

The

ADT TRANSMITTER

vol. XV. no. 6 — JUNE — 1943



ONE OF "OUR FOLKS"
(See page 6)

• LETTERS •

Niagara Falls—Not Buffalo

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

Referring to an article in your May issue, headed "Oily Rags—Fire", page 6, please be advised that the Elderfield-Hartshorn Hardware Company is located in Niagara Falls and the alarm referred to was handled by this department and not by the Buffalo Fire Department, as stated in your article.

J. H. O'NEILL, *Chief Engineer*

Bureau Of Fire
City of Niagara Falls, N. Y.

Exceptional Service

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

Once again the value of A.D.T. burglar alarm equipment in our plant has been illustrated to us.

The alarm recorded at 1:54 a.m., April 1. I was phoned at 2:12 a.m. and told a man was being held who had been caught in our place. Upon my arrival the man had been taken to the hospital as he had been shot trying to escape . . . only thirty-six minutes elapsed from the time the alarm sounded and the squad run was made, the man apprehended and removed to the hospital.

CLARENCE R. IRISH, *Pres.*

Hoosier Coffee Company
Indianapolis, Indiana

Plaudits From War Department

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

Referring to the waterflow alarm from G.F.E. premises at 4:51 p.m. April 3, this signal was occasioned by a break in a sprinkler pipe on the dock which was repaired immediately with no damage to materiel.

The local fire department was on the scene within five minutes, which is in itself an acknowledgement of the efficiency of your service. Your investigator always has shown an extremely cooperative attitude, which is also a tribute to your organization.

L. C. AMES, *Lt. Col.*

Army Air Forces Materiel Center
San Pedro, California

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 •

Automatic Sprinklers

"The great power of automatic sprinklers in protecting property, production and lives is a story little known to the average man," says a recent issue of *The Factory Mutual Record*.

"Sprinklers may be compared to ever vigilant watchmen," says the *Record*, "guarding all parts of a plant day and night, three hundred and sixty-five days a year, without sleep or vacation.

"Sprinklers 'discover' a fire automatically, go into operation at once and then continue to operate in the midst of smoke and heat, under conditions where men with hose streams could not live."

"Where fire is sometimes not controlled effectively by sprinklers," continues *The Record*, "the fault is not with the sprinkler protection as such, but with avoidable conditions such as an improperly closed valve, obstructed pipes, or inadequate water supply."

In brief, the efficiency of sprinklers is dependent upon the degree of care and attention they receive. This efficiency cannot be assured by the usual routine inspections which, if they are made, reveal nothing beyond the conditions of the system *at the instant of inspection*. Many things can, and do, happen *between inspections* to make the sprinkler partially or totally useless.

The only safeguard against human weaknesses is to make the sprinkler system report its own troubles when and as they occur. This is the primary function of Central Station Sprinkler Supervisory and Waterflow Alarm Service, which maintains a continuous automatic watch on all vital parts of the system; crippling conditions such as closed valves, low air pressure, low water, etc., are automatically detected and reported. In addition, the sprinkler system becomes an automatic fire alarm which summons outside help whenever the system goes into action as the result of fire or a serious leak.

We look forward to a day when automatic sprinklers reinforced by the supporting arm of Central Station Supervision will safeguard every hazardous occupancy. Under such conditions industrial fire losses should reach that irreducible minimum that is the objective of every fire prevention engineer.

The ADT TRANSMITTER

VOL. XV

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No. 6

SEES ALL—TELLS ALL

A.D.T.'s "Secret Weapon" Is Effective Against Intrusion

The Dixie Bronze Foundry in Birmingham, Ala., found just cause for rejoicing in its installation of the A.D.T. Invisible Ray Alarm when someone tried to sneak into its premises one dark night. The intruder broke the lock on one of the doors, but when he walked through the beam of the A.D.T. photoelectric device his presence was announced at the Central Station. A guard arrived within a few minutes but the trespasser apparently heard his approach and fled.

Another burglar was frightened off when he forced open an unprotected window and door leading to the boiler room of the Morrison Products Company, Cleveland, after midnight on May 16, only to intercept the beam of an A.D.T. Invisible Ray Alarm.

