he had heard a perfectly good amateur English signal. The Englishman's callsign was G-2SZ, and theirs was Z-4AA. They called him up that evening at 6.0 p.m., when signals were always best, and this is how Brenda Bell describes what followed: "We threw the switches over to the receiving position and waited . . . the strain was terrific ... then Frank heard a call begin, right on the hoped-for spot. Frank turned quite white. I can see him now --- he couldn't speak, he had to listen. He just gazed at me and gave a little nod. I leaned over and put my ear against the phones. . . . We gave our name and address and he gave his, a difficult name-Cecil Goyer, Mill Hill School, London. He said, 'If you are really Z-4AA, cable.' I should think so. This was a world record, the world record every amateur in the country had been breaking his neck and blowing his valves to achieve.

"I suppose that was the most thrilling moment of my life, to see that space bridged, to tap out a message myself, to see Frank's face, to realise that Frank's spare-time hobby in the back verandah of a backblocks sheep station had produced the moment. For days to come I sat at the telephone taking cables, telegrams, and cells of congratulation. A reply to our own cable came; 'Congratulations, confirming first transworld communication today.' The papers clamoured for details. It was great fun."

Other reminiscences of the early days of radio are included in these talks. Brenda Bell was a member of the Spanish society of amateur transmitters, who sent her a membership scroll that covered a square yard of wall. The family communicated with all sorts of places, and wrote screeds, she says, for radio magazines in Poland, Spain, France, and other places. Once they picked up an American exploration ship in the Arctic. South Africa was always difficult to contact in those days, just as it is now, but one day Brenda Bell got enough contact with one operator there to claim the first New Zealand-South Africa Morse communication.

Naval Occasions

ISTENERS who have a special enthusiasm for Britain's naval story will be interested in Sons of the Sea, a new series of documentary programmes which is being broadcast by 1ZB on Wednesdays at 9.0 p.m. It will start at 2ZB on October 19, 3ZB on November 2, 4ZB on November 16, and 2ZA on November 30 (in each case at 9.0 p.m.) Each programme is made up of a complete half-hour episode, dealing with some aspect of Britain's naval history through the centuries and with outstanding events or famous battles which were decisive factors in the international struggle for mastery of the seas. In some of the programmes, naval engagements of past centuries are compared with more recent battles. In episode one, for instance, a parallel drawn between the Battle of the Nile and the Battle of Matapan. Other programmes deal with Trafalgar, the airsea action at Taranto, the story of the Ark Royal, the German surrender at Scapa Flow, the exploit of the Campbelltown, and the heroic voyage of the San Demetrio. The programmes are presented by a leading Australian cast.

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