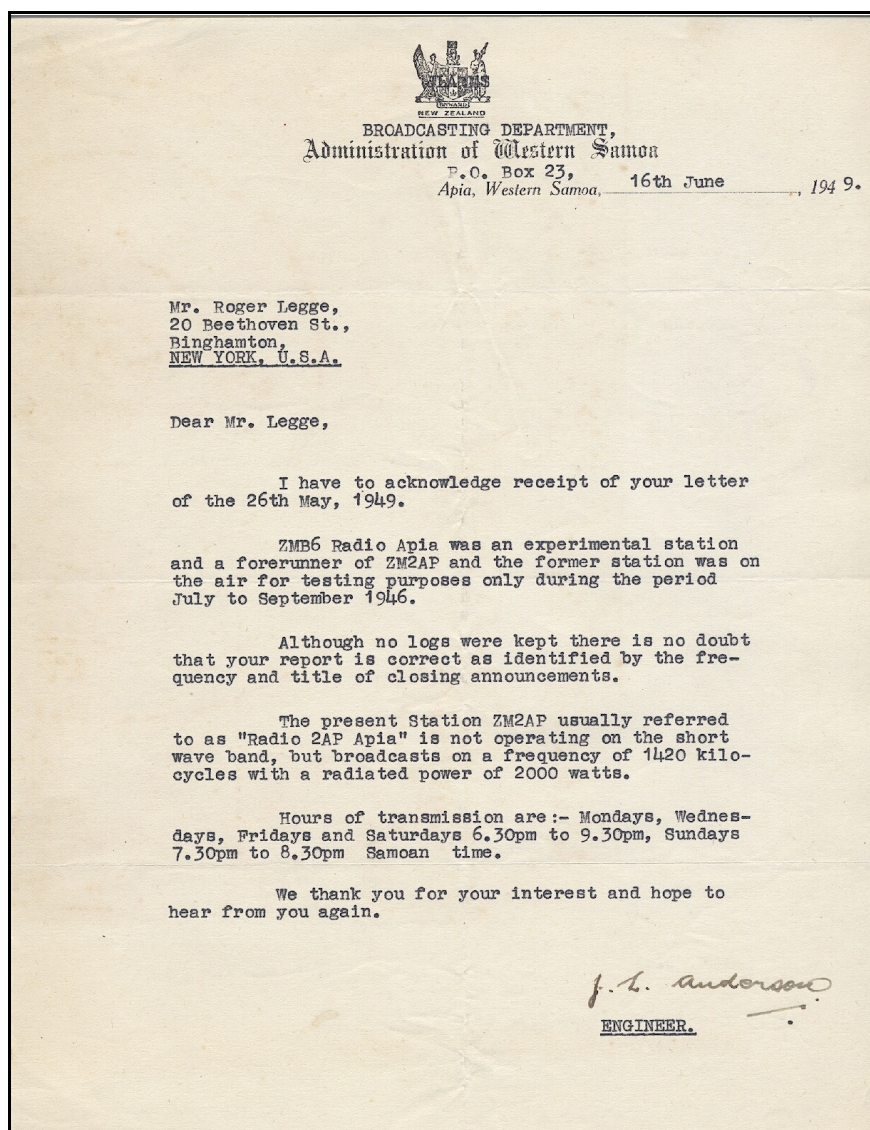


Samoa on Shortwave

by Jerry Berg

Distinct from American Samoa, and governed by New Zealand until 1962, now-independent Samoa ("Western Samoa" until 1997) is not a place one thinks of in connection with shortwave broadcasting from the Pacific. But as Adrian Peterson explained in [Wavescan 367](#) (January 6, 2002), Samoa does have a SWBC history. Here we add a few graphics to his story.

As he explained, Samoan shortwave broadcasting began in 1946, when Samoa was still governed by New Zealand. Although the letter below, from 1949, indicates that shortwave was used for just a few months, in 1946, the World Radio TV Handbook, which began publication in



1947, carried an entry for these Samoan shortwave transmissions in 1948. And while there was no similar entry for the years after, the 7700 kHz. channel, ZMB6, was shown in the WRTH shortwave frequency table in the 1949-50 edition.

The station was heard by a few stateside listeners, as the following snippets from Ken Boord's *Radio News* columns indicate.

December 1946

"*Apia Radio*," 7.700, Apia, Western Samoa, with a call of ZMB6, was heard testing in September, 12:05-1:05 a.m., signal strength was fair, but had considerable interference. (Legge) Also heard on West Coast. (Dilg, Balbi)

