



• LETTERS •

Disaster Averted

American District Telegraph Co.:

This is to acknowledge with thanks your letter of December 21 advising us of the service rendered recently when the Aero Automatic Fire Alarm System at the Oakland Public Museum, through its prompt and efficient work, averted what might have been a serious disaster.

We not only appreciate your letter but wish to pay public tribute to the efficiency of the apparatus you installed.

JOHN B. KAISER, Librarian Oakland Public Library Oakland, California

Confidence Repaid

(Complete story p. 6)

American District Telegraph Co.:

In reply to your letter of December 16 we wish to advise you that we sincerely appreciate your sending the guard to our hotel on December 16 and releasing our night clerk, Mr. Martin.

We want you to know that we think your service is a remarkable thing and only hope that we can continue to have the use of it for a long time.

FREDERICK W. AGARD

The Commodore Hotel Minneapolis, Minn.

Essential

American District Telegraph Co.:

I wish to express our gratitude for the marvelous service rendered us by your local office. Our store has been broken into twice within the past few days, and in each case your man reached our premises within a few minutes and the place was also surrounded by the police, notified through your office. One robber was caught, due to the prompt arrival of your man.

We have used A.D.T. Service for a number of years, and cannot imagine a concern of any size being without such service. We have found A.D.T. Protection just as essential as fire or burglary insurance.

MANUEL ISAACS Scranton Talking Machine Co. Scranton, Pa.

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 •

Better Safe Than Sorry

At 2:00 a.m. one night recently, the night superintendent of a Cleveland metal concern engaged in war work received a telephone call from a person claiming to be an A.D.T. representative, who said that a burglar alarm had just been received. He asked that the main gate be opened to admit his truck.

The plant superintendent, however, thought the call sounded "fishy," and telephoned the Central Station. No alarm had been received, and the A.D.T. dispatcher immediately sent guards and police to the plant to investigate the spurious telephone call. However, nothing happened and although the incident was immediately reported to the police it has not yet been determined whether the call was merely a prank, or whether it was an attempt at subversive activity.

While this is the first incident of this nature that has occurred, we cite it as a possibility that our subscribers should guard against. For our part, we have made every possible provision to make it impossible for impostors to gain access to subscribers' premises by posing as A.D.T. representatives. All A.D.T. guards are uniformed. All guards and other employees-inspectors, service men, etc.who have business contacts with the public are provided with identification cards which they must carry with them at all times. This card carries the bearer's photograph, physical description, thumb prints, signature and other data.

In short, we have done everything in our power to assure the integrity of our employees but to make these precautions effective we must ask the cooperation of our subscribers. May we therefore ask you to make it an inflexible rule to examine the identification card of any A.D.T. representative before admitting him to your premises.

We realize that in certain cases these precautions may be slightly troublesome but in combating subversive activities, it is better to be safe than sorry.

On the Cover

Firemen ran to safety when this Philadelphia warehouse wall collapsed right after the picture was taken. (International)

THE A. D. T. TRANSMITTER: A monthly news-magazine of outstanding events and features concerning fire, burglary and holdup. Published monthly by the American District Telegraph Company, 155 Sixth Avenue, New York, N. Y.—R. K. HYDE, Editor . . Edited and distributed for the information of employees, subscribers and other interested persons All articles printed are the individual opinions of the authors. To insure delivery of your copy of THE A. D. T. TRANSMITTER each month, kindly notify the editor of any change in address.

The A.D.T. Transmitter



FEBRUARY, 1943

No. 2

CIRCUS ACT STARTLES CROWD PR

Hod-Carrier on Holiday Binge Gives Public Performance After Eluding Capture in Oakland Department Store

Eyes strained upward, the crowd held its breath, as a solitary figure swayed precariously on a guy wire thirty-five feet above the level of Twentieth and Telegraph Streets. Hemmed in on either side by members of the Oakland, California fire department who were determinedly jabbing at him with grappling hooks from their aerial ladder perches, the man finally gave up the struggle and dropped into a life net below.

VOL. XV

Thus climaxed the early-morning adventures of one George Hallahan, fortyfour year old hod-carrier on a Christmas pree, who defied the combined efforts of the fire department and the police department before a large crowd of amused and flabergasted onlookers.

