

Radio Jitters

Had Riding Orders

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unsettling the public mind in times of international stress, has led to recent direct action. The facts to light are these:

The BBC cancelled a recent talk by Colonel J. C. Wedgwood, M.P.

Sydney station that spoke of the steel-shod boots of marching Germans echoing from Berlin to Vienna was quickly told to cease.

Adelaide radio speaker Father W. J. Ryan, who was to have given a talk over a National station on "In Austria Before the War," was instructed at very short notice to change the subject of his address, and spoke on his studies of earthquakes.

Confidential wire was despatched to all Commercial stations in Australia by the Australian Director-General of Postal Services instructing them to avoid provocative comments on the international situation.

IN England, the part of Colonel Wedgwood's speech to which the BBC took exception ran as follows:

"What Hitler wants is Austria, Czechoslovakia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, some of Poland and the Ukraine, and, I hope, the Southern Tyrol, not to mention Switzerland, Alsace-Lorraine, Schleswig-Holstein and Malmedy. Mussolini is more moderate: he requires Majorca, Malta, Sicilia, Palestine, Egypt, Arabia, Tunis, and the control of Spain. Probably they both want a loan from us as well."

On the other hand, the BBC did not object specifically to this passage in Colonel Wedgwood's speech, referring to concessions to Germany, Italy and Japan:

"These tyrants are militarists by nature. They are grabbers by philosophy. Every concession made either to Hitler or Mussolini has enabled him to turn to his own countrymen and show that his philosophy and policy is the right one."

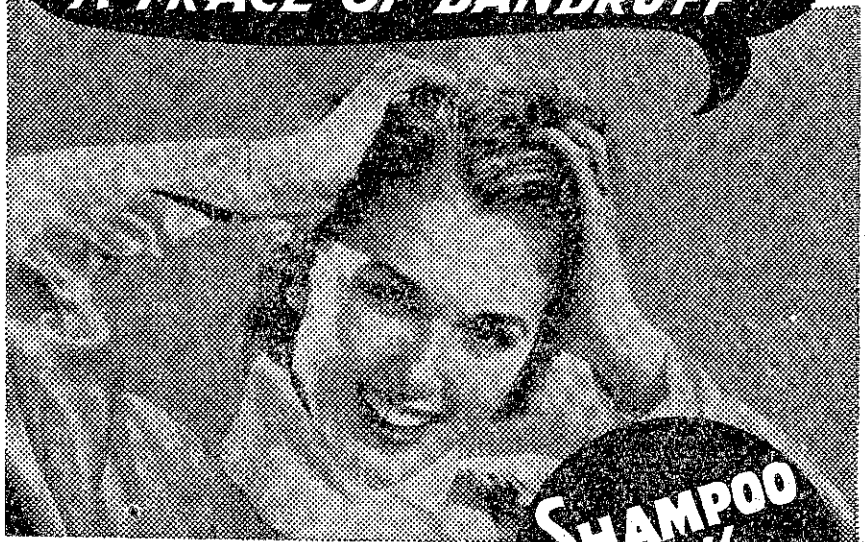
THE demand that came to the Australian radio services says that on account of the extremely delicate position overseas it is important for all stations to avoid provocative comments on any subjects which might be a source of irritation in the present circumstances, when considerable sensitiveness is in evidence. This applies particularly to prominent personages holding positions of responsibility concerned with international relationships.

According to the request of the Postmaster-General in Australia, there is also a danger in giving publicity to rumours before they have been verified. He asks the co-operation of stations in the "confident knowledge" that extreme care will be exercised to avoid any cause for complaint.

IN Sydney one Commercial station decided to live up a session entitled "Time Marches On" by referring to a "little man with hard eyes and a toothbrush moustache who was changing the map of Europe," but it was

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