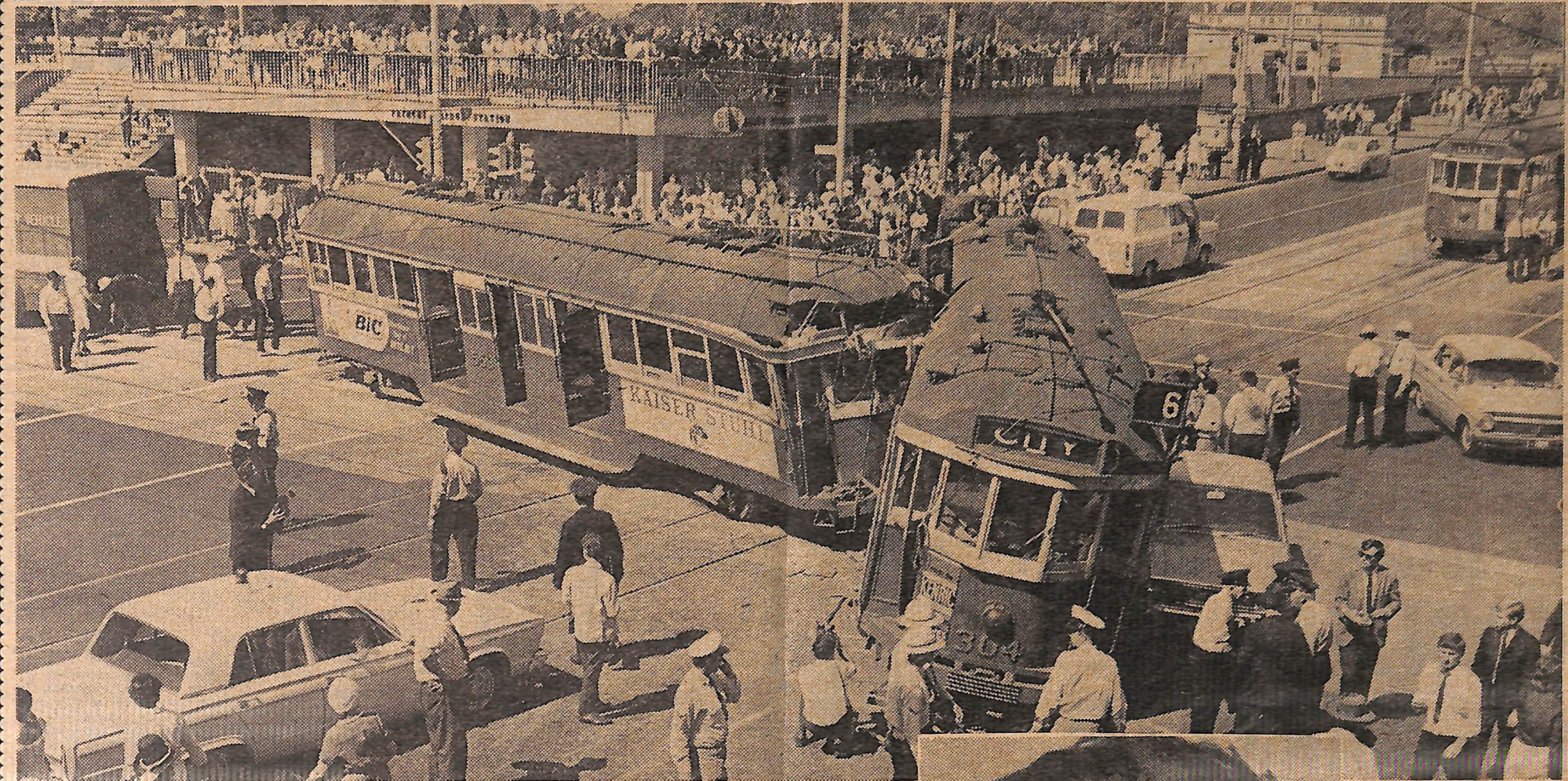
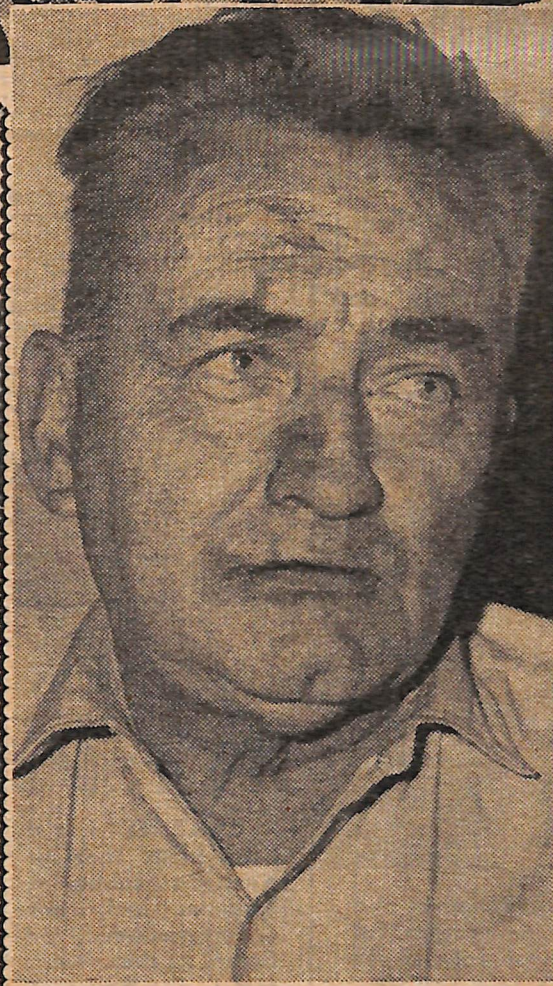


# Smash — right in the middle



• THE damaged trams in the middle of the Swanston St.-Flinders St. intersection



↑ MR JOHN MIDDLEMO, driver of the west-bound Flinders St. tram, in hospital after the accident.

**"I DIVED for the brake when a red sports car swerved in front of the tram — then somehow I hit my head on the glass window, and everything went black . . ."**

This is what tram-driver John Middlemo said after yesterday's spectacular two-tram collision at the corner of Flinders St. and Swanston St., City.

Mr Middlemo, 56, of Renshaw St., Doncaster, said later: "I'll never know what happened after I blacked out — everything must have happened so fast.

"One minute I was driving quietly down Flinders St., and the next minute this sports car cut right across in front of me."

His tram was travelling west towards Spencer St., and the Swanston St. tram was travelling north.

Mr Middlemo was one of 31 people taken to hospital after the pile-up.

No one was seriously hurt, but thousands of people jamming the intersection after the accident made it difficult for the eight ambulances.

A small late - model sedan, driven by Mrs G. Thompson, of Black St., Middle Brighton, was grazed by the Swanston St. tram when it was forced off the rails.

Mrs Thompson was treated for shock at the Red Cross headquarters, in Flinders St., and allowed to go home.

The only person still in hospital after the accident is Paul Williams, 24, of Alma Rd., St. Kilda. He was admitted to Prince Henry's Hospital with head injuries, but his condition is satisfactory.

The conductor on the Flinders St. tram, Mr Carl Barrett, 28, of Auburn Rd., Auburn, said: "I was thrown to the floor when we hit the other tram, and money and broken glass flew everywhere.

"A woman fell on top of me and started screaming, and I could see another woman nearby was bleeding from a gash in her arm."

The chairman of the Tramways Board, Mr R. J. H. Risson, who went to the accident scene, said there would be an immediate inquiry.