On the morning of December 31, employees of the H. C. Capwell department store noticed a stranger who had no explanation for his presence in the store's service elevator. Evidently aware that he was on the spot, the prowler dashed from the lift, smashed the glass from a second floor window and electrified the morning crowd by suddenly appearing on a six-inch sloping concrete ledge, teetering a full forty feet above their heads. Alert employees immediately took up protective posts at the windows bordering the ledge, literally keeping Hallahan "out on a limb".

Other store employees, meantime, had signalled the police by means of an A.D.T. Emergency Police Call, and members of the police and fire departments arrived almost together, the latter in response to a fire alarm signal sent in by startled spectators.

By that time Hallahan, trapped by would-be captors, jumped into the air and grabbed the trolley wire, where



ESCAPADE—George Hallahan, forty four year old Oakland, California hodcarrier clings to a supporting trolley wire as firemen on ladders try to force him to drop into life net below

hand-over-hand he edged his way out over the street. He was deterred only by a brilliant maneuver from one of the fireman occupying a hastily-erected aerial ladder—a swat in the seat of Hallahan's pants—which sent him spinning downward to his capture in the net held by firemen below.

It was a grand show while it lasted and everyone had a good time including, it is suspected, Mr. Hallahan, who had been bent on nothing less than an alcoholic bender for nearly a week. He resisted his husky captors all the way to the police station, where he finally subsided with an accumulated hangover and no explanation whatever to offer for disrupting the early-morning calm of an Oakland business district by his unprecedented performance.

PREPARED

Smoke Control System Prevents Repetition of Serious Loss

History repeats itself, but the second time it happened the Ernst Kern Company was prepared for the emergency! Back in 1938 this Detroit department store suffered a \$100,000 merchandise loss due to smoke from a small fire circulating through the ducts of the air conditioning system and spreading through four floors before it could be controlled. A discarded cigarette, drawn into the system, probably caused the blaze.

Four years later, on December 31, 1942, when the store was filled with shoppers, a small blaze flared up in a ventilator duct. An A.D.T. Smoke Detector, which had been installed after the 1938 calamity, discovered the presence of smoke by means of an "electric eye" and promptly shut down fans and dampers in the air conditioning system. This confined the smoke to the duct and prevented its flow into the floor areas. At the same time, A.D.T.'s Central Station and Kern's store engineer received an alarm signal.

The blaze itself proved difficult for the store forces to subdue but with the proper equipment firemen finally brought the small though stubborn blaze under control.

Customers and most employees were unaware of the outbreak for, due to prompt action of the Smoke Control System and the efficiency of the fire department, the blaze and resulting smoke were held to the area of origin. Compared with the previous outbreak four years ago, the total loss to the Ernst Kern Company was negligible.

Don't be too late with too little . . . fill that War Stamp Album and get a War Bond TODAY.

BURGLARY

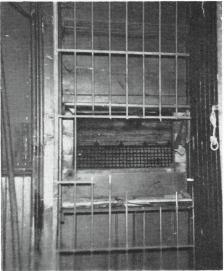
CAMOUFLAGED

Burglar Discovered In Spite of His Novel Disguise

Paden Brunson, occupation "burglar", is a pretty ingenious fellow, but he didn't quite make the grade when it came to fooling A.D.T. Office Manager V. Yoxthimer of Buffalo, New York. Mr. Yoxthimer's persistent hunch that a prowler was still on the premises of Christian Bernhardt's liquor store, even after preliminary search failed to uncover him, ultimately led to the intruder's capture by police.

Boldly indifferent to the fact that it was mid-afternoon, Burglar Brunson one Sunday broke into a rear firstfloor window of the store, causing an alarm signal at the A.D.T. Central Station. When he heard police officers and the A.D.T. manager and guards arrive, he beat it for a good hiding place. The only incriminating evidence was a rope dropped from the second floor of the building adjoining, but Manager Yoxthimer convinced the police that the prowler had not had time to escape the same way he entered.

