

The

ADT TRANSMITTER

vol. XIV. no. 11 — NOVEMBER — 1942



• LETTERS •

Aero Proves Its Worth

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

The fire scare we had during the last month convinced me, as nothing else would have done, of the value of your Aero Automatic Fire Alarm Service. This small fire could easily have developed into something of big proportions, and I feel confident that if we had not had your Aero Fire Alarm Service we would have had a most disastrous fire here in our factory.

The night watchman was downstairs in the office cleaning up when a motor on which the switch had been left turned on overheated and started the fire at one of the machines. The night watchman would not have known anything about it until the whole sewing room was ablaze.

JOHN K. HICKS

Hicks-Hayward Co.
El Paso, Texas

Satisfactory Services

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

The manner in which you handled the alarm received on August 6 was very satisfactory. We are glad to say that at all times your service has been very satisfactory and your men very courteous and efficient in performing their duties.

DON R. JACOB

Bond Stores
Cincinnati, Ohio

100% Service

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

In reply to yours of the 20th in regard to the sprinkler alarm on October 19 when combustion started in the coal bin, we certainly appreciate the service that we received from the A.D.T. For a great number of years we maintained our own watchman but after some sad experiences we decided to turn to the A.D.T. We can truthfully tell you that their service as far as we are concerned is just 100 per cent. If we have any more buildings to equip, they will be equipped with A.D.T.

E. R. SPENCE

Rundle-Spence Manufacturing Co.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

A NATION-WIDE ORGANIZATION

The American District Telegraph Company (A.D.T.), founded 1873, is the only nation-wide organization specializing exclusively in electric protection services.

A.D.T. Central Stations serve upward of 32,000 subscribers in 350 municipalities from coast to coast. The aggregate property values protected by A.D.T. exceed twenty-two billion dollars. This figure does not include the values of cash and securities in the U.S. Treasury, U.S. Mints, Federal Reserve Banks and branches, thousands of banks throughout the country, or the U.S. bullion depositories at Fort Knox and West Point, all of which employ one or more A.D.T. Protection Services.

SPRINKLER SUPERVISORY AND WATERFLOW ALARM: Makes the sprinkler an automatic fire alarm. Electrically supervises all vital parts of the sprinkler system.

AERO AUTOMATIC FIRE DETECTING AND ALARM SYSTEM: Detects fire and summons fire department automatically.

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 the fire department quickly and accurately.

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

HOLDUP ALARM: Provides means for secretly summoning police in case of attack by bandits or other emergency.

INVISIBLE RAY (PHOTOELECTRIC) ALARM: Protective medium is beam of invisible light. For boundary protection, paralleling fences, and for any open areas indoors or out.

TELAPPROACH: Surrounds safe or metal cabinet with a field of radio waves. Approach of any person within the electrical field results in an alarm.

HEATING SYSTEM SUPERVISION: Automatically detects and reports abnormal conditions in heating systems.

INDUSTRIAL PROCESS SUPERVISION: Automatically detects and reports abnormal conditions in various industrial operations.

AUTOMATIC FIRE CONTROL FOR AIR DUCT SYSTEMS: Provides automatic smoke and fire detecting and alarm devices for air conditioning and other air duct systems.

• EDITORIAL •

Let's Stay Awake

In an excellent editorial in *Volunteer Fireman*, the National Fire Protection Association comments on the nation's fire losses for the first eight months of 1942, a year which got off to an exceedingly bad start in that respect. For the first two months the losses were nearly \$14,000,000 above those for the corresponding period in 1941, *not including* the huge loss involved in the destruction of the former Normandie. Since that time, however, the losses have not only been lower than last year but enough lower to offset the handicap of the first two months.

The *Volunteer Fireman* is inclined to attribute this improvement, which has been accomplished in spite of wartime conditions of speeded-up production and increased hazards, to the fact that not since the great San Francisco conflagration of 1906 has any other fire so aroused the American people as the burning of the Normandie. Apparently this disaster at last made us heed the fire prevention message which fire-fighting organizations had for so long been vehemently trying to get across to us. We began to see that fire losses mean far more than a headache for the insurance companies. We awoke to the fact that every fire does help the Axis and that goods which fire destroys constitute an irrevocable loss to our side in the war.

