

OTC

LEOPOLDVILLE



*Belgium* calling  
the world

# O.T.C

1942 - R.C.A. - 50 Kw - 9.767 Kcs

FREQUENCY RANGE  
GAMME DE FREQUENCE  
FREQUENTIE BEREIK **6** to **22** Mc/s  
à  
tot

FREQUENCY STABILITY  
STABILITE DE FREQUENCE  
FREQUENTIE STABILITEIT **10** parts in **1.000.000**  
parts dans  
delen in

NOISE LEVEL  
BRUIT DE FOND  
GRONDGERUIS more than **60** db under **100** % modulation  
plus de  
meer dan  
sous  
onder

HARMONICS  
HARMONIQUES  
BOVENTRILLINGEN **HF** in conformity with **CCIR**  
en conformité avec  
volgens de regels van

**135** Kw POWER CONSUMED for **50** Kw radiated power and average mod.  
PUISSANCE CONSOMMEE pour  
VERBRUIKTE KRACHT voor

**3** RHOMBIC ANTENNAS  
ANTENNES RHOMBIQUES  
RUIT-ANTENNES **3** simultaneous directions  
directions simultanées  
gelijktijdige richtingen



In the heart  
of Africa

● O.T.C., the Belgian short-wave world transmitter, was born during World War II. Its initial task was to broadcast what the voice of Free Belgium had to say to occupied Belgium and to the whole world.

● O.T.C.'s position near the Equator is ideal for world wide radiation. Letters from places as far apart as California and the United Kingdom, Sweden and Indochina confirm that reception is as good as that of local stations.

● Leopoldville, the Congo's fast growing capital, on the outskirts of the African jungle, is linked with Brussels and the rest of the world by ultra-modern methods of communication.

● O.T.C. is eager to receive your listening reports and comments. Let us know the programmes you want. Write to :

**BELGIAN NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE**  
Post-box 505, Leopoldville, Belgian Congo.

● The address of our metropolitan headquarters is :  
**I.N.R. OVERSEAS SERVICE,**  
Postbox 26, Brussels I.

1. The aerials which beam O.T.C. programmes toward every part of the world, rise high over the Congolese savannah. (Photo R.N.B.)

2 and 3. The 50 KW. short-wave transmitter. (Photo Service Information du Congo Belge.)

4. The African telegraph operators of the Congo Telecommunications Department pick up news from every part of the globe. (Photo Serv. Inform. du Congo Belge.)



# International Goodwill Station



During her stay in Brussels in 1948, Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt said to our listeners :

*I am very happy to have the opportunity to speak at this microphone on International Goodwill. I think that those of us who really care about peace in the future and improvement in the happiness of human beings the world over should be anxious that goodwill among men grow throughout the world.*

Several times a week O.T.C. becomes the mouthpiece of the great international organizations : the Red Cross, the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, UNESCO, UNO. etc.

As a small country surrounded by powerful neighbours Belgium has no political ambitions. O.T.C. never broadcasts political propaganda.

**O.T.C. gives news and offers entertainment.**

**O.T.C. speaks to its listeners about the cultural, social and economic life of Belgium.**

**O.T.C. supports international tourism**

Belgium, which has so often, against her will, been the battleground of Europe, has one overriding ideal : PEACE. Therefore the Belgian world transmitter O.T.C. devotes all its activities to the spreading of goodwill amongst all peoples.

O.T.C. is known all over the world as the INTERNATIONAL GOODWILL STATION.

Thousands of letters bearing simply the address INTERNATIONAL GOODWILL STATION - Leopoldville - were delivered automatically.



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1. By the attractive Congo postage stamps listeners throughout the world recognize the O.T.C. messages delivered every day.

2. From a studio in Broadcasting House, Brussels, Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt broadcasts a message for O.T.C. listeners. (Photo Pichonnier.)

3. Broadcasting House in Brussels. (Photo Pichonnier.)

4. The Symphony Orchestra and the Choirs of the Belgian National Broadcasting Institute in the big studio. (Photo Pichonnier.)



# THIS IS BELGIUM

Belgium, with its 8 million people, the most densely populated country on earth, has been one of the most frequent victims in the struggle of bigger nations for more «lebensraum». In this situation the Belgians have developed a special brand of humour and realism. Living at the cross-roads of the Latin and Germanic cultures, the Belgians were able to assimilate the best of both.

