

U. S. Will Set Up 2 Floating Weather Stations in Atlantic

Cutters Set to Sail
In Move for More
Accurate Forecasts

By HAROLD B. ROGERS.

More accurate weather forecasts not only for benefit of trans-Atlantic flyers but also for the entire Eastern seaboard, including Washington, will be possible as a result of the establishment soon of two new floating weather bureau stations in the Atlantic Ocean, it was learned last night.

This promising prospect grows out of a program authorized by President Roosevelt to supply weather information no longer available from ships at sea because of the European war.

Plans have been completed, two Coast Guard cutters are ready, novel scientific equipment has been assembled, and personnel of both the Coast Guard and Weather Bureau today made ready to put to sea.

From New York City one of the cutters, the Duane, was to sail today for Norfolk. From there the Duane and another cutter, the Bibb, will leave to take up stations at two points, about one-third and two-thirds of the distance between Bermuda and the Azores. Each of these vessels is a 2,000-ton craft, 327 feet long.

Information to Be Relayed.

From these spots in the ocean a mass of valuable information will be relayed to the Weather Bureau here and to ships at sea, to give a far more accurate factual picture of conditions over the Atlantic than are now available. Later additional reports will be available also from Coast Guard cutters on ice patrol in the North Atlantic.

Without doubt the increased information will make possible more accurate forecasts, officials said, because little recently has been available from the ocean.

As one official explained it, "weather does not stop at the shore" but is influenced heavily by what is happening over the ocean. The greater knowledge of temperatures, humidity, wind velocity and direction, together with the boundaries of "air masses," will be of great value to the weather forecaster in predicting what will happen along the Eastern seaboard as well as at sea, officials emphasized.

Regarding the forecasts here for January, a check of the predictions against the weather itself showed, officials said, that the forecasts, including temperature, winds and all factors on which reports were made, reached an accuracy of between 85 and 90 per cent. This is said to be a fair average.

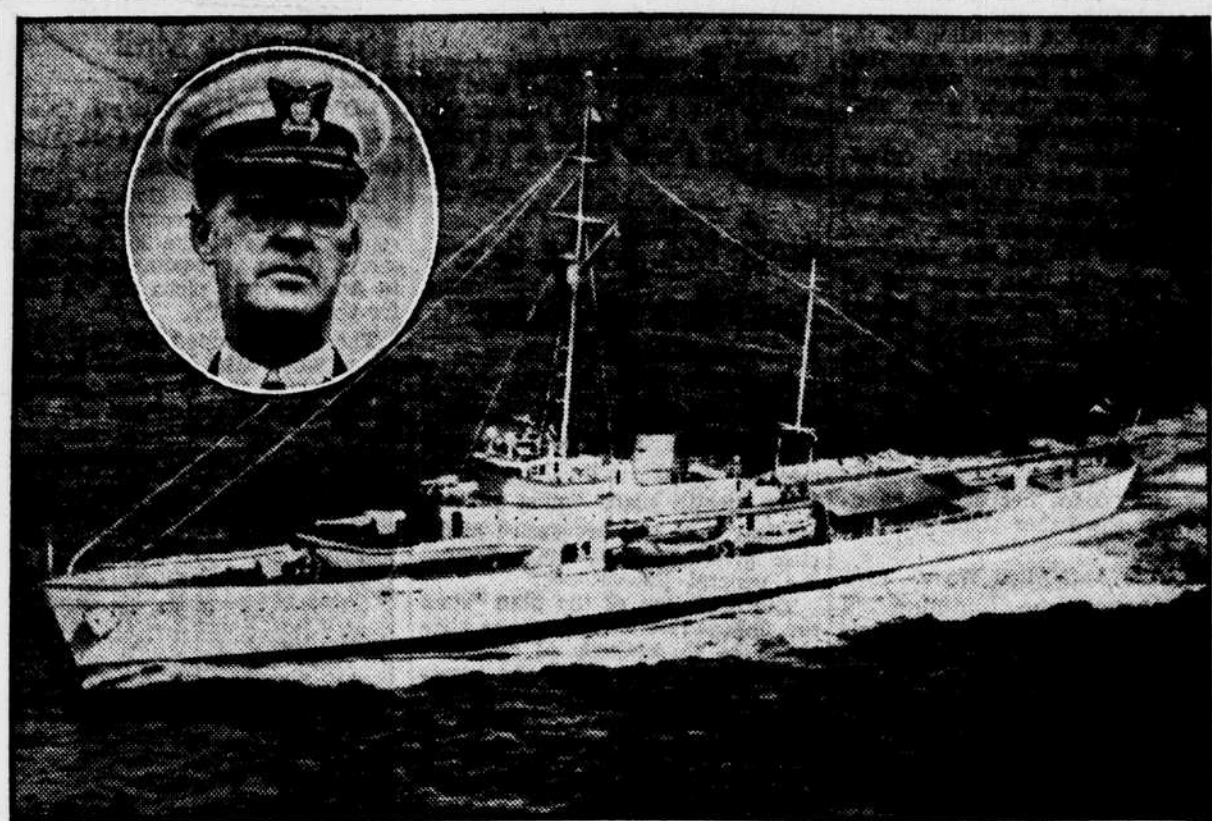
Concerning the minimum temperature forecasts, an analysis of the month of January showed the average forecast came within 3.5 degrees of the actual temperature.

