TRANSMITTER



• LETTERS •

From An Old Customer

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH Co.:

We want to thank you for the most efficient way your organization handled our emergency early Sunday morning.

But for your prompt attention in notifying the fire department, and their quick response, we would have suffered a very heavy fire loss in addition to our water loss.

As one of your older customers we are again indebted to you for the efficient functioning of your whole organization.

HENRY D. JAMISON, JR.

Jamison Bedding Co. Nashville, Tenn.

"Got Something"

(Complete story p. 3)

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH Co.:

My congratulations on the quick service A.D.T. gave the Famous Theatre on the night of February 17.

Leaving the theatre at 10:45, I received a phone call when I arrived home from your men telling me that they had caught five juveniles who had broken into the house.

It was a job well done—in fact you people have given me fast service every time I have called on you. I think you fellows got something when you caught that gang.

Henry E. Gowland, Manager Famous Theatre

New Orleans, La.

Mayor Is Pleased

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH Co.:

As far as I know there was no damage done by the fire in City Hall basement, and the A.D.T. handling of this matter was entirely satisfactory.

It seems that the janitor was burning papers in the furnace and the piled-up paper on the outside caught fire, the heat from the paper causing the alarm to go off. The engines responded before anyone knew the alarm had gone in.

HENRY W. LOCKWOOD, Mayor City of Charleston

South Carolina

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 •

An Unbeatable Team

One night recently a watchman at a war plant in San Francisco in the course of his hourly rounds made his usual careful inspection of one of the buildings. He entered at 8:00 p.m. and left at 8:16 p.m., satisfied that everything was apparently in order. Yet—at 8:53 p.m., a few minutes before his next inspection was due, a man living across the street saw flames licking from a window—and telephoned the fire department.

At another war factory in a western city, a new watchman was employed, apparently assuming his duties with only limited supervision. One night, shortly after midnight, for reasons unknown, he omitted his coverage of the main office across the railroad tracks. At 3:00 a.m. another employee noticed smoke billowing from the building and turned in a fire alarm.

These are but two examples of what is happening almost daily in plants which fail to supplement their watchman services with automatic means for discovering fire and summoning the fire department.

A watchman, after all, is only human; he can be in but one place at a time, and is subject to all of the frailties and shortcomings of humanity. His efficiency, therefore, is measurably increased when he has the aid and assistance of automatic systems. The two elements working together—the human and the mechanical—form an unbeatable team.

Important in normal times, automatic systems assume an even greater significance today when any interruption of the flow of goods to our armed forces may have serious consequences in the conduct and outcome of the war.

On the Cover

Gas masks have their non-military uses, too, as evidenced by this month's cover picture showing a fireman wearing a protective mask as he enters a burning building filled with poisonous fumes. (Photograph by Harold Lambert)

Save the life of a fighting man—make a date with the Red Cross Blood Bank TODAY.

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.



VOL. XV APRIL, 1943 No. 4

GUARDS GRAB YOUTHFUL GANG

Vandals' Capture Solves Mysterious Series of Fires And Burglaries Terrorizing New Orleans Neighborhood

The last sleepy movie-goer yawned his way out of the late show at the Famous Theatre in New Orleans, on February

17. When all was quiet a band of five young boys stealthily crept out of the shadows and jimmied the locks on the front doors.

Eight minutes later, in the act of ransacking the place, they were surprised



Louis Landry

by two A.D.T. guards who rushed up in response to burglar alarm signals received at the Central Station. Quickly, they found hiding places in the large theatre auditorium, but the two guards uncovered the young marauders one by one, until they had rounded up all five. One guard kept the quintet under surveillance, while the other telephoned police headquarters.

The four youngest, their ages ranging from thirteen to sixteen, were transferred to a home for delinquent minors. The eldest, Louis Landry, nineteen years old and ringleader of the gang, confessed that he and accomplices had broken into a number of schools during the previous few weeks, looking for money and food. He also admitted his unintentional guilt in a fire which swept through McDonogh No. 16 School the previous Monday, caused by a lighted candle which he accidently left there after having searched lockers and kitchen for booty. The ensuing fire destruction made it necessary to close the school down for repairs. Four other schools had been looted by him and his followers, the thieves making off with cash, soft drinks and other articles.

Landry was booked on three counts of breaking and entering, and is being held by police for further investigation.

