



**WVZ**  
**radio...**  
**bangalore**

*Armed Forces Radio Service*



...**1355** *on your dial*



HEADQUARTERS  
SOUTHERN INDIA AIR DEPOT  
ARMY AIR FORCES - INDIA-BURMA THEATER

APO 491,  
14 November 1945.

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : All Personnel of Radio Station VU2ZP.

1. Since its activation on 29 January 1945, Radio Station VU2ZP has been a constant source of entertainment to the officers and men of Southern India Air Depot, and consequently has served with appreciable effectiveness as a factor in maintaining a high standard of morale. Furthermore, the benefits of the station have been limited only as its broadcasting range has been limited. To British and Indian troops, as well as to our own, the Armed Forces Radio Service presentations from VU2ZP have come as welcome entertainment features in the otherwise near-barren medium of radio. The importance of allied good-will thus fostered should not be under-estimated.
2. Therefore, at this time I wish to commend the officers and men whose collective efforts have made possible the inauguration and operation of Station VU2ZP. Your spirit, initiative, and ingenuity, often demonstrated under trying conditions, are typical of those qualities with which the ideal organization should be imbued, and merit the highest praise. The success of this station has been of your making.

*Roy H. Lynn*  
ROY H. LYNN  
Colonel, Air Corps,  
Commanding.



birth...  
of a broadcast



...wrote you  
...Harry A  
...wrote  
...G.

...well a very happy  
returns to the day  
and may she  
say many more  
years

POST CARD



...requests



**"Sunrise Serenade"**



**"strike up the Band!"**

# Staff



I.-E. Officer  
**ROBERT REYNOLDS**  
San Francisco, Calif



Officer in Charge  
**GILBERT S. CROFT**  
St. Louis, Missouri



NCO in Charge  
**ARTHUR J. TRACY**  
Goulds, Florida

**T**HIS is the Army! On 20th January 1945, Colonel Melville C. Robinson, then commanding officer of Southern India Air Depot, conceived the idea of installing a radio station at this base. In the Army, thoughts—at least, the thoughts of a commanding officer—quickly lead to action. The wireless hummed with an exchange of messages while technicians and experts converged on Bangalore and planes transported equipment. Then, on the twenty-ninth of January, for the first time over the air were heard the words “This is Radio Station VU2ZP in Bangalore beginning its regular schedule of daily broadcast...” These words were spoken by Burt Urdank, the station’s first announcer, until that instant a motor pool dispatcher. And so was a radio station born. The initial staff consisted of three men: the base adjutant, Lt. Richard Gajewski; Urdank; and a former personnel clerk, Art Tracy. But like Topsy, the staff “just grewed” until, in November, nine men were engaged in the turning of dials, repairing of equipment, writing of scripts, programming, newscasting, announcing—all dedicated to the improvement of our precocious war baby.

For the GI’s, for Allied troops, for civilians, hearing the voice of VU2ZP was discovering an oasis in an entertainment desert. Prior to this time, Bangalore had been out of range of any station on the medium broadcast band. The innovation was a boon especially to the American lads, who were starved for good entertainment, stateside style. Despite the untiring efforts of the Special Service Office, USO troupes rarely made the side trip to this sector; talent among the soldiers themselves was sparse; movies were good but afflicted with combat fatigue by the time they reached this outpost; reception for short wave was poor and the type of programs presented not to American taste. So it was that entertainment from home came as yeast to the morale dough of our boys.

Captain Thomas Wade, Post Engineer, and his assistant, Sergeant Thomas P. Sullivan, went to work immediately on the conversion of an unused storehouse into what eventually emerged as the home of VU2ZP. Alterations were still in progress when the time came for the first broadcast. Subsequent programs for several weeks were presented from one small room. February 18, the station blossomed forth in all its glory as a modern, well-equipped broadcasting center, consisting of two studios, reception room, office and transmitter room. Through the co-operation of American civilians of Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., materials were obtained for sound-proofing of the structure. To these American civilians much credit is due for its ultimate completion.

