

The

ADT TRANSMITTER

vol. XIV. no. 1 — JANUARY — 1942



• LETTERS •

Especially Commended

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the excellent service that you rendered me on the night of December 6 in promptly investigating the alarm registered from my store.

You and your organization are to be especially commended for your prompt investigation of the alarm, and your immediate apprehension of the man who had entered the building.

It is probably needless for me to mention that your protection service has prevented my suffering a considerable loss of merchandise through theft, and that I would not dare think of allowing my premises to go without your protection.

MORRIS WIESENFELD

Morris Wiesenfeld
Dallas, Texas

Speed and Efficiency

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

We were very much pleased with the efficiency and promptness with which our A.D.T. Aero Fire Alarm System functioned on Thursday the 23rd.

Fortunately our own men were able to extinguish the blaze almost immediately, but it serves to indicate how quickly the job would be taken care of in the absence of our crew or their inability to cope with the situation.

R. M. YOUNG

Shand and Jurs Co.
Berkeley, California

Damage Cut Down

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

Just a word in appreciation of the splendid and efficient manner in which you and your people handled the fire alarm signal sent in to your office at 4:27 a.m. on October 15.

This prompt service was not only helpful but was also responsible for cutting down the amount of damage we would have had from water, had we not received your call.

G. A. MILLAR

General Electric Company
Hoboken, New Jersey

A NATION-WIDE ORGANIZATION

The American District Telegraph Company (A.D.T. System), established in 1873, is the only nation-wide organization specializing exclusively in supplying Central Station electrical fire and burglary protection services.

A.D.T. Services which protect property values in excess of twenty billions of dollars, have acquired an unequalled reputation in safeguarding lives and property against fire and burglary.

A.D.T. Central Stations serve upward of 27,000 subscribers in 350 cities and towns from coast to coast. A.D.T. Central Station Protection Services include the following:

SPRINKLER SUPERVISORY AND WATERFLOW ALARM: Makes the sprinkler an automatic fire alarm. Electrically detects and reports conditions that might impair proper functioning of the sprinkler system.

AERO AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM: Detects and reports fire automatically, instantly and accurately.

WATCHMAN SUPERVISORY AND MANUAL FIRE ALARM: Watchman's patrol stations are electrically connected with the Central Station, which investigates any failure to signal on time. Manual Fire Alarm Boxes provide means to summon fire department quickly and accurately.

HEATING SYSTEM SUPERVISION: Automatically detects and reports abnormal or sub-normal conditions of the heating system.

INDUSTRIAL SUPERVISION: Automatically detects and reports irregularities in conditions in industrial plants, such as temperature, mechanical operations, etc.

AUTOMATIC FIRE CONTROL FOR AIR DUCT SYSTEMS: Provides automatic fire and smoke detection and reporting devices, to meet the special fire hazards created by air conditioning, ventilating and other air duct systems.

BURGLAR ALARM: Any unlawful entry or irregular opening is automatically detected, and immediately investigated by armed A.D.T. guards with police cooperation.

HOLDUP ALARM: Provides means for secretly summoning police, without arousing suspicion, in case of attack by bandits or other emergency.

• EDITORIAL •

Plan for Plant Protection

The United States Office of Civilian Defense has issued a booklet setting forth a plan for the protection of industrial plants, business establishments, public buildings and the like, patterned after the system adopted in London, where it was found essential to make every plant as far as possible a self-contained unit for air-raid defense. The organization recommended consists of a plant defense coordinator and four heads of divisions, made up of the fire, police, medical and maintenance services. Within each division squads are organized to render the particular service for which the division is responsible. The smaller the plant, the simpler the protective organization will be, but provision for all aspects of protection is urged in every single establishment, regardless of size.

As the Civilian Defense booklet points out, the importance of a fire-fighting brigade in every plant cannot be overemphasized. Well trained, and equipped with the proper equipment for summoning assistance, they can render great service, even though no bombs may fall.