Brussels, the capital, noted for its masterpieces of medieval architecture, is in the forefront of progress. The most destructive wars have fortunately spared the wonderful relics of former times. Bruges, Ghent, Antwerp, Liege, Mons, Tournai and Namur

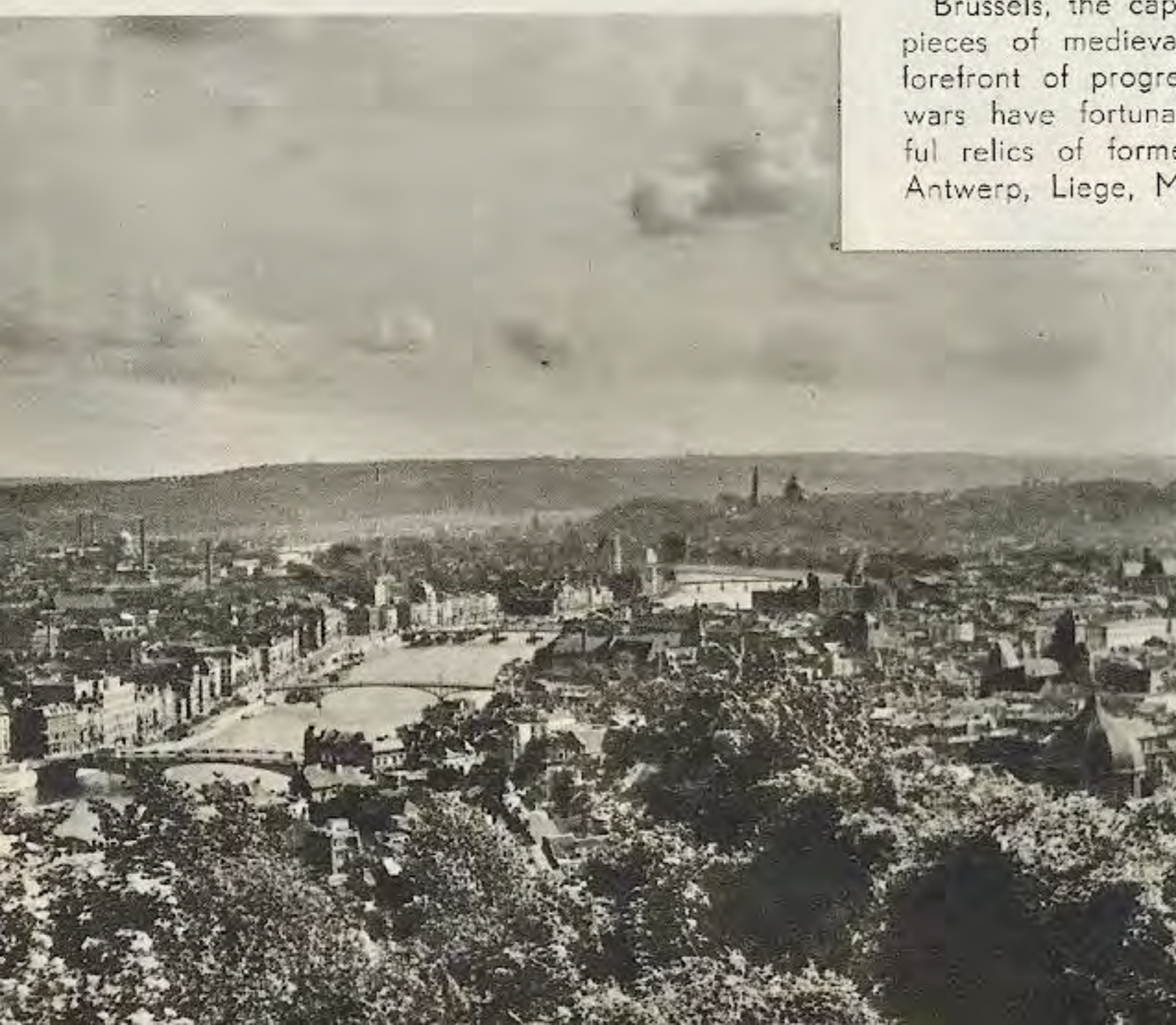
are real museum cities bearing living witness to a splendid past.

On the edge of the great Baltic plain, nature has contrived a series of unexpected and delicate settings. Spa, Namur, the grottes of Han and Bouillon offer a special charm to the foreign visitor.

Belgium has the densest railway network in the world. And Belgium has Antwerp, the continent's largest port.

With its Benelux partners, Belgium is the world's third largest economic power.

Hard work has made of Belgium what it is: one of the most prosperous and happy countries on earth.



1. The Gravensteen — Castle of the Counts — in Ghent, an austere relic of the feudal epoch in the heart of the famous flower city.  
(Photo Dédé.)

2. Brussels, the Belgian capital, seen from a window of the Eglise de la Chapelle where Breughel was buried.  
(Photo Burton.)

