

Short-wave News

Portugal Begins Broadcasting.

THE first attempt in Portugal to provide a regular broadcasting service is now being made by Abilio Nunes dos Santos, Lisbon. The station, which is private, with the call sign CTIAA, is operating on 291 metres and 42.9 metres. Programmes on the longwave are broadcast at present, on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday from 9.20 a.m. to 11.20 a.m. New Zealand summer time, while the shortwave transmitter is on the air the same hours on Friday. Announcements are made in Portuguese, French, English, German, and Italian.

FYA, Paris.

THE French colonial station at Pon-toise is already "hard up." M. Julien Maigré, director of the station, reports that colonial listeners are rather exacting. Their requirements are: Less music, absolutely no gramophone records, and more live news. Unlike the controllers of 5SW, the director of this station must find his own programme material, and is under an obligation to provide eight hours' original entertainment a day with a monthly expenditure of £160.

New Stations in Java.

SEVERAL listeners have reported a station heard at a late hour at good volume, but from which no call sign has been given. The following announcement was heard and reported by an Australian: "The station is for experimental broadcasting on shortwaves, and is situated in the East Indies. The power in the antenna is 1 kilowatt, and the wavelengths used are: Mondays, 49.30 metres; Tuesdays, 31.3 metres; Thursdays, 19.55 metres. The present schedule is from 10 to 11 p.m., and from 11.30 p.m. to 12.30 a.m. on all wavelengths (New Zealand summer time, two hours later). Transmissions on the lower wavelength are only just audible in Melbourne, but on the higher waves reception is excellent."

Stranger on 50 Metres.

A SHORTWAVE friend reports hearing a foreigner from 11.15 p.m. on Tuesday on about 50 metres. Volume was R8. Announcements were made in English, and a foreign language, but no call was heard or any indication of the locality of the station.

Midnight DX-ing.

THE writer does not listen, as a rule, after about 11 p.m., but some of the night owls tell me that after midnight shortwave reception is worth while just now. In fact, one listener often goes to bed soon after tea and sets his alarm for midnight, starting his day's listening from this time. He certainly deserves to bag a few stations.

Log for Week Ending October 17

RV15, Siberia, 70.1 metres: Good volume every evening from about 8 p.m. Musical programmes good.

HVJ, Vatican City, 50.26 metres: From 7 a.m. now each morning for 15 minutes. Good volume.

Moscow, 50 metres: Best reception till about 6.30 to 7 a.m., after which volume decreases.



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.

W9XF, Chicago, 49.86 metres: Reaches good volume by 5 p.m., but often marred by static.

ZL2ZX, Wellington, 49.5 metres: This station is being well received in Australia. Excellent in Wellington.

7LO, Nairobi, 49.5 metres: Still only just audible after 6 a.m. Have not tried them earlier recently.

W8XAL, Cincinnati, 49.5 metres: Good volume at 11.30 p.m., better than late afternoon.

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3XAL, Boundbrook, 49.18 metres: Sunday, up to R6 at 4.30 p.m., with rapid fade. R9 on Saturday, with severe static.

F31GD, Saigon, 49 metres: A good station now from about 11.30 p.m.

VE9CL, Winnipeg, 48.7 metres: October 15 (Thursday) was one of the late programme days; they were just audible at 7.30 p.m. On Saturday I tuned them in just as they were signing off at 5.10 p.m., "till 4.10 p.m. to-morrow." Volume was about R6, but readability only about 75 per cent.

REN, Moscow, 45.38 metres: Good reception from this station is not quite as regular now each morning, but is often R8 at 6 a.m.

VK3ME, Melbourne, 31.55 metres: Wednesday, 10 p.m., records at R9, with one stage audio.

OXY, Denmark, 31.51 metres: R3 at best about 6.30 a.m. Seldom clear enough to be readable.

W2XAF, Schenectady, 31.48 metres: Sunday, 9.30 a.m., a ball game was being described. The talk was about 50 per cent. readable at R4, which was subject to fading. The same game was being broadcast by W8XK on 25.25 metres also, W2XAD on 19.56 metres. The latter station was not audible, but heard the announcement made by W2XAF. Sunday afternoon they were very gushy at 3.45 p.m.—R4. Reception improved by 4 p.m. They were very weak on Saturday afternoon.