The editorial aptly recalls Charles Lamb's famous essay, "Dissertation on Roast Pig," which ascribes the invention of cooking to the accidental burning of a building housing a pig, after which a house had to be burned whenever roast pig was desired. It is seriously to be hoped that never again shall we need the burning of a Normandie to awaken us to the destructiveness of fire.

We still have much to accomplish, for though we have reduced our fire losses since the appalling start, a total of \$211,172,000 in eight months offers no grounds for complacency. Now that we have had our eyes opened, let us see what we can do.

On the Cover

The photograph of the fireman on this month's cover is from John Mills, Jr.

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The ADT TRANSMITTER

VOL. XIV

NOVEMBER, 1942

No. 11

BLAZE MENACES WAR ORDERS

Fire in Clothing Factory Endangers Thousands of Dollars' Worth of Goods but Aero Alarm Calls Assistance

The day's work over, all was calm and peaceful at the Hicks-Hayward Co., makers of work clothing in El Paso, Texas. The watchman on the premises whistled cheerfully as he went about his duties cleaning up the office.

Suddenly an ominous sound cut through the evening stillness; the watchman straightened from his task and listened. Fire engines! And they were clanging to a stop right outside. Another moment, and firemen came bursting in.

On the floor above were hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of Army and Navy dungarees being manufactured for the Government, vast stocks of materials from which more were to be fash-

ioned, and of course the irreplaceable machines for turning out the work. Nearby, a motor on which the switch had not been turned off became overheated, starting a fire at one of the machines which in a few minutes was blazing fiercely, unknown to the watchman who had no occasion to go to the floor above at that time.

Nevertheless, in spite of the inauspicious circumstances — building closed, watchman elsewhere, inflammable material nearby — the outbreak failed to reach serious proportions. Thanks to the foresight of the factory officials, an A.D.T. Aero System had been installed which automatically detected the fire

and transmitted an alarm. So quickly were the firemen on the premises that they were able to attack the fire at its start, with a loss of less than twenty-five dollars. In the opinion of factory officials, only the action of the Aero Alarm prevented a disastrous outbreak.

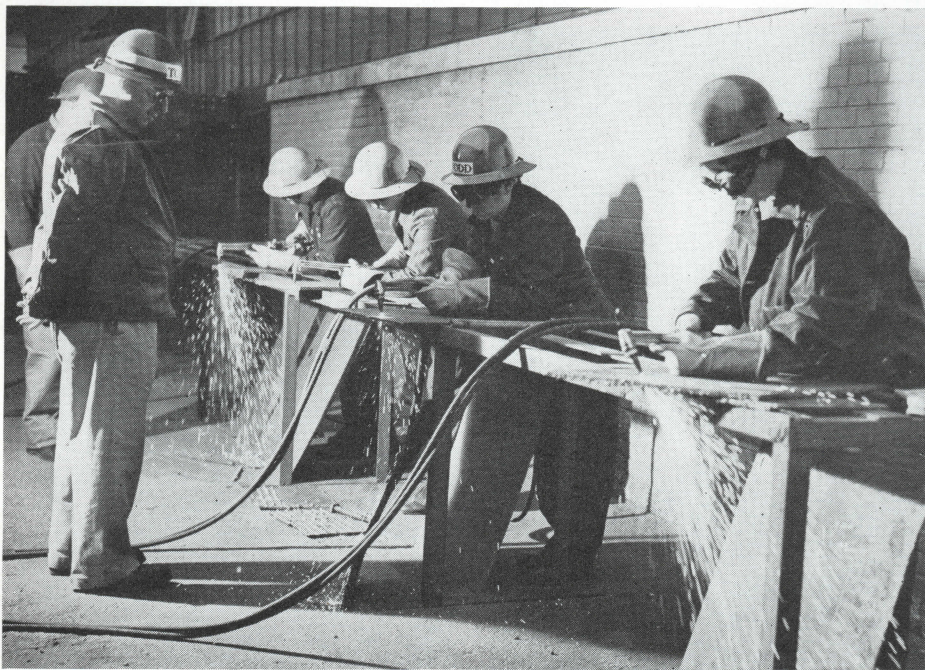
PULLED OUT A PLUM

Whoever broke into the Union Store in Covington, Kentucky, appeared to have taken his departure when the police and A.D.T. guards got there, probably through the same window where he forced his way in and where he disturbed the Burglar Alarm equipment. And with him, according to a check-up made by the proprietor, went twenty-eight dollars from a cash drawer. That, at any rate, was the conclusion after a thorough search had been made.