Equally important are the police services, charged with maintenance of discipline and morale and responsible for guards and watchmen. Sabotage and subversive activities are a constant menace in every part of the country, even if air raids may not be. It is therefore essential that watchmen be given all possible support, such as central station supervision so that they may summon assistance in case of attack. In many plants the A.D.T. Invisible Ray Alarm is now playing an important role in keeping out intruders.

How to organize an effective protection system is a problem which differs for every plant, but its measure of success will depend largely upon the thought, preparation and training put into it *now*.

On the Cover

United States Army troops patrol the huge Boeing Airplane Company plant in Seattle, engaged in turning out hundreds of Flying Fortresses and dive bombers. Like many other plants, it is also protected by A.D.T. Service.

The illustration is from Wide World.

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The ADT TRANSMITTER

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No. 1

TWO JEWEL THEFTS THWARTED

Dayton Burglars, Attempting to Loot Jewelry Store Windows, Smash and Grab but Fail to Make Getaway

"I don't know nothin' about it," snarled the man. "Leave me alone." But as he had emerged from the vestibule of Macys' jewelry store, Dayton, Ohio, on December 16 just as the police whizzed up to investigate an A.D.T. burglar alarm, the circumstances seemed a bit incriminating. Furthermore, a look at the premises showed that glass had been broken in the front door and also in the show window.

The man continued to avow his innocence of any part in the breakage, but his story fell completely to pieces when two of Macys' watches were found in his pocket and also sand which was similar to that on the stones used to break the glass.

About a week later, on Christmas Eve, a burglar alarm was received from another Dayton jewelry store. In just one minute guards and police reached the premises of the Beck Jewelry Enterprises and found a man standing at a broken window. In his pocket were two watches, all he had been able to seize after smashing the glass with a screwdriver. He was identified as Edwin Miller and placed under arrest.

Thanks to the speed of the police and A.D.T. guards, the Christmas season was made cheerless for Dayton burglars who attempted to plunder A.D.T. protected property.

FORGOTTEN IRON

Because someone forgot to disconnect an electric iron at the Glamour Blouse & Sportswear Company, New York, when the employees had left for the day it scorched the table on which it was resting which then broke into flames. Considerable damage might well have resulted

had not the automatic sprinkler system operated, which helped to quench the flames and also transmitted an A.D.T. waterflow alarm. The damage, which was confined to the table, amounted to \$300.

MOP SQUAD

A ringing sprinkler bell reached the ears of the watchman in the warehouse of Bullock's department store, Los Angeles, on October 10. Upon investigation he discovered that two sprinkler heads had opened because of a blaze in the basement where material stuck in a paper chute had ignited.

Turning in an A.D.T. fire alarm, he got quick help. The blaze was subdued without difficulty, and the salvage squad did such a commendable job of mopping up that there was no damage.

PITFALL

Dock Watchman Rescued After Suffering Serious Accident

Trudging briskly about Pier B at the Municipal Terminal, Portland, Oregon, Watchman Bluhm made his rounds on December 22. All was well until suddenly instead of the firm planks beneath his feet, he felt himself stepping off into space. . . .

There was no sign of Watchman Bluhm on the pier when A.D.T. guards arrived to investigate the reason for his failure to signal on time. After a considerable search they discovered a hole in the dock where flooring had been removed. In the chilly darkness several feet below lay the watchman, caught by some timbers which had prevented him from plunging into the river. The police and fire department were summoned to assist in extricating Mr. Bluhm and removing him to a hospital.

The guards reported the accident to company officials who obtained a relief watchman for the rest of the night.



Wide World
HOSPITAL DEATH TRAP—Five patients lost their lives in the Brunswick Home, Amityville, Long Island, in a fire which destroyed the structure early on the morning of November 18. There were forty patients in the private hospital when the outbreak started

BURGLARY

QUICK RECOVERY

"Fence" Returns to the Scene of the Crime

More than merely familiar-looking were the diamond ring and wrist watch which a young woman attempted to pawn in Ben's Loan and Mercantile Co., St. Louis, on Saturday evening, December 6. They had been stolen from the shop that very morning, as Leo Yaffe, an official of the company, at once recognized. Accordingly, while he plied the girl with seemingly businesslike questions about the jewelry, he secretly operated an A.D.T. Police Call.

