

The WORLD on SHORTWAVE

Conducted by the N.Z. Shortwave Club

Shortwave Club Notes

From the Secretary's Pen

(By A. B. McDonagh, 4 Queen Street, Wellington, E.I.)

MANY new hands to shortwave are mystified by hearing strong carrier waves with regular clock tickings or a single note repeated, more strongly in evidence between 10 and 11 megacycles, or, roughly, between VK3LR and JVM, Japan. These are telephony stations, and the carrier may be on the air for a very long time, or perhaps at the stroke of each hour a few words may be spoken rapidly.

Quite a number of members have written in to say that they picked up 9MI, the Australian motor-ship Kamimbla, but the frequency used was 49 metres and not 25.

"All-waver," Marton, is first with a "new one." Some time ago I mentioned the possibility of an Italian station in the occupied territory. The word "Pron-to" is used by Italian stations similar to the German "Achtung" (attention). So we deduce a new 25-metre telephony station at Addis Ababa which replaces the former Abyssinian ETB.

"Cocky" from the Bay of Islands reports RNE on 25 metres (12 m.c.) as very consistent, though sometimes distorted. He recently heard 2RO accusing English munition firms of supplying Ethiopia with poison gas. In his locality he has excellent speaker reception with a six-valve battery receiver and places RNE and W2XAF as his best.

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For some weeks past VK3LR has been broadcasting on Sunday nights from about 7.30 p.m., specially for outback Australians whose localities prevent their receiving broadcast stations. They were heterodyning 2ME, and I wrote away mentioning this, so frequency is slightly changed. VK3ME still has his Wednesday night mail-bag session at about 10 p.m., N.Z.S.T.

F.J.M., Hamilton, reports 9MI as on approximately 6.02 m.c. and thinks the reason why the 20-metre band is not so congested now is because so many Americans and Australians are going down to 10 metres.

Mr. Dent, Wellington, in a comprehensive report, says that LRU announce their wave as 31.06 metres or 9660 k.c. (As a number of readers are evidently confused with the terms as given in wavelength or frequency, I might mention that 9660 k.c. would, by inserting a point, read as 9.660, or for short 9.66 megacycles.) Radio Cartagena have a faint four-note signal and are on 31.25 metres (9600 k.c.). He inquires re a bugle call interval signal on 9.41. TI4-NRH, Costa Rica, used this signal, but I have not heard whether he has returned "home" again.

Of interest to Syrian people is a rumour that stations in the U.S.A. are subscribing for the erection of a short-wave station at Homs, near Bayrenth. A shortwave station was also mentioned for Tel-e-riv, an important Jewish town in Palestine, but recent events would postpone negotiations.

Many people tune only at night-time and are disappointed with poor results. At the present time night reception is nothing remarkable except on the 31-metre band, where the Australians hold forth. With the exception of the Russian railway telephone station on the 25-metre band just above RNE, it is seldom we hear their many telephony stations now. As for the 19-metre band, it is a complete blank until after midnight. These conditions will change again and when Daventry's schedule commences later in the evening it will be noticed that France and Germany will begin to reappear.

About 11 o'clock one night during the week I heard an American police station on 3 m.c., but static was very severe. The U.S.A. police have a number of stations, but of course will not verify. They do not use a call, so if one is heard that position should be watched. One might

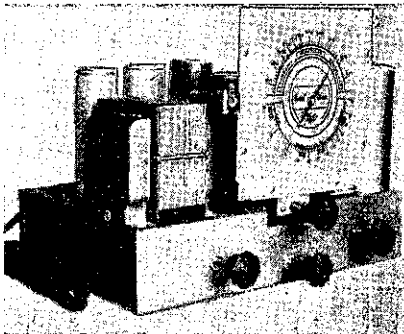
suddenly hear, "Car No. so-and-so, proceed to 345 West Fourth Street."

Aircraft stations are rare visitors. I have heard weather reports and landing directions, but though conditions were good the inevitable static did not make listening easy.

It is noticed that some of the old-time ZL amateurs are on the air again. ZL-2BE, 3DC, 2AX and others, together with ZL1BC, have consistently assisted those whose ambition was to get on the air. The most special mention in this direction is ZL2AX, Mr. James Kyle, who in addition to looking after his own broadcast station found time to post countless copies of examination papers and information out to many people, including members of the N.Z.S.W.C., who are now on the air themselves.

It is a regrettable feature that some have seen fit to neglect supporting the societies whose members have assisted them and who are continuing to work without remuneration on their behalf. The work of the amateur transmitters in pioneering shortwave should not be weakened by lack of support and it would be a sorry state of affairs if the N.Z. A.R.T. and its associated societies in other parts of the world had the very narrow bands allotted to their activities still further curtailed. Just recently we have noticed commercial stations encroaching on the 20-metre band, just a sort of "peaceful penetration," and as a percentage of the listeners of to-day may be the transmitters of to-morrow, the present transmitting bands should be preserved for the coming generation.

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