But persistent Guard Conley, bent on taking a last look, saw a coat in one of the racks in a case quiver almost imperceptibly. Quickly he reached in between the suits and pulled forth a frightened man. He was identified as Richard Ashcraft, recently released from a reformatory, and in his pockets were the missing twenty-eight dollars.

BROKEN BALCONY

During the night hours recently an overloaded balcony collapsed in the Linden Station warehouse, Memphis, and smashed a sprinkler pipe. Fortunately, however, the accident was soon discovered, for the water gushing from the broken pipe resulted in an A.D.T. waterflow alarm, bringing firemen and A.D.T. guards prepared to meet the emergency. Some damage was done to canned goods, soap and matches, but if the water had continued to flow until the next morning much valuable material would have been ruined.



Press Association

LEARNING TO "BURN"—Women trainees in the Todd Erie Basin Dry Dock in Brooklyn get their first lesson in oxyacetylene burning. A.D.T. Services help to protect Todd shipyards all over the country from the hazards of fire and sabotage

BURGLARY

THE MARINES LANDED HIM

Two Leathernecks Lend a Hand in Capturing Thief

Unexpected reinforcements came to the assistance of A.D.T. guards on September 23. Responding to an alarm from Mac Willis's jewelry store in Toledo, they met two Marines with a prisoner in tow. No, not a Jap; it was a burglar who had the bad judgment to break a protected window and the bad luck to do so when the leathernecks were in the vicinity.

The hapless captive, who gave his name as William Temple, smashed a hole in the window with a brick and snatched a handful of watches. But the sharp-eyed Marines spotted him and pursued him through an alley to the next street where they had the situation well in hand when the guards arrived.

Four watches were picked up by the police and another by a pedestrian the next day. The only loss was a fifty-dollar watch which the thief cast to the winds in his headlong flight. Temple—like the rest of us—doesn't think the Japs have a chance with those Marines.

MADE A BREAK FOR IT

In desperation two burglars jumped through the glass in the front door of the Daw Drugs Co. of Rochester, New York, on September 27, when the arrival of the police indicated that resistance was useless. One managed to get away but the other was captured. They broke into the building by smashing a pane of glass in the rear door and unlocking it from the outside, but in the process they disturbed the A.D.T. Burglar Alarm equipment. The only loss was about \$2.50 missing from the cash drawer, which presumably the escaped thief had in his possession.

LIGHT-FINGERED LASSIES

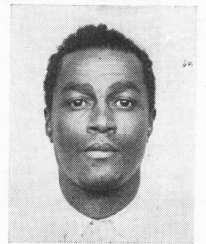
It was a peaceful Sunday afternoon in October, but at the Brown-Forman Distillery Company of Louisville, trouble seemed to be afoot, for a burglar alarm indicated that an effort had been made to enter the premises. The A.D.T. guards who responded to the alarm found that an attempt had been made to get in but without success. Half an hour later there was a second alarm which brought results.

This time the guards found the culprits hiding under a box car; they were

not hardened thugs, but three young women. They admitted making an earlier attempt and hiding till it was safe to make a second try. This time they succeeded in entering a warehouse where they went to the girls' dressing room and picked up several umbrellas and a light snack in the form of some eatables. The wayward ladies were identified as old offenders who had been reported many times; the ringleader had served a term in a detention home.

MISNOMER

Harold Good was not what his name implied. He had a yen to get into the Samuel Stores in Columbus, Ohio, in order to augment his depleted finances, so he boldly crashed his way through the skylight. His nerve had wholly deserted him a few minutes later, however, when the police found him cowering in a dressing room, vainly trying to escape detection.



Harold Good

Good was placed under arrest and admitted that it would not be his first visit to the hoosegow. In this instance it was the A.D.T. Burglar Alarm equipment on the skylight which led to his undoing, in four minutes flat.

STOPPED SHORT

In the back yard of Murphy's Grill in Boston, early on the morning of October 24, policemen captured two young men who admitted that they were trying to get into the premises. The route they planned to take was the rear transom window which, being A.D.T. protected, was the means of putting an abrupt stop to their activities. In two minutes the A.D.T. alarm which they disturbed brought patrolmen to the scene before the two culprits had really made a start.

