

ASSERTS RADAR WON BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Sir Stafford Cripps Declares Invention Was Greatest Discovery in War

VALUE IN PEACE STRESSED

England's Scientists Say It May Aid Radio-Location on the Moon

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, Aug. 14—Radar saved Great Britain in its darkest hour, when British fighters, in tens, defeated German bombers in the hundreds.

As Sir Stafford Cripps, president of the Board of Trade, former Minister of Aircraft Production, and chairman of the British Radio Board during the most important phase of radar's development, told a press conference here today:

"Radar played a greater part in the whole war than the atom bomb itself. It contributed to the winning of the war more than any other single factor."

It was emphasized, however, that there had been no race "for glory" between the British and the American scientists who were working on radar, and just in the same way as atom bomb data and discoveries were shared, so was advice on radar freely exchanged between the two countries. It was disclosed at Sir Stafford's press conference that the Western Allies had made radar secrets known to the Soviet Union and also had sent radar supplies to Russia.

British secrets were relayed to the American Government before even the United States had entered the war, Sir Stafford said. The British mission, led by Sir Henry Tizard, who initiated the practice of controlled interception communication, gave British radar knowledge to the American Government in 1940.

"Birth" Was 11 Years Ago

Actually the "birth" of British radar was in 1934, when the Air Ministry began to be concerned over defense of the United Kingdom from air attack.

Late that year, the Ministry, through an official, informally approached a member of the National Laboratory on the possibility of developing a "death ray" for defense. The answer was that there was no early hope of inventing any such ray, but there and then the idea of locating aircraft through the energy flying craft re-radiated was born.

What developed from the first experiments was a "bits and pieces" device with which the Air Ministry equipped five radar stations on the East Coast of England. This was the first operational radar system installed anywhere in the world. Fifteen more stations were added in August, 1937, to cover the entire East and Southeast Coasts, and, just barely in time, a chain of radar stations ringed the entire home island by the outbreak of the war.

Heaviest Cloud Penetrated

Known as "boffins," radar scientists developed radar to a finer and finer degree with each development of the war. At the end of the European phase of the fighting, radar was the device that enabled American and British bombers to fly on the murkiest of days and to know exactly where they were at any given time, to a pin point, to locate a target beneath the thickest of clouds or to spot U-boats on the darkest of nights.

It was radar, too, that helped to find the warships Bismarck and Scharnhorst, and then guided the shooting that finally sent these German ships to their doom.

And Marshal Tedder, who was Air Chief in the North African campaign and Deputy Commander, later, with General Eisenhower, credited radar with vital share in the stopping of Rommel at El Alamein.

Sir Robert Watt, who was one of Britain's scientists who worked on radar, said the "battle of wits" continued throughout the war between Allied and German scientists to perfect the device. The Germans, he revealed, had concentrated "most of their radar thinking" on anti-aircraft, but that they had lagged behind Allied development all the time.

Nazis Admitted Frustration

Captured German documents showed just how much superior was the Allied equipment.

The German document concluded with an exhortation that "the enemy's lead must be wrested from him." But it never was.

Besides aircraft location, which made radar worth squadrons of planes that Britain did not have, either for the Battle of Britain, nor the long battle of Malta, radar also tracked flying bombs and rockets. While it could track rockets "none was shot down by virtue of its use," Sir Robert said.

Sir Stafford, Air Marshal Tedder, and Sir Robert Watt, all predicted that radar's role in peacetime would far outweigh its proved enormous value in war.

At a recent lecture here, Sir Edward Appleton, secretary of the Department of Science and Industrial Research, said that possible radio-location of the moon was under consideration. Work also was proceeding in England, he added, on the location of meteor trails by means of radio reflections.

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