



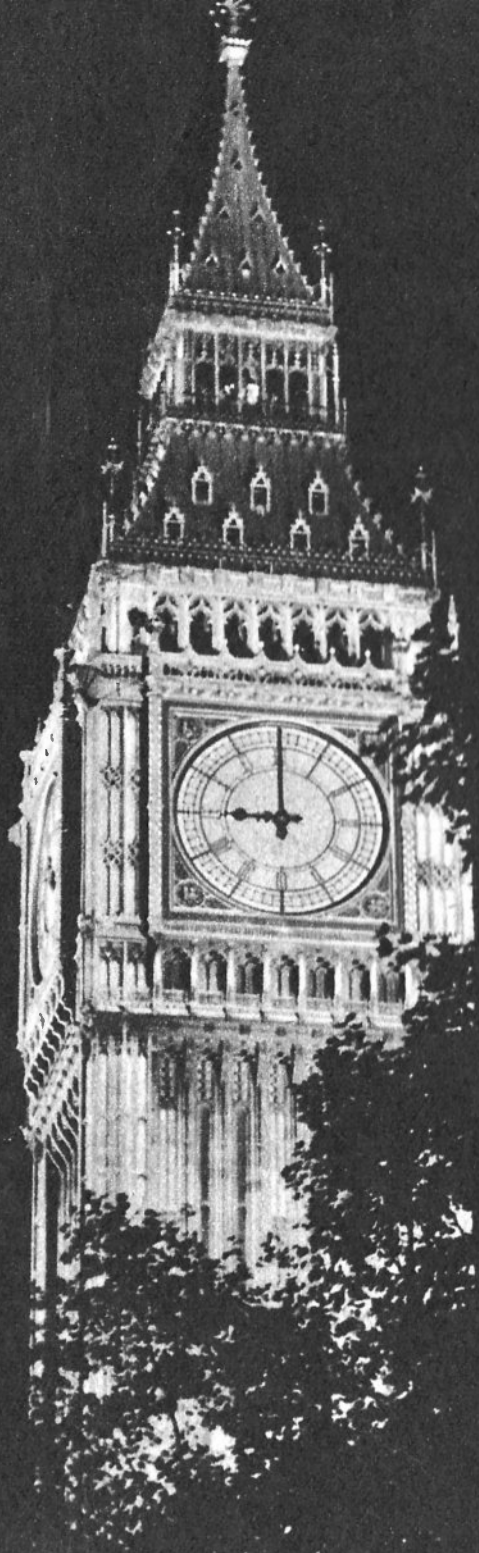
BBC

CALLING

ALL

NATIONS

PRICE ONE SHILLING



# CALLING ALL NATIONS

*For ten years the voice of Big Ben has been the herald of the BBC's Empire Service. Before the strokes of the hour come the chimes which, according to an old legend, say—*

*Lord, through this hour  
Be Thou our guide :  
And by Thy power  
No foot shall slide.*

*by*

*T. O. Beachcroft*



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## CHAPTER I

### THE WORLD FALLS APART—THE EMPIRE DRAWS TOGETHER

THE newly built Broadcasting House stood out white and curved against a rainy sky. It was December; an unpleasant December morning, ten years ago. Inside, the new paint and polished wood of the corridors put one in mind of the decks of a liner; and on the third deck, or floor, four people, led by Sir John Reith, had gone together into Studio 3B. They were about to open the new Empire Service.

The other three were Mr. J. H. Whitley, Chairman of the Board of Governors and former Speaker of the House of Commons; Mr. Noel Ashbridge, Controller of Engineering; Mr. C. G. Graves, the first Director of the Empire Service. The studio red light winked at them twice and went on. Mr. Whitley stepped to the microphone, and the very first words of the Empire Service were on the air. Off they went from the mists of London, in the winter, to the sunshine of Australia and New Zealand.

Behind this first broadcast lay a good many years of experiment; and a good deal of discussion about ways and means. Finally, the BBC had decided to go ahead and pay for the new service out of the revenue provided by licences in this country. The cost was about one penny out of each ten shillings. The events of the next ten years went to show whether this penny was well spent.

The actual opening ceremony was modest. The mood was almost that of an experiment; and those taking part felt a little as if they were signalling in the middle of Dartmoor on a black night with a box of matches. A minute programme allowance of ten pounds a week had been arranged; so that if nothing happened at least they would not go on wasting matches.

Six days later it was known throughout every part of the Empire that there had arrived a new instrument of almost unimaginable power; an instrument which, it was felt, could give a new expression to the intangible yet vital sense of the Empire as a whole. For, on the sixth day of its life, the Empire Service broadcast the first Christmas Day 'link-up' in which voices from every part of the Empire joined in quick succession; and in which the culmination was a message spoken by King George V.

Many people in Great Britain remember that first Empire link-up vividly. Throughout the Dominions and Colonies, throughout the high seas of the world, the same feelings were shared. In the next few days cables, and in the next few weeks letters, came pouring in from Canada, from the West Indies, from every part of Africa, from Malta and Gibraltar, from India, Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands. In effect they all amounted

to one cable, one letter, one voice : ' Words cannot describe the thrill we felt in this vivid expression of our unity.'

Here is part of the King's message, spoken on Christmas Day, 1932, from his own fireside at Sandringham :

Through one of the marvels of modern science I am enabled this Christmas Day to speak to all my peoples throughout the Empire. I take it as a good omen that wireless should have reached its present perfection at a time when the Empire has been linked in closer union, for it offers us immense possibilities to make that union closer still.

It may be that our future will lay upon us more than one stern test. Our past will have taught us how to meet it unshaken.

I speak now from my home and from my heart to you all, to men and women so cut off by the snows and the deserts, or the seas, that only the voices out of the air can reach them.

Looking back on that message ten years later it seems that every thought tells. Few were thinking that even as the King spoke the vast world stage was being set for the present struggle : already the scenery was rumbling into place : already the great actors were standing in the wings.

In that very year, 1932, Hitler and the Nazi party came into power. On 30 January 1933 Hitler became Chancellor. In November 1932 President Roosevelt was elected for the first of his three terms of office. Anglo-Egyptian discussions covering such vital issues as the use of the harbour at Alexandria were at a standstill. Yet it was in the Far East that the Japanese at that very hour took the most ominous step of all. On 1 January 1933 the Japanese openly flouted the League of Nations and attacked Shanhaikwan, the gateway of the Great Wall.

It seems now strange indeed that people were taking little stock of a picture in every facet of which the British Empire was concerned.

Yet a vital step in Empire history had just been completed. In the previous year the Statute of Westminster had taken shape. The Statute recognized the right of the Dominions to act for themselves in foreign affairs; and if Britain went to war, to ally themselves or to remain neutral as they pleased.

In the meantime, however, Empire broadcasting began to make a steady progress through its first practical difficulties. The King's Christmas speech brings quickly to the imagination the first problem of all : that of time. The King spoke in Sandringham at 3 p.m. by Greenwich Mean Time. Citizens of Great Britain heard him after their midday dinner. In Newfoundland and on the east coast of Canada it was in the middle of the morning. Many were at church. On the west coast of Canada people were just getting up. In New Zealand and Fiji it was some hours before dawn. In Australia it was after midnight. In Calcutta and Ceylon it was about 8 p.m., and in Cape Town tea time. At an arbitrary point in the Indian and Pacific Oceans the date changed from 25 to 26 December.

This is the programme planners' first headache. You cannot serve the whole Empire together; and while, on outstanding occasions, people will stay awake, or rise at 4 a.m., or alter all their arrangements, this plainly is useless as a basis for a daily broadcasting service.

At first the Empire Service ran for ten hours out of the twenty-four : it was divided up into five transmissions of two hours each.



'It may be that our future will lay upon us more than one stern test.'—  
King George V, Christmas 1932

'For the second time in the lives of most of you we are at war.'—  
King George VI, 3 September 1939

*Photos by kind permission of "The Times"*





This was merely an experimental solution. As listeners' letters and reports from overseas broadcasting stations came crowding in, it was evident that more and more broadcasting hours were wanted. The sun moves steadily round the world, not in zonal jerks. The British Commonwealth of Nations is spaced out all round the world. The trouble is not so much that the sun never sets on the British Empire as that it is always setting. It is setting somewhere while you read these words; and wherever it is setting the best listening hours are beginning.

Even a twenty-four-hour service cannot solve all the complicated problems of timing so simple an item as one news bulletin. Great Britain's habit of finding 9 p.m. a good hour for the news might seem elsewhere to be a local peculiarity. The fishing communities of misty Newfoundland and the sugar plantations of the semi-tropic West Indies naturally have very different habits. From the great farming districts of Canada to the crowded cities of India, meal times and hours of work vary still further. Among the island communities such as Malta and the Seychelles or the Friendlies, in the mining districts of Africa, or the sheep ranches of New Zealand and Australia, these differences are multiplied. Add climates that range from arctic to tropic, and from winter to summer seasons, and you will find that different groups of people will demand their news at almost every hour out of the twenty-four.

Then there was the problem of direction. The appropriate programme was directed towards the right zone at the right hour. It was found, however, that transmissions were picked up at unexpected points all round the world. He who addresses one audience by short wave must be prepared for all the world to overhear. Passing remarks, jokes, and even tunes began to bristle with unsuspected offence. Many people wrote complaining that the emphasis in the news was entirely wrong and that their own regions never appeared in the headlines.

All these may seem minor points—but they were leading to great ends. They were the bricks and mortar of an Empire Service. In helping to solve all these problems, listeners and broadcasting organizations throughout the Empire were invaluable, and from the outset the audience itself has helped to build the service. The many differences, moreover, brought home too the real need for the service; and more important still, they showed the spontaneous sense of unity throughout the Empire on many occasions. In the eyes of the serious historian these moments may seem curiously casual. That is the British way. They were not introduced by trumpets and massed crowds. They were the Test Matches; the Derby; the All-Blacks; the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships. Again and again, people wrote to tell of their deep feelings of unity and of sharing a common life simply in hearing the broadcasts of these events as they actually took place.

Over the desert in Iraq the pilot of a passenger 'plane picked up the running account of the Derby. He shouted back what he heard to the passengers, and for two and a half minutes that 'plane seemed to be part of the Epsom crowd. Those in it knew which horse had won as soon as the jockey himself knew, and a good while before many people in the tubes and streets of London.



They also spoke . . . and the Empire heard them.—A Scottish family taking part at home in the Christmas broadcast

Some more ceremonial occasions in the first year or two also stand out: the opening of Haifa Harbour; a description broadcast from the top of Table Mountain, provided by the official South African broadcasting organization; a programme on the centenary of the Falkland Islands; religious services on Armistice Day.

Again and again letters bring out the extraordinary power of the broadcast occasion to bring together people in many lands and to give them a unity of common purpose and feeling. When the marriage ceremony of the Duke and Duchess of Kent was broadcast in 1934, the Governor of Sierra Leone wrote of the keen and touching interest taken by the West African population. Every race, every community, every tribe in the world understands what a wedding is. Once again it was seen that an event in which the whole Empire can share is by that very fact a broadcasting occasion.

A programme called 'Empire Exchange' was an Empire-wide link-up even more ambitious than that of Christmas Day 1932. It brought in linked messages from twenty-two different points all round the Empire. To say that the organizers sat back and said 'Whew' after it was all over puts it mildly. This was before the days of regular air mail, and the work of preparation of such a programme began anything up to six months in advance. It was, in fact, pioneering.

On each successive Empire Day the broadcasting organizations of the different Dominions in turn provided a programme for transmission to the whole Empire. These of course were always heard in the Home programmes of Great Britain as well as throughout the Empire. This idea of an exchange

of broadcasting has from the very first been one of the chief aims of the Empire Service. The future will see it developed very much farther.

In the meantime, while the engineers and the organizers of the Empire Service were systematically solving their day-to-day problems and analysing the information in 100,000 letters and reports, peace on the borders of the Empire was hourly breaking up.

From 1934 to 1937 the war clouds grew heavier in Europe. Hitler and Mussolini began to talk of their complicity in crime as 'The Axis'. In the Far East Japan's attacks had now passed into an irrevocable war with China. Soon the Axis changed into a new geometrical portent—a triangle, every side of which was base.

The Dominions now were discussing Imperial defence; yet still the problems were seen as a number of separate problems, in which war would be isolated. When we look back now the whole pattern is all too clear, but it was not so then, except to the few. Another of those who were playing a leading part in the drama made a great speech, General Smuts, speaking from South Africa, painted a true picture of the future, that was broadcast throughout the Empire.

Optimism is not enough in these grave times, and may be seriously misleading. When we speak of recovery we dare not forget that the immediate world outlook is in many ways dark and menacing as it has been since the world war. In a spirit approaching panic nations are arming on a scale never before known, and such that the world cannot long endure. The combined initiative of the British Commonwealth and the U.S.A. may go far to assist our political diplomats to see and improve the situation which now appears to be increasingly menacing.

\* \* \* \* \*

In the meantime a series of moving events in the life of the Empire had taken place. As they followed each other they seemed to have the emotional force of a poetic drama. The Jubilee celebrations of 1935; then the death within a few months of King George V, whose reign had opened with the Delhi Durbar and whose dying thoughts and words had been about the Empire. Then the Proclamation and the Abdication of King Edward VIII. Each event in this story, intently followed throughout the Empire, turned on the meaning of the Crown to the Empire; and on unity of action through the new Statute of Westminster.

André Siegfried, famous Frenchman and citizen of the world, wrote of the broadcast of the Silver Jubilee:

'I heard in Canada George V at the time of his Jubilee address his people over the radio. Each individual heard his voice and had the feeling of being in his presence; he no longer seemed a symbol, something cold, abstract; he was a human being speaking to human beings. And what was he saying? Just what could best touch all these men, attaching in conformity with their traditions to a liberal conception of life.'

We come to the Coronation of King George VI, and to the rounding-off of the first five years of Empire broadcasting, in 1937. In special preparation for the Coronation, the BBC completed new transmitters and the number in use was brought up to six. The programmes went out 'live', and were

followed by recordings throughout the twenty-four hours and addressed to every part of the world. Fourteen foreign observers were given facilities to broadcast running commentaries. These were taken on lines to fourteen different points in European and other countries. This innovation foreshadowed our present highly-evolved European Service. In this same year the BBC received a new Charter, and now for the first time it had official instructions to develop the Empire Service.

