

Stations' Handling of D-Day News Continues at Top Speed

More Reports on Invasion Coverage by Local Stations Show Radio Coverage Was Complete

AT THE END of invasion week, reports from stations throughout the country, telling of the way they handled D-Day [BROADCASTING, June 12] continued to pour in after press time. The following stories on invasion coverage by U. S. stations wind up BROADCASTING's report:

In a full-page ad in the *New York Sunday News* on June 11, WABC New York, key station of CBS, extended "a vote of thanks to the other networks for joining us in the great radio pool for invasion." Copy continued: "This emergency pooling of the keenly competitive foreign staffs of all networks and their joint use of limited transatlantic radio channels have enabled all four networks to perform the greatest public service in the history of radio broadcasting. . . ."

Following publication of the ad, CBS received congratulatory telegrams from Theodore C. Streibert, executive vice-president of MBS, and G. W. Johnstone, Blue network director of news and special features.

At WNAX Yankton, S. D. Art Smith, program director, Al Con-

stant, Russ Van Dyke and Whitey Larson, newscasters called between 50 and 75 small towns throughout the WNAX area, informing operators that "Now is the time to sound bells and sirens." As a result, WNAX was able to report 100% coverage of the entire area, with all scattered rural communities being notified of the historic event.

In Tulsa, crowds blocked traffic at 4th & Main on D-day to hear invasion news as it came from the KTUL news board. Flashes, bulletins and special news periods supplemented regular news casts. John Esau, KTUL general manager had long ago worked out details for installation of an amplifier on the billboard with KTUL news editor Glenn Condon and chief engineer Bob Snider. Five newscasts daily issued from the loudspeaker.

Paper Praises WFBG

The *Altoona Weekly American* carried a banner headline in its June 10 issue praising WFBG Altoona on its service during June 6. Streamer headline read: "WFBG Makes History on D-Day." The sta-

tion remained on the air 21 hours, the paper stated in hailing general manager Roy Thompson for his splendid service to the community.

WMAZ Macon, Ga., published and distributed a one-page "extra" announcing the invasion and calling attention to the fact that WMAZ would provide complete news coverage. The sheet, prepared about a month in advance, scooped the local newspaper extras in reaching the streets.

WNAC Boston, key station of the Yankee Network, carried all-night coverage of the invasion with local and Mutual news.

WFDF Flint, Mich. reported enthusiastic response from Michigan war plants after the station provided hourly AP and Press Radio spot news summaries of the invasion teletyped to war factories in Saginaw, Bay City, Grand Rapids and Lansing.

In Hartford on June 6, WTIC studio engineer Bill Marks, due to go off duty at 1 a.m. had a hunch something might break and stayed at his post. At 3:32 when the now historic event was broadcast, Mr. Marks made a recording, which since was replayed over WTIC several times in response to hundreds of requests.

KHUB Watsonville, Cal., made a large bulletin board in the early morning hours of June 6 complete with maps, pictures and news bulletins. Sign was displayed in local department store window.

WKZO Kalamazoo, Mich., made phone calls to advertisers and friends who requested to be called the moment the invasion broke.

WING Dayton, announcer Jack Zeigin arrived at the studio on D-Day to find that the A key on the teletype had broken and the news dispatches were minus the letter of the alphabet.

Copies of Prayer

WCHS Charleston, W. Va., sent out mimeographed copies of the *President's Prayer*, broadcast to the nation on June 6, in response to numerous requests.

KSO-KRNT Des Moines news staff got a break on invasion morning as all members of the staff were on duty when the news came through on the wire. Reason was the Iowa primary elections.

WNBC Hartford, Conn., went on the air shortly after the invasion. Throughout the day all commercials were cancelled and religious leaders urged the listeners to attend prayer services.

WPAY Portsmouth, O., had been staying on the air each night prior to D-Day until 3 a.m. When the news finally was flashed WPAY covered the invasion on 24-hour basis for the following three days.

KDYL Salt Lake City cancelled all commercial announcements on D-Day and the day following with the local announcements being converted to appeals to buy bonds, donate blood, etc. 24-hour service was maintained by KDYL.

The first regular aerial newspaper, the *Up-to-the-Minuteman*, edited by the WBZ-WBZA Boston-



CHECKING LATEST communications on the Allied landings are Elmer Petersen, NBC commentator (left) and William F. Brooks, director of news and special events.

GOV. KERR'S PRAISE Compliments Radio Industry —On Invasion Coverage—

GOVERNOR ROBERT S. KERR of Oklahoma, paid high tribute to the radio industry on the weekly broadcast of KVOO Oklahoma City's program, "Confidentially, Governor—Why?" The Governor cited radio's dollar sacrifice in dispensing with commercials during the hours of great interest in the news and also the expense incurred by networks and stations in delivering the background and current developments to the public.

CBC Crew in Europe To Cover Allied Drive

A STAFF OF Canadian Broadcasting Corp. correspondents and engineers is now with the Canadian Army liberating France. Matthew Halton and Marcel Ouimet were correspondents going over with the first Canadian troops to land in France on June 6. Halton has covered the evacuation at Dunkirk four years ago, the fighting in North Africa from El Alamein to driving the Germans and Italians out, and landings in Italy. Ouimet covers the CBC French-language network. With the invading troop ships were Andrew Cowan, CBC Toronto and Bill Herbert, CBR Vancouver.

Engineers going into France are headed by Arthur Holmes, CIBC Toronto, who covered the Blitz for Britain for the CBC with recordings, and Alex McDonald, CBL Toronto; Harold Wadsworth, CBO Ottawa; and Paul Johnson, CBK Watrous. In Italy are correspondents Peter Stursberg, CBR Vancouver, and Benoit Lafleur, CBF, Montreal, with engineers Lloyd Moore, CBI, Toronto, and Joseph Beaurgard, CBF, Montreal.

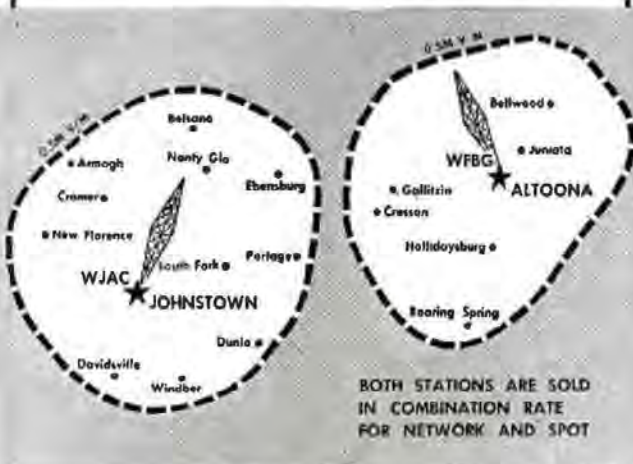
A. E. Powley, CBC newsroom Toronto, is chief editor for CBC in London; John Kannawin, CBC Winnipeg, is director of all CBC activities overseas, with headquarters in London.

Springfield Esso Reporter, brought last minute news of the invasion to passengers on Northeast Airlines flights out of Boston.

WJAC JOHNSTOWN

WFBG ALTOONA

These Two Stations Provide the Only Full Coverage of This Rich Pennsylvania Area



BOTH STATIONS ARE SOLD IN COMBINATION RATE FOR NETWORK AND SPOT

National Representatives
HEADLEY-REED COMPANY
New York, Chicago, Detroit, Atlanta, San Francisco