Miniature Broadcast Station.

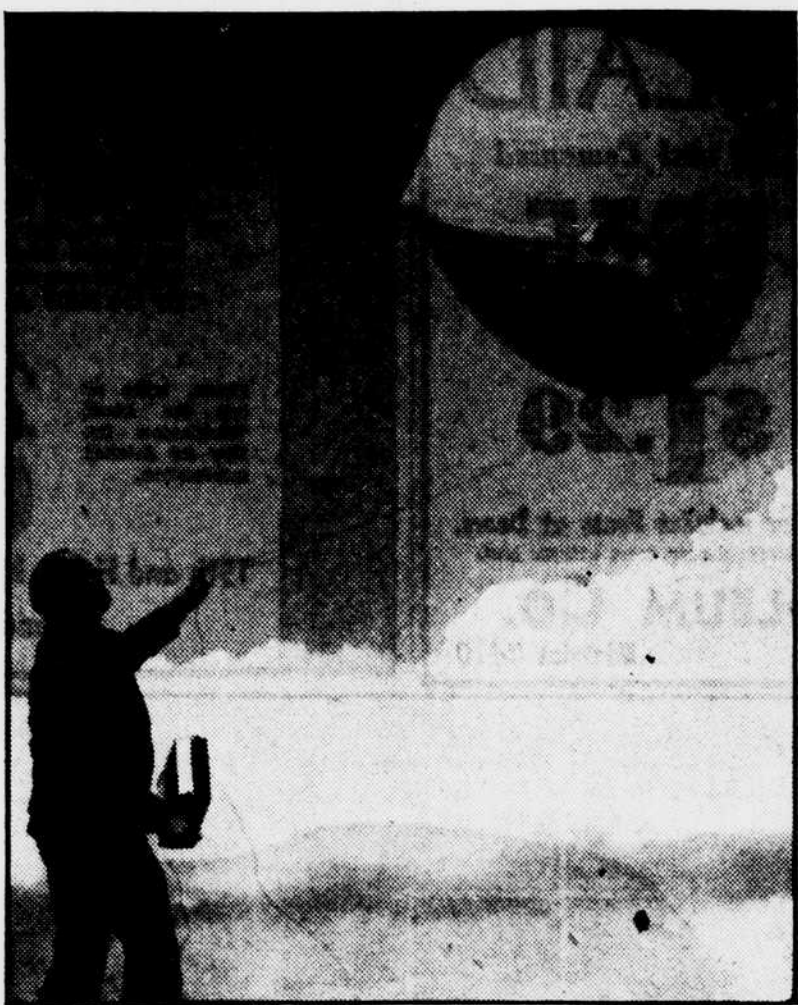
One of the most curious scientific instruments on board the ships is a miniature broadcasting station, weighing less than two pounds, which each day at 3 a. m. will be sent aloft by a free balloon to rise so high into the stratosphere that the balloon will burst and drop the instrument into the sea. From this little broadcasting station will be sent out radio signals to the ship below giving automatic reports on temperature, air pressure and humidity at all heights reached. Among the things used in the construction of these little radio stations are bamboo, sulphuric acid and human hair. The instrument is known as a radiosonde.

At Norfolk, the Duane will turn over to the Bibb her part of the scientific equipment, and the Duane then will set sail, probably tomorrow, for its post. The Bibb will follow later. Other Coast Guard cutters will assist in the ocean observation service later. They are the Hamilton, Ingham, Spencer and Campbell. Each cutter will carry its usual complement of about 125 officers and men, plus three Weather Bureau experts. Each ship will be relieved by another cutter at the end of four weeks.

Every six hours of the 24-hour day, beginning about 3:30 a. m., the experts will radio information to the Coast Guard station at Fort Hunt, Va. From there it will come by teletype to the Weather Bureau of-



NEW FLOATING WEATHER STATION—Here is the United States Coast Guard cutter Duane, and (inset) officer in charge, Comdr. John H. Cornell, sailing today from New York.



One of the strange instruments to be used, a miniature broadcasting station known as "radiosonde," is shown being launched into its stratosphere flight by balloon, to send back automatic reports on weather conditions, until the balloon bursts.

ice here. The information will be based on weather observations taken first from the radiosonde, from certain data taken every three hours on shipboard and also from readings made every hour by the Coast Guard cutters. Wind direction and velocity will be determined by free "pilot" balloons. Weather information also is to be collected from whatever ships at sea are willing to give it.

At the Weather Bureau here the information from the two floating stations is expected to be of great value in making four daily weather "maps." Since last fall, when the European war began and ships of nearly every European nation ceased sending weather information, the bureau has been seriously handicapped.

Idea Is Not New.

