Me STRANSMITTER

vol. XV. no. 1 — JANUARY — 1943



• LETTERS •

Sincere Thanks

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH Co.:

With reference to your special service report of November 22 relative to the failure of Watchman Allen to transmit signals properly on account of his injury, the writer wishes to take this opportunity to express appreciation for the prompt service that your company rendered in this matter and also the real assistance and co-operation of your Mr. McDermott in assisting the injured man until my arrival at the plant.

Mr. McDermott on this and other occasions has shown a splendid spirit, and we just cannot fail to acknowledge with sincere thanks his real helpfulness.

R. S. CLARK

Louisville Cooperage Co. Louisville, Ky.

Indispensable

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

We wish you to know that we would never do without the Aero Automatic Alarm because this is the second time it has prevented a loss by fire that could have put the plant out of operation. It is most important at this time because we would not be able to replace or repair the damage that could have been done had the fire gotten out of hand.

Paul S. Brown

Squire Dingee Co. Chicago, Illinois

Services Invaluable

American District Telegraph Co.:

I want to take this opportunity of thanking you for the fine and efficient service you rendered when my premises were broken into and entered by a band of culprits.

I'm certain that if it wasn't for your system of protection and the excellent efficiency of A.D.T. Guard Bill Corliss, the thieves would have escaped, and I would have suffered a serious loss.

Your services have proved themselves invaluable to my business.

IRVING C. TENNENBLATT

Louis Tennenblatt Jersey City, New Jersey

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 •

Dangerous . . . and Wasteful

The story of the opposite page of this issue of The Transmitter concerns a rather unusual case of A.D.T. and police response to an alarm indirectly caused by an unlocked door. The most obvious moral of this story is the security that A.D.T. protection provides even if the "welcome mat" is put out for burglars in the form of an entrance door inadvertently left unlocked.

But this story has another moral, too, which in these critical times is equally important, namely: that every response by guards and police to alarms resulting from unlocked doors or other needless causes represents not only a waste of time of the guards and police, but also a waste of rubber and gasoline.

Efficient as A.D.T. Protection is, no way has yet been devised for the Central Station to distinguish between an alarm caused by a burglarious attack and various types of needless alarms. Of this latter class the most frequent is caused by policemen in line of duty testing doors on their beats and finding them unlocked. Of the first fifty-two burglar alarm reports received in December, twenty-seven, or more than fifty per cent, resulted from this one cause. In each such case, exactly as in the case of alarms resulting from actual attacks on the premises, an A.D.T. patrol car and usually one or more police squad cars immediately speed to the scene. In the aggregate, such runs, which may be anywhere from several blocks to several miles each, represent appreciable wear on tires and needless consumption of gasoline.

Of course, it is A.D.T.'s job to respond to all alarms regardless of cause. However, because of the present emergency, we earnestly urge all subscribers to A.D.T. Burglar Alarm Service to cooperate in eliminating needless waste by making sure that their premises always are properly locked at closing time.

On the Cover

The ice-clad fireman on our cover is Battalion Chief William Travers as he appeared last January after battling a four-alarm fire in Brooklyn, N. Y. Photo by Press Association.



VOL. XV JANUARY, 1943

TELAPPROACH "TELLS ON" COP

Police Officer Investigating Unlocked Door, Unwittingly Summons Reinforcements As He Inspects Protected Safe

The patrolman on the beat on Detroit's West Fort Street on the night of December 9 was making his usual routine tour of the neighborhood checking the entrance doors and windows of business establishments to see that they were properly closed and locked. Everything had been O. K. so far, but trying the door of a wholesale drug concern he found it unlocked, and knowing that valuable drug concentrates are regarded by burglars as highly prized loot, the officer decided that a thorough investigation was decidedly in order.

Drawing his revolver, he cautiously entered the door and turned on the lights. There appeared to be no one inside, but just to make sure the officer proceeded to make a systematic search. He found everything in order except that the safe door, while closed, was not locked. He was just about to report the conditions and make arrangements for proper locking of the premises when he was startled to hear the screech of brakes as cars pulled to a stop outside. A second later, a uniformed figure entered the door, whom he recognized as an A.D.T. guard, as well as several police officers.

