

The Southern Cross

Was "SOS." Heard?

Analysis of Messages

AMIDST the general joy at the rescue of the missing Southern Cross aviators, we have not so far seen any examination of the authenticity or otherwise of the message reported to have been picked up by a Melbourne enthusiast as possibly from the Southern Cross. With the publication of Ulm's diary, and its record of the thoughts and movements of the men, we have taken the trouble to check up on the dates, with a view to ascertaining whether or not the message reported by the Heidelberg enthusiast was genuine. It would seem on the facts of time as revealed by this examination that no such message was sent from the Southern Cross on the day in question. It will be interesting later, when opportunity possibly permits, for a fuller examination of Ulm's diary, to investigate the matter further. Meantime, for the benefit of listeners the position may be summarised as follows:—

On April 4 a cable message was dispatched from Melbourne reading as follows:

"An experienced wireless enthusiast named V. George, of Heidelberg, thinks he has picked up a message from the airmen. He was listening on 34 to 35 metres wavelength at 9.15 last night when, amidst statics, what appeared to be a mutilated message came through, reading: 'Smith will try again in

morning.' Indecipherable words followed, then: 'Peller turn. Men eating wild fowl.' The message then faded badly. Mr. George thinks it came from someone with very little power, using an ordinary receiving valve as a transmitter.

With the discovery of the Southern Cross the record of each day's events kept by Lieutenant Ulm became available. From this record the following extracts are made, which show that no messages were sent until the evening of Sunday, April 7:—

"Saturday, April 6.—This was our worst day. A plane passed within 4 miles of us. This was after we had nearly killed ourselves marching up the hill keeping the fire alight. Just after we returned from Darlington Hill and had lit the Coffee Royal fire, Smithy heard a plane. All worked furiously stoking up a big smoke fire. He passed us not more than five miles away at 2.50 p.m. This decided us to have a tree down to jack up a wheel (to work the radio generator). Smith and I worked without rest for two hours, while Litch kept the flies off, and we won. We got the tree down, but it knocked us up that a plane had passed. It was terribly disappointing, and we cursed the pilot.

"Sunday, April 7.—We got the wheel jacked up by noon. This has been Smithy's big day. He excelled himself. He never stopped working, making a friction wheel on which to run the generator and finished it with a penknife only, in the blazing sun, tormented by flies. Then Smithy rigged an engine starter handle in the outer end of the axle, making wooden bearings with a knife. We took off the generator. Mac spent an hour wiring it up. Smithy mounted his little wooden drive on the generator, and we had a practice run. Mac was in the

cabin at the set, Smithy and Litch turning the 44-inch wheel, and myself holding the generator on the wheel, making the friction drive. We generated nearly one half an amp. There were loud cheers from Old Mac. He says that we can transmit, but the trouble is we can't keep it running more than ten seconds at a time, so we worked hours to-night winding the wheel, while Mac sent SOS and other signals. Our best hope is that someone picked up and reported to La Perouse, which we receive excellently here.

April 8.—... Last night Mac heard all the stations again; but there was no news for us. Smithy is knocked out, but most of our heavy work is done, and we are resting from the more strength-sucking efforts of turning the generator. Each turns for ten to fifteen seconds, then all rest for a quarter of an hour. The tobacco ran out to-day. We tried to smoke leaves. They were awful.

On the foregoing summary it would seem that the Heidelberg report, although doubtless given in good faith, did not emanate from the Southern Cross.

"A Ramble Round the World"

Interesting Address to be Broadcast

FRIDAY next, at about 9 p.m., the scheduled programme from 2YA will be interrupted and Mr. W. H. Owen, who has just returned from an extensive trip abroad, will continue his interesting narrative. This concluding talk will be centred round "Broadcasting in the Mother Country." The British Broadcasting Corporation, which controls radio in Britain, is taken as the world's standard, and it will be interesting to hear of the personal observations of one who is vitally interested in radio.

A Deaf Mute Hears "Make My Will"

3YA Reports Strange Case

INSTANCES have previously been recorded of the great blessing which a radio receiving set is to elderly people who are afflicted with deafness, but the crowning instance, in which a deaf mute is concerned, is reported from 3YA.

Among the visitors to that station recently was a man and his daughter, a girl of 11 or 12 years of age, who had been deaf and dumb from birth. The operator at 3YA was listening in to Wellington and on the suggestion of 3YA Station Manager the ear phones were put on the head of the girl. She listened intently and for the first time in her life heard something through her ears. She had heard music.

IT is reported that M. Citroen, the manufacturer of the well-known French motor-car, is intending to launch out into the radio trade with a cheap mass-produced set.

Miss Edith Harry

South Island Dates Changed

MISS Edith Harry was not able to keep her engagement at 3YA on April 24. She was unavoidably detained in Wellington, and new dates have had to be allotted to her for 3YA and 4YA. The dates of her radio appearances in the South Island will therefore be: 3YA, Wednesday, May 1; 3YA, Wednesday, May 8; 4YA, Friday, May 17; 4YA, Tuesday, May 21.

Children's Session at 4YA

Big Brother Bill to Control

WITH the extension of hours at 4YA, there has been a complete recasting of the time-table. An important departure to be made will be extra children's sessions. Up to now there have been sessions on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday, but from the beginning of May, sessions on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays will be regular features on the programme.

And who is to be in charge? Why, Big Brother Bill. In being able to secure the services of Big Brother Bill as organiser, the Broadcasting Company has been distinctly fortunate. He is an outstanding success as an entertainer of children, whether by voice or by pen.

A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION...

"Make My Will"

Do not let 1929 get any older without making your Will.

Decide for YOURSELF how your property shall be distributed—do not leave such an important personal matter to the rigid laws of descent.

It is a privilege—as well as a duty—to make a will.

FIRST OF ALL

read the interesting and informative booklet, "Your Estate," obtainable from from any office or agent of the Public Trustee, or free by post from the Public Trustee, Wellington.

Longest
Life,
Honest
Rated
Capacity



Voltage	Capacity Amp.	Price
4	60	£3 10 0
6	60	4 10 0
6	80	5 5 0
6	100	6 5 0

FOR SALES AND SERVICE—

Auckland: BATTERY SUPPLIES LTD.

130 Broadway, Newmarket; 'Phone 45-540.
Also Auckland at 3 Lower Albert St. 'Phone 44-174.

Wellington: L. J. PURDIE & CO., LTD.

87 Dixon Street, Wellington. 'Phone 20-057.

Christchurch:

WATKINSON'S LTD.
STORAGE BATTERIES FOR ALL PURPOSES
CHRYSLER LIGHTING IGNITION EQUIPMENT

261-265 TUAM ST.

Between Madras and Barbadoes Streets.

Telegrams: "Vesuvian," Chch.

P.O. Box 1118. Phone 2244

Dunedin: J. & A. P. SCOTT LTD.

Corner Albany and Leith Streets, Dunedin.
P.O. Box 209. 'Phone 12-569.
Telegrams: "Japscot."