There can be little question that the broadcast of the Coronation was heard by a greater number of people throughout the world than any other programme in the history of radio. Not only were the streets of many villages and cities in Great Britain deserted while people were intent on their wireless sets. These scenes were repeated throughout the Empire. In some places crowds gathered in the open air to hear the programme radiated by loudspeakers. It was so heard, for instance, outside the Parliament Buildings in Auckland, in the parks and gardens of Nairobi, and by groups of Indian listeners. Every incident was followed by British soldiers and their families on the North-west Frontier.

At that time Mr. J. B. Clark, who is now Controller of the Overseas Services, was making an Empire tour. On the morning of the Coronation he was on board ship, nearing Malta. On deck everyone was listening. At half-past ten he landed in Malta. He was driven through the streets to the Governor's palace at Valetta. On every hand the crowds were thronging the streets listening to the broadcast in public. Everywhere there were flowers—huge, fantastic flower decorations; Maltese crosses in red and white geraniums, whole battleships built in flowers, and banners of silk and letters of flowers across the streets—with the words 'God Save Our King and Queen'. Over the banners and the rich and historic palaces of Malta arched the blue of the Mediterranean sky—and into it rose the words and music from Westminster Abbey.

Recent Axis broadcasts have explained that the possession of Malta within the Empire is a typical act of British brutality. By imposing our force upon the Maltese we have made them the unwilling base of our Mediterranean strength. Hence they must suffer from the attacks of the Axis.

How did Malta in truth enter the British Empire? Malta is said by some to be the smallest nation with the oldest consecutive history in the world. After centuries of successive invasions, it was held at one time by the Saracens, then it was governed by the Knights of St. John. The island became famous throughout Christendom for her heroic resistance to the great siege of the Turks in 1565. For a time Malta fell to the French in the Napoleonic Wars. When Napoleon was driven out, the Maltese themselves petitioned to become part of the Empire in 1814. They identified their own interests with those of the British. That is the basis of their unswerving loyalty and magnificent courage in the present war; and it is the reason that they are our especial care in the Empire Broadcasting Service.

Throughout the Empire, as in Malta, the broadcasting of the Coronation





'The Navy's Here. . . . ' The story of *Cossack's* rescue of British seamen from the *Altmark* was heard throughout the world. It started with Mr. Winston Churchill's orders, 'Get the men' and ended when the *Cossack's* boarding party called down to the prisoners below decks, 'The Navy's here'. Some of the Indian seamen rescued are here being interviewed by Z. A. Bokhari of the BBC's Indian Service.

made a most profound impression. It appealed everywhere to that vast and intangible life that in all its myriad forms is the soul of the British Empire. Through it, with gathering purpose, breathed those awakening thoughts and half-realized forces which neither the Statute of Westminster nor any other document could capture. It brought with it too not only the ceremony itself, but an account of the good humour and spontaneous enthusiasm of the huge crowds that slept and camped in London.

In the meantime, what was Hitler himself broadcasting? And what in particular was Germany saying about the British Empire? From the earliest days, while we conceived international broadcasting as a means of communication for which people had asked, Hitler thought of it only as deliberate propaganda: the rolling drum, the blast of trumpets, the pre-arranged cheer. That is still the German version of Big Ben, followed by 'Here is the news'.

Soon after 1932 the voice of Hitler was heard haranguing in short-wave broadcasting. In 1935 Germany circulated residents in the British Dominions and Colonies with a questionnaire asking them about their listening habits and reception conditions. By 1936, in time for the Olympic Games in Berlin, eight 50-kilowatt transmitters had been installed at Zeesen. These outstripped ours in power for some time to come, and by now Hitler was talking in English to our own Empire.

Incidentally, the Olympic Games provided one of the most famous of all Empire broadcasting incidents. Harold Abrahams, who won the hundred metres for Britain in 1924, and who proved as good at running commentaries as he had been at running, brilliantly described Jack Lovelock winning the fifteen hundred metres. Abrahams's excitement was so intense that he must have communicated his fervour to every hearer who had ever run a race in his life. Hitler took no interest in any event which was not won by a German, and one very significant point of which he missed the meaning was this: Lovelock ran in New Zealand colours and scored points for the New Zealand team. The Empire entered ten different teams for the Games, all wearing their own colours, all taking pride in their own scores.

We know that Hitler missed the meaning of this, if we so much as glance at his views, and the views of other Germans, about the British Empire during this period. In *Mein Kampf* and in some of his earlier speeches Hitler showed a fleeting tendency to pay some tribute to the British Empire. It was the wrong sort of tribute; and the tune soon changed.

When Lord Halifax visited Germany to discuss Anglo-German relations, Hitler took the occasion to make a broadcast outpouring, in which he said:

'The British Empire is supported by 40,000,000 Englishmen. We shall voice our demand for living room in the Colonies more and more loudly, till the world cannot but recognize our claims. The most important steps have been taken already: Germany has created a new army and has got rid of her inferiority complex.'

Already the Germans had issued maps throughout their own schools and outside the boundaries of Germany, showing vast stretches of the world



surface incorporated in a German colonial system. A new game called 'Race to the Colonies' was enjoying great sales.

Throughout all these diatribes and through many others which dwell for ever on the topic of the 'haves' and the 'have-nots', the Nazis think only in terms of possession; of colonies as something acquired by force; as lands owned outright by their imperial masters. Ownership and possession, as of slave lands, is the theme from first to last. Hitler's own insulting references to coloured peoples are notorious.

This is a conception of the Empire which has long been out of date within the British Commonwealth of Nations, and which in the minds of the great founders of Empire has never existed. In the face of a free association of nations with equal rights the Nazis have talked of 'England owning the Empire'; of 'a minute island of 40,000,000 people in possession of a third of the earth's surface'.

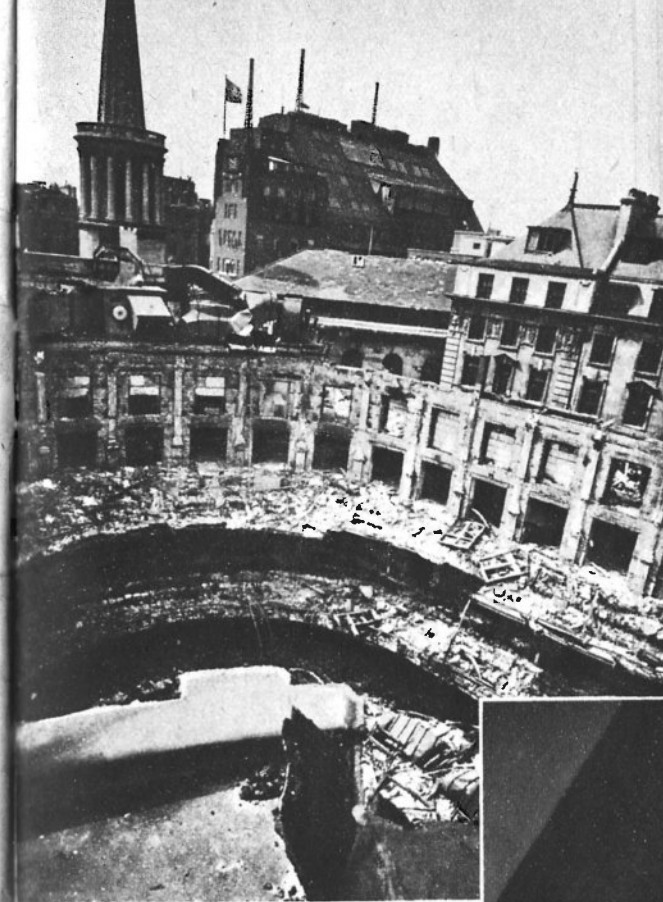
The time was at hand, however, when we in the Empire would no longer listen to Hitler's broadcast ravings. There is no need to dwell on the events of 1938. Hitler's words: 'I have no further territorial claims.' 'I shall never interfere with Austria.' His acts: the invasion of Austria on the eve of Schuschnigg's plebiscite; the demand for Czechoslovakia; Britain's naval reserves were called up; gas masks were given out. Then Munich.

In March 1939 Hitler annexed the wounded body of Czechoslovakia. The Czech's fine army had been unable to strike a blow. Overnight the British began to act and think as one. The Empire instinct was now fully awake. It was known that if Hitler went further war must follow. In the summer of 1939 the King visited Canada, and during his tour made a broadcast. This was the first occasion on which a sovereign had addressed the whole Empire from one of his great Dominions, and the highly developed Empire Service made it possible to transmit this speech to the whole Empire after it had been 'beamed' to Great Britain. Through July and August we followed the needless and insane day-to-day whipping-up of lies against the Poles. Not everyone recalls now that as a last sickening gesture Hitler offered, after he had already attacked Poland, 'to guarantee the British Empire'.

Fortunately the British Empire was able to proceed without Hitler's help. A. P. Newton points out, in *A Hundred Years of the British Empire*. 'Not only were the ministers of the Dominions far more closely in touch with world affairs than their predecessors had been in 1914, public opinion throughout the Empire was infinitely better informed by the radio and the foreign correspondence in the press.'

From the moment that Mr. Chamberlain told the Empire that Britain was at war, broadcasting across the seas began to play a more important part even than before. Dominion troops were soon flooding into Britain. Their fellow countrymen at home needed news of them. Figuratively all eyes were on the centre of the Empire's war effort, and in actual fact all ears were listening to the words 'This is London calling'.

Thus it came about that our lop-sided and ramshackle Empire, as the



Broadcasting House is khaki washed for war, but the flag still flies. Seen over the gutted Queen's Hall



Like a ship riding through the night. Broadcasting House in peacetime



Germans called it: our Empire which was absurd: our Empire which could not act together since it was joined only in violence and fraud and had now lapsed into decadence, stood in the road as one solid bar against the German onrush towards world domination.

How did this mysterious event occur? To the British way of thinking, the question does not arise. There were no solemn treaties, but what need is there of a treaty where there is good faith? Or what use is a treaty if it is to be torn up at will?

On the day on which we entered the war, King George VI, who had himself served in the previous war and been in action at the Battle of Jutland, broadcasting to the Empire, said:

For the second time in the lives of most of you, we are at war. Over and over again we have tried to find a peaceful way out of the differences between ourselves and those who are now our enemies. For we are called with our allies, to meet the challenge of a principle, which, if it should prevail, would be fatal to any civilized order in the world. . .

This is the ultimate issue which confronts us. For the sake of all that we ourselves hold dear, and of the world's order and peace, it is unthinkable that we should refuse to meet the challenge.

\* \* \* \* \*

The war opened with its slow yet menacing rhythm. Suddenly, June 1940 swept aside all preconceived plans and many hopes. For a year the British Empire was to stand as Hitler's sole opponent. Here already in existence appeared that group of free Allied nations that Hitler could not divide nor crush one by one. In July 1940 the Germans made a peace offer to the British Empire. In his book, *Berlin Diary*, Shirer, who was listening in with high officials of the Nazi party and officers of the German army to the BBC's European Service, tells how the Germans were utterly amazed at our prompt rejection of this offer. They genuinely thought the war had been won.

The days of the autumn and winter of 1940 gave a tremendous new emphasis to the need for broadcasting throughout the Empire. The speeches of the Prime Minister not only inspired each individual, but set in an instant the course of imperial action. A New Zealand paper wrote: 'A speech by the Prime Minister is as good as a new battleship.' By now Britain itself was the front line of the battle. First the Home Counties, then London, then in turn city after city was raided by the Luftwaffe. Civilians at this stage were in the thick of the danger.

News from Britain was of almost hourly urgency; and not only news, but information; personal stories and the accounts of eye-witnesses; the real voice of the airmen and the citizens who were engaged in the struggle. People were thirsting for the true account of the strength at the heart of the Empire: and night by night as the notes of Big Ben rang out—always the actual chimes and never a recording—and were heard throughout the world, they brought an immense and gradually growing sense of assurance.

In this 'blitz' period BBC premises were wrecked and lives were lost. Studios were cut off from transmitters. Yet for every hour of these months the Overseas Service went out by day and by night without break.

Entertainers, orchestras, dance bands, speakers made it a point of honour



'This is London calling . . . Here is the Prime Minister'





Inside a German internment camp. Americans, afterwards repatriated, listen to London on a miniature battery set

Dinkas of the Southern Sudan listening to Big Ben in the African Service



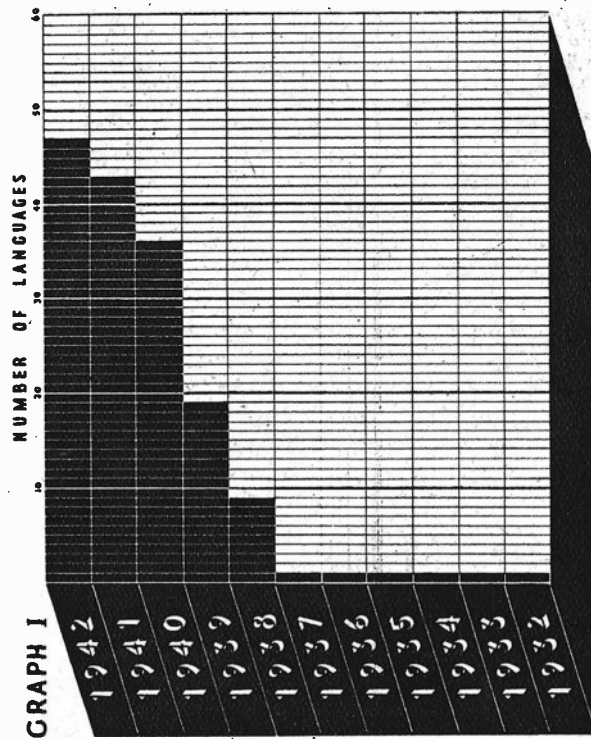
Workmen in an English inn listening to Mr. Churchill

to reach studios for their broadcasts at every hour of the night, whatever was falling from the night sky; and bombs were falling in the centre of London night after night for three months, and sometimes with hardly a break from dusk till dawn. The cast of a daily serial, 'Front Line Family', who recounted the experiences of a British family in the 'blitz', found themselves acting out the same thrilling scenes in real life that they played before the microphone. A programme of spontaneous street interviews called 'Meet John Londoner' was immediately famous.

In the spring of 1941 London took its hardest night hammering of all from the Luftwaffe. I saw myself a German bomber, one glaring sheet of yellow flame, fall out of the night sky into the London streets a hundred yards away. From the grey of dusk till the grey of dawn sticks of bombs fell every few minutes.