In two minutes patrolmen arrived and took the woman into custody. At the police station she confessed that a man named Jimmy Thompson had given her the jewelry. The police then tracked down Thompson who finally confessed to having broken into the loan company early that morning.

Thompson had carried out his attack on the loan company by smashing a large hole in the window. But though he had counted on being able to get away with a large haul, he was able to seize only what lay within his grasp and make his

escape, for the breaking of the window operated an A.D.T. Burglar Alarm which brought the police within three minutes. All the articles that he took were recovered.

SURPRISED WINDOW-SHOPPER

Next to getting a bargain, probably few things are more fascinating to the ladies than window-shopping, yet a young woman in Chicago has abruptly lost all taste for the pastime. On Thanksgiving evening she was standing in rapt contemplation of the Grayson retail dress shop windows. She viewed the beguiling garments within from all angles—leaning against the glass to get a better view, then stepping back to get the right perspective. To her horror what had seemed solid glass behind her suddenly began to move . . . she was slowly propelled forward.

Still worse, a policeman approached and began to question her, then a red A.D.T. patrol car arrived, and still more policemen. Fortunately for the bewildered lady, the first patrolman had seen enough of her activities to understand her predicament. In her absorption she had leaned against the double door, which having been inadvertently left unbolted had swung open and set off an A.D.T. alarm.

OKAY — AT FIRST

Burglars' "Field Day" Is of Short Duration

Two heads were seen peering over the roof of the building in which the Ford Cut Rate Drug Co. of Buffalo is located. Policemen investigating an A.D.T. burglar alarm found no one on the rooftop when they reached there, but a thorough search soon revealed two young men hiding between the roof and a false ceiling in an adjoining building.

The captured pair had been having what promised at the outset to be a highly profitable evening. Unmolested, they had entered the building through a penthouse and proceeded at will through two offices, ruthlessly forcing open or smashing doors which offered an obstacle, ransacking desks, and picking up pens, gold medals and other articles. They had with them equipment in the form of a hammer, chisel and steel saw.

Encouraged by their success, the pair decided to have a try at the Ford Cut Rate Drug Co. next door. Had they but known it, the door which they forced was the first real setback in their path that evening. For it was A.D.T. protected, and consequently in a few minutes police and guards arrived, causing the two burglars to take refuge on the roof next door. It was when they saw that a cordon of police surrounded the building that they tried for a hiding place, only to be routed a short time later. Their assorted plunder was all returned.

CHRISTMAS EVE CALLER

Not playing Santa Claus was the man who visited the H. Blonder Co. of Cleveland on Christmas Eve; indeed he showed no holiday spirit whatsoever. Though he entered the wallpaper plant while it was still open for business, he took care to hide till after closing time. But almost immediately he attracted attention of the sort he most dreaded. Hearing voices and approaching footsteps, the visitor dove under a desk where police and A.D.T. guards soon found him and took him to the police station.

True, the visitor had no trouble getting in, but as soon as he emerged from his hiding place, he walked through the beam of an A.D.T. Invisible Ray Alarm which gave warning of his presence.



REDUCED TO RUINS—A mysterious explosion wrecked one of the plants at the Spencer Kellogg & Sons oil refinery, Edgewater, New Jersey, on December 14, killing one man and injuring another. No evidence of sabotage was found

International

BEAT HIM TO IT

To an awe-stricken Cleveland burglar there is something supernatural about the speed with which an A.D.T. Burglar Alarm operates. He had no sooner gone to work with a pick on the rear door of the Cleveland Paper Packing Co. than the door popped open and there, *on the inside*, was an A.D.T. guard! Black magic, that's what it was.

What actually happened was that Guard Young was at the paper company December 17, checking up on the A.D.T. Burglar Alarm equipment. Just as he was about to leave, the mechanism indicated an open line. Upon investigation the guard discovered a burglar in the very act of trying to force his way in.

Identified by officials of the company as a former employee, the would-be intruder was turned over to the police. There was, of course, no loss.