CRUSHED BY ELEVATOR

"Watchman Smith is five minutes overdue on his 3:15 a.m. signal," remarked Operator Wise to Guard Bockweg at the Indianapolis Central Station on April 24. "Why, he's right in this building," Bockweg replied, "I'd better hustle downstairs and see what's wrong."

Seconds later he came upon the lifeless body of the seventy-one-year-old watchman, William E. Smith, caught between the freight elevator and the first floor landing. As nearly as could be determined, the elevator evidently got out of control and crushed Watchman Smith to death when he attempted to level the car with the landing on which he was standing, reaching into the cab to work the controls.

Have you made a date with the Red Cross Blood Bank? Your blood may save the life of a fighting man.

TORNADO TEARS THRU AKRON

Unleashed Elements Strike City Resulting in Fire and Other Damage to Several A.D.T. Subscribers' Property

Tearing through Akron, Ohio, the evening of April 28 a violent tornado left destruction and fire in its wake.

At the Enterprise Manufacturing Company stunned night-shift employees stopped work, aghast, when a lightning bolt struck the roof tower and crackling flames and smoke testified to the virulence of the hit.

A watchman communicated with A.D.T.'s Central Station and firemen arrived to find a nearly uncontrollable blaze well under way on the roof. Its inaccessible location made it stubborn to subdue and the fire fighters worked furiously with hose lines and equipment before they were able to get the flames

completely under control.

Production resumed right after the flames subsided, however, and employees were able to resume their jobs, only slightly shaken by so unpleasant an experience. The only damage to the building and its contents was a charred roof.

Earlier that same evening the force of the tornado crushed a wall at the Gluntz Brass Foundry of Akron, caving in one side of the building. A.D.T. received a waterflow alarm at its Central Station when sprinkler pipes at the foundry collapsed. Fortunately, there was no fire, and maintenance men repaired the pipes in a few hours.



International
FIGHTING PAINT FACTORY FIRE—Firemen's hose networking a Brooklyn street testifies to the ferocity of the flames at the Peerless Paint & Varnish Co., which threatened the entire area, interrupting production at a nearby war plant

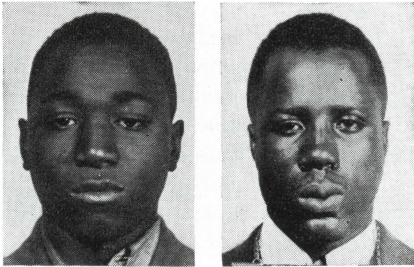
BURGLARY

RETURNED TO THE SCENE

Burglars Discover It Doesn't Pay To Try Again

On April 4, George Clark and John Cartwright made such a lucrative haul at Esberger Brothers' Jewelry Store in Cincinnati that they decided to try it once more.

In the pre-dawn gloom on May 10



CLARK AND CARTWRIGHT
Their luck didn't hold

they again smashed the show window and itching fingers reached for those tempting watches and rings. But this time the wail of a police siren broke into their feverish activity and the two culprits broke and ran, trailing wrist watches and bracelets behind them. One thief was gathered up by patrolmen in a rear alley; his confederate later was apprehended in his home. An A.D.T. Burglar Alarm had summoned the law.

Clark and Cartwright later confessed the earlier robbery of nine hundred dollars worth of jewelry and were committed to jail on two charges. Police are trying to recover the original loot.

HIS NIGHT TO PROWL

"Shay, I'll bet I could climb ri' back over that fensh quicker'n you could," cordially suggested the inebriated soldier to an A.D.T. guard early one Sunday morning as they met in the yard of the Crown Tar Works of Denver.

"Nothing doing," said the guard,

It is your home that our boys are fighting for—give them the guns, planes, tanks and ships they need. Buy Second War Loan Bonds.

"I'm turning you over to the military police."

This little scene occurred when A.D.T. sent a man to investigate the invisible ray alarm which sounded in the Central Station when a member of Uncle Sam's Army decided on a personal tour of the tar works following an overly enthusiastic celebration.

"The M.P.'s will take good care of you, soldier," tenderly promised the guard as he led him away to his fate.

LONG IS CAUGHT SHORT

A bullet in his right arm and an extended rest in jail is all that John Long has to show for an attempt to beat rationing by burgling the Hoosier Coffee Company in Indianapolis one Thursday night a few weeks past.

