

KU5Q

Jerry Berg,
jsberg@rcn.com

KU5Q, on Guam, was not a broadcast station in the usual sense, but rather a military communications station that carried some correspondents' reports and similar broadcast-type programming on a relay basis, as did many other military and point-to-point stations during World War II. KU5Q was reported often. It stayed on the air for a time after the war, and these excerpts from *Radio News* illustrate the rich shortwave scene in the area at the time. See the last page for a KU5Q QSL containing much interesting information about the station.

November 1945

MIDWEST REPORT

Larry Gutter, Chicago, writes: "Stations in Asia and Oceania have slacked off tremendously here, except Australia. Melbourne is heard clearly from about 5 a.m. with broadcasts to Forces in the Pacific and Asia, over 9.54, 9.58, 9.615, 9.68. The 7-7:45 a.m. transmission over VLC5, 9.54, is heard like WGN. During the summer the 12:10-12:45 a.m. transmission over VLC4, 15.315, was like a local, but it has become weak this fall; the 11.84 frequency is little better. The 10-10:45 a.m. radiation over VLC6, 9.615, is fair. The transmitters on the West Coast that maintain contact with network correspondents in the Pacific—the boys who arrange all Pacific short-wave pick-ups to this country—are very interesting to listen to. They are RCA transmitters. I have heard them for about two years as they talked to and arranged with CBS, NBC, OWI, and so on, for spot broadcasts from the Pacific area.

"Frequently, network officials in San Francisco are given a line into the transmitter and talk with their own men. All 'go-aheads' for network pick-ups are given through these stations. These transmitters include KQJ, 18.02, 3-10 p.m.; KEM, 15.49, used irregularly 12 noon-12 midnight; KKL, 15.475, 3-10 p.m.; KKQ, 11.95, 12 noon-12 midnight; KES3, 10.62, used irregularly, 12 midnight-12 noon; KER, 10.39, 12 midnight-12 noon; KES2, 8.93, 3 a.m.-12 noon; KEB, 6.89, 12 midnight-12 noon; times are approximate. These West Coast transmitters, in San Francisco, talk to Tokyo, Guam, Manila, and Honolulu. Radio Tokyo is in American hands. As of September 4 the studios were in Yokohama and the transmitters in or near Tokyo. Tokyo transmitters that I have heard for Traffic with RCA are JLT3, 15.225, 3 p.m.-12 midnight; JZK, 15.160, 12 midnight-4 a.m.; and JLU2, 9.525, 4 a.m.-3 p.m.; times are approximate. JLT3 is heard best around 6 p.m. talking to San Francisco. Frequently, Tokyo is relayed through KU5Q, Guam. That happened the night of the surrender ceremonies broadcast. The 'go-ahead' cue from this country was given through KQJ (18.02) to KU5Q, Guam, then fed to KU5Q's *Queen Channel* (17.82) which was received by Tokyo. Broadcast of the surrender signing was recorded an hour and a half before 8:30 p.m., which was *air time*. The recording was sent by speedboat to the press communications ship, *Anton*, in Tokyo Bay. There it was broadcast to Radio Tokyo where it was sent out over JLT3, 15.225. This was received by Guam and fed to KU5Q's *Mike Channel* (13.36), and that frequency was heard in San Francisco. For traffic with Tokyo, best bet from 3-10 p.m. is KQJ (18.02). The others sometimes split up and *gab* with Guam, Manila, and Honolulu. Mornings, I find KEM (15.49) and KES2 (8.93) best. Hawaii talks to San Francisco approximately 12 noon-3 p.m. over KIO, 11.63; 3 p.m.-12 midnight, over KHE, 17.98; 10 p.m.-10 a.m., over KKH, 7.52 or KEQ, 7.37. Manila transmitters have calls of KXE, KXG, KXH, KXI; I do not have their frequencies. Something odd was heard recently when Manila was relayed to Tokyo through KEM (10.39). The Manila transmitter was KXG. Also heard JLU2 report that station 'RVD' was QR Ming KEM (10.39) for reception in Japan. Where is 'RVD'? Heard a Press Wireless station, KBE, near 18 mc., Los Angeles, recently calling WVLC, the Philippines."

November 1945

Reports requesting verification from Guam's KU5Q, 7.671, 9.330, 9.670, 12.250, 17.820, should be addressed: CINCPAC, Advance Headquarters, c/o Fleet P.O., San Francisco, California.

January 1946

Guam's KU5Q was due to close down around November 1, but remained on to relay Shanghai to American networks. By this time, however, all Guam frequencies may have been discontinued. Shanghai may now be relayed by Manila transmitters, which were relaying XGOO part of the time as early as late October.

June 1946

GUAM—KU5Q now has four transmitters in operation; announcement on 9.670 around 7:30 a.m. gave 9.280, 7.645, and 13.360 as in parallel. On 12.265, KU5Q has been reported as heard frequently around 2 a.m. with relays of the Guam medium-wave AFRS station, WXLI, reception fair. KU5Q now verifies with a card in white with call in black at top; power on 9.670 is listed as 2 kw. The 15.920 and 17.820 frequencies are still reported as heard *daily* in evenings.

July 1946

"Operation Crossroads" Coverage

From Lt. William E. Miller, Jr., Tokyo, comes word that WVLC, aboard the U.S. Army communications ship, "*Spindle-eye*," at anchor in Honolulu as of April 30, will probably cover the Bikini atoll atomic bomb tests in the Marshall Islands during July and August.