"How did you guys find out about this?" the surprised officer asked. "I didn't see any A.D.T. protection on that front door."

"That's easy," the guard explained. "We haven't got protection on the door, but that safe over there has our Telapproach protection. There's a field of radio waves all around it and before you even touched it an alarm went in to the Central Station."

An investigation revealed that nothing was missing, and it was later ascertained that the safe and the front door had carelessly been left unlocked by the employee supposed to close up the premises for the night.

WAREHOUSE ATTACK

An attack on the Columbus Terminal Warehouse, Columbus, Ohio, was frustrated by an A.D.T. alarm at 9:53 p.m., December 4. On arriving at the premises, guards and police found that an attempt had been made to pry open a loading door. Apparently the burglars had heard the police cars approaching and made good their escape, for no one was found in the premises or immediate vicinity. Nothing had been stolen, and the damaged door was quickly repaired.

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING

Apparently the employees of a Cleveland manufacturing concern were unaware of the old Indian maxim that every Boy Scout learns: "Small fire, stay close, plenty warm; big fire, drive away, no good." So, in their ignorance of this fundamental principle of woodcraft, they piled on too much wood when they built a fire on a concrete floor to keep themselves warm on the frigid night of November 30. The flames, rising to a height of ten feet, might easily have started a disastrous fire. However, with the A.D.T. Aero Automatic Fire Alarm System on guard, the danger was soon eliminated as the fire department arrived, summoned automatically. The bonfire was quickly "liquidated" and the firemen, in a few well chosen words too vigorous to be quoted here, gave the erring employees some much-needed advice on fire prevention fundamentals.



International

EXPLODING MAGNESIUM—Shattering windows for blocks around, a series of explosions followed a fire which started on December 12 in a pile of sawdust and magnesium filings at plant of Magnesium Products Inc., Los Angeles, Cal.

BURGLARY

FIRST JOB FAILS

Youth Discovers There's a Lot to Learn About Burglary

For more than a week John R. Lowe, a twenty-year-old youth awaiting induction, had planned to burglarize the Katz Drug Store in Des Moines, Iowa. In approved professional fashion he first "cased the joint" and bought the necessary tools for the break, a hammer and a chisel. But it was the young burglar's first "job" and it took him more than a week to get up nerve to make the attack.

Finally, at 4:00 a.m. on December 9, he broke into the store . . . and quickly discovered that he still had a lot to learn about the technique of successful burglary. For he had overlooked the vital fact that the Katz store is A.D.T. protected. He did not realize that the instant he smashed the panel in the entrance door, an automatic alarm went in to the A.D.T. Central Station. Guards and police trapped the neophyte burglar red-handed.

After arraignment, the prisoner was lodged in the city jail, facing a maximum sentence of ten years for breaking and entering.



BURGLAR BLUNDERED—When an inexperienced youth smashed the glass in this door he inadvertently called the police and brought about his capture

BURGLAR DROPS IN

Much more rapid than he anticipated was a Chicago burglar's entrance into the Sol Stein & Co. department store. The venturesome thief tore the wire mesh from the ventilator on the roof and prepared to make his descent via that channel. And so he did—but hardly as he planned. He plummeted straight through the ventilator shaft to the basement where he lay wondering how to repeat the feat in reverse.

Nor was that the end of his misfortunes. When he broke the wire mesh, he set off an A.D.T. Burglar Alarm which resulted in the arrival of guards and policemen a few moments later. Finding their prey imprisoned in the ventilator shaft and apparently injured, they had to get the fire department to extricate him

No damage was suffered, except by the burglar.

WELL-TIMED TROUBLE

It was without doubt highly fortunate that the burglar alarm system required attention on that particular night for indirectly it was the agency by which serious trouble was averted. The incident occurred one evening recently at a manufacturing plant in Long Island City where an A.D.T. guard was investigating trouble conditions involved in closing for the night. After he had seen that several windows were properly closed, he was preparing to take his departure.

But on his way out the guard smelled smoke and determined not to leave till he traced its source. In a nearby department he discovered that employees' clothing hanging on the wall was on fire. As the blaze was still in its incipient stages, he was able to put it out with a hand extinguisher after reporting the matter to the Central Station. At the request of officials of the company he remained on the premises till they could arrive to make an investigation in company with members of the fire department. It was believed that the fire was started by a careless smoker.