After several complete searches of both premises had been made, aided



International

BURGLAR TRAP — When Burglar Brunson entered through the window shown in this photograph, he broke the wooden dowels in this A.D.T. protective screen and automatically announced his presence to the Central Station by further police squad car reinforcements, the law had practically decided to give up, when a sharp-eyed officer noticed that one of the cases piled on the floor was moving slightly. He pounced on it and there, doubling as another pile of liquor cases with an empty box on his head, was Brunson, snug as a bug in a rug!

The police were doubly happy to apprehend him, for Brunson had held up a gasoline station the previous night and admitted he had attempted twice before to break into Bernhardt's store.

ARMY CAMP TO HOOSEGOW

The U. S. Army Service Group in Syracuse has been missing one private, who went A.W.O.L. last November. Thanks to an A.D.T. Burglar Alarm System and the immediate response of the police, the soldier finally was cornered in a New Haven fur and leather shop.

Raymond Boyd, age nineteen, bored by army life and discontented with his lot as a mere private, obtained a staff sergeant's insignia, and sallied forth neglecting to leave a forwarding address with the C. O. His whereabouts for nearly two months are veiled in mystery, but he catapulted from anonymity when he attempted to jimmy the front entrance to Bohan & Landorf's store.

Police, summoned by an A.D.T. burglar alarm arrived to find him crouching in the cashier's cage, fortified with a gun, ammunition, screw-driver's and flashlight. The New Haven police department placed him under a \$3,000 bond, charged with burglary and carrying concealed weapons.

New Haven police also caught three men who attempted to break into another fur store recently. Guards and police, responding to an A.D.T. Alarm early one morning at Isaiah Spector's fur store, found that a window had been broken, but saw no sign of the burglars. However, in a nearby garage the police discovered three men hiding behind some cars.

When they arrived at the police station, the culprits confessed their guilt. They had not had time to steal anything, so surprised were they by the unexpected arrival of the law.

UNLUCKY PLACE

Young Burglar Overcome After Stiff Battle With Police

Sioux City's Teutonia Club Hall is unlucky for burglars. Just a year ago, on the very first day of installation, the A.D.T. Burglar Alarm Service apprehended a prowler. On December 31 it happened again, and as a result Dean Rowley, eighteen years old, is being held by police for attempted burglary and assault on eight police officers, and a companion is being sought as an accomplice in the attack.

In the wee small hours of the night the two burglars unwittingly notified the police department by means of an A.D.T. Burglar Alarm when they broke through a panel in the club's office door. Just four minutes later a squad of Sioux City policemen burst in upon the intruders. Young Rowley's companion, whose name is not known, eluded capture amid shots fired by the police and escaped through a basement window.

Patrolmen surprised Rowley hiding behind a desk. He put up a stiff fight before he was subdued and suffered a bad blow on the head. Two police officers listed their casualties as one sore nose and one tenderized forehead when Rowley swung a pop bottle in resisting arrest.

NEVER TOO LATE

The Clancy brothers of Jersey City must have failed to make and keep the right New Year's resolutions. How else explain an escapade which landed them in jail on triple charges of intoxication, disorderly conduct and attempted burglary?

Ed and Bill foolishly smashed the front door glass at Davidson's Jewelry Store the morning of January 10, climaxing a wild evening spent visiting numerous bars, imbibing countless beers and cracking several plate glass windows. They coveted Davidson's diamond rings and platinum watches but all they got was a load of police officers who came a'running when the young men disturbed a Burglar Alarm installed by A.D.T.

Davidson's loss consisted merely of replacement of the broken pane.



International FIRE-DAMAGED MANSION — Bing Crosby surveys the ruins of a section of his North Hollywood, California house destroyed by fire on January 4, believed to have been caused by a short circuit in Christmas tree lights

FIRE

TIMELY BURGLAR ALARM

Discovery of War Plant Fire Credited to Freak Signal

On the morning of December 23 an A.D.T. Burglar Alarm was instrumental in warning the fire department of a fierce blaze at a Cincinnati war production plant.

Captain Peter J. Kelly of the Central Station guard force, responding to a burglar alarm caused by burning embers falling across a wire, promptly transmitted an alarm of fire. Firemen were on the scene soon after Kelly's arrival, in answer to his summons.