"KU5Q on Guam will also be in on the big affair," he advises. "Following the atomic bomb tests, KU5Q will probably be dismantled and WVLC will return to the States for decommissioning." According to Lt. Miller, WVLC works KKL, KES-2, KBE, and KGT-5 occasionally on 18.530 or 9.065; the 13.970 frequency is rarely being used.

KU5Q, operated by the U.S. Navy on Guam, is at present relaying news programs from Shanghai to the Amer-

ican networks. Frequencies listed by Lt. Miller are:

17.820 and 15.930 — Work KKL (RCA, San Francisco) occasionally about 6 p.m.

13.360 and 9.280 — Work WLXJ, Shanghai, nearly every day from 6:30 to about 8 a.m.

9.670 and 7.645—Work KES-2 (RCA, San Francisco) nearly every day from 6:30 to about 8 a.m.

He reports that WLXJ, operated by the U.S. Army in Shanghai, broadcasts news programs to American networks. "These are often relayed by KU5Q on Guam, and occasionally by JVV-2 (11.845), JLU-2 (9.525), or JVT (6.750), Tokyo. Occasionally also, WLXJ works KES-2 (RCA, San Francisco) direct." Frequencies used by WLXJ are: 8.040, used almost daily, 6:30-8 a.m.; 5.500, used occasionally in place of 8.040. Power of WLXJ is 2 kilowatts.

Lt. Miller is with the Signal Section, 8th Army.

September 1946

Guam—KU5Q has been busy lately in connection with Operation Crossroads; latest official schedules are 4 a.m.-12 noon, 7.645 and 9.670; 9 a.m.-12 noon they also operate on 13.360; at 5:30 p.m. they operate on 15.930, 17.820, and on a new frequency of 18.050; sign-off time is not given, presumably varies. Present power is 3 kw.

December 1946

U.S.A.—According to a letter received by an American listener from Comdr. R. D. Thompson, USNR, on the Appalachian, NCLG's transmitters during the recent Atom Bomb Tests were rated at 600 watts; NXHC (Panamint) and NICO (Mt. McKinley) each 350 watts; NIGF (Spindle-Eye) 7500 watts; and NCKN (B-29) 40 watts. The B-29 used 2 mcs. for relays to the ships at Bikini Atoll. Higher power was not used on the ships because of space and interference limitations imposed by radioteletype and radio-photo equipment crowded on the ships; hence, the necessity of relays at Guam (KU5Q) and Oahu (WTJ, NPM) in order to provide good reception at San Francisco over the long hours communication was desired. Direct contacts were tried by the ships during daytime on all frequencies from 13 to 24 mcs., but usable signals were not obtained. Night contacts were reported as excellent.

Veries received on 10.640 show ship going down in water, Marshall Islands, Operation Crossroads, Bikini Atoll, and U.S.S. Appalachian—all printed prominently. (URDXC)

KU5Q

Bo Sward
Abrahamsbergsvagen 47
Abrahamsberg
Stockholm
Sweden

Public Information Radio
Box 10, Com-Marianas
Guam, Marianas Islands
27 June 1946

Dear Shortwave Listener:

Thank you very much for your report of reception of Radio Station KU5Q transmitting on 13360 kc/s at 1415-1450 GMT on 20 May 1946. Your report agrees with our records and we are, therefore, happy to verify it. We hope that you will accept this form letter in lieu of a more carefully prepared QSL.

KU5Q is operated by Public Information Radio, Com-Marianas, by authorization of the Secretary of the Navy. KU5Q was originally set up to broadcast and relay to the United States programs from the Pacific Ocean battle areas. It is now engaged in relaying broadcasts from "Operation Crossroads", the atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll. KU5Q also acts as a relay station for radio news reports from American network correspondents in the Far East.

KU5Q studios are situated atop Mount Aluton, southwest of Agana. The twostory building, equipped with the most modern broadcast, recording and radiophoto equipment, is shared with Armed Forces Radio Station WXLI, which transmits on 1380 kc/s with 325 watts power. KU5Q frequently rebroadcasts WXLI for modulation testing purposes.

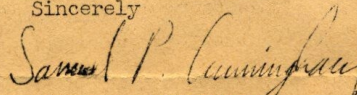
Five three-kilowatt transmitters and one ten-kilowatt transmitter are used for the broadcast and relay operations of KU5Q. The 3-kw transmitters are operating on 7645, 9280, 9670, 15930, and 17820 kc/s. 7695, 9670, 15930, and 17820 kc/s are beamed to the United States, and 9280 kc/s is beamed to the Far East. The ten kilowatt transmitter, operating on 13360 kc/s, is beamed to Japan. The great circle bearing for Japan passes over Europe, and particularly Sweden. Although KU5Q has been heard on every continent except Antarctica, more reports are received from Sweden than from the rest of the world combined.

The 3-kw transmitters are manufactured by Collins Radio Company of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. These transmitters can be automatically retuned to any one of twelve frequencies in fifteen seconds. The final amplifier is a pair of Eimac 750-t's, and the modulator is a pair of Eimac 450-T's..

The 13360 kc/s transmitter is rather unique. A Hallicrafters HT-4 amateur phone transmitter (known as the BC-610 in wartime dress) is modulated by signals from our studios. This transmitter drives the final of the Navy TEC, a 40-kw transmitter intended for c.w. use made by Press Wireless, Inc., Hicksville, N. Y. The resulting combination puts out seven to fifteen kilowatts, depending on the frequency in use. Both the 3-kw and 10-kw transmitters feed 860-foot-long unidirectional rhombic antennas.

We want you to know that your report was greatly appreciated here at KU5Q, and wish you many eventful years of DX reception.

Sincerely



SAHUEL P. CUNNINGHAM,
Lt. (jg) USNR
Pubinfo Radio Officer.