If the guard had not happened to be on the premises at that particular time and had not noticed the telltale odor, a damaging fire undoubtedly would have resulted.

FAMILIAR FACE

Loan Shop Proprietor's Memory Aids in Capture of Fugitive

For a Saturday, business had been a bit slow at Sam Light's Loan & Mercantile Co. in St. Louis, so when, shortly after 1:00 o'clock, a customer walked in looking as if he meant business Mr. Sam Light himself went behind the counter to attend to him. As he approached the prospective client, Mr. Light noticed that the face seemed somehow familiar. An old customer perhaps? If so, he ought to remember his name as a matter of courtesy. He racked his brain. Then, he had it. The face was that of a man wanted by the police, as he had seen it on a recently issued police circular.

A little bit frightened, for fear that his businesslike looking customer might "mean business" in more senses than one, Mr. Light nevertheless retained his composure and engaged the man in conversation. In the meantime, unnoticed by the man on the other side of the counter, Mr. Light operated a secret A.D.T. Emergency Police Call Device.

In a few minutes it was all over. Police arriving in radio squad cars "got their man," who offered no resistance when he saw the odds were overwhelmingly against him. Mr. Light was complimented for his presence of mind and cooperation in effecting the apprehension of the fugitive.

TRIO TRAPPED

There was nothing petty about the three burglars who broke into the D & C Navigation Company's premises in Detroit on December 5. After forcing entrance through an unprotected window, they selected a two-ton truck that appealed to them and cooly climbed into the seat with the intention of driving off, contents and all.

Then, just as they were getting the motor started, an unforeseen obstacle developed. They had previously surveyed the place and knew that there should be no watchman around at that time. Yet, all of a sudden, right in front of their eyes, there materialized a very formidable looking man in uniform, confronting them with drawn revolver.

This "obstacle", of course, was an A.D.T. guard who had been dispatched

the instant the Central Station received an alarm from the Invisible Ray System protecting the interior of the premises. The guard kept the surprised trio at bay until the arrival of police reinforcements a few seconds later. They took the "heavyweight" burglars into custody.

FIRE

FIREMEN KNEW BETTER

Discover Fire in Basement as Watchman Works Above

The watchman at a woodworking plant in Rockford, Ill., was up on the third floor in the paint booth section on the morning of Sunday, November 15, performing various routine chores that are part of his job. Suddenly he heard a commotion outside, bells clanging and sirens shrieking. Rushing to a window he saw fire engines stopping at the door and the firemen leaping out and getting hose lines ready. He dashed down the stairs thinking there must be some mistake—he had just completed a round of the premises and had seen no fire.

But the firemen knew better, for they had come to the plant in response to a waterflow alarm from the A.D.T. supervised sprinkler system. Without hesitation they went to the basement where the alarm had originated. There, in the boiler room, they found a pile of scrap wood and sawdust ablaze and a sprinkler head in operation. The fire was quickly extinguished.

PLENTY HOT

It was a real hot blaze that greeted firemen responding to an alarm from an A.D.T. Manual Box at the warehouse of the Baltimore Transfer Co., Inc., on December 9. For added to the heat of the flames was the normal heat of the fuel itself, which consisted of cartons of red pepper stacked on a loading platform.

A well aimed hose line soon cooled everything down to normal. Investigation revealed that the outbreak was caused by the explosion of a nearby container of hydrogen.



International

FOUR ALARMER—Firemen pour streams of water into New York candy factory after explosion on December 19. Eight firemen and four others were hurt

USEFUL NEIGHBOR

Having an A.D.T. protected neighbor proved of valuable help to the Bradford Machine Tool Co. of Cincinnati, when fire broke out on December 15. A quickwitted employee immediately dashed to the adjoining plant of the U. S. Bung Manufacturing Company, which has A.D.T. Protection, and sent in an alarm. The fire department quickly responded.