3. Straight as a candle and thin as a mast, the

steeple of Antwerp cathedral overshadows the river Scheldt.  
(Photo Deope.)

4. Liège, the birthplace of Franck and Grétry, hub of Belgium's industries. (Photo Daniel.)

5. In the «black» country between Mons and Charleroi, the sooty pyramids of the slag-heaps stand out against the horizon.  
(Photo Hersleven.)



# BELGIUM

## SPEAKS TO

GREAT BRITAIN...

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH...

UNITED STATES...

Every day O.T.C. speaks to the United States, to the United Kingdom, to the countries of the British Commonwealth, and to English speaking people wherever they are.

Belgium has many friends in the English speaking world. The United States and Britain have been her allies in two world wars. American, British and Canadian soldiers were the first to enter Belgium in 1944 and liberate Belgian territory from the Nazis. Many listeners to O.T.C. are former soldiers who became acquainted with the Belgian way of life. Many of them saw Belgium in dire distress. Of course, they are interested to hear how she is progressing now. To keep them informed, O.T.C. broadcasts Belgian news every day.

O.T.C.'s listeners form a varied and interesting crowd. Many are interested in Belgian culture, for instance, in the old Flemish school of painting. O.T.C. regularly broadcasts talks on Belgian painting and literature.

Other listeners are more interested in economic affairs. O.T.C. tells them what Belgium is doing to recover from four years of occupation and to stand on her own feet.

Businessmen like to hear about the special products of Belgian industry. Dozens of short talks have been devoted to this subject.

Many listeners also feel that they should come to Belgium to see Manneken Pis, the Gilles of Binche, the Grand Place of Brussels or some other of the thousand interesting places and events in Belgium: events which may coincide with your holiday and which will make a visit to Belgium one of the memorable trips of your life.



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## BELGIUM, A TRAVELLER'S PARADISE

1. Ostend, in the centre of Belgium's 60 miles of coastline with its golden beaches and unspoilt dunes. (Photo Goffin.)

2. The « beguinages » of Courtrai, Lierre, Ghent and Bruges, with the echo of the carillon resounding through the narrow, cobbled streets, are authentic settings from the Middle Ages. (Photo Sergysels.)

3. Namur on the peaceful Meuse, the mirror of Wallony.

4. The grave of the poet Verhaeren, who introduced something of the wind and smell of the Scheldt landscapes into French literature. (Photo Sergysels.)

5. A few miles from the famous grottoes of Han, the castle of Walzin dominates the Lesse. (Photo Sergysels.)



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# THIS IS THE BELGIAN CONGO

Straddling the Equator, the Belgian Congo is one of the world's most progressive colonies. Eighty times bigger than Belgium, it is inhabited by 50,000 whites and 11 million natives. A land of tropical splendor, of wild rapids, unspoilt forest and spectacular tribal life, the Belgian Congo is now open to tourists. Here they will find lakes and volcanoes of unsurpassed beauty. A land of big game, gold and uranium, the Congo was a present from King Leopold II to the most unadventurous and peaceful country on earth.

Inaccessible and unexplored only sixty years ago, the Congo is now making rapid strides toward civilisation. In sixteen hours swift airliners link Brussels with Leopoldville, where mud huts have made room for modern buildings and where the latest

American cars nose their way through groups of women with their water-pitchers on their heads who loiter in the mango-bordered lanes.

Big white ships with many decks sail upstream on the Congo to the heart of Darkest Africa. In the distance rise the Crystal Mountains veiled in a cloud of violet mist. A frail canoe hurries past on its way to the fishing-ground. From the distant banks comes a native chant marked by the incisive rhythm of the tom-toms. From behind the floating clouds a pale crescent of moon shines down on the sleeping landscape. For a few hours the traveller falls under the spell of the primitive magic of mysterious Africa...

O.T.C. will supply, on request, a folder on tourism in Africa.



- 1. A Ruanda Princess wearing the royal diadem. (Photo Van den Heuvel.)
- 2. Land of spring water. (Photo Goldstein.)
- 3. Like the dawn of creation... (Congopresse, (Photo Dandoy.)
- 4. Moolo, the guardian of tradition. (Photo Dandoy.)



- 5. At Leopoldville, the Congo's capital, large modern buildings have replaced the primitive mud huts. (Photo Goldstein.)
- 6. In March 1948 a new volcano erupted in Kivu, the Congo's great tourist region. (Photo Leman.)