FREAK ACCIDENT

The broken show windows in Flak's, Denver wholesale tobacco dealers, seemed at first glance to be the work



Press Association

YARN FEEDS FLAMES—Fire raging in factory of the Royal Yarn Company at Pawtucket, Rhode Island, on October 11, when this plant and another mill working on yarn for Army cloth were both destroyed by a \$100,000 blaze

of window-smashing thieves, but the A.D.T. guards who had come to investigate soon saw that a freak accident was the cause. A passing automobile shed a wheel which jumped the curb and struck two front windows. A search disclosed no other damage, however, and the driver was not detained by the police.

FIRE

OUTSIDE INFORMATION

Store Employee Told of Fire by Telephone

"I smell smoke," declared the porter in the Philipsborn department store in Washington as he entered the cashier's office during the evening of September 29.

It was after hours, but Miss Irene Grubbs, the cashier, was working late. She sniffed the air anxiously. "So do I," she agreed.

Just then the telephone bell rang shrilly, as if confirming their suspicions, and they both jumped. On the telephone was the Washington A.D.T. Central Station calling to inform Miss Grubbs that a fire alarm had been received from the store and that the fire department was on its way. A moment afterwards, before Miss Grubbs and the porter had time to investigate, the firemen and an A.D.T. guard arrived.

The fire proved to be in an alteration



SAVED FROM FIRE—The Philipsborn department store, Washington, where the Aero Alarm proved its worth



Press Association
FIRE FIGHTING AT SEA—Crew battles flames after torpedo strikes U. S. tanker. The blast stove in the plates and twisted steel railings and ladder

room on the fifth floor, probably caused by a short circuit in the wiring. Though the blaze broke out after hours with no one nearby to observe it, the A.D.T. Aero System detected it almost at the start and automatically transmitted an alarm. At the scene only two minutes later, firemen readily extinguished it before it had gained any headway. The damage resulting from smoke, water and the fire itself amounted to \$3500 and would have been far greater, store officials asserted, had it not been for the prompt warning of the Aero System.

COOK'S NIGHT OUT

The chef of the steamer Put-In Bay, tied up at the dock in Detroit, was peacefully enjoying an after-dinner cigar in his sleeping quarters. Then friends called for him and the chef roused himself from his meditations and hurried out.

A short time later firemen came speeding up to the quiet pier, consulted the A.D.T. Aero Annunciator on the ship, and made a beeline for the chef's sleeping quarters which were found to be ablaze. His abandoned cigar had fallen to a nearby wicker chair and started a fire burning merrily. The A.D.T. Aero System, however, had detected the blaze and automatically transmitted an alarm.

Because the fire was discovered in its incipient stage, it had no chance to spread throughout the boat, and the loss was confined to about seventy-five dollars.

INVITATIONS TO DISASTER

Welding fires constitute a grave danger to America's all-important ship-building program, but in numerous instances recently through the agency of A.D.T. alarms they have been promptly quelled with little or no damage.

On two successive days fires caused by welding broke out at the boat building plant of George Lawley & Sons Corporation in Boston but in both cases the prompt use of an A.D.T. Manual Alarm helped to prevent loss.

At the Richmond Shipbuilding Corporation in Oakland the flame from a welder's torch set fire to oil and grease on the deck of a hull under construction. One of the shipfitters ran to turn in an A.D.T. alarm, and firemen quickly arrived to extinguish the blaze without damage.

At the Todd Shipbuilding Corporation in Richmond, California, a somewhat similar accident took place on the staging around another hull in process of construction. Here, too, sparks from a torch ignited acetylene hose, which



Press Association
BURNED BOOKS—Columnist Dorothy Thompson and Fire Captain Raymond McCreash inspect volumes damaged by fire which broke out in library of her home in New York on November 4

in turn ignited the staging, but due to the promptness with which an A.D.T. alarm was turned in, firemen arrived before the ship was damaged.

WEEK-END FLOOD

The last person to take a drink of water in the F. C. Clayton Co., Detroit men's clothing store, on September 26, must have had his mind on his approaching Saturday night date, for he evidently didn't notice that the fountain was not turned off. With the building closed for the week end, all night long and all the next day the water bubbled forth unobserved.

