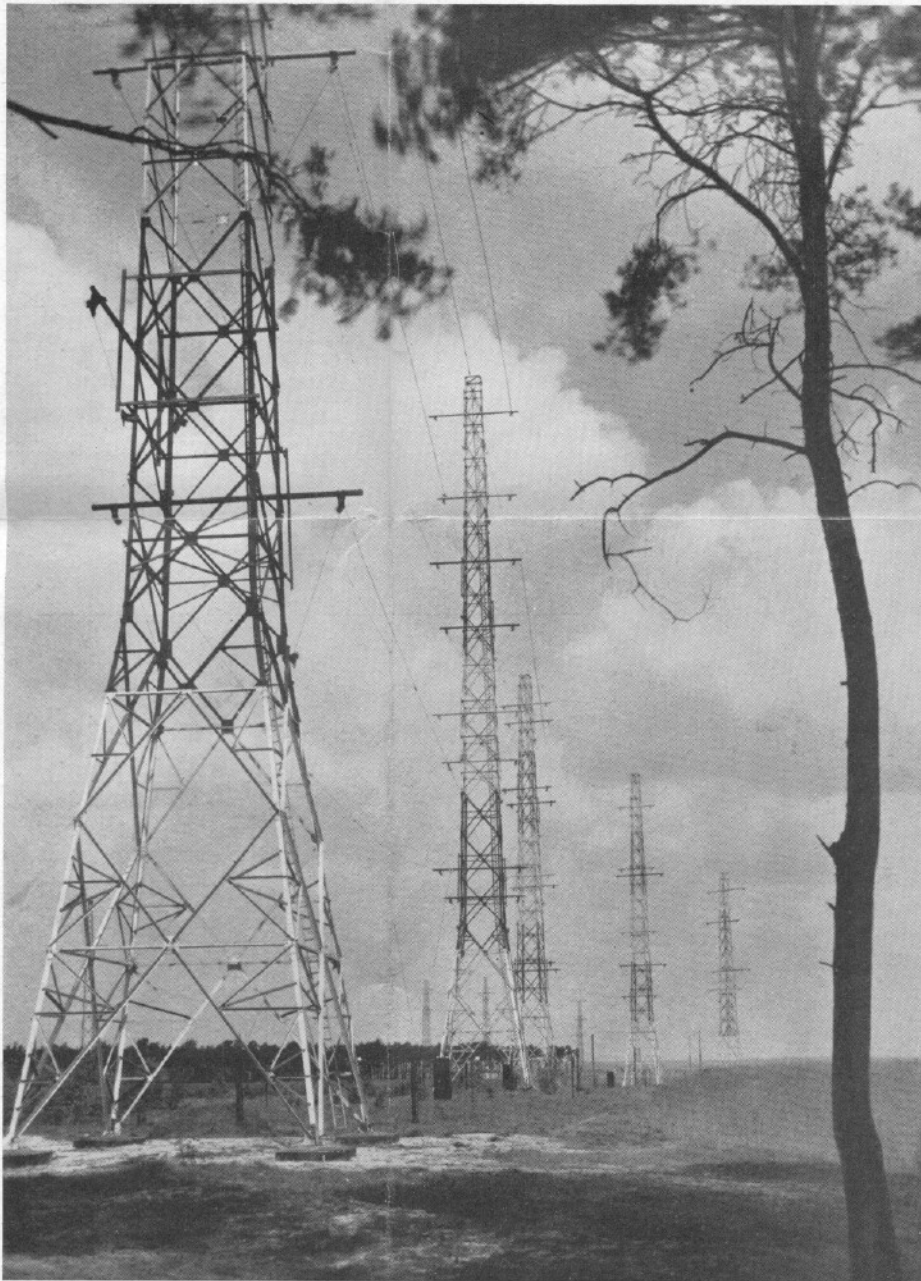


"Hello, Everybody!"