WIFE BEATER CAUGHT

Wife beaters deserve all the bad breaks that come their way, and an A.D.T. guard is proud of his part in the recent capture of one such despicable creature.

The man, being chased by Covington, Kentucky, police for abusing his family and wrecking the furniture, ran through the beam of an A.D.T. Invisible Ray Alarm on a subscriber's premises, informing the Central Station that someone was intruding.

Huddled in the doorway while police

passed him by, the wretch thought he was safe until an A.D.T. guard, answering the alarm, uncovered the fugitive's hiding place and turned him over to the searching police.

BALKY OIL BURNER

John Patelski, night watchman at Goldblatt Brothers Department Store in Chicago, attempted to light the oil burner early on the morning of February 14. His efforts resulted in catastrophe. Malicious flames lept from the iron doors of the furnace, severely burning his hands, arms, face and neck. Knowing that A.D.T.'s Central Station would be ready for an emergency, he telephoned them for help.

Police Squad 48 and an A.D.T. guard lost no time in transporting Patelski to St. Anthony's Hospital. Another A.D.T. guard took over the protection of the department store premises.



PINCH HITTING FOR THE MEN—They've got the ladies fighting fires now in the Manhasset-Lakeville Fire District on Long Island. Getting their first test at a brush fire are these women auxiliaries doing a man's job in replacing volunteer firemen whose business takes them away during the day

BURGLARY

FOOLED 'EM

A.D.T. Guards Play Cat-and-Mouse To Catch Burglars

"This place is easy pickin'", boasted one youth to his two partners in crime, as they counted the \$11.50 they had removed from the cash register of the South Main Auto Parts Company in Akron, Ohio. "Now that we know how to get in without settin' off that burglar alarm, let's come back tomorrow night!"

They returned, but the register was empty. The store manager had consulted the A.D.T. Central Station and a plan had been hatched to nab the intruders. The cash register was cleared of money and although the thieves returned two nights in a row, they went away emptyhanded.

Meanwhile, A.D.T. guards looked about and discovered how the boys were breaking in. They would remove a loose board in the rear of the store and replace it before sneaking out. A new trap was set and A.D.T. eagerly awaited another visit from the young robbers.

Sure enough, on March 16, the culprits broke in for the fourth—and last

Confidently they opened the time. inner door leading from the rear room to the front of the store, but this time their entrance was reported at the Central Station, for the door had been wired for such an entry. A.D.T. guards and police caught two of the culprits redhanded with a small amount of cash as they crouched under a truck in the yard. A third lad who had sprinted away down the street ran right into a group of detectives who had joined in the search and were standing guard to prevent the escape of any of the trespassers.

DOUBLE TROUBLE

Two separate would-be robbers were seized by Cleveland, Ohio, police recently, with A.D.T. Burglar Alarms taking credit for the captures.

Detectives surprised a twenty-sevenyear-old thief as he was attempting to "burgle" the Weissman Furniture Store in the wee small hours of March 11, but who inadvertently announced his presence through operation of an A.D.T. Burglar Alarm.

Early the following morning, an exconvict also was hauled in as he tried to return to his old trade by sawing through the iron bars of an A.D.T. protected window in a state liquor store. His career will again be interrupted while he spends a little more time as a guest of the state.

"BASIC TRAINING" TOUGH

Thieves Hope Fighting Foe Will Be Easier Than Dodging Police

Two nineteen-year-old Newport, Kentucky youths, Arthur Wright and Donald Collins, who were to be inducted into the army within two weeks, received their baptism under fire early in the morning of February 20, when police riddled their auto, slightly wounding the pair.

They might have succeeded in robbing the Peters' Cafe, had it not been that the door through which they escaped with a supply of whiskey was protected by an A.D.T. Burglar Alarm. Six signals were set off, summoning three squads of policemen. The first group arrived in time to see the young men fleeing down the street, and immediately gave chase.

Shots were fired at them, and Wright dropped his armload of whiskey bottles as he and Collins ducked into an auto at the curb. Patrolmen concentrated their fire on the car, and bullets grazing Wright's upper lip and Collins' arm quickly convinced the culprits that they were hopelessly clutched in the arm of the law. Surrendering to police, they were committed to jail on charges of breaking into and entering the cafe premises.