# AMONGST FRIENDS



« Amongst Friends » is undoubtedly the most popular section of O.T.C.'s programmes. Its success is largely due to the fact that it has been inspired by good-will and international friendship from the start. The feature also exists in Dutch, « Onder Ons », and in French « Entre Amis ». In the thousands of letters which have been sent to the editors of this feature, listeners have written to say it really makes them feel they are members of one big family.

Listeners all over the world also appreciate O.T.C.'s unflinching good humour and objectivity. For more than two years O.T.C. has kept closely to the recipe that for an enjoyable radio dish two parts of fantasy should be mixed with two parts of unaffected simplicity. No commercials or propaganda are allowed. And the dish is served in small quantities. Thus regular listeners have learned that O.T.C. is never trying to sell something, and that it can be relied upon for an objective and complete news bulletin. O.T.C. news writers receive no political directives. They have free access to all the best sources of news in the world and they distil from it a nightly news bulletin which they sincerely believe to be a truthful presentation of world events.

That explains O.T.C.'s sudden appeal to listeners from Sweden to California, from Switzerland to New-Zealand.

## Better than a fan mail.

O.T.C. listeners are no fans. They are friends. The underlying idea of « Amongst Friends » is to associate them as closely as



possible with the shaping of program policy and with the daily life of the station. The personnel of O.T.C. are not a group of anonymous speakers and editors. The only guiding rule for anyone speaking through an O.T.C. microphone is to remember that listeners hate to be lectured to, and that the tone should be chatty.

## A station for human beings.

Too many stations forget that listeners are human beings. Some stations simply consider them as a crowd and commit the mistake of using the same tone to announce the explosion of an atom bomb as to extol the quality of tooth-paste. O.T.C. wants to be different, and is proud to receive such letters as this from Mr Herbert Ward (England) :

« I consider your programme « Amongst Friends » as the great forum of Friendship through Radio, for it has enabled me to learn something about the lives of men and women in distant countries who, like me, enjoy listening to O.T.C. »

The « Amongst Friends » feature often includes a question about Belgium or the Congo. Listeners who send the best answers receive an illustrated booklet about Belgium. The questions generally bear on subjects which have been treated in recent talks. The many correct answers prove that the talks have many regular listeners, and that O.T.C. has done much to make Belgium better known all over the world.

## Personal contacts.

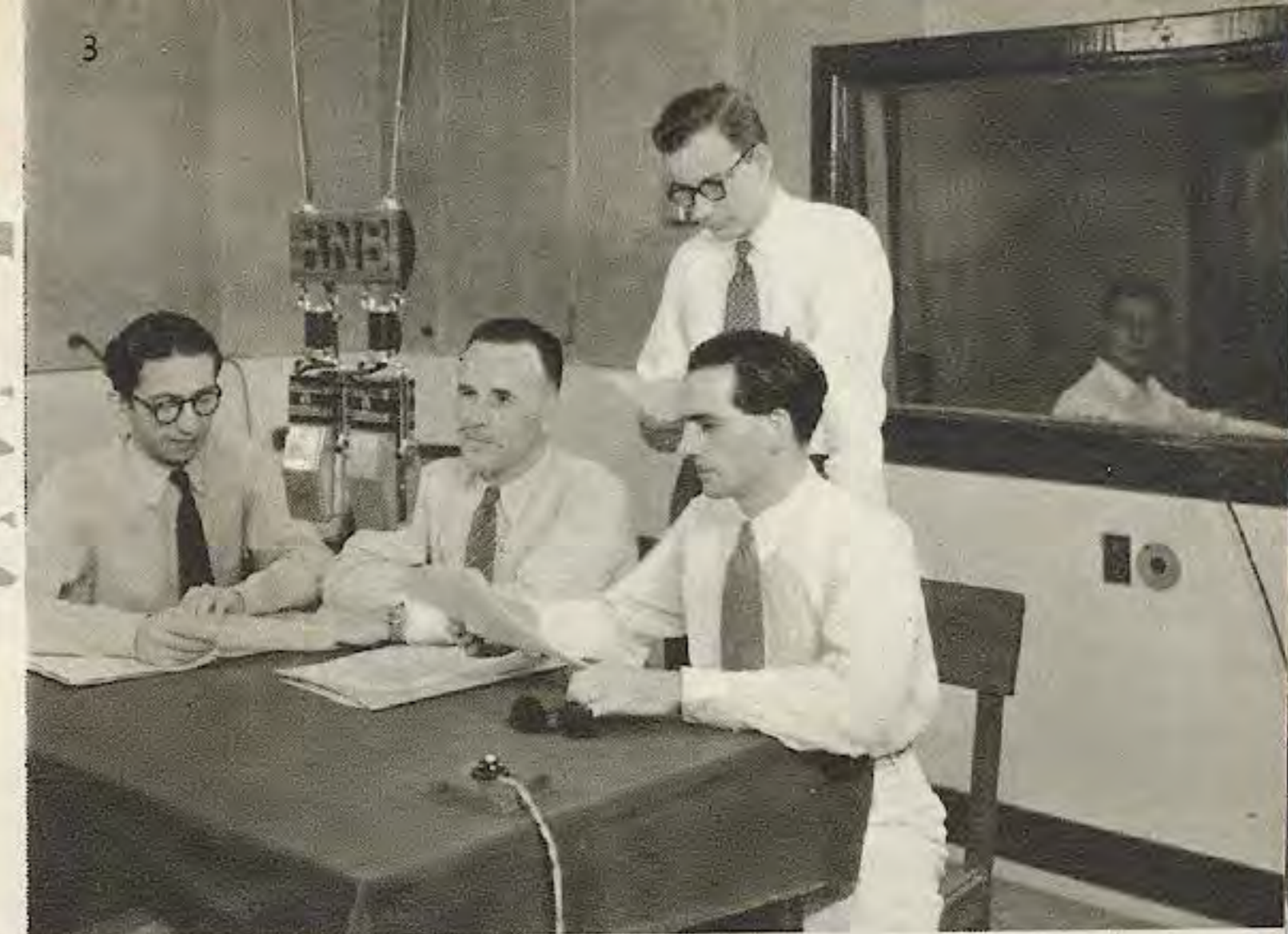
Listeners writing to O.T.C. do not have to send their letters to an anonymous organization or an unknown official.

