

SPINS ITS WEB

By
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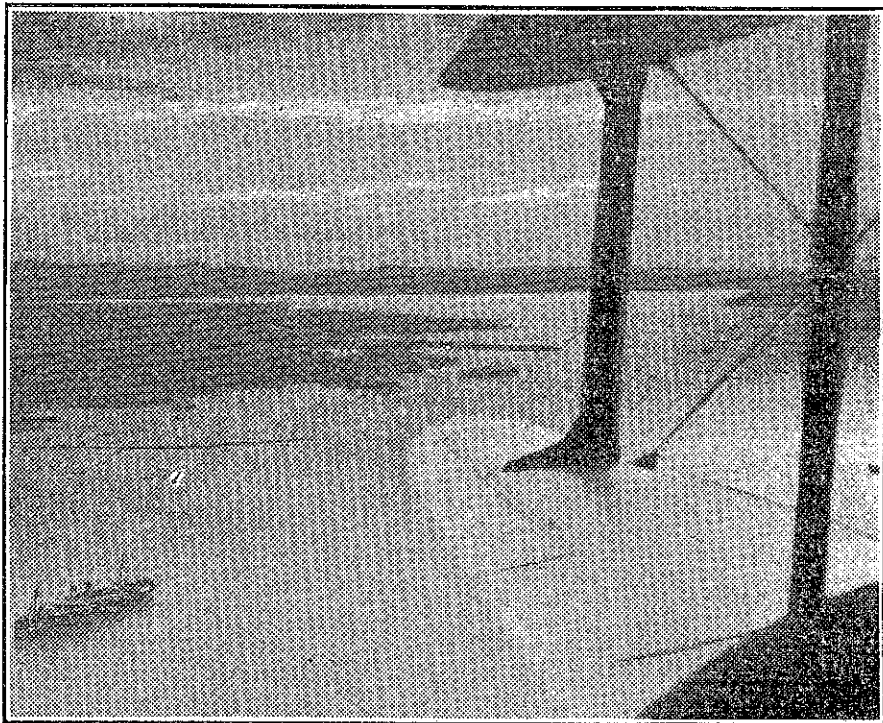
Around each central Pacific station is a whole web of radio communications from its own near-by islands. Messages from the outlying islands are radioed to the central station, the central station radios them to New Zealand.

This radio web is spun all round the southern Pacific. It links up the Cook Islands, Papeete, Niue Island, Nukulofa in the Tongan group, and the Chatham Islands. The latest service to be linked up is on Raoul Island in the Kermadecs.

THERE are even places within the Dominion itself which have their only contact with the outer world through radio. Many of them are the lighthouse stations. It is by radio alone that messages go to the men in the lonely places of Portland Island in Hawke's Bay, Stephens Island in Cook Strait, Puysegur Point south of Milford, Great Mercury Island in the Bay of Plenty, Jackson's Bay in South Westland, and to Milford Sound.

All these stations work in to one of the three main Post Office stations at Auckland, Wellington or Awarua in the south. Though there are no telegraph lines, the traveller can send his telegram from Milford Sound. It goes by radio.

Through the radio telephone, people in New Zealand talk, via Sydney, with London. The Dominion meteorolo-



RADIO TALKS WITH THEM.

... Ship and plane in lovely Auckland Harbour.

logists gather the data for their forecasts largely by radio. Certain trawlers in Cook Strait have radio telephones installed with which they can talk to the land. Passengers on ships get their New Zealand news from the Post Office radio.

Some cargo ship carrying no doctor, or with a patient suffering from a baffling complaint, sends out an XXX message. It is an urgent call—it takes precedence over all calls but the SOS. Through the agency of the Post Office radio coast station the ship can get medical advice for the treatment of its patient.

THE radio service to ships and airways to-day is one of radio's most fascinating developments. One can piece the romantic tale together from the logs of the department's radio operators.

As he sits at his control table, the operator jots down on his log a summary of the doings of the radio world of the sea. In his log he writes:

0.2 am Cq Vib whr

which means that at two minutes past 12 midnight, Brisbane (Vib) broadcast the weather for shipping (whr) to Cq (all stations).

He may write in his log that at "0.4 zmcr ympt R qru gm," which means that at four minutes past midnight he heard the Matangi (zmpt) say to the Arahura (zmcr) in Cook Strait: "Received your message (R); I have nothing for you (qru); good-morning (gm)."

It may sound a trivial thing to record in the log; yet it might be worth many lives to have on record that, at a certain time, those two ships were talking at a certain position in Cook Strait.

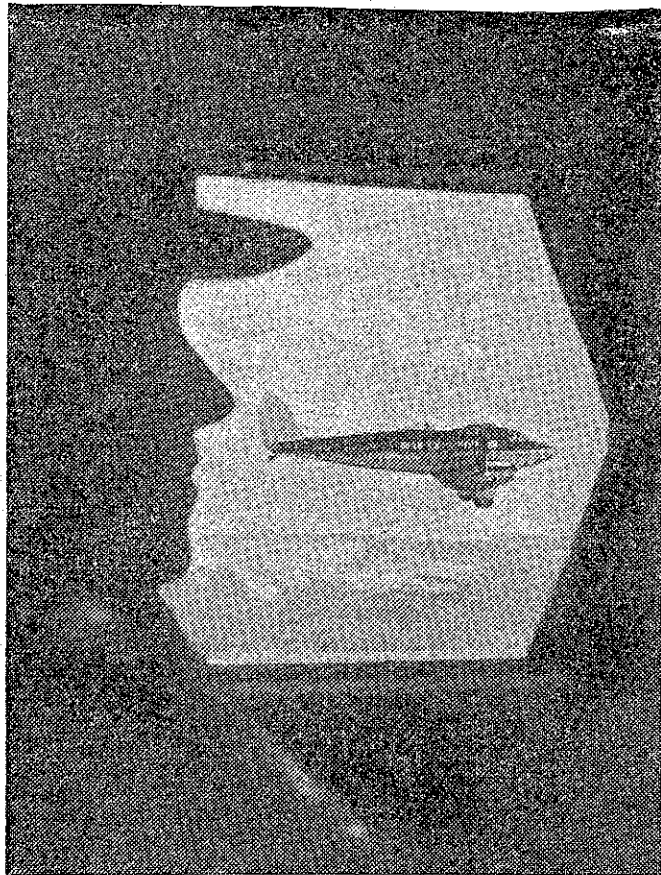
AND one can find this in the log book:

8.15 p.m. zlb gbtt ar.

And this simply means that at 8.15 p.m. N.Z. time the Queen Mary (gbtt) on her voyage across the Atlantic called station Akarua, New Zealand (zlb), and said: "Are you there, New Zealand? Have you anything for me?" The answer is in the log book on the next line:

8.15 p.m. gbtt zlb nil K.

which is the radio operator's way of saying that Awarua, New Zealand (zlb) then called the Queen Mary (gbtt) and said: "I have nothing for you. Go ahead." (Cont. on p. 35.)



ON WATCH IN THE AIR.

... Radio services guard all the New Zealand commercial airways' planes.