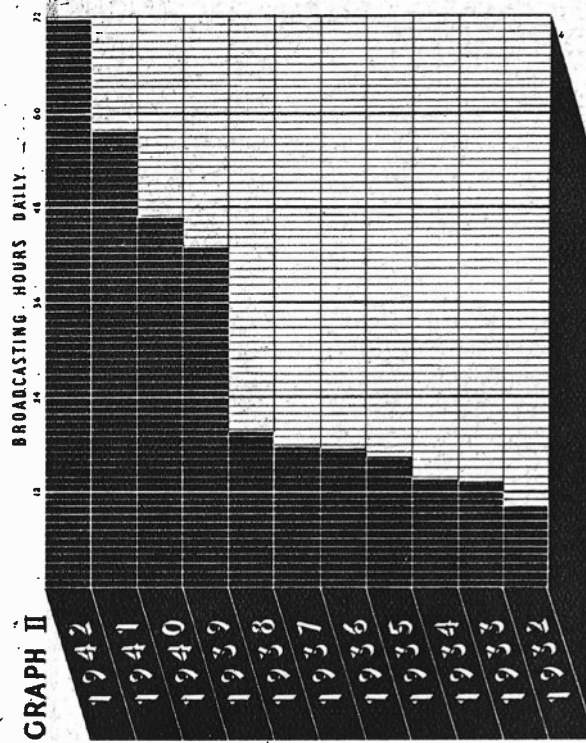
That night big bombs fell within a few yards of Broadcasting House. The neighbouring streets were laid waste, and in them several members of the staff were killed. The next morning Major Strode, who commands the BBC Home Guard Company, took me past the sentries who guarded the blocked streets, to see the smouldering waste of crumbled masonry and





**GRAPH I** shows the tremendous increase since 1938 in the number of languages used in BBC overseas broadcasts. It will be seen that, until four years ago, *all broadcasts were in English*. The first foreign language broadcast took place in January 1938, in Arabic. Since that time, language after language has been added—each necessitating a new department, and additional special personnel—until, in the winter of 1942, transmissions are going out from Britain in *no less than 47 tongues*.

**GRAPH II** shows the amazing increase in the daily output of the BBC in its overseas services. Between 1932 and 1938, a period of seven years, the total broadcasting output rose from 10 hours to 19½ hours daily—an increase of approximately 100 per cent. Between 1938 and 1942 the daily output has increased from 19½ to 71 hours daily—over 350 per cent. It is still rising.



girders an acre in extent. A blackened rescue squad were still at work among these ruins.

At that moment a car came past the sentries and drew up. A sturdy figure got out and with a few quick strides climbed on to one of the heaps of fallen concrete. And there was the Prime Minister. He clenched his hands, and his chin was pressed against his chest, as he glowered at the ruin at his feet. The smoke from charred beams was curling up round him. If his unspoken thoughts could have then become a speech, I think we should have heard some very grim words about his determination to see this thing through: and I should imagine the coming attack must have burned very fiercely in Mr. Churchill's mind.

He stood for a few minutes. Then some people on the roof of Broadcasting House saw him. The Prime Minister broke his grim mood for a moment; waved and went quickly back to his car. Broadcasting House rose above the smoke and the dust. It was no longer white and new. It was painted mud-grey. Not long before, a direct hit had torn out one side, and the studio in which the Empire Service had first been opened had vanished.

All the time people all over the world were asking for more specialized services, for more news bulletins, and for more languages. And throughout the 'blitz' period the Overseas Service grew at break-neck speed. Building upon the transmitters of the Empire Service, its experience and technical knowledge, there grew up an immense organization, with several clear divisions; the Empire Service itself in a new and enlarged form; a special service of broadcasts for the U.S.A.; the Latin-American Service; the Near East Service; and the European Service. In September 1939 the BBC was broadcasting in nine languages—now it speaks in forty-seven.

It is not possible without going to very considerable length to give a full account of the variety and scope of the present BBC general English and Empire Service. Some outstanding points are these.

The transmissions are divided up into four main regions which cover the earth's surface and the clock's daily round. These are, moving from east to west: the African; the North American; the Pacific; the Eastern. Between them they provide an almost continuous service throughout the day and night, each occupying about six hours. These are the main transmissions in English. To these are added a growing number of special broadcasts for our Forces overseas which go out simultaneously with the main Empire Service. To these again are added news bulletins and talks in fifteen different languages spoken within the Empire; in all considerably more than twenty-four hours every day.

Many of the staff of the four main services come from the Dominion or region which they serve. Several have been seconded for wartime work from the well-known broadcasting organizations of the Dominions, to whom the BBC is greatly indebted. Altogether some fifty men and women representing every part of the Empire are now working with the BBC.

A visit to the offices in which these men are at work is an almost breath-

taking tour of the Empire. In passing half a dozen rooms you go from Canada to South Africa, from Africa to India, from India on to Australia. The East Indies are round the corner; next door you may find the Afrikaans and Maltese in discussion. When the Empire Programme Board meets, the map of the Empire comes to life, and states clearly when each part of the Empire would like its news and what it wants in music, entertainment, or serious talks. Presiding over the meeting is S. J. de Lotbinière, the man who was chiefly responsible for the Coronation broadcasting arrangements in 1937. De Lotbinière, known far and wide as 'Lobby', is fair and tall. He is the tallest man in the BBC—six foot eight—and people talk sometimes of installing him as a new aerial mast. His job as Director of Empire Programmes is just as central.

During the period between the beginning of the Empire Service and the outbreak of the war, broadcasting organizations and new transmitters were being built up throughout the Empire. Between 1932 and 1939 the big broadcasting organizations all settled down into the shape in which they are now known. In 1932 the Australian Broadcasting Commission, in 1936 the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the New Zealand National Broadcasting Service, the South African Broadcasting Corporation, and All India Radio, and in 1937 the Broadcasting Corporation of Newfoundland attained their present form.

Already the interchange between the BBC and these great Dominions and other broadcasting organizations throughout the Empire has helped to hammer out Empire-wide agreement on many practical broadcasting matters. All these organizations which are, of course, in their own region the familiar 'Home' station, regularly pick up and simultaneously rebroadcast programmes from the Empire Service. This means that, without the difficulty of tuning in on short waves, the listener hears parts of the Empire Service on his own Home station.

In this way every Dominion takes some two or three hours in the course of the day. Some parts of the Empire, where local news-gathering facilities and entertainment facilities are less developed, may take almost the whole service. In Malta, for instance, which receives, as it were, the full blast of the Italian medium-wave stations, a rediffusion service makes sure that programmes from Britain are available everywhere and all the time. West Africa distributes some fourteen hours a day from the Empire Service.

\* \* \* \* \*

The other day a letter reached the BBC from a young naval officer on active service in the Mediterranean. It said: 'Please let us have more Tommy Handley at breakfast time. We find it so good for the Captain's liver.'

That brings us to the question: 'What programmes are broadcast in the Empire Service?' It is impossible in a short space to give any full account of the programmes. Probably it would be misleading to try. In wartime news is always the most vital part of the service—but supporting the news are programmes which cover the whole range of broadcasting possibilities:

music and entertainment have a very real place in linking together people's thought and feeling. A joke, a melody, or a sporting event is a bond just as much as a more conscious expression of unity.

Two types of programme, however, are unique to wartime conditions. One is the wide network of programmes carrying personal messages that help to keep families scattered far and wide in touch. The other may be called 'Music while you fight'.

Not long ago a man climbed into a captured enemy tank in Libya. He switched on the radio set—and received a message from his wife. A mother from Britain was sending a message to her soldier son in India—but how could she reach her son in the Merchant Navy? The son in India was told in advance and was ready at the loudspeaker. The sailor son reached Malta in a convoy an hour before the broadcast, sat down in the canteen, and both sons heard the message at the same time. An Australian introduced his English bride to his parents in Australia over the microphone.

These incidents are happening every day. Dominions' forces are talking to their homes. New Zealanders and Australians in Britain call to cobbers in Libya. Messages from Dominions' homes are recorded and broadcast to men on active service. West Indians call their islands. Parents reach their sons in West Africa, in India, in Iceland. Indian soldiers in Britain reach their parents in India. Special music and entertainment programmes reach Indian forces in the Middle East. These voices go and come from every part of the world. The BBC recording vans tour Great Britain and gather messages from camps and units everywhere. Dominions' broadcasters do the same elsewhere. These personal messages are built into entertainment programmes, with different bands, or variety artists and programme features are linked with the messages for each place. Cecil Madden, who is one of the original producers of the Empire Service, now runs in an underground theatre in the heart of London the Empire Entertainments Unit. It has produced through thick and thin fifty or sixty programmes every week. Those who see the letters that come pouring in never ask again: 'Is it worth while?'

In a special programme for the forces in Malta called 'Home Town', Ronnie Shiner, the Cockney comedian, goes to the men's own towns—collects local gossip for them, sees their wives or parents, and passes on every titbit of home news he can collect. When a new programme was introduced to Gibraltar, back came a cable: 'Fifty military policemen acting spokesmen all ranks report programme smash hit everyone wildly excited suggest extension immediately.' While one of the standard cable messages now is: 'Hearing your voice on the wireless gave me a wonderful thrill.'

Recently it has been possible to add to the regular Empire Service new broadcasts for troops in the Middle East. Seven hours a day over and above the former African service now go out. Some programmes come 'live' from the programmes of the Home Service so that our army can listen to the same items as people at home, and at the same time. What



they need most of all is light, cheerful music, strongly tuneful, strongly rhythmical, often well-known and traditional. Men bringing tanks out of battle—men at base camps—men snatching rest after long hours of transport work in the desert—men who know a big attack is coming—say that this type of music is not only a rest but a tonic. The Australians, early in the war, went into battle singing 'Waltzing Matilda'—and if 'Music while you fight' can bring pleasure or renewed zest to our troops in Libya, in India, in Palestine, or in Malta, then they must have it in plenty.

Already new equipment is nearly completed which is going to bring further great expansions to the Empire Service, and perhaps we may look for a moment at a future in the years beyond the war.

In peacetime the range of Empire broadcasting will grow. Throughout the Empire we need more knowledge of each other: knowledge not so much of laws and statutes, but lively personal knowledge which can come through the human contacts of broadcasting. The past ten years have seen the Empire achieve a new sense of its own identity. Yet in wartime it is easy to take a sentimental view of that unity. Some dissention is natural to the life of mankind; and one point in which Hitler has been right is that no nation or group of nations can preserve a '*status quo*'.

One plan is that there should be an Empire Service continuously on the air—with material contributed regularly by every part of the Empire. In every part of the Empire you could always find the Empire programme and it would always be the mouthpiece of the Empire. We come to the close of the tenth year of Empire broadcasting, and the speech made by General Smuts on 21 October. For the first time a Dominion Premier spoke to a combined meeting of Parliament; and certainly for the first time the two Houses of Parliament were heard throughout the Empire singing 'For He's a Jolly Good Fellow'. Through the Empire Service the speech went 'live' to South Africa. Great Britain heard it in the 9 o'clock news. Throughout the next twenty-four hours the speech itself, translations of it, and reports were sent in every one of the forty-seven languages used by the BBC.

The speech with its review of the war is fresh in memory. Great Allied nations now stand with us, and the single-minded unity of the British Commonwealth of Nations has brought us to a turning-point—to the offensive phase. General Smuts himself went on to speak of the future after the war in these words:

As between the nations a new spirit of human solidarity can be cultivated, and economic conditions can be built up, which will strike at the root causes for war, and thus lay the foundation for world peace.

With honesty and sincerity on our part it is possible to make basic reforms both for national and international life, which will give mankind a new chance of survival and of progress.



Axemen's Carnival. Australians and New Zealanders are familiar figures in the English countryside. This picture was taken during a competition, broadcast in the Overseas programmes, between Forestry Regiments of those two Dominions





Mrs. Roosevelt came to see for herself the women of Britain at war. The whole Empire heard her broadcast

H.R.H. the late Duke of Kent, who was shortly afterwards killed on active service, taking part in 'Stars and Stripes in Britain' on American Independence Day 1942



## CHAPTER II

### THE U.S.A. BECOMES OUR ALLY

AT the hour of dusk on 24 August 1940 a well-known radio commentator was waiting upon the steps of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, looking across Trafalgar Square. He was Ed. Murrow of the Columbia Broadcasting System of America. He knew Britain well, and his broadcasts from Britain had often been heard in the U.S.A.

On this particular night Ed. Murrow was partaking in a BBC broadcast in which American and British broadcasters were collaborating. The programme was called 'London after Dark'. Commentators were posted at different places and were all going to describe for audiences in Canada and the United States their own view of the London scene.

Ed. Murrow was 'cued in'; as he began his broadcast another voice joined him unasked. It was high and low by turns and altogether strident. It was, in fact, the voice of the air-raid siren. Ed. Murrow explained to his listeners three thousand miles away that they were now actually present at an air raid. *Variety*, the well-known American weekly, wrote of this broadcast: 'The long-range view of London in close-up must command deepest respect for the morale and sturdiness of its people. Considering how terrorizing are the sounds of these sirens percolating through 3,000 miles of stratosphere, the slightest imagination can conjure up how terrifying must be the war of nerves right on the scene of action.'

At that time the 'Battle of London' was about to be joined in its full fury; and the sound of sirens, you might think, is not so very terrifying when you had heard a good many sticks of bombs. A few weeks later listeners in the U.S.A., however, were to hear the sounds of bombs and high explosives at the very same moment that they were bursting in London. On 21 September 1940 all three American networks represented in London, together with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, took part in another BBC programme called 'London Carries On'. On this night the drone of German planes over London was audible in the U.S.A. The London anti-aircraft guns took up the tale. Bombs were heard falling. Several of the points that were to have been included in the 'round-up' had to be left out because the lines had already been blown up.

The U.S.A. heard all this, and writers commented especially on the voices of the Londoners making matter-of-fact remarks on their way to the shelters. For security reasons this broadcast had to be faded out in Great Britain, where sirens and bomb noises from a loudspeaker may easily be taken for a raid on the spot.



These two evenings typify an aspect of communication between two countries that is peculiar to broadcasting. It is the running commentary, the 'live' broadcast raised to its peak point. The sounds of actual sirens, and real bombs, had at that moment an eloquence all their own that words could never have conveyed.

Can we look back and pick out a day or a month when a broadcasting service from Britain intended for the special interest of American listeners came into existence? It is not really possible; for, from the day when the Empire Service first went out on short waves in December 1932, some American listeners would be certain to hear. It may be called listening to Britain, or 'overhearing Britain'. Whichever way you think of it, thanks to our common language, the audience was there, and from the King's first Christmas broadcast onwards Americans were sure to be tuning in to what Britain was saying.