THIRTY-ONE BURGLARS WERE CAPTURED DURING DECEMBER AS THE RESULT OF A.D.T. BURGLAR ALARMS

FIRE

SHELTERED BLAZE

Early Morning Fire Gets off to a Good Start

Underneath a large cutting table in the Williamson-Dickie Manufacturing Company of Fort Worth, Texas, fire broke out in the early morning hours of December 21. Like almost all fires, it was small at the start, but with no one in the building to check its progress, it grew in size, feeding on nearby scraps and waste. The heat of the blaze fused five sprinkler heads but, shielded by the table from the streams of water, the fire burned steadily on. It might have continued to burn for some time, causing immense water damage as well, except for the fact that the operation of the sprinklers transmitted an A.D.T. waterflow alarm. Firemen, therefore, were soon on hand to extinguish the blaze and also to check the flow of water.

Fire department officials stated that the fire was probably caused by a discarded cigarette.



ALMOST A PYRE—Flames spread through an Atlanta theatre twenty minutes after funeral services were held for its manager. Four firemen were injured fighting the blaze

TIMELY SUMMONS

In the middle of the night of December 23, fire broke out in waste material on top of some seed bins at the Farm Bureau Services of Lansing, Michigan. Luckily the building was equipped with a supervised sprinkler system so that when a sprinkler head operated, an A.D.T. waterflow alarm also was transmitted.

Firemen arriving a few moments later were just in time to check the fire from starting up the side of an open elevator



RACING FLAMES—Fire raged through several stables at the Laurel, Maryland, track on November 28. One valuable horse perished, but about forty others were led to safety

shaft near the seed bins. The loss amounted to about three hundred dollars, most of it caused by water damage to a small stock of seeds. The cause of the outbreak was not determined.

STORE FIRES

Towards two o'clock in the morning of November 20, fire broke out in the paper chute at the Golden Rule Store, St. Paul, Minnesota. Fortunately, the department store was equipped with a supervised sprinkler system that operated to quench the blaze, at the same time transmitting an A.D.T. waterflow alarm. The result was that before any extensive damage had been done, firemen were on hand to extinguish the blaze and also to prevent water damage.

At Boggs & Buhl, Pittsburgh department store, a fire occurred during store hours on November 19 when paper towels in a waste container burst into flame. The fusing of a sprinkler head resulted in an A.D.T. waterflow alarm which summoned the fire department. The blaze was confined to the washroom where it started, and no loss or excitement occurred.

BEEF, WELL-DONE

First there was a faint odor of something burning; then whiffs of smoke seeped persistently down the stairs. The janitor in the basement of the Seaboard Building in Seattle sniffed suspiciously, and as the clouds of acrid smoke increased in volume, operated an A.D.T. fire alarm box.

A.D.T. guards and firemen who responded found that the smell and the smoke were emanating from an oven in the lunchroom of Bartell's Drugstore on the first floor where a forgotten roast of beef had long since reached and passed the well-done stage. No damage was done except to the meat. From that, not even enough for a sandwich could be salvaged.

IN AT THE START

Spontaneous ignition caused by oily rags was believed responsible for the fire which broke out on a truck filled with wood trimmings and scraps, parked in-

side the entrance at the N. & E. Walter Company, wholesale dry goods dealers, San Francisco. Whatever the cause, in the early morning hours material on the truck was burning briskly.

Even though no one was on the premises, a fire alarm was received at the A.D.T. Central Station. Firemen who responded broke into the Walters company, pulled the truck outside and extinguished the blaze, while the underwriters' patrol opened windows to free the premises from smoke.

In spite of the absence of any employees, the A.D.T. Aero Automatic Fire Alarm System had picked up the blaze and transmitted an alarm. Thanks to Aero's prompt functioning, the only damage was a pane of glass broken by the heat and some blistered paint on the nearby wall. Otherwise no appreciable harm was done.

FIRE IN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME

Bedecked with tinsel and twinkling lights, the Christmas tree in the Old People's Home in San Francisco was all aglitter on December 21. But in a few short seconds the tree's cheerful gleam changed to an ominous glare as a short circuit in the lighting system started a blaze which almost instantly enveloped the dry branches.