Here are a few names and addresses of people who will directly answer their letters :

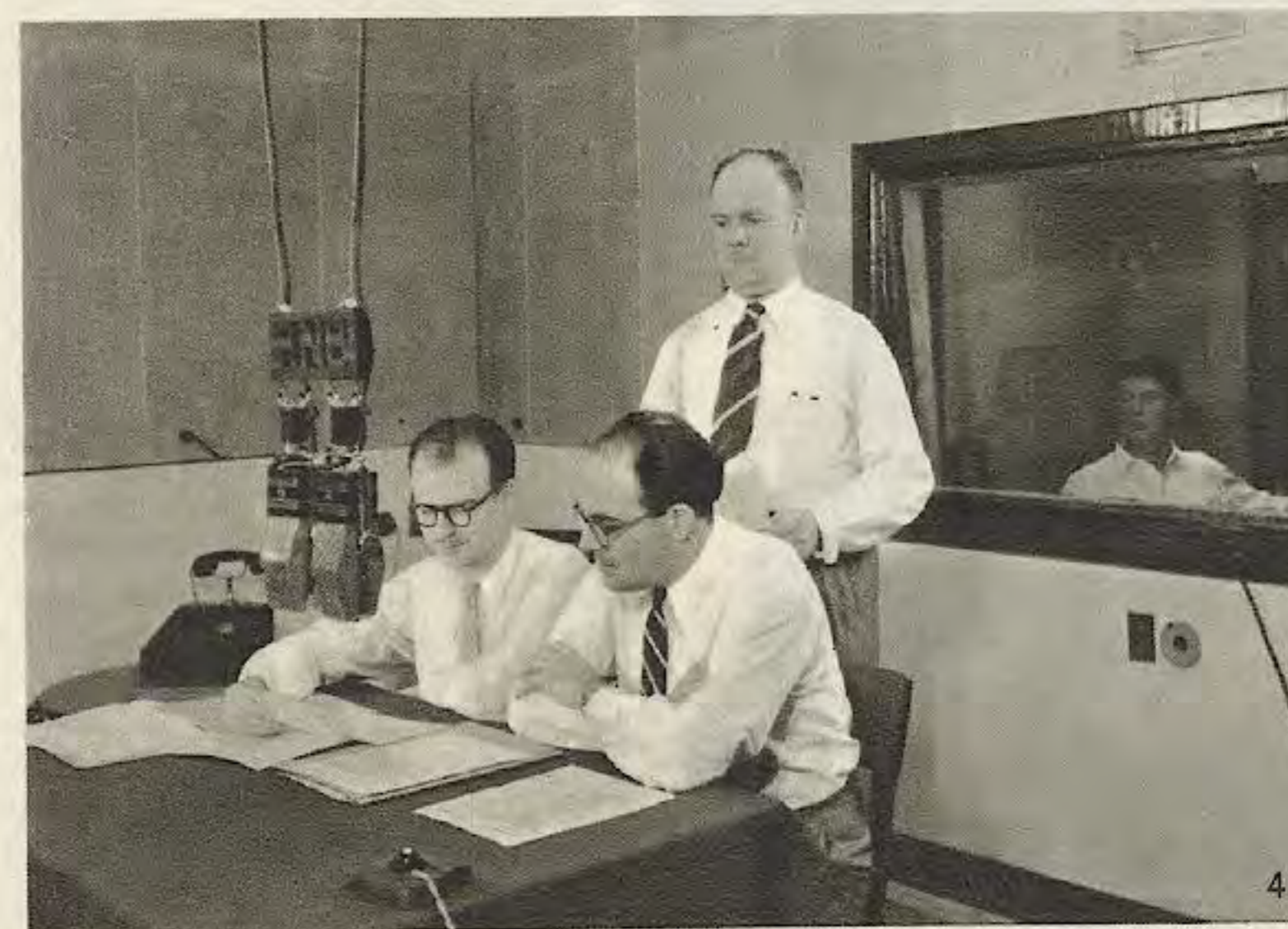
Mr L. LE ROYE, Director of the Station at Leopoldville, Post-box 505, Leopoldville.