Police, summoned by an A.D.T. burglar alarm which went off when Long broke through a window, fired the shot which hit the thief as he attempted to escape in a stolen car. A kit of burglar tools was found in his possession.

COINCIDENCE

An A.D.T. guard, inspecting the Burglar Alarm at the Akron plant of the Hood Chemical Company late one afternoon, thought he was being "ribbed" when someone yelled "Fire!" But he soon found out that a rubbish



DRAFTSWOMAN — A.D.T.'s Engineering Department now employs young women tracers in its New York Drafting Division, replacing men who have left for military duty. Here's Dee Spencer showing us how it's done

pile had in fact ignited and that flames were spreading to chemicals in the rear of the building.

The guard telephoned the Central Station for help and firemen reached the scene in the nick of time. Had they not been notified so promptly, the entire building might have been gutted, but the smoke-eaters were able to subdue the flames and keep the damage within reasonable proportions.

GOT HIM OVER A BARREL

Rubber tires hold a fatal fascination for James Crothers, age twenty-seven, of Oklahoma City. His first two encounters with the rationed rarities landed him in prison on tire theft counts. The results of his third tire "survey" were equally disastrous.

An A.D.T. Invisible Ray Alarm heralded his approach to the Magnolia Petroleum Warehouse at 6:15 p.m., April 19, setting off an alarm at the Central Station.

Police found him leaning over an empty oil barrel. "I'm just looking for waste oil—but I guess you've got me over a barrel," he added jokingly.

His quip failed to amuse the police who locked him up in the city jail on charges of attempting his old game of stealing tires.

NOT SO SAFE

Buffalo police and an A.D.T. guard clattered up to the battered front door of the Gerstman Manufacturing Company at 4:15 a.m. on a recent Saturday, in response to an A.D.T. burglar alarm. Inside, a safe with its combination knocked off, bore mute witness to the fact that prowlers had indeed been around.

A search soon uncovered two men crouched under a cutting table, who received a free ride to the police station and bookings on third degree burglary charges as a reward for their uncompleted attempt at safecracking.

MONKEY BUSINESS

The first time they searched the Hudson River Storage Warehouse police found no sign of intruders to explain

why a burglar alarm sounded at A.D.T.'s Albany, N. Y., Central Station late one afternoon in May.

James Dennin, owner of the warehouse, insisted that someone must have entered, so he and A.D.T. guards continued their search. Their perseverance was finally rewarded when they unearthed a thirteen-year-old boy hiding in the building and turned him over to police who later rounded up his school chum accomplice.

The pair gave themselves away when they tripped an A.D.T. Burglar Alarm in forcing a protected door after climbing up a tree to the second floor.

FIRE

FIREMEN'S BUGBEAR

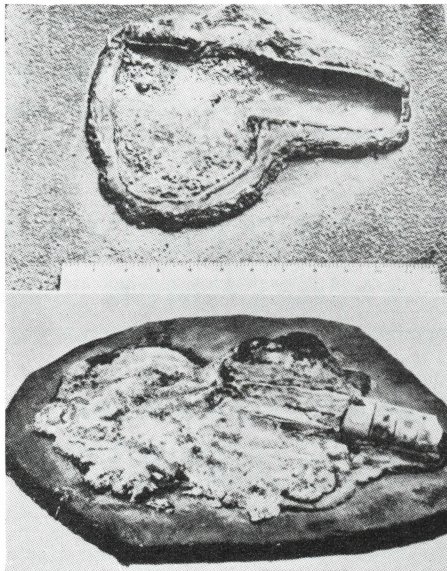
Oil-Soaked Materials Are Cause of Many Dangerous Fires

Spontaneous ignition, that sinister agent of mysterious blazes, continues to keep firemen busy in numerous cities.

One such fire started when a pile of oil-soaked rags lying unheeded in a corner of a warehouse of the Western Auto Supply Company ignited on the night of April 29. The resulting blaze set off the Aero Automatic Fire Alarm, and Greensboro, N. C., firemen rushed to combat the flames before stored-away merchandise was impaired.

The Ferry Cap & Set Screw Company of Cleveland had a few minutes' excitement on May 8, when fire broke out in their header room causing a waterflow alarm. Fortunately, loss was confined to the wetting of barrels of nuts and bolts, and the subscriber's only monetary outlay was the expense of having them dried out. The fire originated in rags carelessly shoved back on a shelf.

