

Short Wave Facts.

DR. VAN DE POL, who has been analysing the world-wide reports on the signals of PCJ, has discovered that England, Holland, Denmark, Belgium, France and Germany received weaker signals than the remoter countries of Europe. This supports the "skip" distance theory. India, China, and Japan received maximum signals when the complete track of waves was in darkness. In Australia and New Zealand two daily signal maxima were noticed, one when the eastern route to the Antipodes was in darkness and the other when the western track was dark. The wavelength used when these observations were made was 30.2 metres.

"Write Down" Word Tests.

INFORMATION has come to hand regarding the "write down" tests so often heard.

The station is under the control of Bell Telephone Laboratories, its call sign being 2XG, Deal, New Jersey. Every other Friday they transmit on five different wavelengths—11, 14, 18, 28 and 44 metres.

The tests run from 4.30 p.m., United States Eastern standard time, to 9 p.m. (9 a.m. till 1.30 p.m. the following day, N.Z. mean time). The word tests are made for the purpose of determining the usefulness of the circuit.

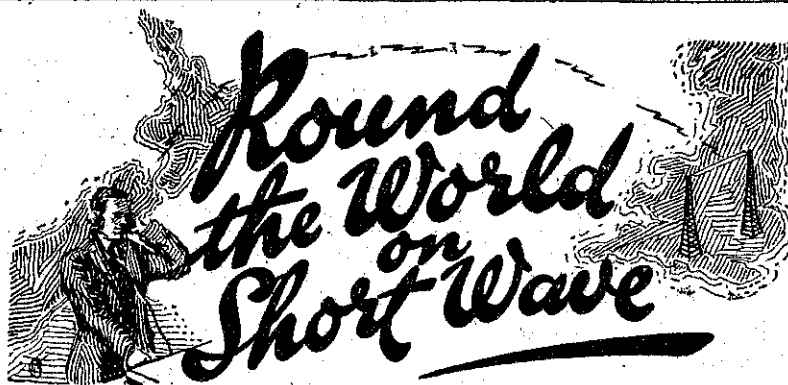
European Short Wave Stations.

I AM indebted to Mr. R. T. Stanton (Christchurch) for the following news which he received from an English "short wave" friend:—

Motala, Sweden, on 99 metres, relays the Stockholm programme. No fixed hours of operation. Coethen, Germany, call sign D4AFF on 43.6 metres, operated by State Technical College, Coethen. Experimental transmissions. Zeesen, Germany, on 31.88 metres, relays the programme from Königswusterhausen from 8 p.m. Greenwich mean time.

The last-named station is the German reported in the notes as being heard nearly every morning. This is confirmed by the programme in "World Radio" of Königswusterhausen on Friday, August 30, which reads as follows:—8 p.m. "The Messiah," oratorio (Handel), from Neuen Welt, Hasenheide, followed by News and Transmission of Pictures from Berlin (Wizleben). My log for Saturday, August 31 (September 13, "Radio Record") reads, "The German was a real treat with the 'Messiah' relayed from Berlin."

The following particulars of the above station will be of interest. Königswusterhausen (Zeesen, Germany)—Wavelength, 16.35 metres; power, 26 k.w.; call, "Achtung! Achtung! Hier, Königswusterhausen." When relaying, "Ferner Uebertragung auf..." (name of station relayed). Interval signal: Metronome; forty beats in ten seconds.



THIS page is conducted in the interests of shortwave enthusiasts. A weekly log comprising notes of reception and interesting topical events is contributed by Mr. F. W. Sellens, Northland, Wellington, but all listeners are invited to send in paragraphs of general interest.

General Notes.

STATION W2XAL on 49.9 metres and W8XAL on 49.5 metres have been heard recently up till 8.15 p.m. The former station has recently changed its wavelength from 30.91 to 49.9 metres.

Radio, Manila, is now heard regularly on just over 26 metres. Most transmissions commencing at 10 p.m. are announced as "simultaneously from Manila and Kaboo." I am not sure of the last-named place, but that is how it sounds. The call of KZRM or KIXR has not been heard recently—just "Radio, Manila."

During the week-end at Christchurch reception was poor. RA97 on Sunday evening was quite good when a lady was speaking in English, giving items of news from various countries. At 9.30 p.m. she said, "The time is 18 o'clock and 30 minutes; listen to-morrow at 18 o'clock and 20 minutes."

Tuesday, October 29.

STATION W9XF was R8 at 7 p.m., but very gushy. W6XN was similar to the Chicago station. RA97 at R9 was spoilt by very severe static. Radio, Manila, opened at 10 p.m. with their original chimes and the clock striking 6 p.m. After "Good-evening, everybody, this is Radio, Manila, broadcasting from Manila and Kaboo," a programme by the National University Band was received at R9.

Wednesday, October 30.

ON about 41.3 metres, possibly DOA, music at R4; 41.2 metres approx. (just a fraction below the above), orchestral items at R5. Static was very bad.