Collins was heard to say that he hoped the enemy wouldn't be as good a shot as the Newport police.

NO ESCAPE

When Kenneth Adamson and Jack Williams heard footsteps running in the direction of the Los Angeles store they were trying to rob at 2:30 one morning, they decided to make a hasty exit. Williams crashed noisily through a window pane and made off down the street, ducking a bullet. Adamson, not quite quick enough, was captured by police and guards right on the premises of the automotive supply store, and obligingly turned in the name of his



International

SCENERY GOES UP IN SMOKE—Handicapped by dense smoke, firemen fight a fire in a New York City warehouse on February 4, owned by the Select Operating Company, who supply stage sets for the Schubert Theatres

accomplice who was rounded up by the law a little later.

The "jig was up" as soon as these two intruders broke into the premises, for A.D.T.'s Burglar Alarm did its usual fast job of notifying the Central Station and the police department.

FIRE

WARNED IN TIME

Plant Doing 100% War Work Saved by Aero Alarm

The Winship Company building in Utica, New York, stood dark and deserted one night, its operators having long since left for home. All was still—except for a tiny spot of flame which crept up in one of the spray rooms—then burst suddenly into a searing wall of fire which enveloped the entire room. Not a living soul was in the building to call the fire department, yet that very moment an alarm sounded at A.D.T. headquarters, set off by the action of the flames on the Aero Automatic Fire Alarm System.

Firemen and equipment soon reached the building and went to work. In a short while they had the threatening fire under control, and the next morning the factory was going full steam ahead as usual, turning out priceless equipment for our war program.

BOILER GOES DRY

The usual weekend quiet had settled over the Wichita Wholesale Furniture Company premises. Its very isolation brewed trouble, for there was no one there to note that the water in the tank controlling the boiler had evaporated. The boiler steamed, then dried up, and soon became dangerously overheated.

Into A.D.T.'s Central Station, however, ticked a waterflow alarm, caused when a sprinkler head opened in the furniture company's boiler room. Notified in time, the fire department was able to reach the scene, shut off the sprinklers, and remedy the dangerous condition which precipitated the emergency.



COSTLY HOTEL FIRE—The Hotel
Windsor in Poughkeepsie was gutted by
a fire on February 18 while water from
hoses froze in the sub-zero weather

AIR DUCT BLAZE

Touch a match to a powder fuse and you'll get a faint idea of how rapidly flames swept through a heating duct in an Akron, Ohio, plant recently. Thick, heavy dust lying in layers about the room ignited and flames licked ominously along rafters and ledges.

Meanwhile, the heat rise caused the Aero Automatic Fire Alarm to sound a warning at the A.D.T. Central Station. The fire department reached the scene a few minutes later and subdued the blaze by use of carbon dioxide fire extinguishers.

Despite the potential danger of this type of fire, no damages were reported by the company, thanks to the quick response of A.D.T. and the fire department.

LURKING SPARK

Fire in a leather goods plant can be doubly serious these days when even shoe leather becomes a vital weapon in waging total war.

An A.D.T. Aero Alarm came to the rescue in one such case when fire broke out recently at the Hess & Hopkins Leather Company in Rockford, Illinois. Employees attempting to thaw out some frozen pipes during the day accidently let a spark fall into some bark. For several hours the ember smoldered, then flared up afresh at 9:27 p.m., threatening to get beyond control.

Notified by the A.D.T. Central Station, the fire department rushed its apparatus to the factory and streams of water soon had the flames reduced to harmless ashes.



Internationa

TWAS A GREAT SHOW—Young boys shown in the photograph evidently got a kick out of watching fireman on the tower pour water into the blazing building. The Superior Furniture Company in Chicago sustained a property loss of \$50,000 as a result of the fire. Seventy-five workers escaped when flames broke out

GOOD TEAMWORK

Foundry Employees Well Prepared When Emergency Arises

Midst the steady morning hum of work in a Salt Lake City iron foundry, rose the shrill and dreaded cry of "Fire!" Mechanics in the tool room were aghast to see flames flickering through a pile of cases and tables. Panic and destruction might have ensued but for the instant reactions of these men. One employee used an A.D.T. Manual Fire Alarm to call for help, and others grabbed a heavy canvas blanket, throwing it skillfully over the flames.