At 9:00 p.m., May 10, a rolled-up cotton bolt burst into flames through spontaneous ignition at H. D. Taylor Company, Buffalo, destroying part of a stock of draperies and rugs. When A.D.T. received the fire signal sent in from a Manual Box they promptly dispatched the fire department which successfully fought the blaze with a booster line extended from a truck.



Wide World

REASSURING IMPRESSIONS—Flat asphalt roofing will go far to protect American cities from enemy bombs, according to James McCawley, secretary of the United Roofing Contractor's Association, who has just returned from an inspection of England's bombed areas. (Upper): imprint of an incendiary in a built-up asphalt section removed from an English factory roof. Damage was limited to less than a one-foot area. The bomb burned itself out on the asphalt. (Lower): a panel of asphalt cut from a roof shows the effect of an incendiary bomb. The surface was not penetrated by the molten metal which is shown in the picture

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

"Here we go again, boys," shouted the captain to his firemen as he swung onto the ladder truck. It was 2:30 a.m. on a Tuesday in April and San Francisco's trusty fire fighters roared through the deserted streets to the Sanitary Laundry. Smoke and flames could be seen emanating from the windows, so hose lines immediately were strung into the building.

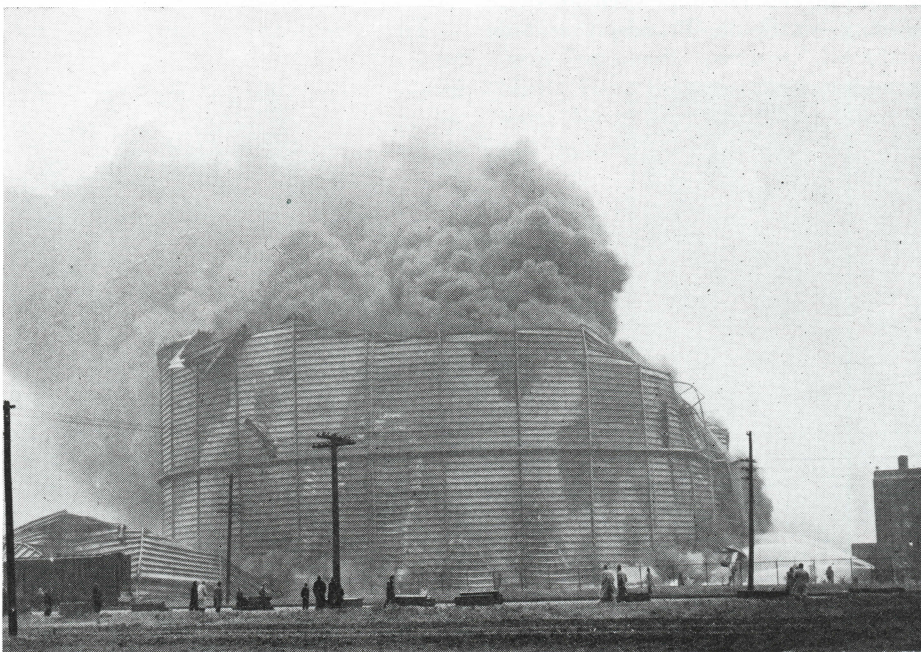
Firemen soon brought to terms the blaze which occurred in the finished laundry section, thanks to the prompt signal from the Aero Automatic Alarm with which the building is protected.

There was only a small loss.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

By the time the Fort Worth Fire Department arrived at the Bewley Flour Mill on April 24, a fire in a dust machine had gained considerable headway, resulting in a seven hundred and fifty dollar loss.

This might not have happened had a well-meaning employee not attempted to fight the sudden fire *himself* before finally running downstairs to report the trouble to Watchman Hardin. Hardin, however, lost no time in operating his



Press Association

BOMBER-TANK CATASTROPHE—Smoke rolls from a gas tank on Chicago's southwest side after a huge Army bomber crashed into it, scattering fragments from the plane and tank over the surrounding prairie. Twelve occupants of the plane were killed. Smashed section of tank appears on ground at left

A.D.T. Fire Alarm Box, saving the flour mill from a fire which might well have proved disastrous.

STORY WITH A MORAL

Gus was in a terrible hurry to get home. He rushed from his work in a plant at Dubuque, Iowa, the minute the place shut down, dropping his soldering iron into its holder on the bench.

