE CLASHES WITH POLICE WOMEN ATTACK VOLUNTEERS

Serious trouble occurred at Port Adelaide today, when the waterside workers left their jobs under threats from reputed leaders of the unemployed.

A number of shop windows were smashed and several clashes took place with the police. Near Robinson’s Bridge the police charged with drawn batons into a crowd of about 1,000. There was no casualty. The people quickly dispersed. Attempts will be made tomorrow to forward the members of the Carriers, Drivers, Storemen and Packers Union to withdraw.

Shortly before 8 o’clock this morning trouble broke out at Jervois Bridge, and at the Port Dock Railway Station. A woman rushed a volunteer near the bridge, knocked him down and jumped on him, scrapping and screaming. A policeman forced the woman to release him. A crowd estimated at 1,000 waited at the dock for the arrival of the volunteers who were embarked on the city bound train under strong police guard, without further trouble.

During the morning £100 worth of damage was done to private property.

FIRST BLOW OF WAR IN AUSTRALIA

WAS IT STRUCK AT BROKEN HILL?

If the explosion and fire at Broken Hill aerodrome were caused by an alien unfriendly to the British Empire, the first blow of the war struck in Australia will have again been in Broken Hill.

It will be recalled that in the early stages of the Great War the first blow struck in Australia was by two Turks, who fired on a picnic train proceeding to Silverton.

That was on 1st January 1915, and four persons were killed in the attack.

The Picnic Train Attack

The first half of the article refers to an explosion, which occurred in suspicious circumstances, at the Broken Hill aerodrome in 1939 at the start of World War II.

The explosion called to mind the event known as ‘the Battle of Broken Hill’, which occurred on New Year’s Day 1915, during World War I. During the event two gunmen (incorrectly referred to at the time as ‘Turks’) attacked passengers aboard a picnic train.

The explosion at Broken Hill has been linked to the ‘Battle of Broken Hill’ event.

MR BROOKFIELD THE VICTIM

CONDITION SERIOUS

A sensational shooting affray occurred at Riverton Railway Station about 8 o’clock on Tuesday morning during which Mr Percy Brookfield, MLA, was dangerously wounded. It is reported that a Russian got out of the Broken Hill express while the train was standing at the station and fired about 40 shots from a revolver, which he kept on reloading. The names of those shot are: Percival Brookfield, MLA. Two shots in stomach, Mrs M E Rice, Argent Street, Broken Hill, shot in the right breast; Mr D Crowhurst, farmer, Pinnaroo, shot in leg; William Smith, Peterborough, shot in thigh; William-John George, Wannupa/West Australia, shot in leg.

It is stated that the Russian took complete charge of the Riverton Station, shooting all over the place until Mr Brookfield attempted to stop him, Mr Brookfield was despatched to Adelaide by special train. Other persons who were shot, but not so seriously injured as Mr Brookfield, are being treated locally. The man who did the shooting has been arrested.

The Shooting of Percy Brookfield

The sad events that took place at Riverton Railway Station in March 1921 led to the death of politician Percival Stanley Brookfield, a man known for his passionate defence of the poor, unemployed and wrongly imprisoned.

The events occurred at Riverton Railway Station on 1921 and led to the death of Percy Brookfield.