Safety Director Schraffenberger commended the rapid action which lead to the discovery of the fire. Mr. Schraffenberger said that due to the out-ofthe-way location of the plant and the fact that it had no automatic fire alarm the flames otherwise might not have been discovered until too late to save the structure.

The damage to the plant undoubtedly would have been immeasurably greater if Kelly had not been brought to the scene so opportunely by the automatic action of the Burglar Alarm.

WAR PLANT AVOIDS LOSS

The Marvel Carburetor Company of Flint, Michigan, engaged in war work, was fortunate in having A.D.T. Fire Protection. On January 2 fire broke out in a blueprint machine, setting the sprinkler system in operation and simultaneously signalling the A.D.T. Central Station which sent firemen to combat the flames.

Knowing the locations of the shut-off valves, the A.D.T. guard who had been dispatched to render assistance, was especially helpful in having them closed promptly, thereby avoiding excessive water damage.

THEY DIDN'T KNOW . .

"What fire?" — queried a startled voice from the switchboard at the Feeders Supply Company, in response to an urgent call from the A.D.T. Central Station in Kansas City—"There's no fire here!"

The operator was wrong—investigation disclosed a blaze at the stock feed mill, caused by an overheated motor. While the employees were blissfully unaware of the potential danger of an undiscovered fire which might burst in all directions without warning, the A.D.T. Automatic Fire Detecting System was busily at work. When the motor became overheated a sprinkler head opened, automatically transmitting an A.D.T. waterflow alarm. The fire department arrived to cope with the blaze at almost the same time that the fire was being denied.

Fast work avoided plenty of grief for subscribers and employees. The monetary loss was small.

SPARK SETS RAPID BLAZE

Ignited by a spark, dust in a blower at the Buffelin Lumber & Manufacturing Company exploded on December 28, causing a fire to spread with lightning rapidity to other parts of the plant.

An alert employee, although badly burned about face and hands, immediately summoned the fire department by using an A.D.T. Manual Fire Alarm Box. The injured man was taken to a hospital for treatment and will recover. The prompt arrival of the fire department made it possible to extinguish the blaze and prevent what started out to be a bad fire in a hazardous location.

More Bonds Buy More Weapons— Buy a Bond TODAY



International

FOUR ALARM FIRE SWEEPS COAL PIER—A large supply of coal vital to New England for fuel and defense purposes was threatened by this half-million dollar blaze which recently destroyed a coal yard in South Boston, Massachusetts

FEBRUARY, 1943

WATCHMEN

CHRISTMAS PRESENT!

Watchman Receives Blow on Head When He Opens Door

Christmas morning Watchman Charles Noblitt was guarding the Sterling Aluminum Products premises as usual when he heard the front door bell ring. Opening the door he was greeted, not by a caller, but by a malicious blow in the head. He never saw his assailants for they fled the scene when he dropped unconscious into the street.

Employees in the St. Louis plant knew nothing of his predicament until the A.D.T. Central Station telephoned and sent a guard to investigate Noblitt's failure to turn in his final signal that all was well. He was found sprawled across the entrance, his head lacerated, but hospital treatment soon had him back on his feet.

CONFIDENCE REPAID

Early one morning, recently, the A.D.T. Minneapolis Central Station noted that the scheduled signal from the Commodore Hotel had failed to clear the boards. Watchman Martin



INFERNO—Cherry-hot flames eat their way through the stacked and seasoned lumber piles at the Angora Coal & Supply Company in Philadelphia

might be in difficulty! Immediately a guard was dispatched to investigate. He found the hotel premises lonely and unprotected and the switchboard buzzing unheeded. He paused, alert and wary, ready for trouble. Then to his ears came the sound of a voice from the elevator shaft. "Is that the A.D.T.? I'm stuck in the elevator on the sixth floor", called Watchman Martin, "but I wasn't worried—I knew you'd be



WORKERS FLEE FLAMES—Omaha Packing Company workers in Lowell, Mass., attempt to escape from burning structure on January 6. Twelve persons were injured. Man in overalls hanging from wall (right) missed a fire net and was injured when he dropped. The girl hanging from ladder dropped to safety

around to dig me out!"