The idea of floating ocean weather stations is not new. Nearly two years ago the French established a ship, the Carimare, west of the Azores at approximately the point where one of the Coast Guard cutters will be stationed. France withdrew this vessel when war started.

In starting the new service in mid-Atlantic, the United States has experience developed out of the international ice patrol off the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. Last year, two Coast Guard cutters on this patrol made daily radiosonde observations and reported them to the Weather Bureau.

The radiosonde, a curious but strangely reliable broadcasting station, has been tried out success-

readily calculate the temperature, pressure and humidity of the atmosphere.

Made with a frame of bamboo, for light weight, the radiosonde includes among its weather-sensitive elements, several strands of human hair. These strands tighten or loosen as the air around them becomes drier or more moist. A small glass tube filled with sulphuric acid responds to changes in temperature.

Instruments Returned.

When sent up over land weather stations, the radiosonde instruments are marked officially with notices to return them to the Weather Bureau, which will pay a reward. About 9 out of 10 of the instruments sent into the air are returned to weather stations on land, 7 of which are suitable to be used again. The other 3 of the 10 usually are damaged so much by the fall that they are beyond repair. Each is equipped with

a small silk parachute which brings it slowly down to earth after its balloon bursts. The ships do not expect to recover radiosondes sent up at sea.

The first Weather Bureau expert crews will be headed by two meteorologists, C. J. MacGregor, from the Elmira (N. Y.) station, and Herbert W. Rahmlow, from the station at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Mr. MacGregor is well known as head of a weather expedition to Greenland in 1937-8. Mr. Rahmlow spent last year at Swan Island between Cuba and Yucatan, the birthplace of tropical hurricanes, where he warned of approaching storms. Other weathermen on the first trip will include Harlan Richards of Nashville, Tenn.; William B. Chappell of Miami, Fla.; Lewis B. Law of Elkins, West Va., and Philip Reiter of La Guardia Field, N. Y.

The cutter Duane is in charge of Comdr. John H. Cornell, with Lt. Comdr. C. E. Guisness as executive officer. The Bibb is commanded by Comdr. Henry Coyle, with Lt. Comdr. C. W. Harwood as executive officer. Among the other Coast Guard ship captains who will take up posts in the Atlantic later on are Comdr. S. S. Yeandle, formerly well-known aide to the commandant of the Coast Guard here, who now is in charge of the cutter Hamilton.

Rio Parley Scores Discrimination in Paroling Interned

Detaining Seamen While
Officers Have Freedom
Held Undemocratic

By the Associated Press.

The Inter-American Neutrality Committee, meeting in Rio de Janeiro, has condemned as undemocratic the granting of paroles by neutral nations to interned officers of belligerent ships while withholding the privilege from ordinary seamen.

The committee recalled the traditional practice of paroling the officers on their word of honor not to take part in hostilities and to remain within the country of their internment.

Ordinary seamen, meanwhile, are placed in detention camps. "Such a principle, besides being opposed to the duties of military men toward their own countries, is repugnant to the discrimination it implies to the dignity and sense of

responsibility of all men to the fundamental democratic principles of the American nations," the committee said.

Text of the committee's resolutions seeking uniform rules by all the neutral Western Hemisphere governments on the internment of belligerent ships and sailors was disclosed yesterday for the first time. It was received from Dr. Afonso Mello Franco, Brazilian delegate and chairman of the Neutrality Committee, and distributed by the Pan-American Union Friday night to the diplomatic representatives in Washington of the 21 American nations.

The committee proposed each neutral government allow interned belligerents to earn their own living, "especially in public works and services."

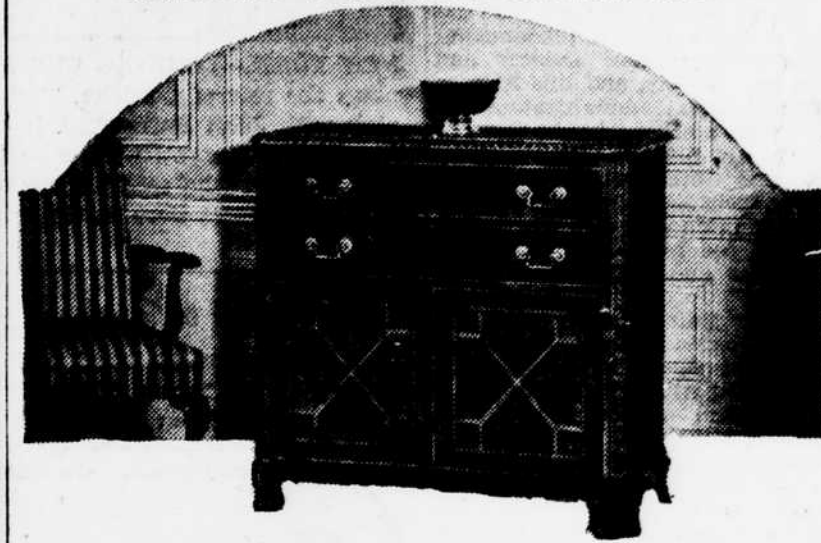
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