In 1932, when our overseas broadcasting first began, Americans were thinking mainly of their own internal affairs. The Great Slump had hit the citizens of the U.S.A. even more dramatically than it had hit the British, because it was less expected. It had come as a sudden devastating change from a fine June day to a tornado. President Roosevelt was elected for his first term of office. Feelings were going to run high about the New Deal rather than about Hitler and Mussolini. In 1933 came the World Economic Conference, at which the United States pursued a policy of isolation.

The years from 1932 to 1936 covered President Roosevelt's first term. Meanwhile the broadcasting link between the U.S.A. and Britain was gradually growing. The big American networks had established their own observers and commentators here. At the same time a BBC New York Office came into action; this served the dual purpose of collecting good broadcast material from the U.S.A. for transmission in Britain and also of interesting the American networks in re-broadcasting our programmes.

In 1935, 1936, and 1937 the events of the Jubilee, the Abdication, the Coronation were followed closely in the United States: many Americans listened with a much keener interest than was imagined in Britain. When King Edward VIII broadcast his Abdication speech, one of the leading telephone exchanges in New York reported that they had during the time of the speech received no calls, although the time in Eastern U.S.A. was mid-afternoon. Then, in 1937, at the time of the Coronation broadcast, a number of factories made arrangements for their employees to listen, and stopped work so that they could do so. One letter from America read: 'This broadcast has made us feel that your King is my King.'

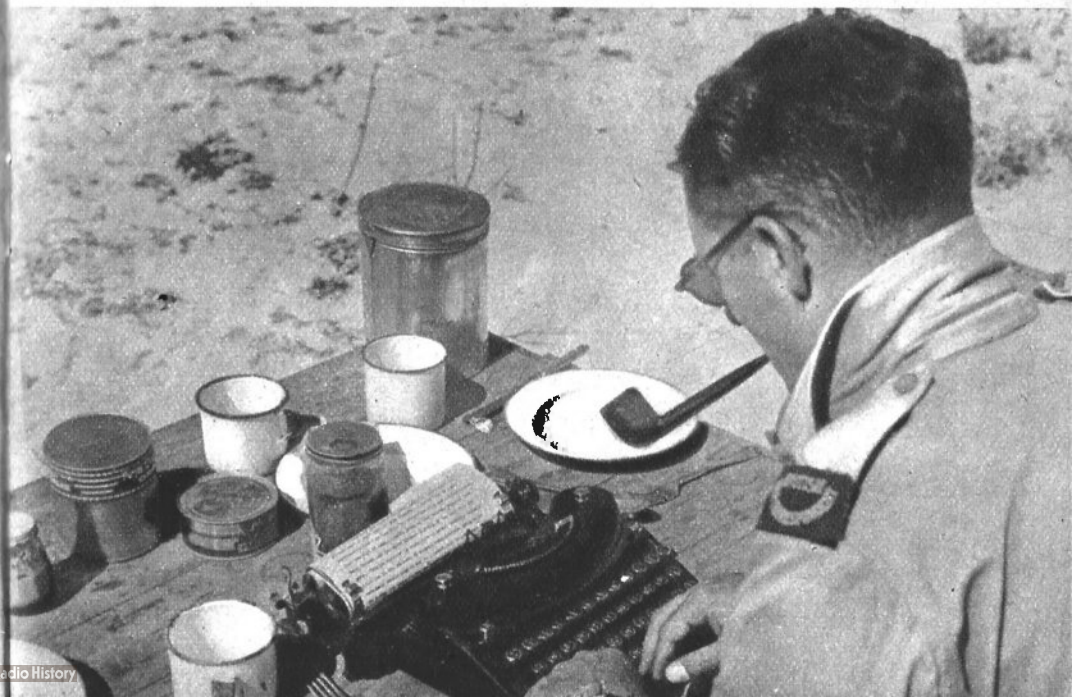
\* \* \* \* \*

During these years the landslide into war was far nearer to the American people than the nation at large supposed. Already Tokio had joined the triangle; already the Japanese had sunk the 'Panay' in the Yangtse river; already the U.S.A. had begun that course of policy, which since it could not conceive of weak submission to aggressive nations was in the end bound to bring her into the war. Once again, as we look back, the whole future



The Radio Padre with the troops. The Rev. Ronald Selby Wright talks with an A.A. battery in Scotland

The Battle of Egypt. BBC War Correspondent, Godfrey Talbot, whose voice is known all over the Empire, at work in the desert.





course of events, though unrealized at the time, seems already to be shaped.

At the time of Munich, there was no mistaking that the natural sympathy of the American people was with the Czechs. In fact, a large drift of goodwill away from Britain was caused by that very feeling for the Czechs. Hour by hour the American people—from the President to the man-in-the-street—followed the latest news and opinions as they came in from every capital in Europe. The United States was free to listen to every voice on the air; free to listen, and as time went on, to make up her own mind.

In the April of 1939 the United States boldly entered the arena of the European conflict. On Good Friday, 7 April, Mussolini seized Albania. On 14 April President Roosevelt in a public speech to the Board of the Pan-American Union said: 'The issue is really whether our civilization is to be dragged into the tragic vortex of unending militarism, punctuated by periodic wars, or whether we shall be able to maintain the ideal of peace, individuality, and civilization as the fabric of our lives.'

On the next day Roosevelt wrote to the two dictators challenging them to give assurances that they would not attack during ten years any of a list of nations numbering twenty-nine and ranging from Norway to Iran. This démarche was greeted with a chorus of abuse and derision in the Axis press. Again at the time of the final Polish crisis, President Roosevelt made an appeal to Hitler and sought through the King of Italy to intervene.

In the meantime, the farmers of the Middle West, the citizens of the small towns, the business employees of the great cities, could know little of the full European picture, little of the world picture behind it. The long history of relations with Great Britain told of some bitter memories, and at this time many were deeply disappointed with Great Britain's part. Even when the war began they were still doubtful if this was not a 'phoney war'; and still, when the fall of France came in June 1940, they were very doubtful indeed that Britain would resist further. An American broadcast at this moment gave Great Britain sixty days, and no more.

It was at this juncture that British broadcasting to the U.S.A. became charged with the vital task of telling the U.S.A. the complete story of the British war effort. Yet 'propaganda' must be avoided; for 'propaganda' had been made to stink to the sky by Hitler and Goebbels. The Americans were very chary about propaganda—and rightly so.

Almost at once the speeches of Winston Churchill began to make a deep impression in the United States. At this time, also, Americans began to hear for themselves two-way conversations, back and forth across the Atlantic, between British children and their parents separated by the war. Those who listened were deeply moved. The *New Yorker*, a weekly journal, famed for its sophistication and wit, rather than for sentiment, told a story typical of the 'little man'. One evening an American found himself in a German-owned restaurant in the middle of a crowd of German sympathizers who began to make scathing remarks about these British broadcasts. He was so incensed that he took on all comers, and used the complete set of pool balls of every colour in a spirited offensive.



A six-year-old talks to West Africa

This London schoolboy was perfectly at home before a microphone when taking part in 'Happy and Glorious', the story of the Empire's National Anthem



Rooney Pelletier, of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, in the crypt of St. Martin-in-the-Fields during a London blitz





In the autumn of 1940, also, news from Britain was positively demanded. Americans were continually asking, 'Why, when you broadcast "Calling Canada, Newfoundland, and the West Indies", do you leave us out?' And so it became absolutely essential to think of our own friends in the U.S.A. as an audience with their own tastes. They liked a quick speed, a snap different from our own; they had their own point of view. The idea of peacetime broadcasting when the American audience was one which 'overheard' our Empire Service was gone for ever.

There arrived in the summer of 1940, no very congenial moment for a visit, Ernest Bushnell, General Programme Supervisor of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. 'Bush' was popular from the word 'Go': stout, and stout-hearted, a Canadian version of Britain's own bulldog, he went through all the London blitzes working to the utmost. His job, well and faithfully performed, was to groom our programmes, our announcers, our timing to suit American ears while remaining British in conception.

It is a fact, unfortunate yet true, that many Americans were objecting to British voices. Some they regarded as insufferably snooty; others, showing what we think of as attractive variations of dialect, they said were simply an unknown language. Even the voice of your best friend, coming out of a loudspeaker after a battle with the short waves, and unenlivened by his face, may take on an irritating quality.

Swing bands and light entertainment also began to play their part, and this, of course, brought with it another bone of contention—the British Joke. Often the Americans would say of the British Joke, that they would sooner we kept our delayed-action bombs on our own side of the Atlantic. Yet some rapid cross-fire about these differences was all to the good. By 14 July 1940 the *New York Times* reported:

'England's new short-wave schedule which went into operation a few days ago indicates changed tactics in broadcasting. Most of the programmes are centered about British preparations for invasion, and these are handed down the air lanes in such a variety of ways that something fresh is always coming to the ear. A review of the first new set of programmes showed that England isn't wasting time on fairy tales.'

So the audience grew, and the 'live' broadcasts of air raids described at the opening of this chapter naturally made a huge impression. At the same time the reporters of the American networks over here were also doing splendid work; they were good friends to Britain, and told the facts as they saw them; and their views, in their own American voices contributed to their own networks, were very valuable. Fred Bate, of the National Broadcasting Company, was badly wounded while on duty by one of the many bombs that fell near Broadcasting House. There were plenty of exciting nights when they were broadcasting in real peril.

One BBC programme which from its beginning was to prove irresistible in America was the weekly broadcast from the American Eagle Club. Here were American men already in action; already sharing in the honours of the R.A.F. When this programme was on the air it made the headlines



H.M. Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands



H.M. King Haakon of Norway

## THEY STILL SPEAK TO THEIR PEOPLE

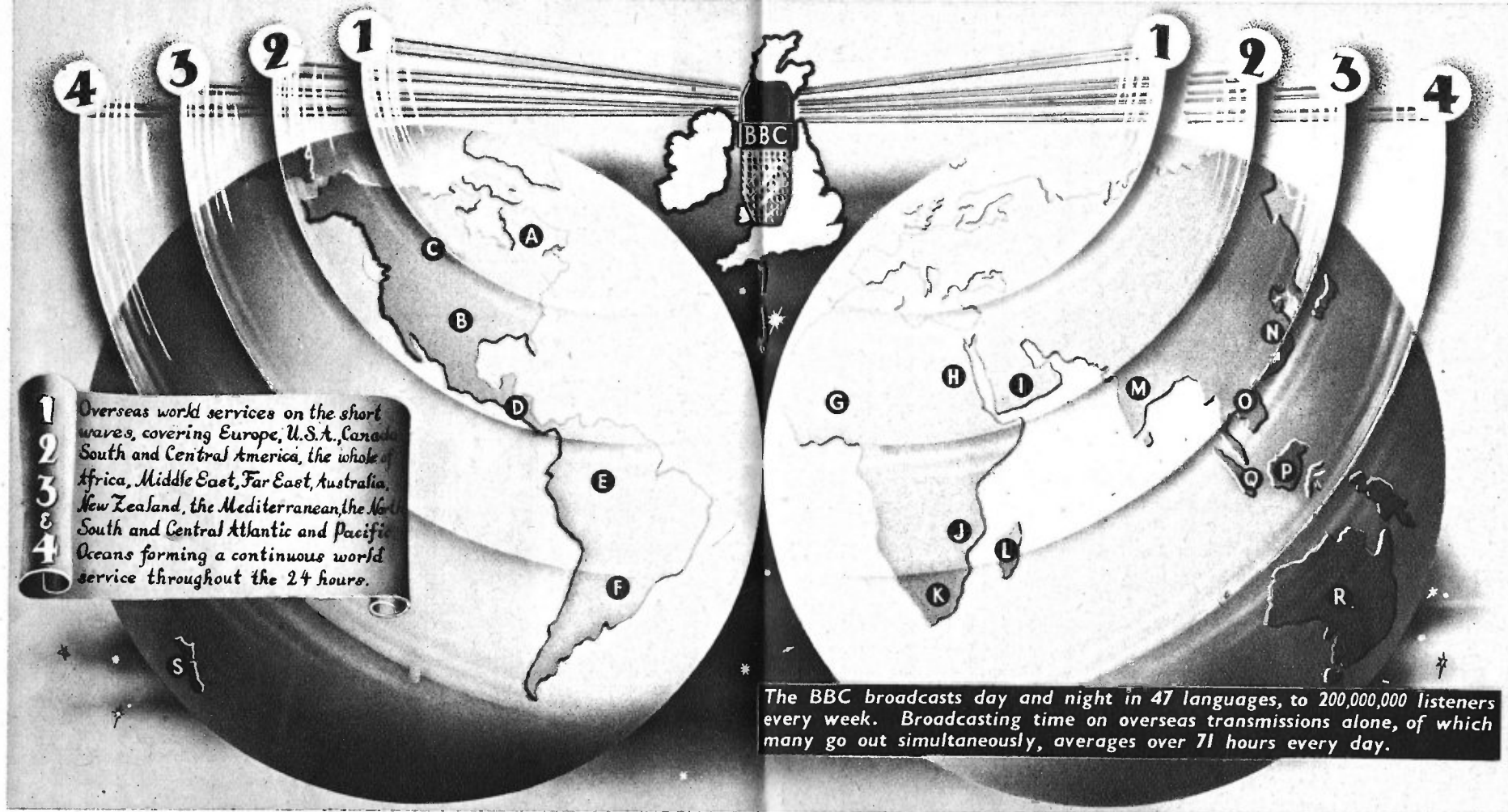
H.M. King Peter of Yugoslavia



H.M. The King of the Hellenes







## KEY

## BBC OVERSEAS WORLD TRANSMISSIONS ON THE SHORT WAVES

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>A</b> ENGLISH and FRENCH<br>17½ hrs. daily                       | <b>G</b> ENGLISH, FRENCH, MOROCCAN, and ARABIC<br>15 hrs. daily | <b>K</b> ENGLISH, DUTCH, AFRIKAANS, SPANISH, and PORTUGUESE<br>17¼ hrs. daily | <b>O</b> ENGLISH and FRENCH<br>8 hrs. daily                               |
| <b>B</b> ENGLISH<br>16¾ hrs. daily                                  | <b>H</b> ENGLISH and LOCAL LANGUAGES<br>15 hrs. daily           | <b>L</b> ENGLISH and FRENCH<br>15¾ hrs. daily                                 | <b>P</b> ENGLISH<br>7¼ hrs. daily   |
| <b>C</b> ENGLISH and FRENCH<br>20¼ hrs. daily                       | <b>I</b> ENGLISH, FRENCH, PERSIAN, and ARABIC<br>14 hrs. daily  | <b>M</b> ENGLISH and LOCAL LANGUAGES<br>11¾ hrs. daily                        | <b>Q</b> ENGLISH and DUTCH<br>9½ hrs. daily                               |
| <b>D &amp; E</b> ENGLISH, SPANISH, and PORTUGUESE<br>22½ hrs. daily | <b>J</b> ENGLISH and PORTUGUESE<br>15¼ hrs. daily               | <b>N</b> ENGLISH and LOCAL LANGUAGES<br>7¾ hrs. daily                         | <b>R &amp; S</b> ENGLISH<br>Summer: 3¼ hrs. daily<br>Winter: 4 hrs. daily |
| <b>F</b> ENGLISH, SPANISH, and PORTUGUESE<br>20½ hrs. daily         |   |   |   |



in all the home town newspapers of the men sending messages and the radio stations gave parties for the occasion.

