AP Maintains News Pickup Center Of World

PATROLS AIR AS LINK TO FAR NATIONS

Latest In Equipment Records Big News

BY C. E. BUTTERFIELD

NEW YORK—APR. 14—A modern suburbian farm with a lot of special antennas wrapped over its 15-acre plot of ground.

Actually, it's a great deal more than a farm. It is the Associated Press Radio Listening Post of New York, news pickup center for much of the world.

Since that fatal December 7 when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor it has become more important than ever as the link between news sources throughout the world and the front pages of your home-town newspaper.

Constant Patrol

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, APR-NY keeps an electrical ear cocked to many a wavelength, short or otherwise, to maintain a constant patrol for news dispatches both from the AP's own correspondents and from official sources.

Despite the fact that such communications facilities as cables and the like have been hit by the war and the Axis countries have cut direct contact with the democracies APR-NY nevertheless, through the medium of radio, is able to keep open the news channels.

It does this by tuning to the Morse Code official transmissions of the government stations in Berlin, Rome, Tokyo and Moscow to copy their communiques and other announcements, most of which are sent out before they are relayed in voice from the same points.

From these are weeded the propaganda, to the actual news announcements, under the code name of "official radio recorded by AP."

Recalls World News

Messages come in from other points. Moscow, London, Lisbon, Lima, Peru, are recorded constantly, including official government radio, and dispatches are directed to the AP by its own staff men.

At high speed, ranging from 500 to 1,000 words per minute, automatic tape recorders translate the signals into dots and dashes which in turn are typed out by operators for transmission over special automatic printer telegraph circuits to the AP cable desk in the Rockefeller Center headquarters.

It is there that the various dispatches are correlated with news from other sources.

The Listening Post itself is the most modern and up-to-date that man's ingenuity can devise. It is a site that permits excellent reception from all over the world in addition to being remote from man-made interference.

Stanley Wolf is in charge of the staff of 13 expert radio operators. The Listening Post farm has two houses. The five-room more modern bungalow has been turned into the operating station. The other, having nine rooms on two floors, is fitted up as living quarters for emergency use.