About midnight Sunday, A. D. T. guards arrived at the Clayton store on a hunt for burglars, but one look inside showed them they had a minor flood on their hands. The first floor was afloat and more water was dripping through the ceiling. Notified by the A.D.T. Central Station, store officials at once set porters to work cleaning up the water, with the guards also lending a hand.

If the flow of water had not grounded the A.D.T. Burglar Alarm equipment, employees returning to work on Monday would have been greeted by a flooded store, and serious damage would have been done to the stock.

PRISON BLAZE

There were several tense moments at the Utah State Prison in Salt Lake City on the evening of August 5, for some grease in the kitchen caught fire and though the blaze was not serious at the start, if it got out of control, there might be dire consequences.

The employees, however, having been thoroughly drilled in regard to any such emergency, instantly turned in an A.D.T. manual fire alarm. The fire department thus summoned was able to deal with the outbreak before any damage or any commotion had resulted. In accordance with instructions the A.D.T. Central Station also dispatched all available law enforcement agencies in order to be fully prepared for any contingency.

WATCHMEN

NABBED ON ROOF

Alert Watchman Responsible for Capture of Two Criminals

Two men, by their own admission up to no good, were captured on the roof of the garage belonging to the Rose

Bros. Company of Cincinnati during the night of October 5. They later confessed that they were trying to get into the main building by way of the garage roof, and that their ultimate purpose was robbery.

It was due to the watchman that the men were foiled in accomplishing their objective. He spied them skulking on the roof and at once communicated with the Central Station, which brought police and guards in a hurry. Both the men had long records, according to the police, and had served time at the penitentiary for safecracking. They were charged with several recent safe robberies in addition to their futile attempt to force their way into the Rose Bros. property.

PROWLERS APPREHENDED

During a recent evening, two men registered for entrance to the thirteenth floor of the First Central Tower Building in Akron and were duly taken up in the elevator. About twenty minutes later the watchman saw the pair prowling about the twenty-fifth floor. Suspecting that the men were up to no good, he communicated with the A.D.T. Central Station in order to obtain speedy assistance.

A.D.T. guards who responded took the two men into custody until the police arrived. As it was learned that they had no business in the building and were not acquainted with any of the tenants, the consensus was that they had entered with intent to steal and were observing the watchman's rounds in order to time their actions. They were removed to police headquarters pending an investigation.

ORGANIZATION

PENSIONED EMPLOYEE

After fifty-one years of service in the employ of the A.D.T. Company, G. W. Gauler was retired on pension effective November 1, 1942. Mr. Gauler who was assistant superintendent at the Chicago-Main Office joined the company in November, 1891.



Wide World

BACK-YARD BOMB SHELTER—William W. Schumacher of Detroit in the private shelter which he built in his back yard around two eight-foot sections of sewer pipe. The flat concrete top of the shelter, which is reached from the basement through a heavy fire door, serves as a back porch

THE ROSTRUM

Devoted to Open Discussion of Protection Problems

SOMETHING NEW HAS BEEN ADDED

The Chief Gives the Latest Word on the Newest Explosive Incendiary Bombs Now Being Used by the Enemy

By PAUL W. KEARNEY

A member of the watchman's school where the Fire Chief was giving a talk rose and signaled for the Chief's attention.

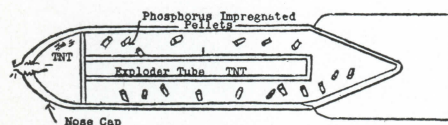
"As I get it," he said, "the jet or spray argument we hear so much about applies to the two-pound magnesium bomb—suppose they don't use that kind of bomb?"

"Brother," boomed the Chief as he rustled through his papers, "you've got something there! Let me read some snatches from this OCD bulletin dated October 24 which came to me from *Fire Engineering* this morning.

"The enemy," says the first paragraph, 'recently has employed new types of bombs—both large incendiaries and the usual small type with a more powerful explosive charge in the nose set off by a time fuse.' Let's consider the latter first.

"The weight of this small bomb has been increased to about five pounds and, I understand, it contains about a half pound, more or less, of TNT. This is very different from the 'firecracker' charge they used to use to make a bomb bounce around, for a half pound of TNT will really do business at close quarters, and don't you forget it!