TLO, Nairobi, was only just readable. Zeesen relaying Königswusterhausen. At 6.15 a.m. some very fine choral music was heard at R9, spoilt by static. Talk was heard at 7.30 a.m., followed by an orchestra, R7-8. 5SW was weak and gushy. Big Ben at 7 a.m. was heard, but the talk following was not readable. W9XF at 6.30 p.m. was R8, and, except for slight gushiness, quite good. On about 32.2 metres a voice was heard calling "Hullo, Bridgewater" at R8. The call was not heard; static spoilt readability. They closed about 6.45 p.m. "till G.M.T." On 32.6 metres (about) a lady followed by a man were heard talking in a foreign tongue. Strength was good, at R8.

Just above this wavelength other voices were heard, but were spoilt by a beam station almost on top of them. 2ME and GBX were testing on duplex telephony, using their usual wavelength. I understand they are not yet ready for tests on 15 and 16 metres.

Radio, Manila, at 8 p.m. was R7 with bad static. They closed after a time to open again at 10 p.m. with their chimes and a relay from the Regal Theatre.

Strength was R8-9 at this time. Holland and Java were talking at R7 and R8 respectively.

Thursday, October 31.

STATIONS on about 43.5, 41.5 and 35.3 metres were heard with talk about 6 a.m., all being too weak to be readable.

Zeesen was splendid at R9 with a musical programme. I timed them in at 6.15 a.m. They closed at 6.30 a.m. TLO was just audible at 6.30 a.m.

5SW, for a change, was quite good at R8, but a morse station almost on top spoilt what would have been excellent reception. W9XF at 6.30 p.m. was R7, spoilt by static. 2ME and GBX were both R8-9 with their regular duplex tests. Radio, Manila, from 10 p.m. was R8.

Friday, November 1.

AT 6 a.m. PCJ opened, strength R. 8-9, weakening to R. 3-4 by 7.30 a.m. Talk and music was again just audible at 6 a.m. on 41.5 metres. They had faded out or closed down by 6.30 a.m.

Zeesen at R.8 was jammed by morse. TLO was only just audible at 6.30 a.m. 5SW at 7 a.m. had a R6 carrier wave, but speech was much weaker, fluctuating in volume a lot. W9XF at 6.40 was R7-8. W6XN was R3 at the same time, and slightly gushy.

2ME was calling London at 6.50 p.m. without any reply. Later when GBX came on about 8.15 p.m., Sydney told them about the ninth anniversary of KDKA, and that 2ME was going to put on a special programme at 11 GMT on Saturday for the Pittsburg station to rebroadcast. He also mentioned that KDKA intended rebroadcasting 5SW, England; DHC, Germany; and PHI, Holland, during their birthday celebrations.

PCJ, with duplex, were R7. RA97, at 9.15 p.m., were good with orchestral music at R8. Radio, Manila, at 8.15 p.m. were R6 with gramophone records. From 10 p.m. with their evening programme they were R8.

Saturday, November 2.

STATION PCJ did not commence till 6.15 a.m., when they were R8-9, with a strong generation hum. Volume went off to R4 by 7.30 a.m. Music was just audible on 41.5 metres. Zeesen at 6 a.m. was much weaker than usual.

On about 18 metres I hung on to a carrier for some time; at 6.30 a.m. the one word "Achtung" was heard, nothing else being heard. 5SW was very weak and gushy.

PCJ during the afternoon was very weak. Not audible till 3.30 p.m., when a carrier was picked up, slowly increasing to R4-5 at its maximum. Reception at its best was gushy. 2XAD, also, was very poor. Just audible at 1.30 p.m., and not much better two hours later.

3ZO provided an excellent programme, received at R7-8. KDKA was tuned in

at 8 p.m., when "Old Black Joe" was being sung, and received at R6. Reception varied, but on the whole, increased in volume to R8-9. An announcement was made during the afternoon in reference to their special ninth anniversary transmission, stating they would "be on all to-night, all to-morrow, the next night, and some of the following day"—quite an endurance test. Volume remained good till about 11 p.m., when they went off a little, but returned to R7-8 by 11.45 p.m.

Radio, Manila, opened at 10 p.m. with the chimes, and clock striking 6. It was announced that owing to the bad weather the Constabulary Band was unable to play in the bandstand, and that instead of the band, recorded items would be broadcast. Reception was excellent at R8. At 11.40 p.m., organ solos were heard from the Union Church.

VK2ME opened at 10.55 p.m. for a duplex test with KDKA. Reception was excellent at R9. Sydney put on two records for Pittsburg to tune in prior to "shooting the programme" (this was 2ME's way of putting it). The special programme commenced at 11.7 p.m. with "Light Cavalry." After several other items a message from Mr. Fisk, managing director of A.W.A., was read, and later birthday greetings from the announcer of 2ME. The concluding item was the "Wembley Military Tattoo," finishing at 12.2 a.m.

KDKA did not commence to rebroadcast till about 11.40, from which time the music and speech from Australia, via Pittsburg, was well received after travelling about 18,000 miles. The Sydney announcer was 100 per cent, readable through KDKA; in fact, better than the man in the Pittsburg studio.

KDKA at the conclusion acknowledged the special broadcast. Something was said about 5SW and transmission to the Byrd Expedition, but readability went off about this time.

Bangkok, Siam, was tuned in when the above concluded. They were transmitting their native music at about 29 metres. Reception was R9.

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