Or at Brussels Headquarters :

Mr. Frans ZOETE, Director of the Belgian Overseas Service, Post-box 26, Brussels I.



Assistant : M. DEPPE.  
English editors :  
Henri ANCELOT,  
Margaret COLTER,  
John COOKSON.  
Announcer : Bill ASHLEY.  
Chief programmer :  
Louis MAMBOUR.



1. This booklet on O.T.C. is forwarded through the listener's mail department.

2. The staff of the record library preparing a programme : Mr Mambour, Mrs Le Roye and Mrs Mambour.

3. The French section : Emile Heneval, Maurice Tillière, Henri Lebrun, Maurice Depré (standing).

4. The Dutch section at work : Henry Onckelinx, Marcel Vertommen, René Verhulst (standing).

5. O.T.C.'s English team. At the microphone : Henri Ancelot, Margaret Colter, Bill Ashley, John Cookson.



# Belgian

It is a sad sign of age and weariness for a people to relegate its folklore from the streets to the museums. In Belgium, fortunately, this has not happened. In Bruges it is on their very doorsteps that the old lace-makers teach young girls the intricate craft of the bobbins. Summer visitors can see this charming scene every day.

But there is folklore of another, less intimate kind. In Binche, on the day of Carnival, strangers who stay aloof and keep their hats on run the risk of being pelted with pigs' bladders. And they stand a good chance of being swept away in the whirlwind of the great round of the Gilles.

It would be presumptuous to say that all the Belgians have the energy displayed by the Gilles of Binche, who dance with inexhaustible gusto wearing their towering headgear, embroidered costumes, and belts heavy with jingling bells of bronze. Here is some of the zest and physical exuberance of bygone days, some of the enthusiasm which marked the celebrations of the conquest of the New World, for the Gilles' ostrich-plumed hats and orange baskets are believed to have an Inca origin.

This same boisterous energy is displayed

# Folklore

in the famous yearly battle of the Lumeçon in Mons. On this occasion the market square is teeming with people eager to tackle the Doudou monster and to pluck a few hairs from its wriggling tail.

Scores of Belgian cities have their Giants, often representing the legendary figures and overlords from whom the people had to wrest their civic liberties. There is something thoroughly democratic in all these folklore festivals. In Geeraardsbergen, at the Krakelingen feast, the worthies have to forget their dignity for a moment and let the people look on while they swallow small live fishes from a huge cup.

Yet these same people of the Low Countries have a bent for mysticism. This is reflected in Malines, where the carillon notes fall crystal clear from St. Rombout's tower over quiet street corners and alley-ways. Here the people listen with devotion, while high above them Staf Nees, the Flemish master carillon player, hits the manual with clenched fists.

These are scenes and customs which make this land of Flanders and Wallonia different. This is our national folklore.



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1. Binche Carnival offers the imposing spectacle of three hundred Gilles wearing their towering ostrich-plumed headgear. (Photo Bouckaert.)  
 2. The old lace-maker's quick sight and speedy hands are proverbial. (Photo Broquet.)  
 3. The master carillon player, Staf Nees, at the manual of the St. Rombout's Tower at Malines.

4. Mr and Mrs Goliath parading through the streets of Ath. (Photo Bouckaert.)  
 5. A basket-worker of the Waes region (East-Flanders). (Photo Hersleven.)  
 6. Sabot-makers carving typical Flemish clogs. (Photo Hersleven.)