EFFECTIVE SPRINKLER ACTION

When the Fire Insurance Patrol arrived at the Westinghouse Electric and Appliance Co. in Chicago in response to an A.D.T. waterflow alarm at 10:29 p.m. on December 5, they found three sprinkler heads operating on the seventh floor. The fire had already been extinguished by the sprinkler system, which was immediately turned off. Appropriate salvage measures were taken to prevent needless water damage.

MUSEUM FIRE

A garbage can was the ignominious source of a fire outbreak at the Public Museum in Oakland, Cal., on December 21. Someone had thoughtlessly dumped hot coal ashes from the furnace into the can and it wasn't long before the malodorous combustibles it contained started burning. The building, however, is protected by Aero, which automatically summoned the fire department before the outbreak had time to spread.

JUST TO MAKE SURE

A. R. Mooney, an employee of the Moore Dry Dock Co. in Oakland, Cal., firmly believes that in case of fire, the first thing to do is to make sure that the firemen get there quick. This was the reason he gave for pulling an A.D.T.



International

HUNDRED LIVES LOST—Firemen fight fire at K. of C. Hall, St. Johns, Nfld, where at least one hundred persons trapped inside perished on December 22

Manual Box six times in succession when he discovered some scaffolding on a ship under construction ablaze at 2:39 a.m. on December 4.

The local fire brigade easily extinguished the blaze with no damage except to the scaffolding. While Mr. Mooney was complimented on his attitude of taking no chances, it was explained to him that in the case of A.D.T. protection one alarm is enough to assure immediate action.

HIGHLY INFLAMMABLE

While \$1,500 "ain't hay," it is but a trivial loss compared to what might have happened when fire broke out at the plant of Innis Speiden & Co. in Jersey City on the night of November 19, probably from a spark.

This concern manufactures gums and waxes and uses many materials of a highly inflammable nature which would assure quick spreading of any fire that got a head start through belated discovery. However, the Speiden Company had the foresight years ago to protect against this hazard by installing Aero protection, with the result that the incipient outbreak automatically reported itself. By means of the Aero annunciator at the entrance, firemen responding to the alarm immediately saw that the blaze was on the fourth floor and quickly brought it under control.

HOT TOWELS

On his midnight round on December 20, Watchman Johnson at the Oakland California Towel Co. in Oakland, Cal., noticed a strange, pungent odor in the air. Guided by his nose, he traced the odor to its source, a basket of towels ablaze in a room at the corner of the premises. He immediately operated an A.D.T. Manual Fire Alarm Box, and the firemen quickly extinguished the blaze. The outbreak was attributed to spontaneous combustion, as the towels had been collected from a restaurant and were very greasy. Except for the towels, there was no damage.

WATCHMEN

WAS HIS FACE RED!

Conscientious Watchman is Hero and Casualty of Radio Drama

Where there's smoke there's usually fire, but a false alarm needn't always be the result of a bad boy's prank. The best of intentions prompted an Akron, Ohio, watchman to turn in a fire alarm, which not only proved misleading, but surprised even him. As a result, he turned out to be the only casualty—and not a fire victim, at that.

About ten o'clock on the night of

December 7, the watchman employed at a dry cleaning establishment turned on his radio for a little diversion. Doubtless the fatigue of his early-evening duties around the place proved too much for him; the soothing, comforting strains of a string orchestra soon lulled him into an unexpected snooze. Suddenly the shrill cry of "Fire!" cut into his half-conscious revery. Springing from his chair in real "Superman" fashion, he slipped and fell on the floor. Undeterred, he picked himself up, reached the A.D.T. Fire Alarm Box, and promptly turned in an alarm.

A few minutes later, however, when A.D.T. guards and the fire department arrived, the watchman was feeling slightly chagrined. Not a single charred timber met their eyes—and the conflagration in the radio play had long since been extinguished by thoroughly competent radio actors. The watchman's face was red, too, in more ways than one, since he had scraped it when he fell.