*To Lt. Robert D. Corless and Staff Sergeants Sherman Perr and Samuel K. Hanse, credit is due for the photography and layout of this brochure.*

Installation of equipment and solution of technical problems were handled by Capt. Robert L. Black, Radio Officer of the India-Burma Theatre, on a flying visit from his headquarters in Delhi, and two Signal Corps technicians, Sgts. Henry Alto and Howard T. MacFarland.

Overnight VU2ZP began to grow like an Assamese bamboo shoot. As the transcription files became more voluminous, the need for a studio librarian was voluntarily filled by Gordon Seopa, base Chemical Warfare walla. From Calcutta came Kenn Haven, in civilian life an announcer for Radio Station WTCM, Traverse City, Michigan. Haven’s knowledge of production technique proved a welcome addition to a relatively inexperienced staff. To assist in the ever increasing maintenance task, Bill Keating threw his screw driver and pliers alongside





Technician  
**WILLIAM F. KEATING**  
New Haven, Connecticut

Announcer  
**BURT B. URDANK**  
North Hollywood, Calif

Announcer  
**KENN HAVEN**  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Announcer  
**MARVIN M. ZELONY**  
New York, New York

Librarian  
**GORDON J. SEOPA**  
Togo, Minnesota

Technician  
**HOWARD T. MACFARLAND**  
Belmont, Massachusetts

those of MacFarland. When Fate called Lt. Gajewski elsewhere, Major Robert Reynolds and Captain Gilbert Croft joined the staff as Information and Education Officer and Officer in Charge. The end of the war sent homeward Kenn Haven, whose spot was inherited by Bob Zelony, erstwhile bomb-sight expert. The finishing line-up exemplified the Army's unique faculty for creating a smooth team, drawn from every corner of the country and every walk of life.

Augmenting the canned programs which were flown from the States, across one ocean and three seas to Bangalore, the staff introduced several features of its own making. First of these were two request programs. Audience reaction soon necessitated the extension of broadcast time on both "Sunrise Serenade" and "Strike Up the Band" from the originally allocated thirty minutes to an hour each. Among the return addresses on the daily influx of request letters headed stationward were those of British and Indian service people. More than a thousand individuals had their birthdays high-lighted by dedications on the request programs. Many budding romances were nurtured into flower by a "Cupid behind the microphone." Frequent tongue-twisters such as "For Minoo Dotiwalla and the rest of the Vattish gang from Ger" were taken in stride by our sterling announcers.

For local flavor, Art Tracy evolved "What's The Answer?", a novel program which featured mental gymnastics by local quiz wizards. The incorporation of humor, education and human interest into one half hour show proved a successful formula.

When George Formby, Britain's leading musical comedy star, paid a hurried visit to Bangalore, time would not permit personal appearance before all the Allied troops in the area. PRO Major L. E. Little arranged for the facilities of VU2ZP to be made available for Mr. Formby so that he was enabled to reach many thousands of troops in South India. Entertainment by travelling and local musical groups filtered through the station's microphones from time to time. Each Sunday was observed with a half hour chaplain's program.

During the lifetime of the station, word of countless world-shaking events was relayed to an eager listening audience by newscaster Kenn Haven. Source of the bulk of news bulletins was the teletype facilities of Army News Service. The dramatic highlight of the station's career climaxed a ninety-six hour vigil when VU2ZP scooped all India with the history-making news of Japan's capitulation. For four nights, Sam Boyd voluntarily monitored the short wave channels. At 0535 of August fourteenth the long awaited news that Japan had accepted the Potsdam terms flashed to us. Minutes later innumerable loudspeakers crackled as the voice of VU2ZP proclaimed the epochal tidings. As the word spread from mouth to mouth, Bangalore became the first major community in India to learn of the surrender.

Today, as this brochure is "put to bed," VU2ZP has signed off for the last time. We are fully conscious of the debt we owe to those who have passed our microphones, those who assisted in the development of the station, and those who found enjoyment on the receiving end of our broadcasts. To them, we dedicate this book.

THE STAFF.