Letters and cables soon came pouring back to the BBC. 'Even the dog recognized his voice,' said one. Side by side one morning lay two letters. The one, from a working class district in New York, read: 'I must say it was a grand programme. As the different boys spoke, it seemed as if they were in the next room. It sure was a blessing to hear my son. It's wonderful what can be done in this day and age.' And the other, from California, on elegant notepaper, was almost in the same terms: 'Words fail me to tell you how wonderful it was to hear his voice and to know that he was alive and well right at that moment. What a wonderful age we live in in spite of turmoil. Of course I wept—women are such silly things, aren't they?'

\* \* \* \* \*

In August 1941 Churchill met President Roosevelt and they drew up the Atlantic Charter. This was broadcast to every country in Europe; and they all heard the truth in spite of the distortions of the Axis press. Then on 7 December came the attack on Pearl Harbour, and one more piece, and a piece one feels that fate had been holding in its hand for many years, had now been fitted into the pattern of the world war. A month or so later Mr. Winston Churchill toured the U.S.A. and Canada. He addressed the United States Senate and the Canadian Parliament in famous broadcast speeches, and reminded citizens of the United States that his mother was an American. All this removed the danger that Britain's presentation of plain fact might be classed as the poison gas of propaganda. Yet it seemed to make all the more urgent the need for good broadcasting and plenty of it. Already the elaborate lies of Axis propaganda, built up over years, had had their bad effect. Mr. Paley, President of the Columbia Broadcasting System, expressed his opinion in these words only recently:

'The average American has a very faulty conception of the British people.

'He has been the victim of either misinformation or bad information. Sometimes of blind prejudice. He has been fed with all kinds of false rumours about the British, most of them planted by enemy agents. These misconceptions must be broken down, and quickly. I don't say that they could help us lose but they could have a lot to do with helping us to lose the peace.

'And what a grand chance for broadcasting, the most effective medium for getting truth to the masses, helped by the luck of a common language.'

From that point the collaboration in broadcasting with the U.S.A. has grown rapidly closer. It takes many forms. For instance, the BBC takes from the U.S.A. programmes intended for the occupied countries of Europe and re-broadcasts them on medium waves. In this way American news and the American point of view, are heard far more plainly in Europe than before.

The BBC can also reach American troops in the Middle East and in India more successfully than American stations can. Bob Hope, Jack Benny, 'Command Performance', and other programmes prepared in the U.S.A. are re-transmitted to these places through BBC aerials. The BBC

Home transmitters send these and sports news to American troops in this country.

A continual exchange of radio men is going on between the U.S.A. and Great Britain.

Meanwhile re-broadcasting and the whole interchange of programmes is flourishing. In August thirty-five BBC programmes a week were audible in New York alone. Every news bulletin we put out on the North American Service is re-broadcast somewhere. To arrange for re-broadcasting is very much more elaborate than it sounds. In Britain we are accustomed to a single broadcasting organization—the BBC. In the U.S.A. there are over nine hundred different stations—controlled by a number of different networks. Advertisers also buy space on the air and select their own programmes independently.

The U.S.A. and the BBC have arranged various ways of collaborating. This summer, for instance, CBS sent over Norman Corwin, the star American radio producer. He produced over here a series of programmes called 'An American in England', which were beamed to the United States for the especial use of his own network. At the same time Laurence Gilliam, of the BBC, produced another series called 'Britain to America', which was prepared specially for the NBC. This was followed by a second series taken by another American network—the Blue.

Listeners in Great Britain will also have noticed the growing number of programmes from the U.S.A. The Brains Trust with 'live' participation from the U.S.A.; regular American commentaries and news despatches; American material for the Children's Hour; 'Command Performance'; 'This is war', by Norman Corwin who is now back in the United States. Many of these are transmitted to the whole of the Empire as well as to the audience in Great Britain.

All this is more than a pleasant exchange of mutual compliments. It is building up a direct, day-to-day relationship. That is why leaders of the American radio profession are working whole-heartedly with the BBC. Gorham, the North American Service Director of the BBC, who has been over to New York and back during the last month or so, says: 'We can forget the people who talk vaguely about Anglo-American relations. The technicians are now getting ahead with the job. People who study the same professional problems generally get along well together. Every day the cable lines or the beam telephone to the U.S.A. are humming with talk of split-second timing and cut-out cues, and that is putting up a real building instead of just talking about the importance of Anglo-American friendship'.

'Columbus discovered America in 1492: America discovers Great Britain in 1942'. So William Holt, a former Yorkshire weaver, said in a recent broadcast to the U.S.A. The American army is over here; and our broadcast programmes are over there.



## BROADCASTING TO MANY PEOPLES

'Stars and Stripes in Britain'. Major Jim Daly, D.F.C., of Amarillo, Texas, tells Canadian Stanley Maxted of the BBC about his transfer from the R.A.F. Eagle Squadron to the American Army Air Force

The Omoba Adenrele Ademola, daughter of the Alake of Abeokuta, Nigéria, calls West Africa



## CHAPTER III

### FRIENDSHIPS WITH LATIN AMERICA

AT the end of 1937 the Empire Service was five years old, and up to this time Great Britain had addressed the world only in English. The U.S.S.R. had been one of the first countries to send out programmes on short waves in a number of different languages, and in the course of the next few years France, Holland, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States had followed. For some time the BBC had been discussing with various Government Departments the whole question of using foreign languages and addressing other nations directly. Opinions were obtained from Embassies, Consulates, and other representative points throughout the world; and finally the Government's decision was made.

On 1 November 1937, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced publicly that the BBC had been invited to provide broadcast news services in languages other than English. The new broadcasts to be undertaken were a service in Arabic for the Near East and a service in Spanish and Portuguese for Latin America.

Accordingly within a few months a step was taken almost as important as the first broadcast to the Empire. Early in 1938 the Arabic Service and the Latin-American Service came into existence. The Arabic Service has the honour of being the first on the air, but in considering the Latin-American Service next we can complete the picture of our broadcasting to the New World before returning to the Old.

It is said that an Englishwoman, apparently intelligent, educated, and even cultured, was, a year or two ago, talking to a distinguished professor from the New World.

'And what are you writing at the moment, Professor?' she asked, all graciousness.

'At the moment,' he said, 'I am writing a history of my country.'

'Oh,' said the lady, 'But there *isn't* any.'

This is the kind of thing that Britain's best friends in other countries find rather devastating. It may have struck her hearer as funny: or irritating: or even sad. It certainly showed grave ignorance.

One of the good effects of broadcasting to other nations is that it demands a genuine knowledge of the audience to be addressed. Latin America is, of course, not a country. It consists of twenty different republics. Brazil by itself is larger than the whole of the United States. Argentina would contain the British Isles several times over. Peru, strangely enough, has an Atlantic port which is two thousand miles from the Atlantic coast—up the Amazon at Iquitos. Three of the republics are islands in the Caribbean Sea. There



are, in effect, not 'Latin Americans' but citizens of different countries.

This is no place to trace the many histories of these different lands. By the end of the sixteenth century the original Spanish Empire had been built on a grand scale: and for three hundred years it remained to the rest of Europe a mysterious, an unknown, an almost fabulous land. After the Napoleonic Wars, the Latin Americans fought for and won their own independence, leaving the memory of two great liberators, San Martin and Bolivar. All the states unite in honouring these names and later generations are still proud to build on their foundation stones.

At this time Great Britain had many links with Latin America, and in 1823 Bolivar wrote: 'Only England, Mistress of the Seas, can protect us against the united forces of European reaction'. Meanwhile Lord Cochrane commanded the navy of Chile, and a British legion had fought with Bolivar. The U.S.A. and Great Britain stood out early as friends of the liberty of the new states, and capital from both countries has contributed greatly to their development.

In the years that preceded the present war, one of the interests of the Latin-American countries in building up international relations had been the idea of Pan-American co-operation. By the time of the Lima Conference of 1938 possibilities of war and the idea of a Pan-American system with equal action for defence were in the foreground. And in 1940 at Havana a new common policy was formed to deal with danger from alien elements working inside American countries.

Between the years of 1932 and 1937 the work of Axis agents within these countries had gone far, and from all the friends of Great Britain there began to arise a real demand for truthful news and for a just statement of the British point of view. It was at this juncture that the Government asked the BBC to begin its Latin-American Service. The very first difficulty was that of staff. At that time there was not one individual who united a thorough knowledge of Latin America with a knowledge of broadcasting.

On 14 March 1938, however, the Latin-American Service was ready to go on the air. The Diplomatic Corps of Latin America in London was present, and Sir John Reith spoke of the general purpose and intention of the service. Here is a brief extract from his words:

'We are going to speak to you every evening in future in your own language. We shall give you the news of the day as it reaches us from all over the world. Our news bulletins will follow the fifteen-year-old tradition of the BBC's news in English. They will summarize world events and include other news of particular interest to you. They will be accurate and reliable. The bulletins will follow programmes of entertainment announced henceforward in your own languages which we hope you will enjoy.'

The very first reports that came back from Latin America began to show that even two bulletins of news a night made a good beginning in filling a need that was by now almost desperate. Here, and with the new Arabic Service, we came for the first time into direct conflict with Axis propaganda in a country outside the Empire, and there was a strong temptation at the beginning to meet German short-term propaganda with something in its

One of 'The Few'. The late Paddy Finucane at Broadcasting House with a friend in the Royal Armoured Corps. He was never wounded in action until his last flight. His crutches here were the result of an accident in the London blackout



'Shipmates Ashore'. At the Merchant Navy Club in London, Doris Hare, 'Chief Stewardess,' gathers girls of the Land Army to entertain the men for whom they save shipping space



own vein. However, it was decided that complete frankness in news, together with reasonable comment, was the only policy which in the long run could serve our interests.

In the meantime what were the main themes of the Axis in their broadcasts to Latin America? They went something after this fashion. First, Britain's trade connexion with Latin America was always coloured to look like greed and extortion. In Dr. Goebbels's keyboard of ready-made effects there is a stop which is labelled 'International Jewish financiers exploiting helpless victims'. This stop was pulled out frequently. This was a matter of a whispering campaign rather than direct statement and was framed in what Mrs. Jupp, in *The Way of All Flesh*, aptly called 'insinendo'. Another note that came through strongly was 'Britain is done for'. Then there was the threatening, 'You'd better come in with the Axis while there's still time', and the grandiose, 'If war does come, we'll sweep the British off the Atlantic', and so on and so forth.

Within a year new transmitters were available. Members of the BBC had been making tours of Latin America, and on 3 July 1939 a new and more ambitious service to Latin America was inaugurated. The Diplomatic Corps of Latin America visited Broadcasting House, and the Ambassadors of Brazil and Argentina both broadcast personally. Mr. Ogilvie, the Director-General at that time, made a speech in which he defined Britain's aims in international broadcasting:

'It is our intention to offer a service of programmes complete and interesting, a service dedicated and conceived especially for Latin America. We consider that radio can find no higher function than that of initiating and fomenting good understanding between the peoples of the world; and we hope sincerely that we can help to strengthen still more the links of traditional friendship which joins the nations of the British Empire with those of Latin America.'

This purpose the Latin-American Service now set itself to carry into effect. It was all very, very different from the methods of Dr. Goebbels. Some broadcasts that the audience especially welcomed during these months were the visit to Britain of the training ship 'Argentina'; an interview with the Chilean lawn tennis star, Anita Lizana; and the launching of destroyers that were being built in Britain for Brazil.

Meanwhile the service received invaluable help and encouragement from the Latin-American Embassies and Legations. It is in itself a direct effect of international broadcasting that if only it is conducted on a frank and friendly basis it creates new understanding and new friendships between those who work together on the broadcasts. Soon the welcome evidence came back from Latin America that listeners were no longer relying on Germany for their versions of European news.

When the war came plans simply had to be swept aside. At the beginning of the war all the foreign language services of the BBC were absorbed into a single World Service designed to meet our most urgent wartime needs as they arose. There was an immense increase in the number of news bulletins required in Spanish and Portuguese for Europe as well as for Latin America. More translators, more news readers were needed. Every

day strange staff arrived, some of them new to broadcasting, and all new to the problems of the moment. In December 1939 the battle of the River Plate showed dramatically how near the distant coasts of Latin America would come to the war; it showed also that Uruguay had no intention of being brow-beaten by Hitler.

For a few months the members of the Latin-American Service helped the BBC wherever help was needed, but by the summer of 1940 they were able again to think of more ambitious programmes. Don Salvador de Madariaga, famous author and diplomat, began a series of commentaries which gave the service a new prestige throughout Latin America. On 24 July came the anniversary of the birth of Simon Bolivar, the great liberator. The Latin-American Service produced its first large-scale feature programme honouring Bolivar and the British legion who fought by his side in those campaigns which gave freedom to the Latin Americans. This proved to be a high-watermark. Whatever the Germans say, or however facts may be twisted or forgotten, certain mountain peaks of history stand out above the clouds. Truth was, in fact, gradually beginning to catch up with lies.

At this moment when the Latin-American Service was developing rapidly, when new transmitters were ready, there came the Battle of Britain and the nightly battle of London. There is no need to dwell on the almost impossible difficulties of carrying on a regular broadcasting service in the small hours with violent raids in progress; scripts not arriving; telephone lines out of action; broadcasting in hastily improvised underground rooms; and speakers reaching the studios in conditions of extreme danger. 'Blitz' stories can be multiplied until they become merely tiresome, but it should be remembered that members of the BBC's Latin-American Service, who shared our dangers night after night, were not British subjects, and were not yet in our war. They were so intent on strengthening the link of friendly knowledge between their own people and the British Empire that they were determined to keep the service going through those weeks, when tens of thousands were killed in London, and when many people throughout the world were saying: 'Britain is down.'

