

## FOUGHT BUSH FIRE.

*This was on dad's old farm D.C.*

### WOMAN'S HEROIC EFFORT.

*Jan 19 39*

The story of a heroic fight put up by a lone woman to save her home and four-months-old baby from raging bush fires is told by the Telegraph Point correspondent of the Port Macquarie "News." It was during the excessively hot day last Saturday week, when the temperature soared well over the century mark.

The report states that the hot westerly wind caused a fire to sweep so swiftly that residents were forced to fight like Trojans to save their homes from destruction. Fences, pigstyes, etc., had to be abandoned to devote all attention to the homes, several of which had very close shaves.

The honors for heroism were handed to Mrs. W. Blackwell, who was left at home alone with her four-months-old baby. Her husband had been forced by the drought to take the dairy herd to lower country to keep them milking.

The fire came raging towards the home, and Mrs. Blackwell went out to fight it single-handed. First she placed her baby in a pram, covered him with a wet blanket and placed him in the creek to escape the suffocating heat and smoke. She fought the fire until she fell. Regaining her strength, she again faced her awful task. For hours she fought alone. Others were engaged at their own homes, and were not in a position to know of Mrs. Blackwell's plight at the time. And so she fought on for hours, in the heat, smoke and anxiety. Her task was one that would rock the stoutest heart, but she kept going by sheer will power.

When she had won her fight and the home was safe, she went to the creek to get her baby. Lying in the shallow water beside the pram was a big boar pig that had been liberated with other pigs to save their lives, and found the creek the best place to shelter. It had not even moved the pram. The baby was smiling, though wet from the dripping blanket.

Resource and endurance were demanded of the brave woman, and with the exercise of those attributes she proved what women of the bush are made of and won the day.

The correspondent suggests that the heroic act should be suitably recognised by those who had the handing out of medals.

