

means at its disposal to attract attention, make known its situation, and obtain assistance.

2. (1) The speed of telegraph transmission in cases of distress, urgency or safety, must not normally exceed 16 words a minute.

(2) The speed of transmission for the alarm signal is indicated in section 21, (1).

### B. Waves to be Used in Case of Distress

3. (1) *Ships*.—In case of distress, the wave to be used is the international distress wave, that is to say, 500 kc/s (600 m) (see Article 19); it must be used preferably in type A2 or B. Ships which cannot transmit on the international distress wave use their normal calling wave.

(2) *Aircraft*.—Every aircraft in distress must transmit the distress call on the wave on which the fixed or mobile stations capable of rendering it assistance keep watch: 500 kc/s (600 m) for stations of the maritime service, 333 kc/s (900 m) for stations of the aeronautical service [except as indicated in Article 9, section 10, (2)]. The waves to be used are types A2 or A3.

### C. Distress Signal

4. (1) In radiotelegraphy, the distress signal consists of the group --- — — — —; in radiotelephony, the distress signal consists of the spoken expression MAYDAY (corresponding to the French pronunciation of the expression "m'aider").

(2) The signal of distress means that the ship, aircraft or other vehicle sending, is threatened by grave and imminent danger and requests immediate assistance.

### D. Distress Call

5. (1) The distress call, when it is sent by radiotelegraphy on 500 kc/s (600 m), is, as a general rule, immediately preceded by the alarm signal as defined in section 21, (1).

(2) When circumstances permit, the transmission of the call is separated from the end of the alarm signal by an interval of two minutes' silence.

(3) The distress call comprises:—

the distress signal sent three times,

the word DE, and

the call sign of the mobile station in distress, sent three times.

(4) This call has absolute priority over other transmissions. All stations which hear it must immediately cease all transmissions capable of interfering with the distress traffic and must listen on the wave used for the emission of the distress call. This call must not be addressed to a particular station and requires no acknowledgment of receipt.