But Gus, in his precipitate departure, had neglected to switch off the electric current! And, as luck would have it, the soldering iron slipped from its holder and landed on the oil-soaked bench. The wood began to smolder; then it ignited. By 1:15 a.m. a spanking little fire curled up toward the ceiling.

Fortunately for Gus and his employers, the property was equipped with an Aero Automatic Fire Alarm and the blaze betrayed itself when the rapid temperature rise set the system in operation. The A.D.T. Central Station notified the fire department whose quick work kept the blaze from consuming anything except Gus' work bench.

INCENDIARISM SUSPECTED

Two arson suspects were rounded up in Los Angeles recently when an office building on South Broadway sent in

two A.D.T. fire alarms in as many days, for fires occurring in trash barrels.

Two boys who were found loitering about were seized and questioned by the Arson Squad on suspicion of having maliciously set the fires.

WATCHMEN

UNEXPECTED VISITORS

Entered Via The Skylight But Left In A Police Car

A night watchman's lot is a lonely one, and as the watchman at the R. S. Elliott Arms Company in Kansas City, Mo., can testify, when he does receive callers it's rarely a social visit.

'Twas a minute past the witching hour on a recent Wednesday night when the watchman harkened to sounds and scufflings from the top story. First, he sent in an A.D.T. burglar alarm signal by opening a door to a protected cabinet; then he captured two young boys as they tried to escape through the skylight, relieving them of one loaded rifle and four Colt automatic pistols, which they had lifted from the repair shop on the third floor.

The watchman rounded up the cul-

prits just in time to deliver them into the hands of the arriving police.

FOUNDRY FIRE

Flashlight in hand, the night watchman at the Acme Steel & Iron Works, Buffalo, N. Y., was making his post-midnight round on April 17. Suddenly his senses snapped into alertness as the faint odor of smoke swept into his path. He followed its trail to the malleable foundry where a small fire in boxes of insulating materials met his view. Quickly, he ran to the A.D.T. Manual Fire Alarm Box and put in a call for the fire department.

Firemen reached the plant in time to squelch the blaze with a single hose line.

FELT ILL

The tape at A.D.T.'s Oakland Central Station failed to record a 10:30 p.m. signal on April 20 from Watchman Perry at the Crystal Laundry. Something was amiss! Guard Cline hot-footed it over to the building and sure enough found the watchman huddled on the floor complaining that he felt ill. At his suggestion the A.D.T. guard telephoned Perry's son who relieved his father of his duties for the remainder of the night.

ORGANIZATION

A.D.T.'s FOLKS IN SERVICE

Latest reports from A.D.T.'s Military Service Bureau indicate that 703 employees now are serving in the armed forces. This includes several young ladies who have enlisted in the WAACS, WAVES, WAFS and Marine Corps.

A company news bulletin, "Our Folks In The Service," is now being published monthly and mailed to A.D.T. employees serving Uncle Sam all over the world.

The young man on the cover of this month's *Transmitter* is Pfc. Hal Lepelletier of A.D.T.'s Executive Office Accounting Division, now with the U. S. Army Air Corps.



ROWBOAT SERVICE—The photograph shows the partially inundated premises of two A.D.T. subscribers, Disbrow & Company and the Omaha Box Company, during the severe flood which swept Omaha, Nebraska, the week of April 13. Undaunted by the waters, A.D.T. service men visited subscribers in rowboats to maintain their Fire, Burglary, and other protection systems

THE ROSTRUM

Devoted to Open Discussion of Protection Problems

'WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE'

Belated Discovery and Delayed Alarms Spell Not Only Large Fire Losses But Also Increased Water Damage

By PAUL W. KEARNEY

"Seen these pictures of the *Normandie* a year after, Chief?" asked Tom. "Working inside her must be like the old upside-down house at Coney Island.

The Chief ran his eye over the magazine page and then tilted his chair back as he drew a smelly pipe from his coat pocket.

"You just gave me an idea, Tommy, for my next talk at the officers' school," he said finally. "I want you to cut these pictures out and mount them on cardboard so I can pass them around; they put across an idea better than I've ever seen it put over before."

"What's the angle, Chief?"