In a short while the engineer had been summoned and Martin released to the completion of his duties, only a little behind normal schedule.

TOO HOT TO HANDLE

It was a blustery January night and the watchman at a government warehouse in Baltimore huddled near the office stove, basking for a few moments in the cheery warmth of the crackling fire. Abruptly the crackling increased and he jumped hastily away, surprised by a shower of shooting red sparks. Recognizing that the situation was too hot to handle alone, he put through an emergency call to A.D.T.

The fire department and the salvage corps, summoned by A.D.T., tore through the icy streets and arrived at the warehouse just in time to cope with a fire which had started in the roof. The stovepipe connection to the roof had collapsed. Prompt action by everyone concerned averted what might have been a serious fire. Damage was confined to a slightly blackened roof.

SILENT SUMMONS

The nightly tour of the watchman at the Cincinnati plant of Standard Brands, Inc. was nearly finished. Ho, hum—almost time to turn in his final signal that all was well. But wait a minute what was that acrid odor? He burst into the dry grain room which had begun to belch smoke and saw a small fire running rapidly along the floor. No time to turn in a fire signal—he'd have to handle it himself.

What might have been a sad catastrophe was averted only by the constant vigilance of the A.D.T. Protection System. When the watchman's scheduled signal failed to record in the Central Station, it was taken as an automatic call for help and Guard Kelly lost no time in answering that silent summons for aid.

He found the watchman in the grain room, unsuccessfully attempting to smother the blaze and immediately operated an A.D.T. Fire Alarm Box. The firemen arrived in the first gray haze of dawn and had the situation well in hand within a few minutes.



Devoted to Open Discussion of Protection Problems

"ALL FOR WANT OF A NAIL"

Benjamin Franklin's Adage Is Most Appropriate Today When Every Large Plant Is Fed By Many Small Ones

Benjamin Franklin was fond of an old adage which takes on added point in these hectic days of sub-contracting:

"A little neglect may breed mischief. For want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; for want of a horse the rider was lost; for want of a rider the battle was lost; for want of a battle the kingdom was lost. And all for the want of a horseshoe nail."

In more modern terms we may be writing that fable again at the expense of our boys in the Solomons or Africa. A closed sprinkler valve in a Michigan factory—belated discovery of a fire in a California plant—interrupts the feeder line of small parts flowing in to the hajor assembly plant. And, perhaps a thousand miles away from that outbreak, the giant factory of some major contractor — itself thoroughly modern and perfectly protected from fire marks time for want of essential parts to finish its job.

When we mention the automotive industry, for example, we think of one city—Detroit—and three big plants: Chrysler, Ford and General Motors. Yet the truth is that today there are 986 automotive plants working on war products. Of these, 201 are owned by automobile companies; 785 are owned by parts and equipment manufacturers. And although Detroit still is the hub of the industry, plants with about a half-million workers are scattered throughout thirty-one different states.

It is not uncommon, therefore, to see fighting planes standing in impotent lines waiting for guns or instruments or propellers—aircraft engines held up by the failure of small precision parts to arrive—tanks standing "barefooted" awaiting the arrival of tractor treads. In one instance a half-dozen of our largest airplane plants were held up in production by a slip-up in deliveries of a hand-assembled insulator from a single small factory.

"No plant, no matter how modern nor how well integrated," says the January issue of *Automotive War Production*, "can fabricate a mechanized weapon of any kind in volume without the assistance of many others in the industry."

Consequently no plant vital to war production, no matter how complete, no matter how well protected it may be itself, is any more immune to stoppage from fire or other casualty than the weakest link in its chain of suppliers! Hence in this era of global war, it is a simple matter for the crackling of flames in a small Alabama machine shop to be heard clear across the country—and felt all the way around the globe from Guadalcanal to Tunisia.