A VOICE OF FRIENDSHIP SHORT WAVES OVER THE WORLD

FRANZ LUDWIG HABEL

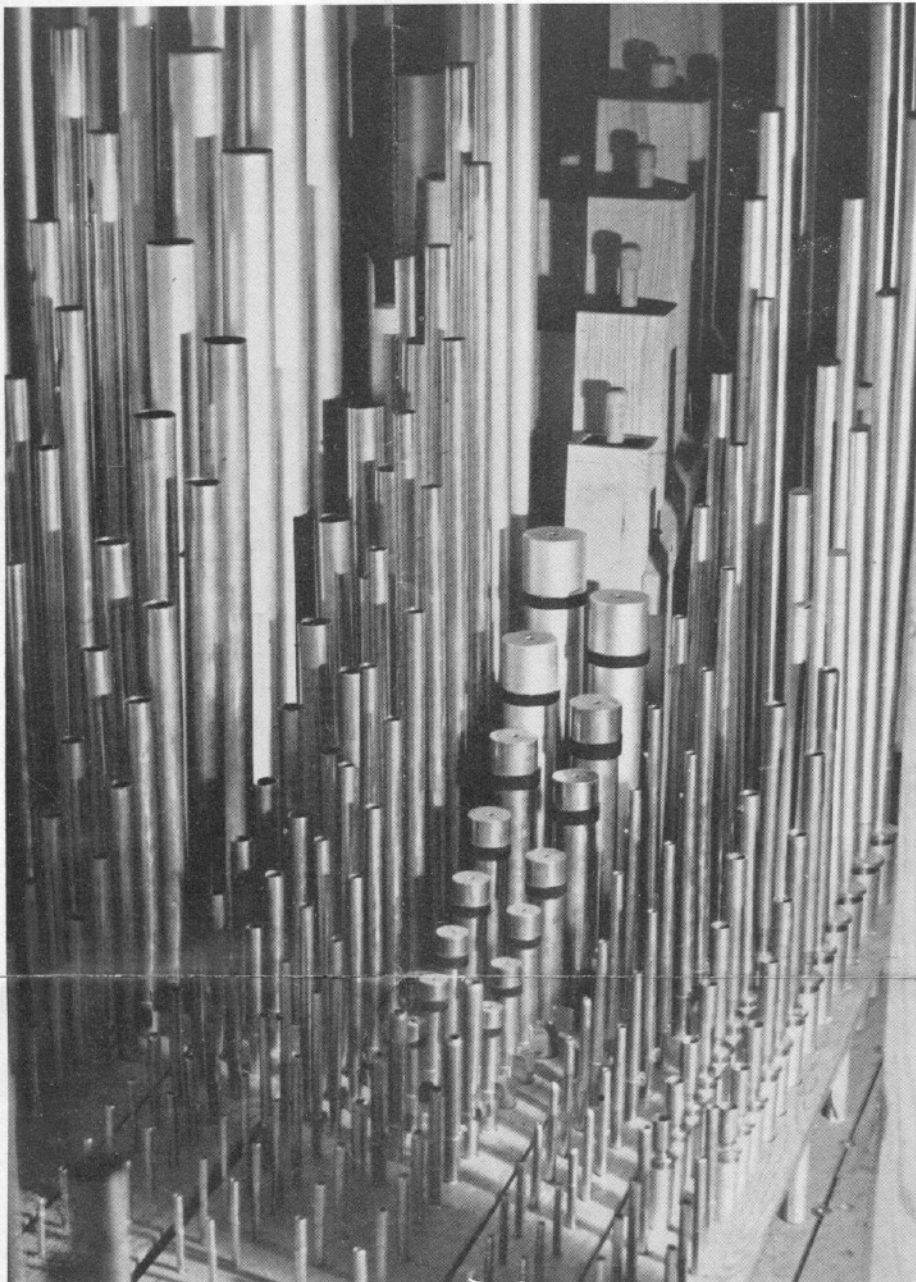


The masts of the short-wave broadcasting station, the arms which reach across distance and time to bind the world into a family circle.

RISING high over the pine trees in the sandy plains around Berlin are the masts of the German wireless system—Nauen, Koenigswusterhausen, Beelitz—all names familiar to radio listeners of Europe. Then south-east in Zeesen are the towers and antennae which connect Germany with a million homes, even though home be a small town in the hills of North America, a camp in the desert or bungalow in far-away Australia. These are the arms of the short wave broadcasting station which reach over oceans and days to bind the world into a family circle. It seems fantastic and hard to believe that the journey of two weeks which separates one from the far-away has disappeared, and the "Hello, North America!" one hears in the studio is the greeting to friends five thousand miles away, but the heaps of letters—they arrive at the rate of about two thousand a month—bear witness that America, China, Africa and Australia have heard and responded.

Altruistic Labour

The German short wave broadcasting is one of the pioneers in the field and has made progress and achieved success far beyond that of most lands. In fact, if one can judge from reports, it has reached a perfection equal to that of local broadcasting, and short wave reception to most foreigners means the German station. This is remarkable when one considers that such experiment and labour is purely altruistic and



Fantastic in appearance but melodious in reality is the great pipe-organ of the broadcasting house.

must be in nature, as commerce and business have little interest in the far-away corners of the world and the people at home have no benefit from untimely programs in foreign languages. The language difficulty is coped with, climatic conditions solved, and technicians and artists work in the small hours of the night and morning just to provide entertainment and diversion for friends and listeners in other lands. Their greatest reward is the letters of gratitude and appreciation which

assure them that their efforts are received.