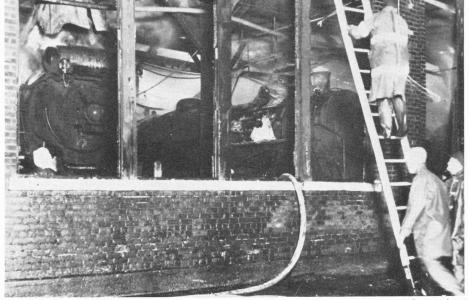
FATAL DRINK

When A.D.T. guards arrived at a Chicago printing plant on November 29 to investigate the failure of the watchman to transmit his 2:00 a.m. signal, they found the man dead at the bottom of an elevator shaft. It was easy to reconstruct the prelude to the tragedy, for on a table in the boiler room was an array of empty whiskey flasks. Apparently the man had been having a solitary "spree," and in a drunken condition had stumbled into the open shaft.

The A.D.T. guards notified police who made arrangements for removal of the body, and arrangements were made for a substitute to patrol the premises for the balance of the night.

BELLIGERENT INTRUDER

During his midnight round on December 4, R. W. Sheldon, watchman at a Chicago apartment building, came upon a boisterous drunk roaming through the halls. When the noisy intruder refused to leave and started to become belligerent and abusive, watchman Sheldon wasted no more words but simply sent in an A.D.T. emergency police call. A radio patrol car quickly arrived and the officers of the law soon had the situation in hand.



International

BATTLE \$2,000,000 ROUNDHOUSE BLAZE—Twenty-six locomotives were damaged in disastrous fire at railroad roundhouse in Detroit, Mich., on December 29

THE ROSTRUM

Devoted to Open Discussion of Protection Problems

GREMLINS DISLIKE KILOWATTS

Those Little Pixies Who Badger RAF Pilots With Their Pranks Aren't Confined To The Air By Any Means

By PAUL W. KEARNEY

Bill Mason, reporter on the Star-Post, tossed his coat on the Chief's bed and tilted a chair back on its hind legs as he fished for a cigarette which the Chief knew full well wouldn't be there.

"What's cookin', Bill?" queried the older man, automatically shoving his cigarettes toward him.

The reporter was silent for a time. "Chief," he said gravely, "I'm going to let you in on something momentous."

The Chief grunted and sat back waiting for the gag.

"You've heard about those Gremlins that play tricks on the RAF pilots?"

inquired Mason.

"Yeah," said the Chief, "I just been reading about them in Life. Pixies that warm their fingers on the spark plugs and blow bubbles in the oil line with soda straws and breathe on the windshields so they fog up and snap rubber bands in pilots' ears and all that sort of monkey-business. Sure, my old man used to tell me about little people like that in County Sligo over in the Old Country. You're not going to tell me we got 'em over here, too?"

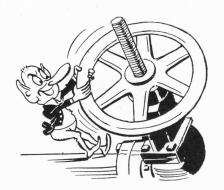
"Oi am that," retorted Mason with a fair imitation of a brogue. "Probably brought in here by the likes of your ould man in his baggage! And they propagate like bedbugs until now they're all over the country, getting into all kinds of mischief and causing you firemen no end of trouble. They're not really bad, you know, just full of pranks and practical jokes. But practical jokes very often turn out more seriously than originally intended.

"For instance, one of their pet tricks is to scrape the insulation off electric wires and then push the wires together with rubber-handled toothpicks. That crackling you hear is all the Gremlins laughing themselves sick because they know you guys will come around and very sagely charge off the fire to 'defective wiring.'



"They also love to pick open sprinkler heads and let the water run for their shower baths—for they're very clean little people. Turning in false alarms is practically a national sport among them, and closing sprinkler valves is a very, very popular pastime, too. You know that yourself, Chief; you never saw a valve yet that anybody in the plant closed.

"Another prank of theirs is to gang up in a bucket brigade with little pails no bigger than thimbles and dip the water out of a sprinkler tank. They turn back watchmen's clocks. And at night



when their singing societies get together, they all congregate around a watchman and hum to him until he gets sleepy.

"They get a great kick out of sticking wedges in fire doors to keep them open and in plugging up fire extinguisher tips with dirt. And any time you run into one of those so-called 'spontaneous ignition' outbreaks, you can stake your next month's pay that some little Gremlin was sitting under a hunk of cotton waste sneaking a smoke and probably dozed off.

"Of course, you can laugh all of this off if you want to, but that doesn't alter the facts. You give me a better explanation of any of these things and I'll be glad to listen to it.

