

Short-wave Jottings

MR. SELLENS, our short-wave correspondent writes: With the advent of summertime in Britain we can now hear 5SW from 5.30 a.m. Daylight-saving commences in America on April 28; this fact has been announced recently from the American stations.

A "reception verified" card has been received from W6XN, the short-wave station of KGO, Oakland, California. The following particulars are given: Wavelength, 23.35 metres; power, 5 kilowatt; schedule (New Zealand time), Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, 5 a.m. till 8.30 a.m.; Wednesday, 1.30 p.m. till 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, April 20.

RECEPTION from PCJ, who did not commence till 5.50 a.m., when strength was RS, was mushy most of 5SW was mushy also, speech being only the time, with short spells of clearness, about 50 per cent. readable. PCJ at 1 p.m. was R2, increasing to R8-9. The early part of the programme was for North and Central America and Canada. Later Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania and the South Pacific islands were called. Reception was poor at first, but improved later, and except for slight static was nearly perfect.

KDKA was good strength but spoilt by a strong ripple or H.F. hum throughout. 2XAD was very good, reaching R9. Morse station was troublesome at times. An American on about 32 metres at 4 p.m. was heard calling "Hullo, London,"—ville calling, some times were given in G.M.T. Readability was poor on account of weak signals and slight rapid fade. This station or another on the same wavelength has been heard since and appears to be W2XG, with his word tests.

The new Philips short-wave station PHI at Huizen, Holland, was heard from shortly after 4.30 p.m., when the test commenced, till 11.30 p.m., when they concluded. Strength at first was very weak—just audible, increasing to its maximum of R8 at about 7.30 p.m. Signals then decreased to R5 till after 11 p.m., with a sudden increase just before they signed off at 11.30 p.m. sharp with the Dutch National Anthem.

It is interesting to compare signal strength between these Dutch stations, within a few miles of each other, at the same time.

After Endless Tests

I decided that that Screen Grid will not give the average man satisfaction in Short-wave work. I then decided to build all Short-wave Sets in future without a Screen Grid Valve, thereby cutting cost and yet still being able to build the **BEST SHORT-WAVE SET IN THE DOMINION.**

MACK'S RADIO

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PCJ on 31.4 metres at 5 p.m. was R9, reception perfect. PHI on 16.88 metres at the same time was about R2 and very unsteady. The wavelengths, of course, will have much, if not all, to do with the difference in reception. PHI is reported by Philips to be one of the most powerful short-wave stations in the world. RFM at R8-9 was very good except for static.

Sunday, April 21.

KDKA at 11 a.m., organ music, R3-4. Later in the afternoon volume was R9, but music and speech very rough. 2XAD was R4 at 1.30 p.m., increasing to R9 by 3.30 p.m. After the "Lucky Strike" hour it was announced that the next hour would be dedicated to Commander Byrd and his expedition. This consisted of musical items and messages. 2XG was heard with a word test—"Write down"—on about 32 metres. 2XAL, shortwave station of WRNY, was heard very faintly just below 2XAF's wavelength.

Monday, April 22.

FROM 6.30 a.m., 3LO was R9, clear and steady, with severe fading. Static was too bad in the evening for listening.

Tuesday, April 23.

5SW commenced at 5.27 a.m. at R7. Big Ben was heard, but it was impossible to understand talk on account of rapid fading and rushing noises. Strength improved later, but not intelligibility. A woman was talking on about 15.4 metres at R3. "Hullo Dandeong, Hullo Berlin, here is—" was heard on about 14.8 metres. Dutch talk, I think. R4 at first, increasing later. This appeared to be duplex telephony between these two stations.

At 7.20 p.m. music was heard on about 15.8 metres at R8. This suddenly ceased at 7.25 p.m. without a call being given, the station going off the air. At 9.30 p.m. the same station was calling "Hello, Bandoeng," after a long talk. Later, "Hello Bandoeng, here is—" (here followed a long name, quite clear, but not understood).

Wednesday, April 24.

5SW announced that tests between antenna A and B would be discontinued after 2300 G.M.T. on Tuesday, April 30. In the meantime, reports would be welcomed of reception on these different aeriels. After Big Ben, the second of two talks on "Danish Life" was heard. Strength R9. Slight rapid fade spoils readability, which is 100 per cent. with careful listening. Pianoforte items followed, with more talk later. At 6.17 a.m. the National Anthem was sung, followed by an introduction, something about "celebration of—," rapid fade, too bad to hear properly.

On about 15.8 metres, foreign talk, with "Hullo Paris, Hullo Buenos Ayres, Hullo Bandoeng." Strength R9. Very clear.

W6XN (KGO) was just readable at 6 a.m., with their "Californian Home Life Hour." This station was again tuned in at 5.50 p.m., when the "World's News" was being given. This was followed by songs from Shakespeare's time. An interesting programme was heard at R9, closing at 6.33 p.m. ZL2AX and ZL2BE were in good form, both were R9.