January 1947

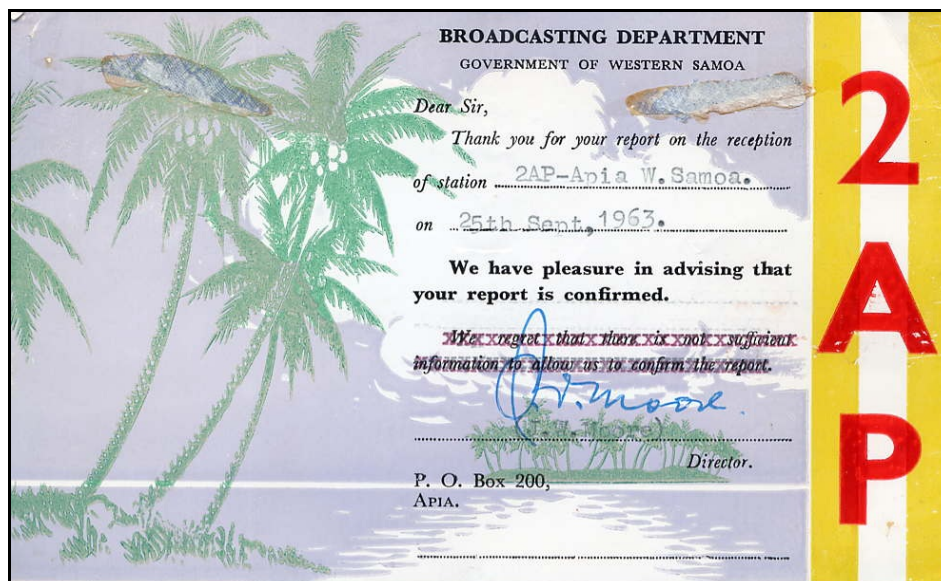
WESTERN SAMOA—ZMB6, 7.700, *Apia Radio*, which tested in early autumn around 12 midnight-1:05 a.m., has not been heard lately. (Balbi, Dilg)

December 1948

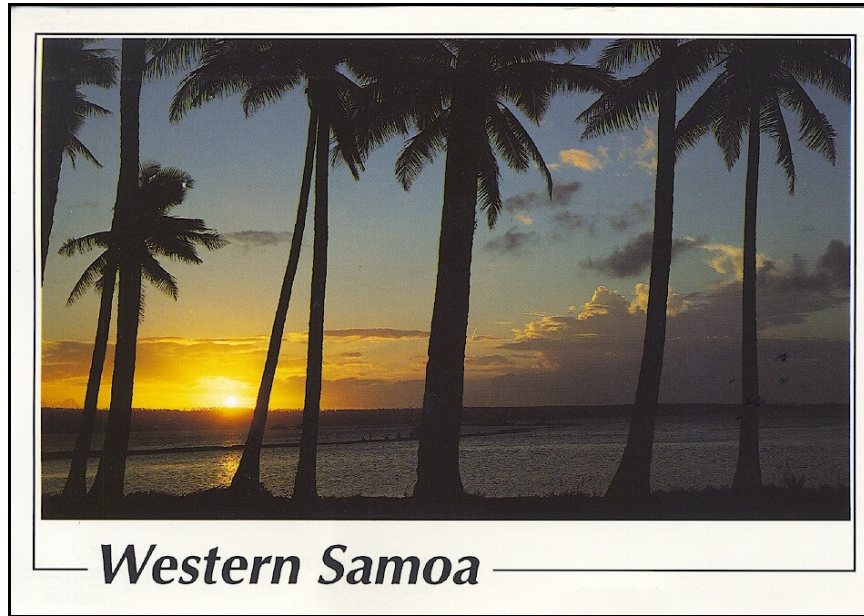
Samoa—Arthur Cushen, N.Z., air-mails me that Radio Station ZM2AP, Broadcasting Organization, Administration of Samoa, Apia, Western Samoa, has transmissions on 1420 kc. (and irregularly on 7.700); announces as "2AP, Apia, Western Samoa"; has sessions in Samoan and *English*; schedule for medium-wave outlet is Sundays 0030-0330; Mondays 0130-0230; Tuesdays 0030-0330; Mondays and Tuesdays also at 1500-1600; Wednesdays also at 1600-1700; Thursdays at 0030-0330, 1500-1600; Saturdays at 0030-0330; the 1500-1600 periods are educational and are not broadcast during school holidays.

ZMB6 appears to have been one of several Samoan utility frequencies. In the shortwave lists of the day, other ZMB channels commonly shown were ZMB2, 5750 kHz.; ZMB3, 11500; ZMB4, 15400; and ZMB5, 17700. But these were never used for "broadcasting."

2AP was the next shortwave operation from Samoa. Its shortwave channels were listed in the WRTH for the years 1952 and 1954-1956. Here is a 2AP mediumwave QSL from a later time (1963).



Samoa returned to shortwave in a roundabout way in 1994. Columbus, Ohio DXer William Matthews, who at the time produced a DX segment for Radio Korea's "Shortwave Feedback" program, celebrated his 100th broadcast by arranging for the Samoa Broadcasting Service to prepare a 10-minute special for transmission during one of Radio Korea's English service broadcasts in February. Reports were to be sent to, and QSLs were received direct from, Samoa. It wasn't the real thing, of course, but as one DXer noted, Radio Bahrain shortwave had started out as a relay over Radio Kuwait. So there was always hope.



Romantic tropical evenings.
O afi afi faagauloto i le Pasefika.

APIA
WESTERN SAMOA
26 MAR 1994

Samoa Broadcasting Service
P.O. Box 1868
Apia, Western Samoa

Dear Sir/Madam:

Greetings from Samoa. Thank you for your recent report of reception of our broadcasts. The program details in your report have been checked against our station log and found correct. This will verify your reception of Radio 2AP as relayed via Radio Korea's global facilities on *21. Feb. 1994* from *1:40* to ... UTC on a frequency of *15575* kilohertz, which corresponds to a wavelength of *.19.3* meters.

Faithfully yours,
W. Stillen
for Director of Broadcasting

Bill Flynn
343 June Drive
Cave Junction, OR
97523-9347
USA

CHRISTMAS 1993
s with gladness meet of old...
WESTERN SAMOA 60
20 sene
SAMOA
Established Kingfisher Island group islands.

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