Fishermen in the Maritime Provinces bordering the Atlantic Ocean, are provided with special broadcasts as well, giving them detailed weather reports and other news which assures them of greater safety and a better chance of a good catch.

CBC News in Wartime

In order to provide Canadians with a distinctly Canadian radio news service the CBC organized a national news service of its own in 1941. Then, as now, it is based on the full wire service of the Canadian Press and British United Press, supplemented by reports from CBC correspondents abroad.

CBC commentators and engineers accompanied the first Canadian division when it sailed for England in December, 1939. Throughout the war years, CBC men were on hand to bridge the gap between Canadians at the front and their folks at home. Equipped with armored mobile recording vans, CBC commentators and engineers pioneered new techniques in battle-front operations, using methods of securing actuality reports which were soon adopted by American networks. On many occasions, Canadians at home were able to hear the actual sound of a battle only a few hours after it was fought. CBC men reported the behind-the-lines side of the war as well, interviewing Canadian sailors, soldiers and airmen on leave or in reserve, and bringing the sound of their voices thousands of miles to the firesides they had so recently left.

With the end of the war, the main job was finished. But CBC commentators are still overseas, reporting the postwar scene in Europe, and the deliberations of the United Nations on the road to peace.

At home, the CBC News Service, with five newsrooms across Canada in order to give regional service to listeners, is maintaining its original standards of impartiality, honesty, and news without distortion.

National Aims

The national radio system has given Canadians an unequalled opportunity to get to know each other. Through discussion programs and talks Canadians living thousands of miles apart have been able to "rub shoulders" on common ground. Through other programs Canadians living in some of the remotest hamlets have been privileged to hear the same fine music, the same stirring dramas, the same march of ideas which used to be reserved for the city dweller. National radio has spread out to reach more than 96 per cent of the radio homes in Canada, tying them together in a broader love of country, a neighborly interest in the traditions, the aspirations and the problems of their fellow-Canadians.

National Radio is contributing more than other media to the development of a truly Canadian outlook. The important thing is unity, not uniformity. And while the music and songs of Quebec are kept alive, and the Gaelic tradition of Cape Breton or the Fraser valley, the Ukrainian songs and dances of the prairies, and the set faring traditions of the maritimes, Canadians have the common privilege of sharing these local cultures for the enjoyment of all.

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Prepared by CBC Press and Information Service, Toronto, Canada.