"Just this," said the Old Man, "we've heard a lot of talk about how a fire put this ship out of commission for over a year. But I've never seen much in the papers about what really turned her over and made a bad matter a hundred times worse—WATER."

Lighting his pipe, the Chief eyed Capt. Moran to see if it registered. "Sure," he resumed from behind a smoke screen, "there was plenty of fire there—enough to require a hell of a volume of water. But the fire damage itself could probably have been repaired in a month or two—whereas it's taking them well over a year to catch up with the *damage done by the water*.

"Naturally, a ship is different from a building—but not too different. I've seen good, fireproof buildings collapse when water-soaked stock pushed out the walls—I've seen many a floor cave in from the weight of water on it, carrying floors below it right down to the cellar. In fact, when I was a rookie on 8 Engine, my best pal was drowned in a cellar full of water from an upstairs fire! It's not for nothing that I keep yelling at these engine company men going into a building, 'Don't open that

line until you see fire.' For in most of the 'workers' we have, water does as much damage as the fire and smoke and often more.

"Figure it out for yourself. 'A gallon of water to a pound of fuel,' they say—that's six pounds of water. A ton of fuel means six tons of water—if you can put all the water on the fire. Which you can't, because a ton of fuel burning between four walls spells so much heat that you can't get in close enough. Consequently, three-quarters of the water is wasted in a real 'all hands' blaze. And if it's an upstairs fire, most of that stuff runs downstairs and raises the devil with stock and machinery below even if the fire never extends beyond the point of origin."

The Chief banged his desk and snorted. "Sixty thousand dollars worth of water damage at a five thousand dollar fire in that shoe factory last month. And for why? Just because the blamed thing had been going for an hour before we got an alarm—so what can we

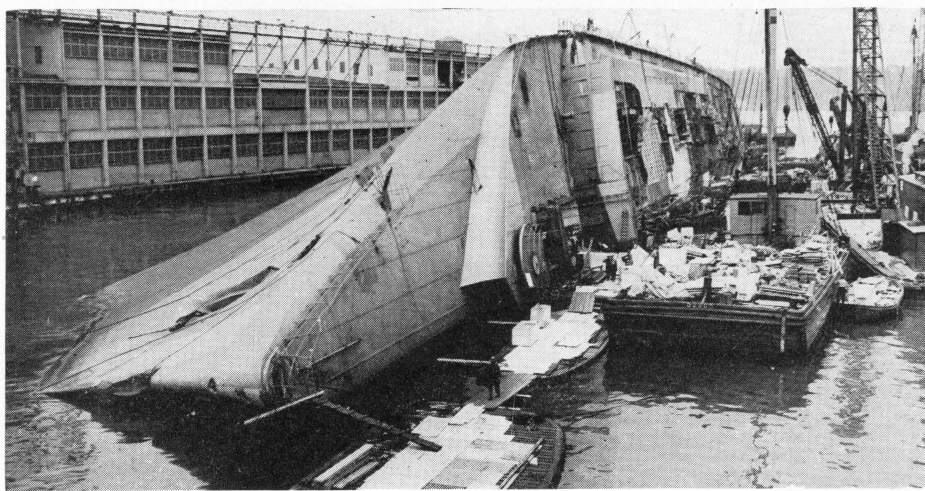
do in that case but drown it out?

"The answer's so simple," he growled, "yet these guys can't seem to see it. If they'd had a sprinkler system there, maybe two or three heads would have opened and held that blaze with a shower of perhaps thirty gallons of water per minute per head. And if that sprinkler had been supervised by A.D.T. as all sprinklers should be, we'd have had a waterflow alarm and been there in a couple of minutes.

"But no—no sprinklers. So we get there after the outbreak is an hour old. We have to put four handlines in there for about twenty minutes—*throwing two hundred and fifty gallons per minute per line*. All of which added up to sixty thousand dollars in water damages downstairs because we wouldn't have enough salvage covers in the whole county to cover the stock in that sieve!

"On top of that, they lose two days' production time—not on account of the fire—but on account of drying out and wiping and repairing the drenched machinery downstairs. Maybe the board of directors can console themselves by thinking over what they saved by not installing a supervised sprinkler system. But to an old shellback fireman of forty years' standing there'd be damn cold comfort in that now!"

The Chief knocked the dead ashes from his pipe "Don't forget to mount those *Normandie* pictures," he admonished Tom. "They tell the story of water damage better than it's ever been told before!"