Thursday, April 25.

RECEPTION from 5SW at 1.30 a.m. was poor, although strength was fair till closing at 10.20 a.m. when Big Ben was heard striking 11 p.m. 2ME was transmitting from 12 a.m. to 1.25 p.m., relaying the Anzac Day ceremonials from

Canberra, unveiling the commemoration stone by His Excellency the Governor-General. Strength was about R5, 100 per cent. readable, but spoilt by line noises. It was announced afterwards that the trouble was at Canberra, where a gale of 60 miles per hour was blowing. 2XAD was R6 at 1.30 p.m. An advertising hour from 2 till 3 p.m., after which dance music from New York.

KDKA transmitted music by the Westinghouse Band from the William Penn Hotel, 22.4 metres about, a man and woman were heard talking in a foreign language, R3. 2XG on 32 metres word test at 4.35 p.m. On about 37 metres foreign talk was heard at R5. At 5 p.m. PLE (?) on about 15.74 metres playing records was heard at R5. He closed at 5.20 p.m. without any announcement or call being given.

Friday, April 26.

5SW opened with Big Ben, followed by talk on operas. A piano recital followed, with another talk at 6.5 a.m. VK2ME on 28.5 metres, and VPD, Suva, on 20.795 metres, were conducting a duplex telephony test during the evening, both were very good at R9.

Short Wave Broadcasts

FOLLOWING is the schedule of the short-wave broadcast stations in Schenectady, New York State, U.S.A.:

Call sign.	Wave length (approx.)	Day.	Time—G.C.T.
W2XAD	19.96 metres	Sunday	2030-0415
W2XAD	19.96 metres	Monday	2300-0500
W2XO	21.96 metres	Monday	1900-2100
W2XAF	31.48 metres	Monday	2300-0500
W2XAF	31.48 metres	Tuesday	2300-0500
W2XAD	19.96 metres	Wednesday	2300-0500
W2XO	21.96 metres	Thursday	1900-2100
W2XAF	31.48 metres	Thursday	2300-0500
W2XAD	19.96 metres	Friday	2300-0500
W2XAF	31.48 metres	Saturday	2300-0500

The Short Wave Section.

LIKE all other sections of listeners, the short-wave enthusiast has been catered for in the new "Guide." A very large and comprehensive section is devoted to short wave. The chapters are numerous and varied. Mr. Sellen's tells the fascinating story of the year's accomplishments and has compiled the most comprehensive list of stations yet published (that is not an idle claim). An experienced technician and constructor describes the most up-to-date short-wave receiver with plug-in valve base rails, a screen grid adapter, and compiles valuable hints on short-wave reception.

No short-wave enthusiast should be without his copy.

Conditions Excellent

IN reference to my previous report on following 45SW's session over midday, I am extremely gratified to acknowledge a report from Mr. Tripp, of Glencair Station (unfortunately I have mislaid Mr. Tripp's letter, so I hope he will write to me again. Manix, and vy, 78's OM!)

Mr. Tripp states that he has, on two previous occasions, followed 5SW through, so I see I am not the first one on the field. He has also written Home and suggested to 5SW that they commence their session (6.30 a.m., N.Z.M.T.)

by calling "Hello, New Zealand!" I must compliment him, I think that is an excellent idea.

Short wave reception in this locality has been very good lately, especially the afternoon Americans. To run 2XAF, KDKA, CJRN, 6AN, or 2XAD at full volume after 3 p.m. requires a dynamic speaker. RFM is not as good now as he was a couple of months ago; but after his programme last night there is no growl.—Eric A. Perry (Wairoa).

Official Time Signals

FROM the Dominion Astronomer, Dr. Adams, comes the following information:—

It may interest your readers to know that the following short-wave time signals are heard regularly at this Observatory:—

- (1) From Annapolis, Washington, at 03h. G.M.T. (eq. 2.30 p.m. N.Z.T.), on 24.9 metres.
- (2) From Annapolis, Washington, at 08h. G.M.T. (eq. 7.30 p.m. N.Z.T.), on 37.4 metres.

Mr. H. W. Young, of Waikeri, Herekino, North Auckland, reports the reception, on April 13, of the short-wave time signal from 5SW, Chelmsford, England. The Chelmsford signal consists of six dots, beginning five seconds before the hour, and finishing exactly on the hour, of G.M.T. The New Zealand times were 12.30 a.m. and 8.30 a.m. Mr. Young also reports that he has heard the clock chime hours and quarters from Pittsburgh, U.S.A. When the clock struck 12 (midnight) in Pittsburgh, it was 4.30 p.m. in New Zealand.

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HAVE you ordered your "Listener's Guide"? 2/6 from booksellers and radio dealers, or 2/9 post free from the publishers, Box 1032, Wellington.

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