

## BBC MONITOR SERVICE

### Britain's Secret Radio Spotters

ON the outskirts of a little village in the English countryside stands a small group of huts. Beyond, towers of steel rear into the air as if they would catch every whisper borne by the laden wind. And that, in fact, is just what they do, for those masts are the aerials which receive news, talks, and messages from every known corner of the globe.

The engineers of the British Monitoring Service sit in the huts below, ear-phones on head, listening-in to the world. They receive two hundred foreign broadcasts a day, in twenty-five different languages, from Japan to South America, from Moscow to Buenos Aires.

This Monitoring Service is the latest addition to British war intelligence, and plays an important part in British broadcasts to foreign countries.

It was started before the war, mainly to test and improve reception in foreign countries and to record any outstanding speech or interesting programme for future use.

In this way, Britain has a permanent record of all of Hitler's speeches, broken promises, and betrayals, and is using the Nazi leader's own words for many propaganda broadcasts to Germany and German-controlled Europe.

#### Lies Noted

The task of these monitors is highly important. Their job is to note every news bulletin issued by enemy countries, to record shipping movements, weather, and crop conditions in Europe and elsewhere.

Reports of concentrations of troops, ships or other war material are all taken down by the expert linguists and sent

#### Heroism of Malta

Since June 10, when Italy entered the war, Malta has been bombed over a hundred and forty times.

Against the onslaught the Maltese are standing up extraordinarily well. "In fact," said Lieut.-Colonel A. V. Agius, Trade Commissioner for Malta in London, "all the reports we get from the island show that the people are keeping wonderfully cheerful. There is no sign whatever of any weakening. They have collected nearly £10,000 for the Spitfire fund.

"Lord Beaverbrook, in a very grateful message in acknowledgment, said 'the magnificent gift for aircraft made by your island stronghold has aroused the deep gratitude of the entire British nation. We salute the resolution and fortitude with which Malta, true to her peerless tradition, confronts the enemy. You have set an example for the whole world of courage and devotion.'

"The Prime Minister on more than one occasion has testified to the great gallantry of the Maltese under extremely difficult circumstances; and Lord Lloyd, in a recent broadcast, declared that 'the old Maltese spirit has again awakened.'"

out to a central department, which in turn sends out a digest of this information twice a day to various Government departments and officials.

Every lie spoken by Goebbels or Germany's radio announcers is instantly noted and refuted in the British foreign programmes that same day. Even the German and Italian cookery programmes are listened to intently, for here are often hints as to the shortage of a particular food, or the rationing of yet another item.

#### 500,000 Words

The daily reports are issued in two parts, the early report at eleven in the morning being devoted exclusively to German broadcasts, and the later one at 2 p.m., dealing with transmissions other than German. Extracts from German bulletins to their own people and to foreign countries, Italian programmes for home and abroad, transmissions from the United States, Spain, Portugal, Japan, South America, are all included in the reports. Even the Free German station is not left out of these comprehensive information digests.

At the end of a non-stop 24 hours of listening, the monitors will have taken down, translated into English, and edited some 500,000 words, enough to fill six good-sized novels.

So Britain listens-in to the world, and on what the monitors hear is based largely the British foreign wireless programmes.

#### BBC Foreign Broadcasts

In the past three years Britain has developed a foreign broadcasting service second-to-none in the world. Over 20 different languages are spoken every day. Czech, Greek, French, Magyar, Polish, Serbo-Croat, Arabian and Turkish, are among the languages broadcast.

The Monitoring Service is very essential in this work, for no false enemy statement has time to do real damage before the British monitors have heard it, passed it on to the Government, and had a denial issued in the next British foreign broadcast to the particular countries concerned.

## NATIONAL LEADERS: General Eastwood

"RUSTY" and "Bandy" are the nicknames which Major-General Thomas Ralph Eastwood diffidently carries. His slight ginger moustache provokes the first, the legs which bear his six-foot frame justify the second. Last November he was appointed Director-General of the Home Guard.

Aged 50, Eastwood has been in the Army 30 years, and has seen service in Egypt, Samoa, Gallipoli, France, Russia, India, Ireland, and New Zealand. He came through Dunkirk on Viscount Gort's staff, replaced Lieut.-General Sir Henry Royds Pownall as Inspector-General of the Home Guard; now he has been made supreme chief of the citizen army, and his old chief, Lord Gort, is Inspector-General.

Sharp featured and shy, General Eastwood spends a lot of his off-duty time on the hunting field, but modifies his keenness for all sorts of sports with a passion for bird-watching as a member of the British Ornithological Union.

"I am amazed at the amount of work that is being done," he said, after a tour of the Home Guard in England, Scot-



land, and Wales. Full of ideas for developing the Home Guard social life, such as improving canteens, he will be helped by his wife, who is Red Cross Commandant.

#### Loophole Closed

Once the haunt of buccaneers and freebooters, the Caribbean Sea, antechamber to the Panama Canal, is the most important link in America's chain of sea defences. It is the strategic key to the oceans which wash the Atlantic and Pacific, because it commands the short line of communications between them.

Queer things have lately been happening in the Caribbean. Cruising there in his schooner Blue Stream, a bearded young Englishman, Sir Anthony Jenkinson, started from Florida and hugged the Caribbean's inner coast, which is largely neglected by the U.S. neutrality patrol, and untouched by normal commercial traffic.

At Cozumel Island, on the Mexican coast, on the remote Colombian islands of St. Andrew and Old Providence, the tiny Corn Islands leased by Nicaragua to the United States, and at the Costa Rican port of Limon, right under the nose of the Panama batteries, he found

a whole chain of fuel-oil dumps maintained by German storekeepers and supplied from Limon.

These were blatantly intended to feed U-boats sneaking in from the Atlantic.

On Cozumel the dump was close to a lonely strip of beach, with enough depth of water for a submarine to come right inshore by night.

The central supply centre at Limon was run by a big German merchant firm, which has long specialised in Diesel oil.

Preliminary to the establishment of this re-fuelling system a small German steamer arrived on a shark-fishing cruise. Equipped with sounding and charting apparatus, she spent months among the coral reefs and islets of the Nicaraguan Mosquito Coast, but caught no sharks.

#### Terror Tactics

The night after Coventry's terror-attack the Germans tried to do the same to London and failed. As many 'planes (about 500) dropped as many bombs on the moonlit capital, but what damage was done was lost in the vast bulk of the city. To cause as much havoc as Coventry endured in an area 30 times the size, Goering would need 15,500 'planes. He has neither the machines nor the pilots, and Coventry is far from razed.

In the opinion of London observers Germany's air losses are not as serious in 'planes as in skilled pilots. Many of the best raiders, Civil Air Line pilots in peace-time, have been shot down or captured, and the number of men who know Britain so well from the air is limited.

Night raids will continue so long as the Nazis can make them, because of their nuisance value. It is thought that some of the less skilled pilots had been instructed to drop their bombs anywhere they might cause trouble, while the others do their best with more important military objectives.

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