Press Association

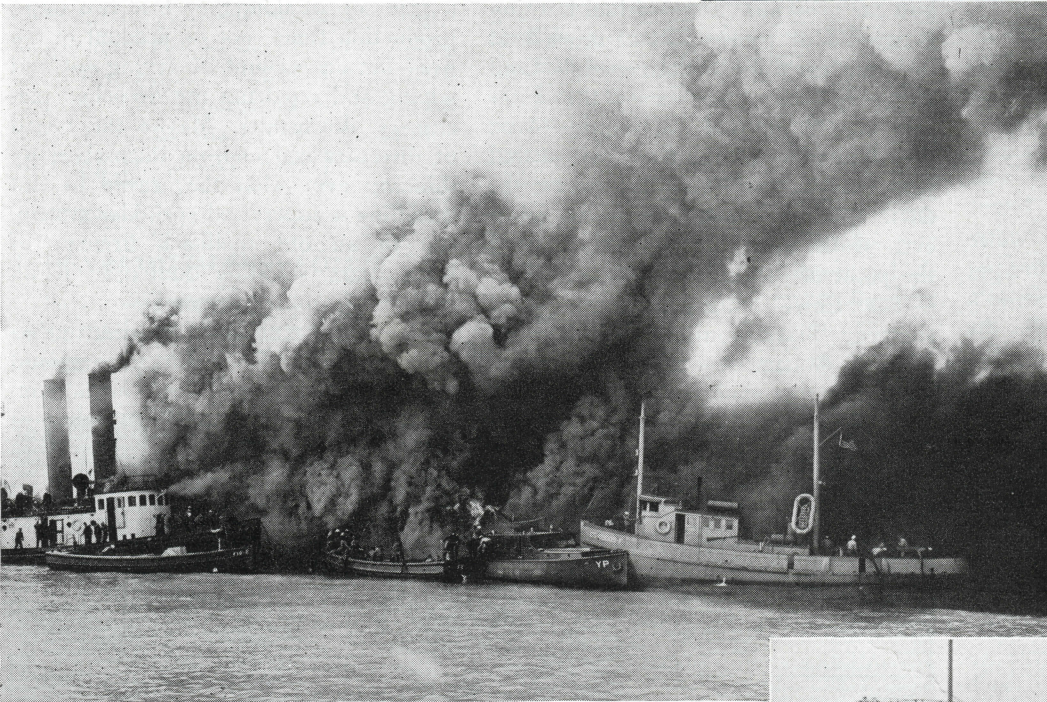
BOTTOM'S UP—It was more than a year ago that firemen, largely as the result of a delayed alarm, were obliged to flood the burning *Lafayette*, formerly the proud *Normandie*, causing her to capsize. Righting her has proved a tedious process



MAGNESIUM GOES UP IN FIREWORKS—But it would have been more effective inside bombs raining down on the Axis. This pyrotechnic display occurred on March 17 when a magnesium plant burned to the ground with explosive flashes visible for miles



FIRE DAMAGES NAVY PIER—A four-alarm blaze rages at a San Francisco naval pier May 13 while fireboats pump water into the inferno aided by civilian firemen. According to newspaper reports, pier employees fought the fire for almost a half-hour before calling the fire department (see photograph at lower right)



WAR PLANTS BURN — Firemen pour streams of water into the Old Brewery Building, Philadelphia, which houses two war working concerns. Did a shipment of war materials miss a convoy to a fighting front because of this destructive blaze which occurred on May 7?

GIRLS HELP — San Francisco women helped soldiers, sailors, marines and coastguardsmen carry as many Navy supplies as they could salvage to safety when the naval pier blaze (photo at left) threatened to get out of control

INDUSTRIAL FIRES IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1943 MATCH THE ENTIRE INDUSTRIAL FIRE TOTAL FOR 1942!

—according to the National Fire Protection Association. Such fires have destroyed food and war supplies, delayed production in war plants and damaged military property.

Many of these fires need never have reached such destructive proportions had the plants been provided with adequate means of detecting blazes in their infancy and summoning the speedy assistance of the fire department.

The above photographs sadly illustrate what can happen when a tiny flicker of flame goes unnoticed or when the alarm reaches the fire department TOO LATE.