In the course of September 1940 the Latin-American and Near East staff had, as the result of repeated bombing, to bundle themselves out into the country at a moment's notice. A member of the staff, who had served with the Latin-American Service since its first days, gives this description of their hasty move: 'Only five hours' notice was given us. The instruction was issued at 1 p.m. when most of the staff were scattered about London. Many telephones were out of order, bomb craters jammed the streets, Underground services were highly erratic. Good luck and better will accomplished miracles, and half the staff were duly assembled at Paddington in time for the train. Two minutes before it left, the last taxi arrived and discharged its cargo of staff, luggage, papers, and typewriters. We were on the air as usual that night, and listeners in Latin America were not aware of any difference in the programme. There is no question that the BBC earned a





A radio reporter is emptied out of his diving suit after giving an underwater broadcast with a Royal Engineers Diving Unit



The BBC's reporters accompany the Forces everywhere. Here at an East coast port, naval officers on a minesweeper tell how the North Sea is kept clear for the convoys

great reputation for carrying on successfully at this time when all the world knew of the attacks on Britain.

In the country the service could go ahead with its work; yet many probably found the following winter even more blood-chilling than the bombardment of London. The billets were so hastily arranged that members of the staff were three or four miles away from the studio. You can picture to yourself the hour of 2 or 3 a.m. in the English country-side during January 1941. The snow was thick on the ground, and where it was trodden down it was crusted with ice. Breath froze on chins and collars. Mexicans, Peruvians, and Brazilians, used to sunny climates and even tropical heat, stumbled through the snow for their work in the dark small hours; and their programmes went out to a trans-Atlantic land where hot, blue afternoons were just giving place to colourful sunsets.

This was the uncomfortable side of broadcasting—and their efforts have borne a good harvest. The service is back again now in good quarters near London, and broadcasts for five hours every night. In Latin America sixty medium-wave stations are regularly rebroadcasting the BBC bulletins. Hundreds of stations have broadcast commentaries and features describing the progress of Britain's war effort. All this information is widely reprinted in the press of various countries.

There are still many wartime difficulties. We may think, for instance, of a certain British resident in South America who was appointed to join the staff of the BBC in Great Britain. His engagement was dated January 1941. In February, taking the first boat available, he joined a convoy which was headed for West Africa. In mid-voyage the boat on which he was sailing developed engine trouble. She had to drop out of the convoy, and after various adventures, reached Canada. There now followed a period of some weeks, which brought the date to April, when once more he succeeded in obtaining a passage in another boat. This time his ship was torpedoed in the Atlantic. He passed a day in an open boat and was then rescued by a Norwegian merchantman. Pleased as he was to see his rescuers, his heart sank slightly when he found that they were headed back to Canada. He spent further weeks on shore and at last set sail again in his original ship, the engines of which had now been repaired. This time he reached a British port in safety; but it was now June, five and a half months after his appointment.

Meanwhile throughout this period German and Italian propaganda had been steadily fading out. When the Pearl Harbour attack brought the U.S.A. into the war, it gave American solidarity its great test in action. By 13 December, within a week, nine Latin American republics were at war with the three Axis forces. By 30 January 1942 after the Pan-American Conference at Rio de Janeiro, all the remaining countries except Argentina and Chile had broken off diplomatic relations with the Axis powers. On 22 May Mexico declared war on the Axis and on 22 August Brazil recognized a state of warfare between herself, Germany and Italy. At this point we may say that the war of ideas on this front has swung in our favour.





King Faisal of Iraq listening to a broadcast specially prepared for his birthday by the BBC

## CHAPTER IV

### ARABIC, PERSIAN, TURKISH

**P**ROBABLY there is only one child who has ever had an entire programme prepared and broadcast by the BBC in honour of his birthday—King Faisal II of Iraq, who was seven years old this year.

Some weeks before the actual day arrived, British officials in Iraq approached King Faisal. They asked him if he would not like to have something broadcast by way of a special celebration; and what programme would he choose himself for his birthday. Presently the answer came back, in the shape of a letter written by the young King to the British Embassy:

'Will they act "Advice from a Caterpillar" from *Alice in Wonderland*? I would like some riddles to be said slowly so that I can take them down, and I would like some fierce music, please, and a surprise if there is time.' Postscript: 'I have drawn you a picture on the other side.' The picture was a highly spirited sketch of German aircraft attacking British tanks, and a British fighter shooting them down.

Needless to say, all arrangements were made to produce a programme really worthy of the occasion. When the day came, the King himself broadcast a speech sending a greeting to all the Arab peoples. This speech was recorded in Baghdad; then it was flown to Britain, where it was rebroadcast in the Arabic Service of the BBC, and so heard throughout the Arab-speaking countries.

It was followed by the National Anthem of Iraq, and then came the King's own programme. Part of *Alice in Wonderland* was acted, including, 'You are old, Father William', which had been translated into Arabic. The riddles followed and then came the surprise. R.A.F. mechanics had made the King a model of a Hurricane, and this was hidden in a stork's nest on the palace roof. Broadcast clues told King Faisal the secret—and now the Hurricane is a much valued possession.

\* \* \* \* \*

Here is one attractive incident from the story of our broadcasting to the Arab world—a story which is now five years old. In those five years, the countries of the Near East and the Mediterranean Basin have been themselves involved in some of the most dramatic changes in the fortunes of the war. Year by year broadcasting from Britain has played its own considerable part in the movements of history.

We noticed at the beginning of the last chapter that until the end of 1937 Britain had broadcast in English only. When in November 1937 a decision was made to begin a foreign language service, why did Arabic take pride of place? What influences decided that Arabic should be the very

China meets Ceylon in London — Hsiao Ch'ien and J. M. Tambimuttu Broadcasting in the Eastern Service





first external language to pass from the microphone to British transmitters, and from the transmitters out into the ether?

The answer is two-fold. First, we must think of the culture and long history of Islam: secondly, we must remember that the African shores of the Mediterranean, and the lands of Old Testament history, of Palestine, of Babylon, of Persia, and Egypt, have for centuries been the very lodestar of world-wide traffic. These lands were the gateways of world commerce, while Britain was still an unknown island, visited by no one but a few Phoenician traders.

Then for hundreds of years, during Europe's dark ages, the Arab genius flowered and expanded in these lands, carrying with it the Arab language, eastward to the threshold of India, and westward to the Atlantic coast of Spain. Thus in modern times the Moslem peoples are diffused through different countries ranging from Turkey to the Persian Gulf, and through Egypt westward to the coasts of French Morocco.

After the war of 1914-8 a very complex situation existed. There was, as a result of the part played by the Arabs in the war, a natural movement towards Arab nationalism. At the same time Egypt was realizing more fully her national identity. When the peace treaties were drawn up Great Britain undertook many responsibilities, and in addition to the commitments in Egypt and Sudan, there now came mandates.

Meanwhile Mussolini who, surprising as it now seems, was not always Hitler's lackey, began to cast eyes of greed at the Islamic world. In the troubled years of the nineteen-thirties he burst upon the scene with an attack of infamous propaganda. In this guise Mussolini became 'Protector of Islam'. His good words were accompanied by foul deeds, such as the acts of Graziani in North Africa; and for a while the sudden mirage of an Italian Empire shimmered in the air.

It was at this point that we in Britain began first to address the Arab people directly, by broadcasting in their own tongue. It was fortunate that in the Empire Service there already existed an organization out of which the Arabic Service could be quickly developed. The opening ceremony was on 3 January 1938.

The first speech was broadcast in Arabic by His Royal Highness Prince Saif-ul-Islam al-Hussain of the Yemen. There followed the *Chargé d'Affaires* of the Egyptian Embassy; His Excellency Sheikh Hafiz Wahba, the Saudi-Arabian Minister in London; and his Excellency Seyyid Rauf Bey El Chadirji, Minister for Iraq, also spoke in Arabic. Then Sir Bernard Reilly, Governor of Aden, spoke in English. At first news only was given, and came as an interpolation in the Empire programme. Even within the first few days it was seen that this was insufficient, and a full forty-five-minute programme was soon developed in addition to the news. The language spoken was classical Arabic, the only idiom which is shared by all educated Arabs. Various colloquial dialects were added, as we shall see, at a later date.

Many people were thinking then in terms of aggressive propaganda:

The British plan was from the first to think of good broadcasting rather than political controversy. It is in our Arabic Service, if anywhere in the world, that the democratic idea of public information has been seen in direct contrast to the violent methods of totalitarian propaganda. We have always broadcast on the understanding that we are addressing reasonable beings; that in the long run men know the difference between truth and lies. It has been an appeal to the hearers to think straight, as opposed to crude attempts at stirring up emotions which cloud thought altogether. All our news bulletins and talks are naturally written or re-cast by those who know intimately the Moslem peoples; and are carefully timed to fit in with the habits and customs of the people who hear them.

Further, the Arabic broadcast service has shown its appreciation of the very fine heritage of Arabic culture. Koran readings are broadcast every day. These readings are made in the voices of Cairene sheikhs famed throughout the Moslem world, and they have been very widely welcomed.

Light entertainment also has a share of the programmes. 'Huna London' includes musical performances by popular artists as well as a number of humorous items—sometimes directed against the Dictators. We can picture these broadcasts being listened to, laughed at, and discussed by crowds in cafés.

\* \* \* \* \*

All this during 1939 and 1940 was building a foundation, driving piles down through the rank marshland of Axis propaganda to find firm ground. As in every part of the world during the summer of 1940, our broadcasts, even the very voice of Big Ben, played an invaluable part in telling the Arab peoples of Britain's firm and continued resistance. At this time all the dangers of the raids in London and the discomforts of hasty moves into improvised billets and studios were fully shared by the staff of the Arabic Service. It was in 1941, however, during the warfare in the Near East, that our broadcasts played an outstanding part in active political warfare; they fought their own vigorous campaign.

The summer of 1941 brought three countries of the Middle East into the sphere of actual warfare. In April, Axis intrigues caused a *coup d'état* in Iraq; military intervention became necessary, and Great Britain rapidly restored the lawful government. By June we and the Fighting French were freeing Syria from the threat of German penetration. Later in the same summer the familiar flood of German 'tourists' and technical advisers set towards Iran—still known to many by its older name of Persia. In September the Russian and British Forces joined hands in Iran, the Germans were expelled, and presently a new régime emerged.

Throughout these rapidly shifting events the continual evidence that public opinion preferred the allied nations to the Axis was of the utmost importance. An observer on the spot wrote how, in August 1941, 'Persians all over the country turned to the wireless and to the electrifying broadcasts of the BBC'. One writer claimed the occasion as, 'The first instance in history on which a ruler had been hurled from his throne by radio'.

Were our broadcasts, then, of super-human cunning and drama, so that for once the Axis were out-Goebbelsed, and out-bellowed? Hardly that. They were electrifying in their effect, when the hour came, because over a course of years they had built up with their own audience the knowledge that they gave the truth.

\* \* \* \* \*

These events were taking place over a year ago. The Near East Service of the BBC is still progressing and still developing. By 1940 the service had changed from a purely Arabic service, and had begun broadcasts both in Persian and Turkish. We have already seen the part played by these broadcasts—in the language of Iran. The broadcasts in Turkish bring a welcome daily contact with a non-belligerent ally. The Turkish press was quick to appreciate the policy of providing straight news, and among many letters one from the Anatolian country-side read:

'A large crowd of over one hundred peasants listens to your daily news broadcasts. I nicknamed your interval signal, which is a great favourite over here, "the Trumpet of Justice".' The writer then goes on to say how he explained to his country audience the part played by Britain throughout the war.

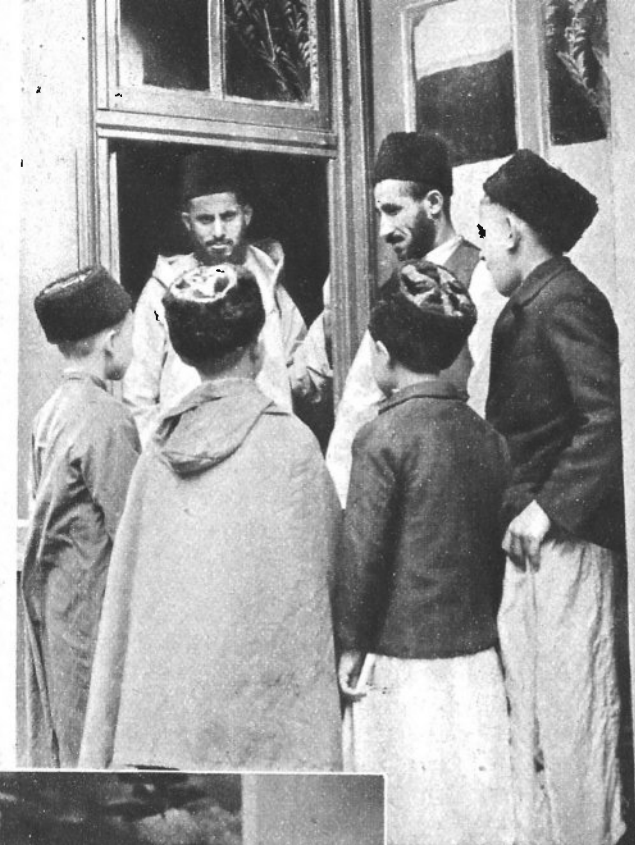
Broadcasts in Moroccan, Arabic and the colloquial dialects of Egypt, Palestine, and Syria, have been well liked by their hearers and their scope will be enlarged.

The use of these various dialects brings up a point which is of interest in all broadcasting, although it is an especial feature of a broadcasting service in Arabic. As we have seen already, spoken dialects in Arabic vary, while written Arabic provides a common medium of communication. Thus it came about that the classical language of literature was the language in which we first broadcast. The Arabs take a great pride in preserving their classical language, and Arabic scholars appreciated the purity of these Arabic broadcasts. Later the BBC began to use colloquial dialects partly for the sake of their more intimate appeal, and partly as the right medium for humorous programmes.

Meanwhile the Axis stations seem to have been losing ground. Recently the Zeesen announcer said: 'One of our listeners has asked why we do not broadcast music and songs from our stations. The reason is that this is a time when news is more important, and frivolities like music and songs can, for the present, be heard from English broadcasting stations'. It is unlikely that this statement sounded very convincing to Arab listeners, who probably know very well that Zeesen no longer has any access to the artistic and literary resources of the Arab countries; while the ability of the BBC to maintain and improve its standards even under the stress of war has added to Britain's prestige.