"On a time fuse, there's no knowing when the thing will go off. It may be right after it ignites; it may not be for five — seven — ten minutes. So, this knocks into a cocked hat a lot of the

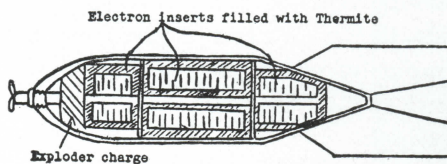


PHOSPHORUS PELLET BOMB—This 110-bomb is filled with rubber pellets impregnated with phosphorus. Like the other bombs shown in diagrams on this page, it is known to have been used by the Japanese in their present campaigns

technique we've been teaching about the two-pounders.

"The bulletin says, 'A brick wall four and one-half inches thick is considered full protection against the charge used in the small magnesium bombs.' Which means that if you haven't got a four-inch brick wall in your pocket, you've got to keep down low behind some cover and far away from these new babies until they go off. Forget all you've heard about shoveling them into sand pails, dropping sand bags on them, or doing anything else that requires getting in close.

"With a heavy fire stream, of course, you can wash them away from you to the extreme limits of the working area, but you've still got a new problem of personal exposure which you didn't have before. And you positively have



THERMIT INCENDIARY—This 132-pound bomb contains three magnesium alloy fire pots filled with thermit. When the bomb falls, the fire pots are ignited by means of a fuse. Simultaneously, the fuse ignites a charge which ejects and scatters the fire pots from the bomb case, thus increasing the radius of damage

got to protect yourself and your men from flying fragments when and if the charge explodes.

"But be that as it may," continued the Chief, sweeping the entire group with a gimlet eye, "the basic problem remains the same. As the ads say, 'Something new has been added.' But these things are still fire bombs. Their sole purpose is to start and spread lots of blazes. The reason for the TNT is simply to keep the fire fighters at a respectful

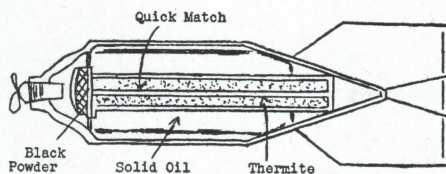
distance until the fire makers can really get to work. So what? So we're right back to the thing we've been harping on all along: From the standpoint of destruction, the fire the bomb starts is a darn sight more important than the bomb!

"To be sure, the old two-pound, four-teen-inch bomb is still being used by the Germans. But whether you run into that one, or the new twenty-one-inch, five-pounder—or even the bigger, 110-pounders containing high explosives and oil, phosphorus, magnesium, impregnated rubber pellets or whatnot—the fact remains that fire is the bomb's main threat. And the best antidote to fire is plenty of water!

