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WELLINGTON,

4th September, 1939.

I hereby certify that the average net sales of the "NEW ZEALAND LISTENER" for July, 1939 (excluding all free copies), were in excess of 35,500 copies weekly.

Rich Corneil

Controller and Auditor-General.

The Propaganda Front

WHATEVER posterity says about the present war it will be remembered as the first war conducted by radio. The Spanish and Abyssinian wars were announced by radio, and in Spain at least radio played an active part to the end. But the present war depends on radio for its driving force—an entirely new experience.

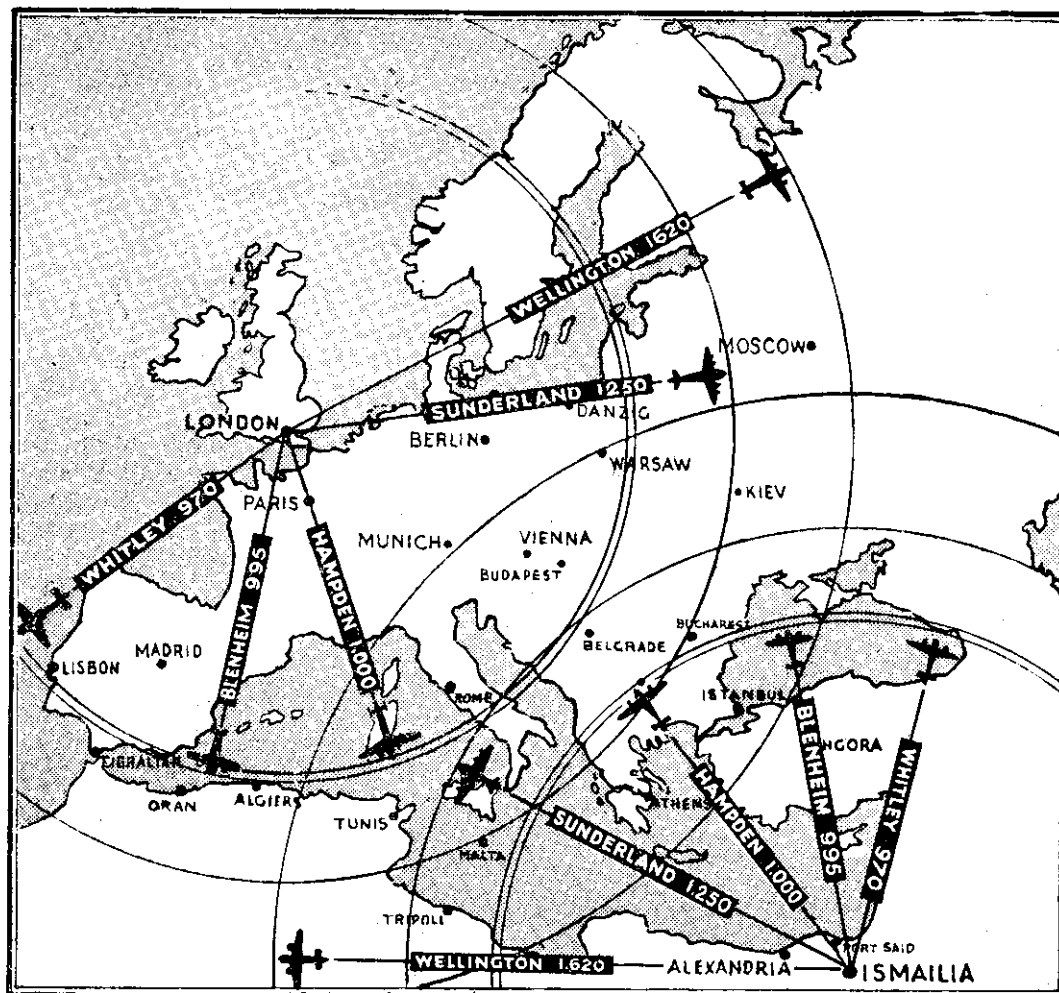
Nor can we yet say what the change means. The immediate consequences are plain enough—knowledge of events almost as soon as they happen, comment on them, and some kind of world reaction to them. But the distant consequences are far from plain. If radio has the power we have all in our rash moments attributed to it, it is already saving or destroying civilisation. But all we can see at present is that it is undergoing a test with ourselves as the subject of the experiment.

There is, however, this significant fact—that radio has nowhere been used yet with the irresponsibility that most people anticipated. So far as we are concerned in New Zealand that is first of all a tribute to the BBC, whose "one stern and eternal" principle it is that its news bulletins should be true. But it is a sign also of the restraint of the governments of all the belligerent countries, who quite clearly do not wish to release forces that they may not be able to control.

This of course does not mean that restraint will be observed indefinitely. As the war advances we may expect a rapid deterioration in its propaganda. But it is still roughly (and amazingly) true that the boundary between fact and fiction has not been forgotten.

WINGS OVER EUROPE

How Far the Bombers Can Fly



★ Britain's Bombing Power ★

SQUADRONS of Britain's newest bombers based in England and Suez could between them patrol nearly all Europe and a goodly part of Africa and Asia. They can fly 3,200 miles non-stop at almost 200 m.p.h. Vickers Wellington geodetic bombers are powered by two 900 h.p. Bristol engines, have huge bomb capacity and are manned by five aviators. Their defensive armaments comprise three machine guns. (Geodetic construction resembles a shell of metal basketwork. It minimises weight and increases internal space by the absence of cross-bracing struts inside the framework.)

Britain's Air Force is also receiving first deliveries of a new type Bristol bomber, claimed by *Reynolds News* to be the most powerful in the world. Twin engines of 2,000 h.p. each supply enough power to carry the machine 1,600 miles and back with a several-ton load of high explosives. Maximum speed is estimated at 350 m.p.h.

★ Air Distances in Europe ★

THE approximate mileage of the principal capitals in Europe from the nearest point on frontier or coast, is as follows:—

England-Berlin	-	-	490
Germany-London	-	-	260
France-Berlin	-	-	345
Germany-Paris	-	-	180
Italy-Paris	-	-	320
France-Rome	-	-	290
England-Rome	-	-	870
Italy-London	-	-	530
Germany-Warsaw	-	-	160
Poland-Berlin	-	-	115
England-Warsaw	-	-	820