Another topic which attracted hostility from the Axis broadcasters was the BBC's Arabic poetry competition, which has been held for two successive years. In the organization of this, the broadcasting stations of Cairo, Khartoum, Baghdad, Jerusalem, and Aden all helped the BBC. Each held

Arabs at the temporary mosque in Cardiff's famous Tiger Bay from which many broadcasts have gone all over the Empire



He reads the news in Moroccan Arabic. A member of the Fighting French Army.





its own competition and selected prize-winning poems, which were, of course, broadcast locally. The winning poems were sent to the BBC where a final selection was made by judges including distinguished representatives of three Arab countries. The three first prize-winners chose the subjects of Democracy, The War at Sea, and Arab Unity.

The poetry competition is another example of the friendly co-operation that arises in international broadcasting—apart from the actual broadcasts themselves. Even in wartime while news and news commentaries must take the most prominent place, our Near East Service has found room for many human touches. An Arab who lives in West Africa sums up the British broadcasts from the point of view of a friend, perhaps even too uncritical of our service:

'Behold, your weekly programme (publication) reaches me regularly except when it is delayed in the post owing to the present war crisis, brought about by that insubordinate house-painter, that insatiable and low-born tyrant, that manslayer Hitler; May God destroy him and his adherents. Behold us here constant auditors of your broadcasts, which are the greatest, best arranged, most richly expressed, and most intelligible in language of all Arabic emissions'

## CHAPTER V

### BRITAIN TO EUROPE

**I**N the cellar of a darkened building a group of men and women cluster round a radio set. Their clothes are threadbare; their faces careworn, hungry. Winter is on its way with more than a hint of ice in the air.

They are listening on headphones; for the faintest sound is dangerous and may lead to a dreaded knocking on the door above; to inquisition, to torture and the firing squad. One man tunes the set while others have pencils and notebooks ready. Reception is bad to-night and interrupted by the hideous mechanical noises of jamming.

'Try one of the short wavelengths.'

'Ah, there we are, it's clearer on this one to-night. Ready?'

And a voice speaking in a London studio says in their own language, 'London calling. Here is the news.'

The place is a village in Poland, and the time 10.15 p.m. on 4 November 1942. And this is what we hear on that evening. Rommel has been defeated in North Africa. The British Eighth Army has broken through; the numbers of tanks already smashed; the numbers of aircraft destroyed. The pencils do their work busily. Yet every man's heart leaps up with almost uncontrollable feelings. Three years—and at last a clear-cut victory.

The Poles were the first listeners in occupied Europe to hear the news of Rommel's defeat. They heard it before Britain did. Ten minutes earlier the official cable had been received. Now it was translated and on the

air in the BBC's service to Poland. Simultaneously, on the other side of Europe, Portuguese listeners heard it in their language without threat or fear of penalty. By the next morning it was round the world; yet more important still, it was round the oppressed countries of Europe.

People in Europe not only listen to news from Britain; they read it also, for in every country papers and broadsheets are printed nightly, based on radio news from the world outside, chiefly from Britain and from Russia. There are about a hundred such papers in Poland alone. On the morning of 5 November they were ready with special editions. Time and again editors have been arrested and shot, yet the papers go on.

These papers are distributed as mysteriously as they are printed. They arrive inside groceries; they appear in public vehicles; they turn up folded inside the Nazi-controlled papers themselves. The underground press of Europe is an amazing tribute to a steady, cold-blooded bravery that goes on resisting, week after week, until the weeks lengthen into years.

Throughout these countries letters are sent, and they pass from land to land and out through the free ports of Europe eventually reaching the BBC. These letters provide continual evidence of listening.

In a Norwegian town a passer-by recently stopped a child in the street. 'What is the time?' he said.

'Everyone knows what the time is,' said the child. 'Can't you see for yourself that it's the regular time of the BBC news. Everybody's indoors.'

In Amsterdam a placard was found hanging on the statue of de Ruyter. 'This is the only man in this city,' it read, 'who does not listen to the BBC.'

From Brussels comes a story of an old man who left a café saying ostentatiously as he did so, 'Well, now I must get home to listen to the English news.' Almost as soon as he arrived, there was an ominous knock at his door. Gestapo men came in.

'Well,' they said, 'you listen to the English radio?'

'Certainly,' replied the old man, 'every day.'

'Where is the radio?'

'But I haven't got a radio,' said the old man. 'You see, the walls are thin and I listen to the German officer's set next door.'

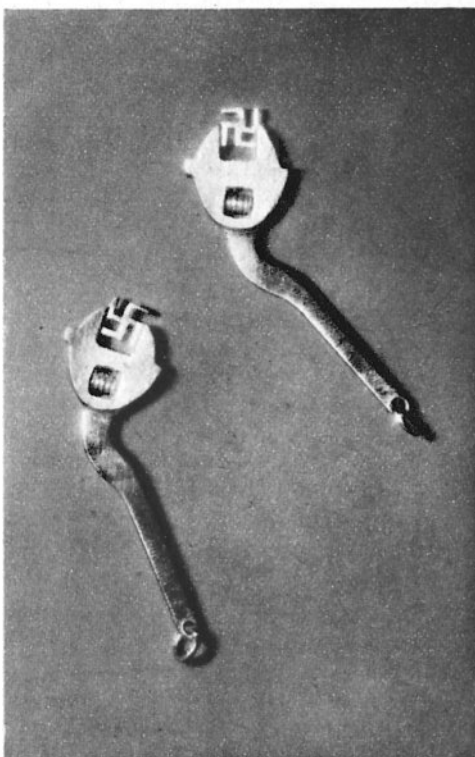
All these stories are taken from eye-witness accounts, or from letters. Many of the letters complain of the difficulties caused by jamming. Many reproach Britain with being too slow. Many are heartrending. Some of the correspondents say that they will give up listening in despair of ever hearing good news.

From other sources comes grimmer and more factual evidence. In every bundle of newspapers that filters in from enemy or enemy-occupied countries, you may read of fines, of imprisonments, and of executions for listening to the BBC. The death penalty is given most frequently in Poland and in Norway.

Even in Germany listening is widespread. Dr. Goebbels himself has accused the German people of allowing a million 'black' listeners to exist



What the French think of Laval. A cartoon posted from France in 1942, addressed to 'BBC, Londres, Angleterre'



The British Spanner has the swastika in its grip. This badge, made by an artisan of Marseilles, was sent in appreciation to the BBC's French Service

## TWO SIGNS FROM FRANCE

among their ranks. Almost daily the German press, or the German home wireless service, is answering, for the instruction of its own public, news or opinion that comes fresh from Britain.

The story of this secret wireless listening in the oppressed and in the enemy countries is one that cannot be told until after the war; nor can the methods by which the European News Service of the BBC has been built up be fully described. A few outstanding high-lights can be given.

In September 1938 at the time of the crisis over Czechoslovakia, we had no service of European broadcasting whatsoever. A decision was made on 27 September to send out news reports and translations of Mr. Chamberlain's important speech. That may sound simple, but to prepare swift and accurate news flashes in several languages of the text of a speech of world-wide significance from the Prime Minister of Britain is a very complicated undertaking. It needs not only the assistance of the most highly-skilled translators and journalists of different nationalities. It demands a central organization which

can ensure that the policy throughout is the same; that the same points will be brought out, and in the same way.

As soon as it was decided in 1938 to begin a service of daily news in French, Italian, and German, all these problems required solution, and as the range of activity broadened, the difficulties multiplied. (Spanish and Portuguese news bulletins were added in the summer of 1939.) The service grew rapidly; events compelled it to do so.

During 1940 and 1941 nation after nation was occupied by Germany. Britain became at once the meeting-place, and then the outpost, from which all the governments of peoples still determined to resist could communicate with their own countrymen.

The Germans' avowed intention at this time was to create a complete black-out of all news except German news; of all comment except German comment. The very first effect of the German seizure of each country was darkness—the utter darkness of German rule in which there was no news or truth. One by one the newspapers and the radio stations of Europe went out like so many lights being extinguished.

But in each country, a new light appeared, faint and flickering, but gradually growing. News was coming through from Britain. Better still, people began to hear every day the voices of their own countrymen; messages from their own sovereigns, or from their own leading ministers. Every refugee escaping from Europe began to tell stories about the voice of London; always saying, however, that more was needed: more wavelengths, more power to overcome jamming, more bulletins so that if one had to be missed there would be another soon.

In those days of 1940 and early 1941 the Germans still had their great opportunity. They held all that brute force could give them. They had isolated Britain and were hoping to organize the resources of Europe against us. They wanted, for the moment at any rate, to bring an end to the war and to establish what they called a 'New Order'. They had prepared very complete plans for building the structure of German Europe on quislings in every country. It is possible that this 'New Order' might have been accepted in Europe. It might have seemed a lesser evil than continued resistance. Supposing that no news could have filtered in at all from the free world outside; supposing all the German lies and insinuations had received no answer. Resistance might have died away and people have bitterly acquiesced.

As we know now, none of this happened. Instead, in the spring of 1941, a remarkable sign appeared of a very different kind. It was the 'V' sign. The V Campaign has been very widely misunderstood. It was not so much a broadcasting manoeuvre planned from Britain as a spontaneous gesture from the European countries themselves. In some ways it was premature, and a propaganda child difficult to handle. It was a shout of defiance, raised from inside the prison of Europe.

The V Campaign began because Monsieur Victor Delaveleye, a former member of the Belgian Government, who was broadcasting regularly from Britain, was seeking a way of making sure that he really was in touch with his



audience. He suggested the wearing or the chalking-up of a V as a symbol to be recognized by other listeners. Monsieur Geersens repeated the idea a fortnight later in the Flemish programmes to Belgium. The people of the occupied countries did the rest. By April V's were all over Europe, from Norway to the Balkans. They were flashed in Morse to our airmen, they were tapped out in restaurants; V's were painted on the backs of German soldiers. Colonel Britton began to take charge of his V army. The news spread throughout the world, and had its effect on neutral countries everywhere.

Almost at the moment when the V campaign was at its height, Hess dropped from the skies on to British soil. The peoples of Europe and the Germans themselves were quickly told of the arrival of Hess, and they heard also that he was safely under lock and key. A few months later the man who had had the task of spending many days with Hess when he arrived and listening to the true story of his mission, or escape, took over the control of the BBC's European Service. This was Mr. Ivone Kirkpatrick, for many years at the British Embassy in Berlin and appointed during the war as Foreign Adviser to the BBC.

The V campaign came in many ways far too early. As a perfect plan it should obviously have immediately preceded invasion of the Continent. Far less striking to the public of other countries, yet more directly damaging to the German war effort, was the 'tortoise' symbol that followed the V, that autumn. The tortoise stood for 'Go Slow', and by now the broadcasters from Britain were fairly sure of their response. One letter from Luxembourg read:

'In the mines and factories the words of Pier are obeyed like the Gospel. The workmen say "Do as Pier says, go slow".' (Pier is the Labour Minister of Luxembourg, who broadcasts to his countrymen from Britain.)

The BBC's service to Europe has gone ahead with its work of putting out the news swiftly and plainly. It gives now 120 bulletins of news in every twenty-four hours, covering twenty-five different languages. Let us trace through that one night of 4 November how the news of the victory of the Eighth Army was sent to Europe in the normal broadcasting service. It was received shortly after 10 p.m., and was heard in the Polish and Portuguese bulletins which began at 10.15 p.m. For the Poles there were more bulletins at 1.45 a.m., 5.50 a.m., and 6.50 a.m. At 10.45 p.m. it went into the European news in English, listened to all over Europe. The Czechs heard it in their own language at 10.30 p.m., and again at 6.10 and 7.10 in the morning. The Dutch heard it at 11.50 p.m. and at 6.40 a.m.; the Danish at 6.20 a.m.; the Bulgarians at 7.10 a.m. It was sent out to France at 1.15 a.m.; at 3 a.m. in Morse, which defeats nearly all jamming noises; and again at 7.15 a.m. For the Belgians there was a translation at 8.40 a.m. in Flemish and at 8.50 a.m. in French. The Germans who listen could have heard it at 1 a.m., 2 a.m., 3.30 a.m. in Morse, at 5.40 a.m. in a special broadcast for ships at sea, at 6 a.m. and at 7 a.m. There was a transmission in Hungarian at 11.15 p.m.; in Greek at 6.45 a.m. Italians were listening at 12.30 a.m., 6.30 a.m., and 7.30 a.m.; and Norwegians also at 12.30 a.m. and 6.30 a.m. Yugoslavia heard

the news at 7 a.m., the Spanish at 10.30 p.m. and 8 a.m. This is a record of the night-time broadcasts only; more bulletins were naturally going out all through the day.

The purpose of broadcasting to the occupied countries of Europe is often misunderstood. Every day a good many magical nostrums are suggested for ending the war at once by brilliant propaganda. In actual fact this simply cannot be done. There is a legend about Crewe House in the last war, that we won the war by propaganda. This is a Hitler story. It was put up to explain away the German military defeat. We won in 1918 because we and the Allies smashed the German army in the field, and drove their navy off the seas. That is how we shall win this war, too. The battle of news marches with the battle of arms. The news-weapon campaign is part of the actual fighting, but it cannot work miracles alone.

The European Service is primarily a news machine: and its job is to penetrate Hitler's news blockade every day. Seventy-five per cent of the output is sheer news; and every man of the service knows that people are risking their lives to hear his words.

The rest—programme periods for the principal languages—includes talks and features, and these usually take the form of short commentaries on the strategy of the war as a whole. The themes dealt with are: Why we are going to win the war; Why it is a good thing we should win the war; How the people in occupied countries can help; How the war is going on other fronts; What we mean to do with the peace.

In this task of serving the oppressed countries with news the BBC works in closest co-operation with the Allied governments. Yet the European Service must be fundamentally a British organization. The central British core exists to see that different interests do not put purely regional values on the news of the day; to make sure that courage is always maintained, and that bad news is put in its right perspective; to inspire every broadcast, all the time, with our own certainty of victory.

The European Service is in action every hour of the day and night. Unlike the other services, it has to deal in direct argument with the Axis broadcasters. The nearer the hearers are to Germany the more this is needed. Sefton Delmer, known for years to Berliners, can go on the air at a moment's notice and pull Hitler's latest speech to tatters almost before it is out of his mouth.

\* \* \* \* \*

This is the general picture, but there are many individual and human stories in the course of broadcasting to the occupied countries. The Personal Message Service, a prominent part of Empire broadcasting, gives a service poignantly needed in Europe. Recently a Greek girl in Britain broadcast a message to her parents who were still in Greece. Weeks later a letter came back from her father. It told her that her parents had heard the message; but at the very hour it came through her mother was dying. During the next night she died, comforted and encouraged by her daughter's voice.