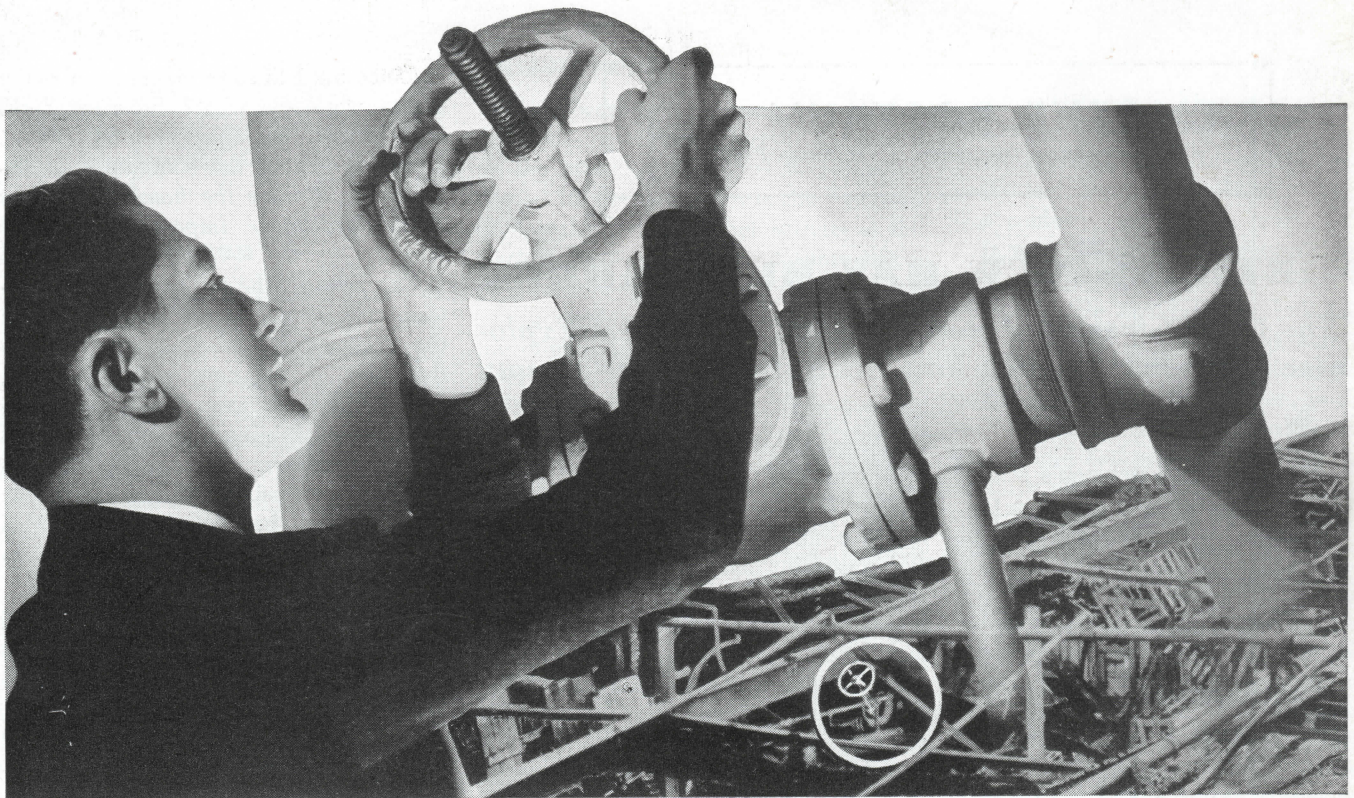
"Now I don't have to tell you that the addition of high explosives means we've got to look sharp to our water supplies and reserve reservoirs.

"And I guess you men don't need me to point out that our best defense against incendiary bombs is still the automatic sprinkler system that is in A-1 operative condition—meaning the system that is kept under outside central station supervision. Sprinklers did a marvelous job in London all through the worst of their blitz notwithstanding the generous use of enormous H. E. bombs by the Nazis. They'll work even better with these new five-pounders because they don't have to hide behind a four-and-a-half-inch wall waiting for the blast before they go to work."

The Chief waved toward his interrogator and grinned. "This was a pretty windy answer to your question, Mister, but it all boils down to this: Whether you meet a new bomb or an old one, a big one or a little one, a magnesium or a phosphorus or an oil one will have a lot to do with the way you attack it—but it won't alter the fact that the big threat is still fire and the best defense is still water!"



SOLID OIL INCENDIARY—If this bomb (132-pound) is found unexploded, it is in a highly sensitive condition and should not be moved but should be reported to the authorities in the same way as any other unexploded bomb



... it's easy for a saboteur to cripple your sprinkler

unless—

it is under constant electrical supervision by an outside Central Station ... Simply by closing a valve to shut off the water supply, a saboteur can cripple an unsupervised sprinkler system.

For your sprinkler, like any mechanical device, can be no better than the care and attention it receives. Routine periodic inspections reveal nothing except the condition of the sprinkler at the moment and give no assurance that all vital elements affecting the supply and distribution of water will *remain* in proper operating condition *between inspections*.

A. D. T. Central Station Supervision safe-

guards your sprinkler against sabotage. The closing of any shut-off valve, or any other condition that might impair the sprinkler's effectiveness—whether caused by accident or malicious intent—is instantly and automatically reported to the Central Station, which immediately investigates every trouble condition and initiates prompt corrective action. A. D. T. supervision also makes the sprinkler system function as an effective automatic fire alarm, automatically summoning the fire department the instant a sprinkler head opens.

Write for further information on this and other A. D. T. Electric Protection Services which are helping establishments in all fields to combat the threats of sabotage, fire and burglary.

A. D. T. SPRINKLER SUPERVISORY AND WATERFLOW ALARM SERVICE

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

ADT

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