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# O.T.C. Calling

## THE BELGIAN SEAMEN...

Twice a week O.T.C. transmits messages for Belgian seamen in the world. Relatives come to O.T.C.'s Brussels studio to record these messages which seamen hear from Rio de Janeiro to Shanghai. Whole crews have become members of the O.T.C. Club.

## THE BELGIAN MISSIONARIES...

More than eight thousand Belgian missionaries are active in every part of the world. That is more than ten percent of the total number of missionaries preaching the Catholic faith to the natives. Many of them have been away for ten, twenty, sometimes more than thirty years. One of the most moving spectacles to be witnessed in our Brussels studios is when mothers and fathers broadcast a message to a son far away in Madagascar, Alaska or Japan.

## SWEDEN...

O.T.C. has received so many letters from Swedish listeners, that it felt obliged to broadcast a regular programme in Swedish. O.T.C. is in high favour with Swedish radio clubs and has been at the top of a list of the short wave stations which are most appreciated by Swedish listeners.

1. Léon Van Russelt, the reporter of the seven seas, recording a message for a Belgian seaman. (Photo Sado.)

2. This girl apparently has no radio ambitions. (Photo De Well.)

3 and 4. The crew gathers to hear the messages from home.

5. Marcel Vertommen and Emile Heneval broadcasting sport commentaries for Belgian seamen.

# The Belgian way of life

It has been said and repeated that Belgium is a hard-working nation. Belgium is not, however, a country where people have sullen faces because they have no time to enjoy the fruit of their hard work. The Belgians brew excellent beer, have an excellent cuisine and have a talent for organizing attractive holiday facilities. None of these are solely for export or for tourists. And that accounts for a great deal of the cheerful atmosphere that immediately impresses even the most hasty visitor. In addition to all the good things of life made in Belgium, the Belgians also freely import all the best things of life from other countries. As real democrats the Belgians can be heard grumbling about almost anything. But the Belgian is ready to die for his neighbour's right to disagree with him. And all Belgians agree that when everything is said and told Belgium is after all a wonderful country to live in.



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1. Monsignor Suenens, representing the primate of Belgium, addressing a message to the eight thousand Belgian missionaries.

2. A girl sending greetings to an missionary uncle in Urundi, whom she has never seen.

3. Keen to miss no broadcast of O.T.C.'s missionaries' Hour, this Father of the Sacred Heart takes his set with him on his treks in the bush.

4. At the foot of the Ruwenzori mountains, the Assumptionist fathers are regular listeners of the Missionaries' Hour.



## DX. PROGRAMMES

O.T.C. regularly has special programmes for DX-ers (short wave amateurs).

These programmes are broadcast in English, French and Dutch and aim at establishing closer contacts between radio-clubs and DX-ers of all nations united by the same ideal : to use radio in a spirit of goodwill and to promote better relations between all peoples, without distinction of class, race, or political and philosophical convictions.

From time to time these programmes are devoted to one particular group of short wave listeners.

In its DX programmes O.T.C. also broadcasts information about the reception of other short-wave stations, the change of frequency or the creation of new programmes.

Thus O.T.C. helps to bring peoples closer together through radio.

- 1) Senor Lobo of Mexico, designed this card for us.
- 2) A Swedish DX-er ave.
- 3) The D.X. Club Aret Runt (Stockholm) preparing a broadcast.
- 4) A Canadian O.T.C. listener.
- 5) Jack Laing, one of our American listeners.
- 6) Francine Mertens, ON4MF, an



- 7) Marcel Chassé, HB9FE, organizer of the Swiss D.X., programmes.
- 8) Roger Allard, ON4RA, traffic-manager of O.T.C.'s D.X. programmes.
- 9) The Montselice section of the Italian radio-amateur clubs.

O.T.C. listeners soon feel they belong to one great family.

On the initiative of a number of listeners, the O.T.C. Club was formed. It now has 2.000 members.

Amongst its activities are the exchange of correspondence between pen-pals, stamp collection, amateur photography, etc.

The O.T.C. Club has its own forum in the O.T.C. programme schedule.

Membership contributions : 40 Belgian francs, 1 dollar, 5 shillings, 5 crowns or 13 reply-coupons.

The contributions can be paid by an international postal order to the **RADIODIFFUSION NATIONALE BELGE, Léopoldville, Belgian Congo**, or on the postal account **5468 I.N.R., Bruxelles** (mention "Amongst Friends").

The members' sole obligation is that they pledge to work with O.T.C. to improve relations between all peoples.



De luisteraar van O.T.C. heeft het gevoel te behoren tot één grote familie.

Op initiatief van zekere luisteraars werd een O.T.C.-Club gesticht die reeds 2.000 leden telt.