THE GERMANS SIGN THE SURRENDER



FINAL SIGNING IN BERLIN

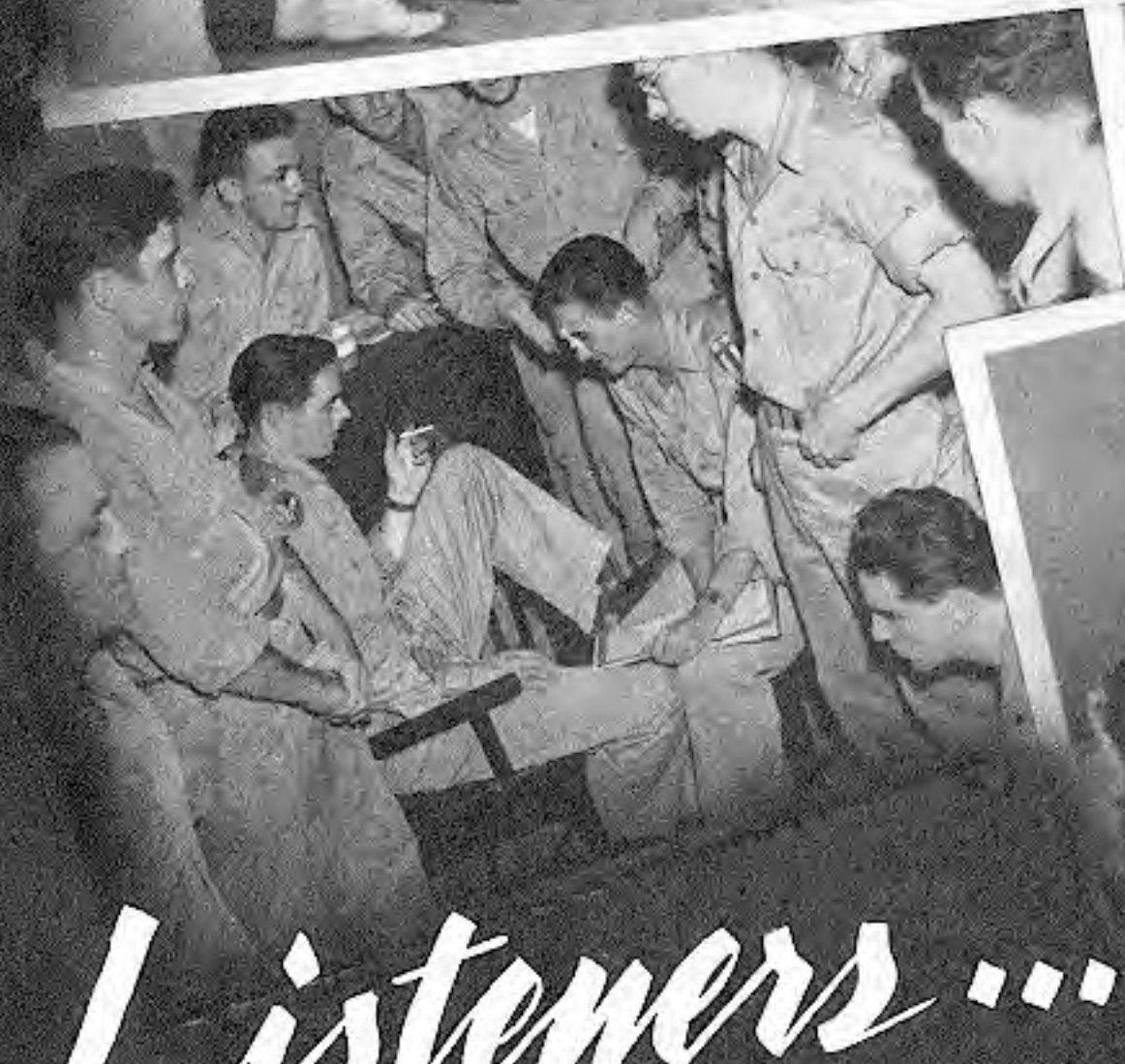
At the German capital Field Marshal Keitel ratifies the

At Montgomery's headquarters Admiral von Friedeberg gives up the German forces throughout the northwest