Controlled Waves

Five years of experiment and development lie behind the short wave broadcasting station in Zeesen. In 1929 it was first attempted but in a general way, programs being sent on short waves into the air without any definite direction or control. First in 1933 under the present government active development began through the application of the direct beam antenna which makes

possible the directing of the waves to a definite point. In April, 1933, regular broadcasting to North America was begun. In view of its success antennae were constructed for broadcasting to South America, Africa, and East Asia. A fifth antenna is now in operation for South Asia and Australia and one is under construction for Central America. The Reich Postal Service, which controls all radio activities in Germany, is especially interested in forwarding these projects, as it recognizes here the great field for future development in radio.

Short wave broadcasting has great possibilities for future success because it requires very little electrical energy, carries over extreme distances, and water offers no obstacle. The difficulty of directing the waves has been solved through the new antenna which works on the principle of the spot light and reflector. The beam is directed on a definite part of the world and the reflector turns back all energy that would otherwise be lost in other directions. Through this it is possible to use the language of each part of the world for its private broadcast and to arrange hours convenient to each group of hearers.

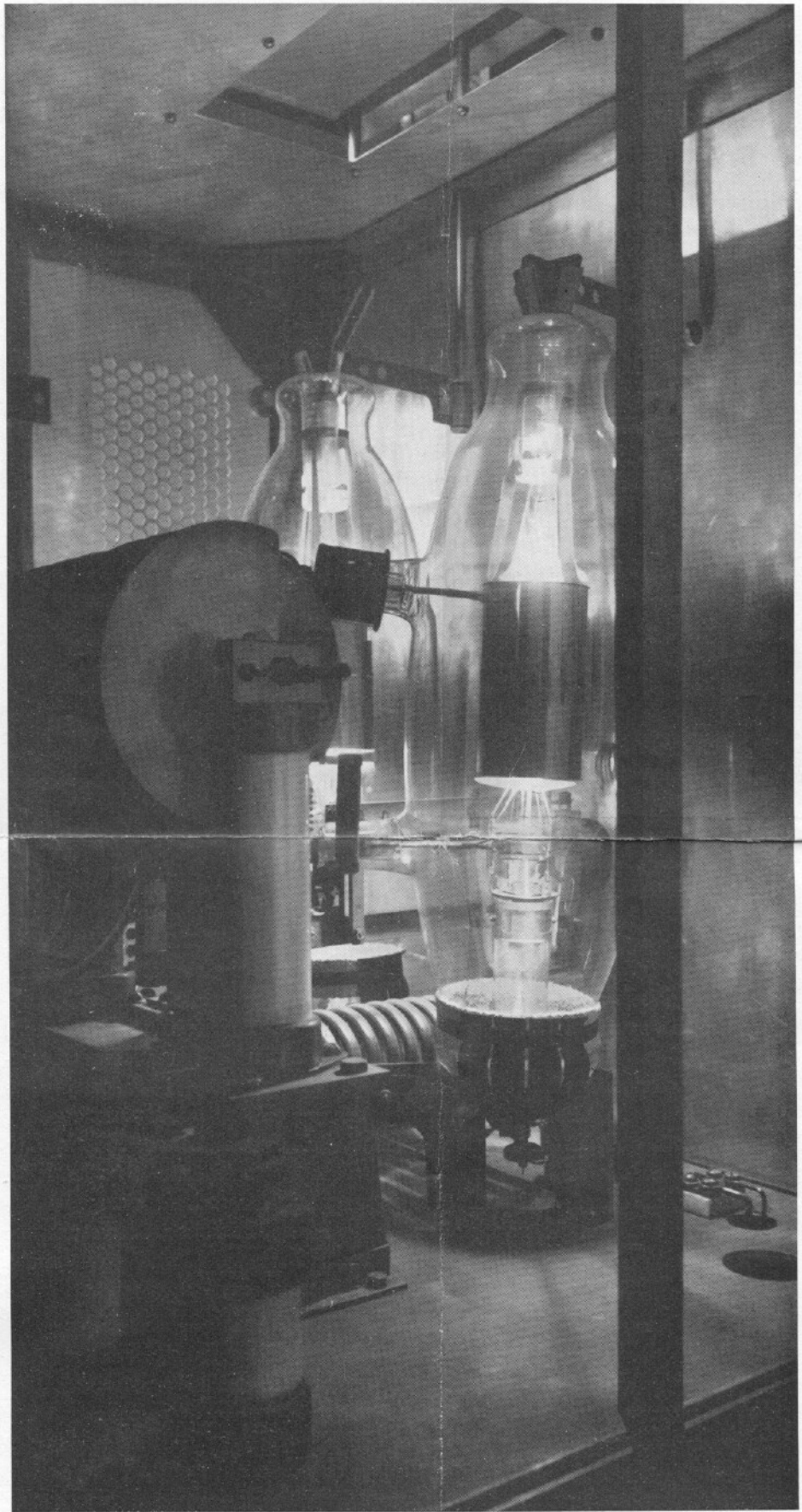
All for the Audience

One gets an idea of the problems and difficulties encountered in such international broadcasting on considering first, that two languages, German and the language of the country, must be employed in each broadcast, that six different daily programs must be arranged for the various sections, as it would be scarcely possible to send the same program to North America that is appreciated in Shanghai or to suppose that African taste is the same as South American. The attempt is made to arrange the programs according to the wishes and requests of hearers even though such requests are at times odd and difficult to fulfil. A second and gigantic task arises over the preparation of programs. The daily programs for each month

must be arranged at least six weeks ahead as they must be printed for the entire month in advance and must be in the hands of the radio audience at the beginning of each month. A third problem in world broadcasting is that of time changes. The world travels slower than radio waves so that concessions must ever be made and compromises arranged. When the American listener leans back in his armchair after dinner and tunes in on Zeesen, the German performers are giving a midnight performance; when the announcer says, "Good night, everybody in America!" at 10:45 p. m., it is 4:45 a. m. and dawn in Berlin; and when the mid-day concert begins at 1:30 p. m. in Shanghai, the musicians in Berlin are playing at the unusual hour of 6:30 a. m. The audience has its programs at a convenient time even though it necessitates twenty-four hours of duty in the German studios.

Waves of Friendship