## CHAPTER VI

### SOME TECHNICAL AND PRACTICAL POINTS

**B**ROADCASTING is fundamentally in the hands of technical experts. We may think of our Empire broadcasting service covering great spaces and bringing the peoples of our Empire nearer together; or we may think of our European Service penetrating into the heart of the occupied countries. Whatever the task of the broadcasts may be, the speakers, the writers, the newsmen are powerless to act without the technicians. Broadcasting can begin only when the engineers have prepared the way; and when the Brains Trust were asked recently to name the seven wonders of the modern world, all agreed in including the wireless.

The following brief chapter is not intended for those who are already technical experts in radio. Its aim is rather to bring a few outstanding points before those to whom the behaviour of short waves is a mystery.

Most listening is done through the help of medium or long waves. The majority of sets do not give very good short-wave reception—although there are plenty of those that do. Medium- or long-wave broadcasting is the usual method of reaching audiences within a hundred miles or so of the transmitters. Short waves are the means of broadcasting right round the earth.

These short-wave broadcasts can be tuned in directly by separate listeners whose sets will receive short waves; or they can be picked up and simultaneously rebroadcast by any number of medium-wave stations. Thus, throughout our own Empire and in America and other countries, a large number of programmes from Great Britain are heard by listeners on their own familiar 'Home' stations.

However, whether the transmission is being received directly by the listener on short waves, or indirectly on medium waves by rebroadcasting from a local station, the process remains that of transmitting the programme over long distances by short wave. No simile can be really accurate, but it is probably simplest to try and picture the behaviour of short waves by thinking of a searchlight beam. This is not a bad simile, for the short waves are not earthbound in travelling to their destination, and the engineers do, in fact, concentrate them into a beam. This beam is pointed up into the sky rather than along the surface of the earth. The waves move forward by being reflected at a level of some 180 miles above the earth's surface, in a region which has been called by Sir Robert Watson Watt 'the ionosphere'. When they reach this region the waves are bent back again to the earth and they progress in a series of gigantic hops. Two or three such hops take them across the Atlantic. They take one seventh of a second to go completely round the world—their speed being the same as that of light.



'What a question!' The Brains Trust in overseas session with the Question Master, Donald McCullough (centre). On his right Dr. Julian Huxley, on his left Dr. C. E. M. Joad, with Commander Campbell and Miss E. M. Delafield

'Shipmates Ashore'. American women workers who heard this programme, which goes out over the seven seas, presented the British Merchant Navy with a London club. Here is the American Ambassador in London, Mr. John G. Winant, and Mr. Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour and National Service, with merchant seamen





The reflecting properties of the ionosphere change with changing sunlight falling upon it, giving rise to conditions which differ from day to night and from season to season. This is why wavelengths have to be changed at different times of the day and different times of the year. It is annoying for short-wave listeners, but it is necessary in order to maintain the service. If one wavelength, say 16 metres, is the right one for midday in midsummer, then it is wrong for midnight in midwinter. Yet midday and midnight; midsummer and midwinter exist simultaneously. When it is midday in Great Britain it is midnight in New Zealand. As a result, compromise is necessary and it is not always possible to transmit a programme to the Antipodes.

The searchlight analogy is helpful again when we think of giving a transmission a certain direction. The illumination from a searchlight is at its brightest if we stand directly in the beam; but the light is still visible if we are outside the beam; not nearly so bright, of course, but still visible. In something of the same way a short-wave station can be heard by listeners far off the direct path. Thus people well outside the region at which a transmission is aimed, may tune it in.

It is out of the study of these various difficulties that the design of a modern short-wave broadcasting station has arisen. To give a comprehensive cover to countries throughout the world a large number of wavelengths is needed; a large number of aërials, one aerial for each wavelength, and for each direction, and a means of connecting the transmitters at will with any or all of the aërials.

\* \* \* \* \*

The present aerial arrays and transmitting plant of the BBC short-wave stations have been built up over many years of experiment. The story begins a long time before that of the Empire Service itself. For years before 1932 advanced research workers, some of them keen amateurs, had been establishing the first exciting contacts over great distances. They were in the position of explorers treading out the first forest tracks that were afterwards to become highways. Sir Edward Appleton, whose name was given to the upper layer in the ionosphere which reflects short waves back to earth, has told overseas listeners recently how the possibility of short-wave transmission was discovered. At one time it was believed that long wavelengths were better than short for sending messages over long distances. In fact, shortly after the last war the short wavelengths—the useless wavelengths as they were thought to be—were allotted to the wireless amateurs to use in their experiments.

'Then a very remarkable thing happened,' said Sir Edward. 'Suddenly round about December 1921 British amateurs found themselves in communication with their American colleagues. Some of these short-wave stations, though operating with very small power indeed, were heard across 7,000 miles of the globe with only a simple two-valve receiver. In October 1924 the greatest distance of all was spanned when communication was established between Mr. F. Bell of New Zealand and C. W. Goyder, a London schoolboy. Thus began what I have often called the short-wave revolution.'

This is probably the most dramatic single moment in the history of the

development of short waves—when the greatest distance possible on this earth was bridged for the first time.

The schoolboy went on to make radio engineering his profession. Mr. Goyder is now chief engineer of All India Radio, and one of the leading links in our world wide chain of broadcasting.

'Fortunately, about this time,' Sir Edward went on, 'experiments carried out under the British Radio Research Board revealed to us something about the way in which radio waves travel over long distances round the earth. It was first proved that radio waves do not travel to long distances close to the earth's surface. Instead they travel by a "series of hops" along zigzag paths between the earth and the reflecting layers of the upper atmosphere. At first it was thought that there was only one reflecting layer. Its existence had been predicted on theoretical grounds by both Kennelly and Heaviside as far back as 1905, but there had been no acceptable proof of its existence. The result was that, round about 1924, the radio world was divided into two camps, those who believed in the existence of the Kennelly-Heaviside layer and those who did not. Now it happened that in 1924, when I was working on radio problems at Cambridge, Dr. Miles Barnett and I were able to devise a test experiment which we thought would settle the issue. For the purpose we required the use of a BBC station for transmitting and a receiving station at an appropriate distance from it. The BBC were kind enough to lend us the Bournemouth transmitter and we took our receiving gear over from Cambridge to Oxford. As we wanted quiet radio conditions for the experiment, we had to wait till well after midnight when all the European broadcasting stations had closed down. Fortunately for us, the experiment worked first time, and we were able to prove that the Kennelly-Heaviside reflecting layer did exist. Moreover, we were able to measure its height, which we found to be sixty miles above the ground level. After Dr. Barnett left me to go back to his home in New Zealand, I continued these experiments and in 1926 found evidence of a still higher layer at a height of about 150 miles from the ground. This layer was found to be of greater electrical strength than the lower or Kennelly-Heaviside layer and therefore particularly suitable for the reflection of short waves. Thus the superiority of the short wavelengths for long-distance radio, which had been discovered almost by accident, was at last explained.'

\* \* \* \* \*

If we turn to the history of practical transmission, rather than experiment, one outstanding date can be given, almost exactly five years before the opening of the Empire Service, when the BBC itself was in its fifth year. In November 1927 the BBC, by arrangement with Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company Limited, established an experimental short-wave transmitter at Chelmsford. This transmitter was constructed largely of existing apparatus and was capable of delivering to the aerial a power of approximately 7 k.w. (kilowatts). A wavelength of 24 metres was chosen to give the best chance of reception throughout the Empire. This was later changed to 25.53 metres in order to conform to the requirements of the Washington Convention.

Soon short-wave receiving equipment was passing from the laboratory stage. A demand began to spring up from many places for a regular service from Great Britain—and plans were discussed at the Colonial Conference of 1927. At this time, however, the best method of covering the long distances within the Empire was not clearly known. The Chelmsford transmitter was intended to be experimental. It was a basis for collecting facts, and the licence from the Postmaster-General made clear that this was not a regular service. Nevertheless, its call sign, G5SW, became known and welcomed throughout the Empire.



Ish-Ti-Opi, otherwise Mr. Wesley Robertson, U.S.A.A.F., sings Red Indian songs at the American Eagle Club in London



Ann Shead, Empire announcer, off duty

By 1929 a large number of reports were at hand from every part of the world. It was now clear that over and above the interest of the amateurs, there was a pressing demand from an audience that needed an Empire programme service.

A scheme was prepared by the BBC for submission to the Colonial Office in November 1929. It was discussed at the Imperial Conference in 1930. In the meantime the Chelmsford station had already begun to become out of date. In November 1931, the BBC, realizing that financial assistance would not be forthcoming, felt that for the sake of British prestige a move should be made. The BBC took the financial responsibility and plans went ahead. The new station at Daventry was ready within the year.

Two transmitters were at this time installed at Daventry. Each was capable of delivering between 10 and 15 kilowatts to the aerial, depending upon the wavelength in use. Directional aeriels were set up carried on low masts of 80 to 100 feet. Twelve aeriels were arranged in five directional groups and there were also six omni-directional aeriels. Experience later led to higher masts and more complicated arrangements of aeriels. In 1934 two steel towers 350 feet high were built. In 1935 two 500-foot masts used formerly for another purpose became available and a generally more comprehensive aerial system was installed.

In 1936 much more powerful transmitters were built at Zeesen. Meanwhile in Britain the accumulated experience of some five years had been analysed. A great step forward was taken, and in time for the Coronation in 1937 a very much expanded short-wave station was in action, the new transmitters having a power of 50 to 80 kilowatts. Twenty-three new aerial arrays were added at Daventry with ten additional masts to carry them, ranging in height from 80 to 325 feet.

In 1938 the BBC had been requested to organize the service for the Arabic-speaking countries and for Latin America, and new expansions followed again. By the time the war began there were five high-powered and three low-powered transmitters in action.

It is for security reasons not possible to take the story of our short-wave transmitters past the beginning of the war. The number we now have in use is highly censorable. Progress that has been made recently can be compared with progress made in general in the mechanical armament of the whole nation. Even now our short-wave transmitting stations are extending enormously in numbers, in power, in variety. However, we are not telling the enemy anything in saying that we can transmit five different programmes using fourteen short wavelengths at the same time.

\* \* \* \* \*

Meanwhile throughout the whole period a most interesting collaboration has been going on between musicians, producers, and technicians in order to discover what broadcasting effects can be most successfully transmitted by short wave. Recordings of actual reception have been brought back to Great Britain from all parts of the world. These show exactly how the transmission sounded in New Zealand, in Australia, or Fiji: with this knowledge



## CHAPTER VII

### POINTING TO THE FUTURE

A BOOKLET of this size can give only a hasty impression of the scope of Britain's broadcasts to the world. Much has been left out. There is, for instance, our rapidly growing service to China; there is the Monitoring Service of the BBC which listens to a million words every day of the broadcasting of all nations, and analyses them for the information of government and service departments.

Yet all this—every phase that we have briefly glanced at—is no more than a beginning. We cannot go back to the days of the nineteen-thirties, when the citizens of one nation were punished for listening to the broadcasts of another nation.

One of the aims of this very brief book has been to show, how already in wartime, many opportunities have grown up, rather than to claim that our present overseas broadcasting system is beyond criticism. No one knows better than those doing the work how easy it is to make mistakes or to miss chances. It is a fact, however, that Britain's international broadcasting system is now the most comprehensive in the world. The future will see it expand still further. Sir Cecil Graves, the Mr. Graves who took part in the very first Empire broadcast and who is now one of the Directors-General of the BBC, has been associated with every stage of the progress of overseas broadcasting.

'The greatest single factor,' he has recently said, 'throughout the development of the whole service has been that it came into existence in answer to genuine demands. People wanted it, and it has grown for that reason. Unlike the broadcasts of the Axis, ours have been asked for; and unlike the broadcasts of the Axis, ours are gladly picked up and rebroadcast by friendly nations throughout the world.'

'Let us look forward to the future; we have in our hands an instrument of incalculable power for good: an instrument that makes use of the most modern conceptions of science, together with every aspect of mankind's age-old gifts of art and self-expression; an instrument that can be given wholly to spreading mutual knowledge among the nations.'

'These newly acquired skills of mankind move at breathtaking speed. Broadcasting conceived as a world-wide international service—and we may feel with pride that the BBC is the world's prototype—is a step into the future even more dramatic than the development of flying. Already this idea has taken shape: already in wresting the initiative from the enemy we may hope that it has been our lot to create an instrument helpful, rather than hateful, to the true interests of mankind.'

این خبر بهاس ملايو 'HERE IS THE NEWS'  
 การบรรยายข่าวมีดังต่อไปนี้ 'Hier, Radio België'  
 'A estação da BBC. Vai transmitir o seo 3º boletim'  
 'Englannin yleisradio Lontoo. Suomenkielinen lähetyks alkaa'  
 «သတင်းများအစီရင်ခံစာပိုဒ်။»

'Šimdi Havadis bültенimizi okuyorum' 'Hier volg die Nuus in Afrikaans'

'Aici este postul de Radio Londra. Bună dimineață! Veți auzi acum primul buletin de știri în limba română'

«Издательская фирма «Радио»» 'Ici Radio Belgique' এই হচ্ছে সব খবর।

'Estación de la BBC. Vamos a radiar nuestro boletín de noticias en castellano'

'Ici Londres. Po apim buletin e lajmeve' 'Parla Londra. Prima trasmissione serale in lingua italiana'  
 'Voici notre bulletin d'informations' nê gjuhën Shqipe

'Se nxandru issa, it-Taħdida ta' Aħbarijiet bil-Malti' 'He aquí las noticias'

అంతర్జాతీయ వార్తలు

'Volá Londýn . . . Vyslechněte dnešní zprávy' 'De hører BBC's aftenudsendelse paa dansk'

'God Morgen. Dette er London med morgennyhetene'

आता आपण आमचे मराठी बातमीपत्र ऐका

'Dobár den dragi slushateli' 'Aqui estão as notícias' 'Ιδού αί ειδήσεις'

'Radio London: dajemo prenos poročil ki ga oddajamo vsaki dan v slovenščini'

'Hier ist England. Hier ist England. Hier ist England'

'Hireket mondunk'

ایہا المغاربة والجزائريين والتونسين واليبين اليكم نشرة الاخبار

'Dziendobry Państwu. Nadajemy drugi dziennik Radja Brytyjskiego w języku Polskim'

'Goeden middag . . . Nu volgt het nieuws' 'Detta är London med nyheterna på svenska' 'So iomradh ann an Gàidhlig'

'Dyma'r Newyddion'

'Radio London daje svojim slušaocima Jugoslovenima vesti'

والان اليكم نشرة الاخبار به خبرين آپ لندن سے سن رہا ہیں

現在粵語廣播新聞

下面是今天的中文新聞





BBC

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World Radio History