In less than twenty minutes firemen had suppressed the blaze with but slight damage to the toolroom fixtures, and workers quietly returned to their task of keeping one of America's thousands of iron foundries roaring uninterruptedly twenty-four hours a day.

STOVE EXPLODES

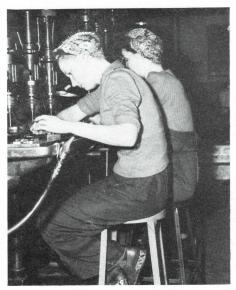
A kerosene stove plus an inflammable wooden shed add up to a hazardous fire possibility. Realizing this, the Union Transfer Company protected its property and employees in the Baltimore freight yards with an A.D.T. Aero Automatic Fire Alarm.

Their foresight was rewarded one chilly night when a kerosene stove exploded, sending quick-spreading flames through one of the wooden railroad sheds. While three employees attacked the blaze with a fire extinguisher, the Aero Alarm automatically notified the Central Station which dispatched the fire department immediately. Firemen arrived in time to save the shed and keep the fire from expanding to adjacent offices.

STORY OF A SHIP

They towed her into a dry dock repair base in a southern port, a battered victim of a Nazi torpedo. Her gray hulk wallowed dejectedly in the waves and her twisted stacks loomed dry and smokeless. Another supply-line casualty . . . battered but not beaten . . . another ship to be rehabilitated by trained men with acetylene torches and perseverance.

It was Saturday night and welders bent over their flaming torches in a last-



DOING THEIR BIT—These young ladies operate drill presses in the A.D.T. Manufacturing Division in New York City. They are among more than one hundred replacing men now in service

minute effort to finish the job. Fiery sparks, snatched by a gust of wind, sailed into a pile of canvas tarpaulins which ignited like a bunch of dry leaves and sent flames licking along her freshly painted deck. But a keen-eyed watchman in a dock office saw the curling flames and promptly pulled the lever in an A.D.T. Fire Alarm Box. The city fire department responded and in a few minutes fire engines drew up and squelched the blaze.

Because the flames were beaten so quickly, the rehabilitated vessel slipped quietly out on schedule, to travel the ocean roads with a priceless cargo of war supplies for a far-away fighting front.

WATCHMEN

WHEN DANGER STRIKES

War Plant Watchmen Use A.D.T. Boxes to Summon Aid

A watchman at the St. Louis Steel Casting Company proved himself a hero one day recently when he unearthed a fierce blaze in a laboratory office. He summoned fire department aid by using an A.D.T. Fire Alarm Box then sped back to the laboratory to fight the flames until firemen arrived. He suffered burns on face and head but refused to leave his post for treatment.

Another watchman also proved himself vigilant one recent afternoon when a fuel feeding machine at the Western Cooperage Company in Portland, Oregon, caught fire. The property was protected by sprinklers, and twenty-six heads opened. The watchman, realizing that it was important to summon competent fire fighting aid, turned in an A.D.T. fire alarm signal.

The fire department responded in time to forestall extensive fire and water damage.

READY FOR TROUBLE

Ever alert to the potential danger of fire in a mattress factory, Watchman Osborn of Simmons & Company, San Francisco, smelled smoke on his 3:00 a.m. patrol one Friday recently. An A.D.T. Manual Fire Alarm Box was handy, so he speedily transmitted an alarm.

The fire department located a fire smoldering in a three-hundred-pound bale of cotton batting on a hand truck on the third floor of the plant. Wheeling the truck outside, they extinguished the fire with no damage to the surrounding property, and only a heavy wetting down of the cotton, which was dried out later.

LOSES LIFE IN FALL

Watchman Gus Winters of the Baptist Theological Union in Chicago was fatally injured one night recently when he fell into an elevator pit.

Traveling in an unlighted elevator, and neglecting to carry a flashlight, Winters left the first floor elevator doors open when he took the lift to the second story. A little later he returned to the first floor via the stairs. Apparently deciding to go up again, he stepped into the lightless shaft and plunged ten feet to the bottom of the pit.

A.D.T. guards, investigating his failure to turn in his 3:00 a.m. signal, found him about twenty minutes later, still conscious. Removed to the hospital, he died a few days later.