The world-wide broadcasting service from Zeesen was originated with the view of providing fellow-countrymen throughout the world with typical entertainment and music from the homeland, and to give reliable information on happenings and conditions here, but its field, at the request of hearers, became international, and now the programs are sent to the world, as it has shown that it too appreciates the waltzes, marches and the immortal masterpieces of German music, and seems to appreciate having the view-point of another country on world affairs. Dr. von Boeckmann and his staff of workers have carefully fostered this international air, and labour for the common interest of their world audience. International cooperation with the radio systems of other lands has also made possible broadcasts to a much larger field through re-sending over their own networks. In this wise it was possible for America, for instance, to hear the Wagnerian Festival at Bayreuth which was relayed by



The amplifying tubes, the heart and soul of short-wave broadcasting.



Germany's message to Germany is sent from one of the most modern buildings of its kind, but her voice to the world comes from the tiny house to the right, the short-wave headquarters.

the National Broadcasting Company over its network, and Germany is able to hear the N. B. C. orchestra relayed over the German system.

Mankind and nations have an innate suspicion and dislike for that which is strange or unknown. In former years peoples of small sections were hostile to the neighboring section, and feuds and civil wars were commonplace. Transportation and facilities for communication first provided understanding, and sections and provinces learned with surprise that the former hostility had been largely imaginary and that they could live harmoniously and with common interests. Listeners are now discovering with surprise that the same relation exists between peoples five thousand miles apart and are wondering at the hostility of a few years ago and the exaggera-

ted opinions each held of the other. In a supposedly hostile nation exists a folk with music that is lovely, humour that is quaint and funny, and ideas that are homely and interesting. Short wave broadcasting is bringing this about, is surmounting the difficulty of space and time to bind the world into the unity of sympathy and understanding. Statesmen and politicians will disturb the quiet of the world and again strive for betterment, but it will be more difficult in the future for nations to rise in wrath against one another when they are daily guests at each other's fireside. This is the idealistic goal of wide-world broadcasting, and the thousands of letters flowing from the four corners of the world to the small house which controls the short wave station indicate that tens of thousands of far-

away strangers are welcoming this voice of friendship.

Information

For those who may be tempted to seek out this voice in the air or who have not yet found it, the present wave lengths and call letters are:

North America	DJC	49.83 metres,
Central America	DJN	31.45 metres,
South America	DJA	31.38 metres,
Africa	DJC	49.83 metres,
	DJD	25.49 metres,
East Asia	DJA	31.38 metres,
South Asia		
and Australia	DJN	31.45 metres,
	DJB	19.74 metres.

To attempt to give hours for globe broadcasting would be futile, but between seven and eleven in the evening at whatever local time or in whichever locality the short-wave voice of Germany will be on the air.