However, since the home was equipped

with the A.D.T. Aero System, the fire was promptly detected and an alarm transmitted automatically. Firemen readily checked the blaze with no danger to the residents and no damage except for the tree and scorched ceiling and walls nearby.

WATCHMEN

UNFAIR TO THIEVES

Cold Days Are at Hand for Coal Pilferers

If they could only say what they think, several light-fingered residents of Covington, Kentucky, might picket the Hatfield Campbell Creek Coal Co. with signs reading, "Unfair to Thieves!"

On November 30 Watchman Beck discovered a man pilfering coal and ordered him off the premises. When the thief boldly refused, the watchman transmitted an emergency call from an A.D.T. Watchman's Security Station. Police and A.D.T. guards who responded placed the man under arrest. He was fined and sent to jail for ten days.

Three weeks later, possibly emboldened in the time that had elapsed, thieves again attempted to loot the coal

yard. About four a.m. on December 21, discovering the intruders at work, Watchman Carter also availed himself of the Watchman's Security Station. Again the police apprehended one of the men. Several hours later that same day another emergency signal from the watchman resulted in the capture of two more trespassers.

Since the installation of A.D.T. service to combat this nuisance more than a dozen coal thieves have been captured at the Hatfield Campbell Creek Coal Co.

FALL FATAL

When Herbert Walker, night watchman at San Francisco's Plaza Hotel, failed to signal on November 20, the A.D.T. Central Station promptly dispatched guards to investigate. It was found that Mr. Walker apparently had fallen from the stairway between the sixth and seventh floors, killing himself instantly. Hotel officials stated that the watchman had appeared in good spirits during his tour of duty and there was no doubt that his fall was accidental.

FIRE IN AIR DUCT

A burning cigarette, carelessly discarded by a passer-by, dropped into a ventilator in front of the Boston Store, Columbus, Ohio, and ignited the dust in an air duct on November 26. Luckily, the incipient blaze soon caught the attention of a watchman on duty who operated an A.D.T. Manual Fire Alarm. Prompt response by firemen resulted in the extinguishment of the outbreak with no loss whatever.

ORGANIZATION

PENSIONED EMPLOYEES

Two more A.D.T. employees recently became eligible for pensions. Miss Anna Bray, cashier at the Kansas City, Missouri, office from October, 1893, retired on pension December 1, 1941.

C. E. Lamb, guard-operator at the Washington, D. C., office since 1917, retired on pension October 23, 1941.



Press Association

PREPAREDNESS—The Merchandise Mart in Chicago has installed mobile air raid protection equipment which, as illustrated, can easily be trundled into a passenger elevator

THE ROSTRUM

Devoted to Open Discussion of Protection Problems

ALL THE EGGS IN ONE BASKET

The Fire Chief Shows How Failure to Subdivide Values Has Contributed to the Nation's Enormous Fire Loss

By PAUL W. KEARNEY

"That," snorted the Chief, "is exactly what I was trying to tell that fellow down at the X.Y.Z. Company this morning." Sliding a fire protection magazine across the desk to Captain Shannon, he jabbed his finger at an editorial. "Read it," he commanded in his best third-alarm manner. And as the captain began to read, the Chief recited it almost verbatim.

"The real answer to the question of large-loss fires is subdivision of values to restrict the amount subject to a single fire," he repeated. "Exactly what I told him. What difference does it make whether your fire starts from sabotage or from a short circuit or a cigarette butt—the question is, what's it going to do after it gets started?"

"At the X.Y.Z. Company it's going to do plenty because they've got carloads of raw materials—which they can't replace in a year—stored in a lot of claptrap, quick-burning buildings that were empty in the first place because they were no good. And that's not all. Not satisfied with putting that valuable stuff in a joint which will go up like a box of matches, they cram the stuff in so that a mouse couldn't turn around in there."

The Chief got up and stamped around the desk.