"Take static, for example: you scuff across this rug and touch that light switch and what happens? Why, you get a stab in the finger. Well, that's a Gremlin. Lots of them carry gremlin swords, you know; what we call pins. They wear them in scabbards and when you reach for that switch, that Gremlin in there just gives you the business. Incidentally, that's the reason why you seldom hear a pin drop; the Gremlins grab them before they hit the floor and hide them."

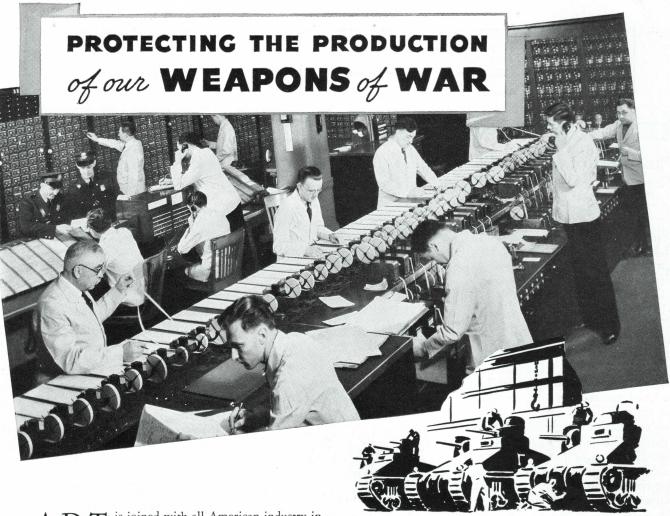
"Well, Bill," said the Chief with mock gravity, "I think you've got something. It sounds like the cause of a lot of our troubles. But what's the pay-off?"

"Simple," retorted Mason, dropping his voice. "Simple as A D T—get it? I've found out that the bitterest enemies of the Gremlins are the Kilowatts. A Kilowatt will go after a Gremlin just like a terrier after a rat, and the Gremlins just can't live under the same roof with them. Sometimes, of course, they'll sneak in and try to pull something because they are nervy little cusses. But wherever a building has electric protection like the Aero Automatic Fire Alarm or Sprinkler or Watchman Supervision, why, the Kilowatts pounce on them so fast that they get out of the way-double quick.

"As a matter of fact, if you yell 'ADT' at a lot of Gremlins, it's just like saying, 'Father, Son and Holy Ghost' to the

Devil; they scamper."

"Bill," said the Chief, getting up and putting on his coat, "You're a pal. I've hollered 'A D T' plenty in the past ten years—but from now on I'll holler it louder and oftener!"



A.D.T. is joined with all American industry in all-out participation in the nation's victory program. With fire hazards multiplied and intensified by production speed-ups and concentrations of high values...with the sinister threat of sabotage added to all the hazards of normal times...effective protection against fire and intrusion is more than ever an essential element of adequate planning. And A.D.T. is proud that its protection services are doing their bit in safeguarding thousands of private and Governmental establishments throughout the country whose functions are vital to the war program.

The role of A.D.T. is to safeguard lives, property, the nation's resources of vital materials and the continuity of war production and to release manpower for productive work. Airplane plants; shipyards; munitions plants; piers and docks; tank and truck factories; warehouses; military hospitals; railroad properties; oil

refineries; ships; electric power, gas and water plants; machine and engine plants; food processing plants; foundries...are among the hundreds of industries under A.D.T. protection. In such establishments A.D.T. supplies the types of protection which most effectively meet the hazards. And, of vital importance in these times, A.D.T. provides complete service, from installation through continuous supervision, inspections and maintenance, thus relieving management of a major specialized problem.

Among the many A.D.T. Services that are doing their bit in protecting the production front are the following: Sprinkler Supervisory and Waterflow Alarm; Aero Automatic Fire Alarm; Invisible Ray Alarm; Intrusion Alarm; Holdup Alarm; Telapproach; Phonetalarm; Patrol Supervision for Watchmen and Guards; Manual Fire Alarm. Write for descriptive booklets.

A.D.T. ELECTRIC PROTECTION SERVICES

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





Electric Protection Services AGAINST FIRE · BURGLARY · HOLDUP

A NATION-WIDE ORGANIZATION