Army aid to the fire ravaged Hobart area is being stepped-up today.

The Army today will fly-in from the mainland, five generators to relieve severe power shortages, and 400 mattresses for bedding at Brighton Camp.

Brighton Camp, some 15 miles north of Hobart, was thrown open yesterday to provide accommodation and food for up to 500 of the homeless, and weary victims are being directed towards the camp in increasing numbers.

At Anglesea Barracks, in the heart of Hobart, the Army Drill Hall has been converted into a make-shift hospital and has received 17 patients from St. John's Hospital.

It is also serving as a collecting point for lost children.

Since the fires began on Tuesday, soldiers and vehicles of Tasmania Command have been engaged continuously on fire fighting and rescue operations.

One hundred troops organised into five teams were later joined by approximately 500 CMF members of the 1st Royal Tasmania Regiment and 10th Field Ambulance, who were in annual camp at Buckland.

Five soldiers have been hospitalised from the effects of smoke.

Signals staff were flown from Victoria yesterday to restore Army communications which today are providing a 24 hour service to the mainland.

(Lists: A and B)

Further information:

CANBERRA: Major Alan Hinds (65-4061) (49-6030)

OTHER STATES: ADPR AT COMMAND HEADQUARTERS.