... AND WE'RE SHORT OF RUBBER! —Firemen battle flames which razed N. Broad Street warehouse at Philadelphia, January 6, destroying priceless tires

Some of the significance of this story can be gleaned from a perusal of the National Fire Protection Association's recent report, "Fires In One Year of War." An admittedly incomplete list, this survey includes almost three hundred destructive blazes involving various war production facilities. And although you can read column after column without coming across the name of one of the two hundred largest plants in the country, you will find case after case where the fire victim is an important supplier of parts, materials or service to the industrial giants and other organizations engaged in primary production operations.

A single one of these fires wiped out a \$750,000 magnesium plant in Nevada: two others accounted for \$1,500,000 worth of damage to oil refinery equipment. No less than sixty of these blazes involved rubber supplies, oil or shipping facilities — the importance of which requires no elaboration at a time when they are so vital to the war program.

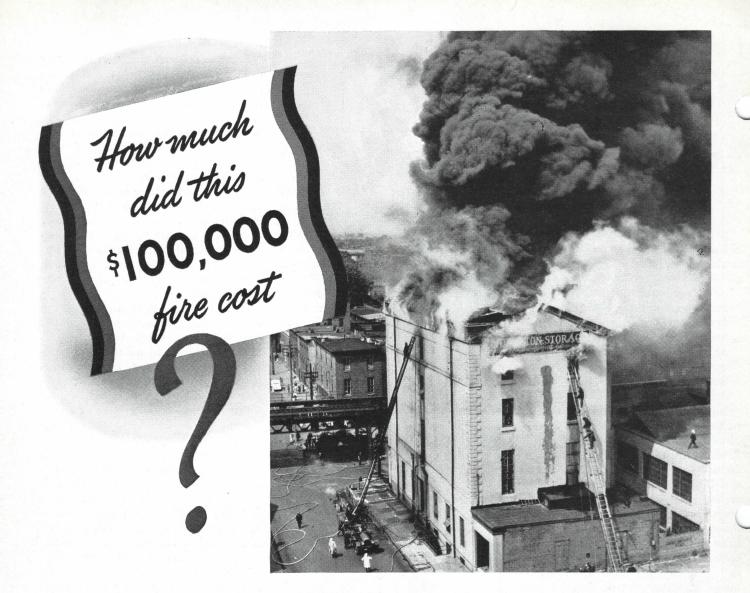
Reversing the picture, one vital reason why the familiar names of our primary producers appear so seldom in such post-mortems is the obvious fact that they are our largest users of automatic protection. Their factories are replete with automatic sprinklers under constant central station supervision, watchman supervisory systems, automatic fire detecting and reporting systems, intrusion alarms and other automatic systems which provide them a fire immunity of 99.96% despite their inherent hazards and enormous concentrations of values in buildings, equipment and material.

Their Achilles' heel is the lack of this same type of protection among many of their suppliers and sub-contractors —at least three hundred of whom burned out during our first year of war to the tune of \$100,000,000 in tangible losses alone.

Every time one of those small plants burns, some big plant slows down: Another batch of planes is late in getting to the South Pacific—another batch of tanks misses a convoy for Murmansk — another contingent of anti-aircraft guns fails to reach its destination in Libya—

"And all for the want of a horseshoe nail!"

FEBRUARY, 1943



According to newspaper reports of this fire, "the loss was placed at \$100,000..."

But what did the fire actually *cost?* For the physical property that fire destroys is only the *beginning* of the loss. What really hurt are the far-reaching after-effects—interruption of business, customers lost, destruction of irreplaceable records, impaired credit standing, inability to fill orders—and a host of other intangible, but very real, losses which have driven many a business into bankruptcy.

And today, even these "intangible losses" seem trivial compared to the fact that a serious fire in any establishment whose products or services are related to our war effort may result in delays in production schedules or in delivery of supplies to our armed forces.

By assuring prompt discovery of fire, and immediate and accurate alarms, A.D.T. Protection keeps physical losses to the minimum, thereby also protecting the intangible values that always are affected when serious fire stops a business. A.D.T. Fire Protection Services include: Sprinkler Supervisory and Waterflow Alarm; Aero Automatic Fire Alarm; Manual Fire Alarm; Central Station Watchman's Reporting Service. Write for free descriptive booklets.

A.D.T. ELECTRIC PROTECTION SERVICES

Controlled Companies of AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO. 155 Sixth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