PEACE  
OKAYO  
R ENDED

# QUIZ program...





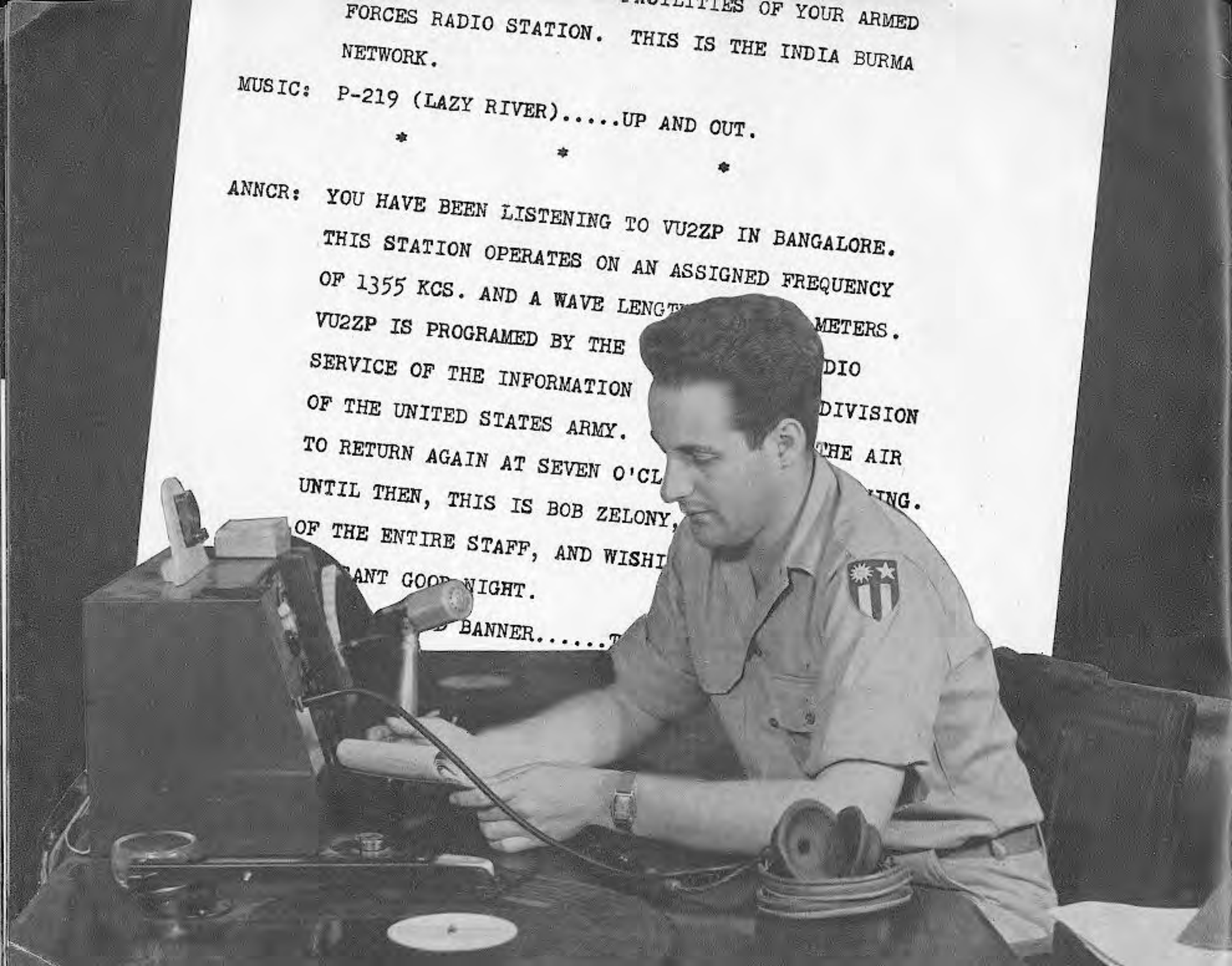
*Listeners ....*

PROPERTIES OF YOUR ARMED  
FORCES RADIO STATION. THIS IS THE INDIA BURMA  
NETWORK.