Activiteit : vriendencorrespondentie, verzameling van postzegels, liefhebbers-fotografie, enz.

De O.T.C.-Club heeft haar eigen uitzending op O.T.C.

Bijdrage : 40 Belgische frank, 1 dollar, 5 shilling, 5 kronen of 13 coupons voor betaald antwoord.

De bijdragen kunnen per international mandaat gestort worden op naam van de **BELGISCHE NATIONALE RADIO-OMROEP, Leopoldstad, Belgisch Kongo**, of op post-checkrekening n° 5468 N.I.R. Brussel (met vermelding van "Onder Ons").

De enige verplichting die het clublid op zich neemt is, met O.T.C. te werken voor de verstandhouding onder de volken.

# O.T.C. club

L'auditeur d'O.T.C. acquiert le sentiment d'appartenir à une vaste famille.

A l'initiative de certains auditeurs, un Club O.T.C. a été créé qui compte déjà 2.000 membres.

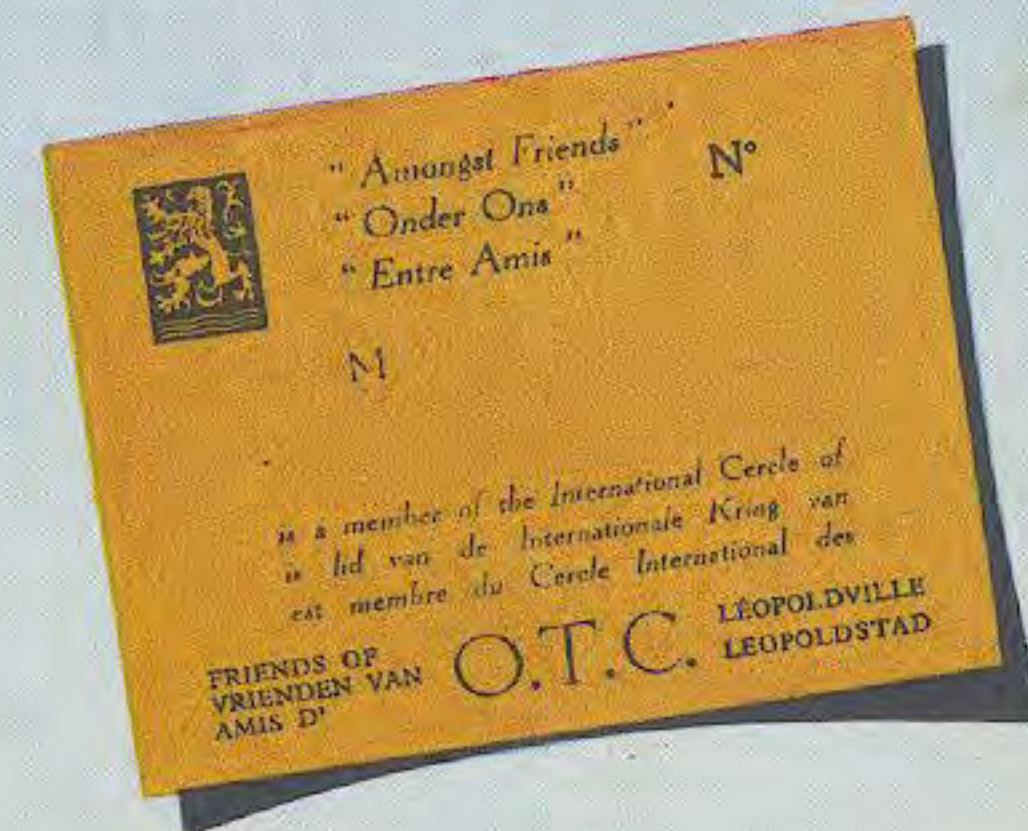
Activités : amis de plume, philatélie, photographie d'amateur, etc.

O.T.C.-Club a sa tribune sur les ondes d'O.T.C.

Cotisation : 40 francs belges, 1 dollar, 5 shillings, 5 couronnes ou 13 coupons-réponse.

Les cotisations peuvent être versées par mandat international à **RADIODIFFUSION NATIONALE BELGE, Léopoldville, Congo Belge**, ou au compte chèques-postaux **5468 I.N.R. Bruxelles** (mentionner "Entre Amis" ou "Onder Ons").

La seule obligation contractée par le membre du Club est de s'engager à œuvrer, avec O.T.C., dans le sens de l'entente entre les peuples.



Editeur responsable : **FRANS ZOETE**, 18, Place Eugène Flagey, Bruxelles.

Hélio-Offset C. **VAN CORTENBERGH**, 12, rue de l'Empereur, Bruxelles.