Read the text and decide whether the statements below are true (T) or false (F).

**Thirty-six killed and 450 injured in miles of ﬂame**

At least thirty-six people, including a family of ﬁve in a car, were burned to death within hours yesterday as vast tracts of the southern part of Australia, parched by months of drought, burst into ﬂames. Another 450 people were injured.

Uncontrollable bush fires fanned by high winds engulfed nearly 300 houses in the states of Victoria and South Australia. And such was the fear that 50 people evacuated from threatened towns waded into the sea to evade walls of ﬂame.

Five small towns in Victoria were destroyed and ten others evacuated. Several towns in South Australia were also evacuated.

Last night, with hundreds being treated for burns and smoke inhalation at makeshift medical centres, more than 600 troops were rushed to help 4,000 ﬁreﬁghters already in action.

Communications were cut, telephone poles crashed in ﬂames. 'It is as if the earth just wants to burn itself out and Mother Nature is doing her best to stop us interfering, ’said one tired fireﬁghter.

Smoke and dust clouds were so thick above Melbourne that airports were closed indeﬁnitely.

Other ﬁres engulfed homes south and north-east of Adelaide. Burned out cars were found abandoned on steep, wooded hills. Police fear the occupants ﬂed into the scrub for safety only to meet a wall of ﬁre. Three ﬁremen died, trapped by the ﬂames they were sent to ﬁght.

At the German settlement of Handorf, 50 patients were evacuated from a nursing home which was destroyed by the rapidly moving ﬁre. And at Greenhill, about nine miles from Adelaide, staff at the ﬁre headquarters heard women and children screaming and crying over the phone as local newsmen and volunteer ﬁreﬁghter Murray Nicol telephoned for help. All the residents were safely evacuated but 16 homes were lost.

Estimates put the damage caused by the ﬁres blazing over several hundred square miles in the two states at around £50 million.

Weary ﬁremen said last night that they had feared the worst would happen. After months of little rain, temperatures soared to 112 degrees Fahrenheit. The raging inferno followed.

Police in both states were investigating reports from ﬁremen that some of the ﬁres were started deliberately.

The ﬁrst emergencies began in Adelaide yesterday as ﬂames swept the Adelaide hills. Police broadcasts warned people living in the hills not to try to get to their houses from work.

At Mount Gambier near South Australia’s border with Victoria, a family of ﬁve were burned alive when their car was trapped.

Sergeant Paul Seeboham of Mount Gambier police said from the burning town last night:

'Things here are pretty bloody grim. Everything’s burning.’

l. A long dry period resulted in uncontrollable bush ﬁres. **T F**

2. Some people horriﬁed by the ﬂames sought safety in the sea. **T F**

3. Hundreds of people with burns were transferred to hospitals. **T F**

4. Flights in the area had to be cancelled due to thick smoke. **T F**

5. Police found evidence of several people who had ﬂed into the bush

and died in the ﬂames. **T F**

6. Fifty foreigners were evacuated from Handorf. **T F**

7. Local newsmen at Greenhill reported that some women

and children had panicked. **T F**

8. The temperature in the affected area has gone down to 112° F. **T F**

9. Firemen announced that some of the ﬁres were started deliberately. **T F**

10. Five people were overcome by fumes and died of intoxication

when their car caught ﬁre. **T F**