THE ROSTRUM

Devoted to Open Discussion of Protection Problems

SCORCHED EARTH - AMERICAN STYLE

Careless Smokers Destroy War Supplies Valued At Millions Though The Invader Is Still Three Thousand Miles Away

By WILLIAM EVANS

The other day in New York six war workers were fined twenty-five dollars each for violating the No Smoking rule in their respective plants.

Possibly they feel very much abused, for in recent months there have been several flare-ups among employees about smoking restrictions, in some of which labor unions have rallied to the aid of these "persecuted" individuals.

It may help take this subject out of the class conflict category to realize that last year there were 125,000 fires in this country charged to careless smoking—plus 10,000 others attributed to carelessness with matches. How many of those others classified as "origin unknown" really belong in this same column?

One hundred thirty-five thousand fires are bad enough at any time, but ten times worse now. One of these blazes totally destroyed a Newark, N. J., steel plant; another razed a Biloxi, Miss., shipyard; a third wiped out a \$500,000 factory in Dallas.

In Hamilton, N. J., a storage of reclaimed rubber was lost—in Salt Lake City, one hundred tons of scrap rubber were destroyed—in Utica, N. Y., \$20,000 worth of crude rubber was wiped out—by careless smokers. And rubber is rather hard to get these days.

In Boston, Pier 45 was destroyed to the tune of \$170,000—in New York, \$474,000 worth of raw material imports and dock space were reduced to ashes. All because some jerk had to have a smoke where he wasn't supposed to.

In one plant a blaze started when a worker slipped into a hallway to sneak a "drag" on the quiet. Hearing footsteps approaching, he opened a door to a storeroom, flipped the live butt inside, and walked innocently down the hall.

Just by dumb luck, somebody had occasion to go into that storeroom shortly after—in time to discover a rip-

roaring little blaze getting under way.

To be sure, stupidity with cigarettes isn't confined to workers by a long shot. Even vice presidents have tossed lighted butts out of office windows to land on some waiting awning below—or dumped the hot embers from a pipe into a half-filled wastebasket before going out.

Sales meetings and conventions invariably bring their damage toll to hotels through the careless disposition of cigars and hot matches—as in the case where the main ballroom of the Willard, in Washington, was gutted.

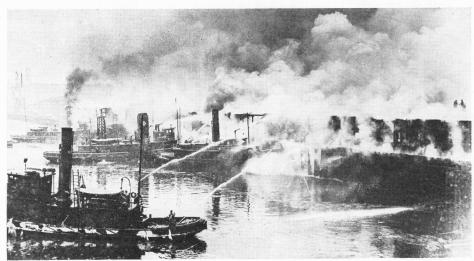
Even among the so-called "gentler sex" defiance of common sense precautions is widespread. One need only to go into a crowded department store or dime store basement to see disaster in the making: milling women pawing over fragile merchandise with lighted cigarettes in their dainty fingers.

Such a universal feeble-mindedness has been the subject of much educational and enforcement effort—with very meager results. True, the effort can't be relaxed. But so long as the carelessness remains, our chief hope must rest on the third "E" of the modern safety program: Engineering. Admit, for the sake of argument, that we all are careless—or, at least, have our moments. It then becomes obvious that our protection ace is automatic control which will not permit an outbreak from a careless cigarette to get out of hand; will not wait for the lucky chance that someone will discover the blaze in time.

Out West a hospital orderly fell asleep while smoking in bed. An Aero Automatic Fire Alarm System summoned the firemen promptly. And when they rushed into the smoke-laden room, they found the dazed orderly hanging part-way out of the window trying to cool off the seat of his pants. Had it been left to him, the whole building might have been involved before he sent an alarm.

Lacking that automatic protection, we go on having at least 135,000 fires a year from careless smokers. And while we talk of drafting manpower to speed up our critical war production, we let the manpower we have convert our production into ashes.

We have seen the indomitable Chinese and Russians apply their hard-headed scorched earth policy as the invader moves in. But we Americans are much more efficient than the Russians or the Chinese. We burn up our war supplies while the invader is still three thousand miles away!



International

SOMEBODY SNEAKED A SMOKE—according to the belief of fire protection officials, causing this \$170,864 fire when residue of sodium nitrate ignited under a Boston pier shed, destroying a warehouse and threatening surrounding railroad property including buildings containing stores of vital war materials



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.



Electric Protection Services AGAINST FIRE · BURGLARY · HOLDUP