"I see it all over the city. Even if the storage buildings aren't rattraps, they've got two and three times the inventories they ever had, all concentrated in congested locations so a \$500 blaze can do \$50,000 worth of damage without half trying. And at a time when you have to have a letter signed by everybody from the President down before you can get a replacement order even on a waiting list!"

"You're right, Chief," agreed Captain Shannon.

"Right!" snorted the Chief as violently as if the captain had disagreed. "Of

course I'm right. And from what I heard from the boys up at the Fire Chiefs' Convention in Boston, the same thing goes on all over the country. Excessive concentrations of stocks, quick-burning storage buildings, no automatic fire alarms, sprinklers without central station supervision . . . and watchmen, if there are any, not given outside support or proper emergency equipment. And lots of times, even with good protection, they cancel it right out by piling the stuff so high the sprinklers get no distribution—or so tight that the water can't get down in.

"Another mistake they make is overloading floors in manufacturing buildings which were never designed for storage—just like that mill you reported with a 135-pound load on a 75-pound floor. It wouldn't have taken much water at a ton a minute to collapse that place!"

The Chief sank back into his chair and shook his head dolefully. "It beats me,

all right, that people who are smart enough to be able to buy a million dollars' worth of stuff should be so dumb about taking care of it when they get it.

"Look at that Fall River fire: 18,000 tons of crude rubber, a substantial part of the nation's reserve, gone up in smoke. The loss of the buildings, equipment and stock amounted to \$5,000,000—which is more than all the fellows in this department could earn in a hundred years. But the loss on the crude rubber stock was *nine millions* more. And now the squinty little Japs are straddling the source of supply!"

"Out in Ohio four thousand tons of scrap rubber *stored in one pile* caught fire, and before the boys could break it up enough to get in at it, over a thousand tons were destroyed.

"And do you remember that lumberyard fire at Philadelphia? Four and a half acres of lumber, \$900,000 worth of it, went up in that one, because it was piled too close and thirty feet high.

"I could go on all night. It just shows that editorial is right in saying that in order to avoid large-loss fires you've got to restrict the amount subject to a single fire.

"All that means when you translate it is, *don't put all your eggs in one basket*. But what I want to know, Shannon, is how on earth we can say it to people so they'll believe it?"



VITAL RUBBER GONE—Improper storage facilities and too much value in one place were largely responsible for the huge loss in the fire at a Fall River plant on October 12. Though sprinklers operated, watchman shut valves, reopened them too late

**AND A FURNACE
IS FIREPROOF
TOO....**



The steel and concrete of a "fireproof" building cannot burn. But *what's inside* that steel and concrete *can burn*...and when fire gains headway in such structures, they become in effect large-scale furnaces!

Countless cases of disastrous losses to contents, with consequent interruption of business, in all types of fire resistant structures, are eloquent proof of the fact that—until a way is found to fireproof the contents of buildings—the two fundamental principles of effective fire protection will remain the same: prompt discovery of fire, and prompt and accurate alarms.

To assure prompt discovery of fire, and prompt and accurate alarms, A.D.T. provides two Automatic Fire Detecting and Reporting Systems:

A. D. T. AUTOMATIC FIRE DETECTING AND REPORTING SYSTEMS

Controlled Companies of **AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.**, 155 Sixth Avenue, New York, N. Y.
CENTRAL STATION OFFICES IN ALL PRINCIPAL CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES

Sprinkler Supervisory and Waterflow Alarm: (for sprinklered buildings). Makes the sprinkler an automatic fire alarm, automatically summoning the fire department the instant a sprinkler head opens, or when a serious leak occurs, thereby minimizing fire and water damage. Also maintains an automatic check on shut-off valves and other points controlling the supply and distribution of water.

Aero Automatic Fire Alarm: (for unsprinklered buildings, or in conjunction with sprinklers). Automatically detects fire *when it starts*, and automatically summons the fire department.

In many cases adoption of these A.D.T. Services results in immediate, substantial savings by making it possible to revise or eliminate other protection measures that are more costly but less effective.

Write for further information.

ADT

Electric Protection Services
AGAINST FIRE · BURGLARY · HOLDUP
A NATION-WIDE ORGANIZATION