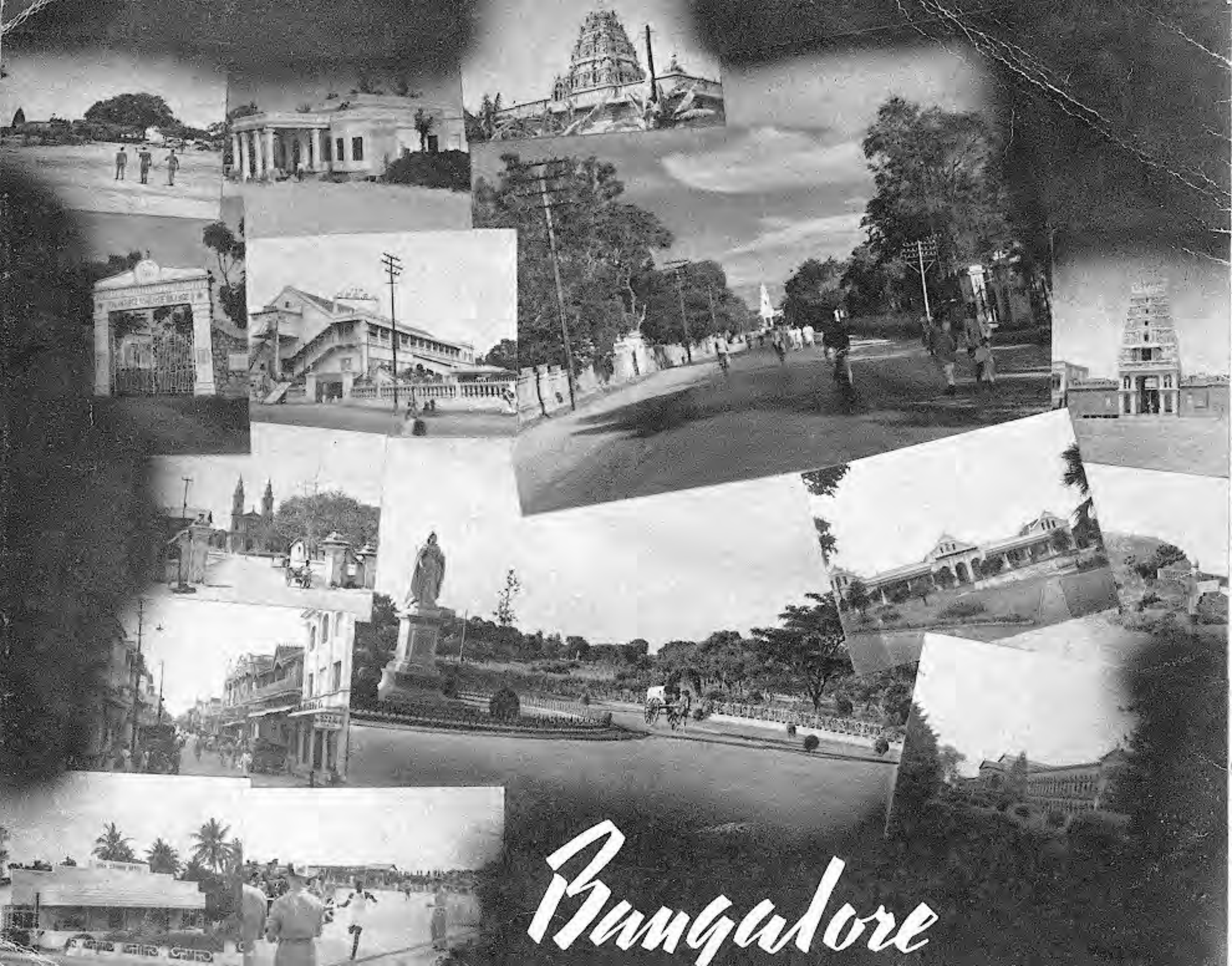
MUSIC: P-219 (LAZY RIVER).....UP AND OUT.

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ANNCR: YOU HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO VU2ZP IN BANGALORE.  
THIS STATION OPERATES ON AN ASSIGNED FREQUENCY  
OF 1355 KCS. AND A WAVE LENGTH METERS.  
VU2ZP IS PROGRAMED BY THE RADIO  
SERVICE OF THE INFORMATION DIVISION  
OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY. THE AIR  
TO RETURN AGAIN AT SEVEN O'CL...ING.  
UNTIL THEN, THIS IS BOB ZELONY,  
OF THE ENTIRE STAFF, AND WISHI...  
WANT GOOD NIGHT.  
BANNER.....







# Bangalore