PLW, Java, 31.86 metres: Good volume nearly every evening. Records and duplex.

Zeesen, Germany, 31.38 metres: Excellent volume at 6.30 a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings, also from 1 a.m. Sunday morning. Their transmission hours appear to have been changed, as several times they have been inaudible when they should, conditions being suitable, have been at good strength.

WIXAZ, Springfield, 31.35 metres: This station has gone off badly. R2-3 was the best I could do on Sunday at 5 p.m.

VK2ME, Sydney, 31.28 metres: Week-end programmes, Sunday evening and Monday morning, well received, except for severe fading.

PCJ, Eindhoven, Holland, 31.28 metres: Were like old times on Thursday from 6.30 a.m. to 7 a.m., being R9 and perfect in all ways. Saturday morning at the same time they were about the same, but the afternoon was very poor, being gushy at R5 at their best.

G5SW, Chelmsford, 25.53 metres: Saturday was the only morning it was possible to understand talk from London, between 7 a.m. and 7.30 a.m., when it was 95 per cent. at R5-9. Severe rapid fading spoilt reception on other mornings. I understand they come in well now at 12.30 a.m., so the "night owls" say.

12R0, Rome, 25.4 metres: This station has been subject to rapid fading the last few days, as well as being weaker than usual.

W8XK, Pittsburg, 25.25 metres: Sunday, 9.30 a.m., R3, with same game as heard from W2XAF. Saturday, 2 p.m., about the same volume, but gushy.

FYA, Pontoise, France, 25.2 metres: R8-9 each morning between 6.30 a.m. and 7.30 a.m., except Wednesday, when they were only R4.

Saigon (?), 24.3 metres (about): Friday, 7.30 a.m., orchestra at R8. Foreign

announcement, but no call heard. Music again, etc. A long talk commenced at 7.45 a.m., in which the word Saigon was heard several times.

W2XAD, Schenectady, 19.5 metres: Sunday, 9.45 a.m., R1-3, soon fading right out. Again on Monday, 6.45 a.m., about the same volume.

N.Z. Short-wave Club Notes

THE next meeting of the Wellington members will be held in Messrs. Nimmo's concert hall, corner Willis and Bond Streets, at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, October 29. Any person interested in radio, especially short-wave, is invited to attend—there may be a little tin that is worth picking up.

As six months of the year has passed the committee, at a meeting held on Thursday last, decided to make the fees for the remainder of the term 5/- for Wellington city, and 3/- for all outside the city, and in other parts. This pays up to March 1, 1932, and this course has been adopted to suit the times, also to bring the first year's total up. Boys of 16 and under may enrol as junior members at an annual sub of 2/6 per year.

The first financial members in each district are:—Wellington, J. Donnelly; Christchurch, R. T. Stanton; Dunedin, Edw. Bond; Auckland, Mr. J. Hewat Smith. First lady member, Miss R. Orr. First overseas, R. A. Thoenig, Cresskill, N.J., U.S.A.

A member from Gisborne who was down to see me sends an interesting account of his journey home, also a number of snaps taken from the aeroplane in which he completed the remainder of his journey. Mr. Sellens, our popular president, will be in Christchurch for Labour Day week-end, and will try and see a few of the members there.

On looking up the books, I see that three of us met at 2.30 p.m. on January 8 last, to consider forming the club. On January 19, a meeting to consider the proposal was held in Johnson's Wireless School. The actual proposal to form the club was made on February 9, at a general meeting, which had been advertised. Listeners overseas and in New Zealand, my address is A. B. McDonagh, 274 Cuba Street, Wellington. Secretary N.Z. Short-Wave Club.

THE dangers of the unguarded microphone are illustrated by a French contemporary, "Le Haut Parleur," in relating an amusing incident which occurred recently during the relay of a speech by a Cabinet Minister. Interrupted in the midst of his eloquent address by a burst of prolonged applause, the statesman glanced out of the window and the listening millions heard him remark: "Mon Dieu! How it rains!"

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